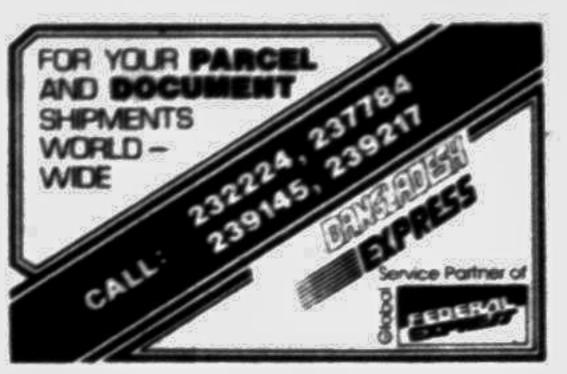
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By all accounts, the East

Pakistan Communist Party.

through its cadres in the Jubo

(youth) League, had become a

major player in the Language

Movement by 1952. But, be

tween 1947 and 1951, the

party in East Bengal was faced

ganisations ceased to function

as credible bodies by 1950 as a

result of clashes with non-

communist unions; its peasant organisations also met the same fate, while its attempt at

building a non-communal student body, the Student Federation, did not meet with

Taking advantage of the po-

litical climate existing in the

late 1940s, which was heavily

biased against secular and so-

cialist politics, the Muslim

League government concen-

trated on using all its repres-

sive powers to wipe out the

acts of political murder in

subcontinental history, seven

communist political prisoners

were shot dead and 31 injured

inside one cell by prison

guards at Rajshahi Juil on April

young student from Khulna

named Anwar Hossain, who

had his skull smashed by a bul-

let. This atrocity by the state

aroused little reaction among

the people. Two years later on

Feb 21, 1952, another student,

named Salahuddin, also had

his brains blown out by police

bullets. The reaction this time

15,292 cases

against loan

takers filed

By Staff Correspondent

15,292 cases in the commer

cial courts against the default

ers whose outstanding loans of

Taka 797.59 crore lie with the

commercial banks and the

Development Financing

Sangsad (parliament) Wed-

nesday, the State Minister for

Finance Mujibur Rahman also

told the House that of the

cases, 13.241 were now under

Kazi Abdur Rashid of the

Awami League, the State

Minister further said that with

a view to realising the loans

the Bangladesh Bank had ex-

empted 30 per cent to 75 per

cent of general interests and

100 per cent of penalty inter-

ests for the defaulters.

Replying to a question by

Stating this in the Jatiya

Institutions (DFIs).

Ambientures have so far filed

See Page 12 Col 1

One of the seven dead was a

In one of the most brutal

The party's labour front or-

with virtual collapse.

any success either.

communists

24, 1950.

Article

Have Palestinians been Abandoned?

Column : Spotlight on Middle East by Muslehuddin Ahmad Page 4

International



Bush begins campaign Aguino's move to form anti-Marcos front Page 5

Business

Scheduled Bank deposits fall Page 7

Feature

Health

Illegal kidney trade booming in India Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



'Caw-caws' the Eternal Crow Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

PM will address Feb 16 meeting

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the chatrperson of BNP, will address a public meeting organised by Sutrapur and Kotwali thana units of city BNP on February 16 at 3 pm at Dholaikhal square, reports

Foreign loans

The present government has received 449 million dollar in foreign loans during April December 1991. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman informed parliament Wednesday. In a written answer to Sardar Shakhwat Hossain Bakul (BNP) during question hour, the Finance Minister said the amount in local currency comes to Tk 1.684 erore, reports UNB.

Tk 59 cr house building loans

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman told the parliament Wednesday that a sum of Taka 58.76.12.000 was sanctioned by the nationalised banks as house building loans during 1990-91 financial year. In reply to a written question from Haji Rashed Mosharraf (AL-Jamalpur). the State Minister said during the same period Grameen Bank sanctioned Taka 31,53,24,000 as rural house building loan, reports BSS.

Shantibahini man killed

RANGAMATI, Feb 12: One tribal terrorist was killed and three others were arrested in an exchange of fire between security forces and insurgents at Buntapara in Nanterchar upazila of the district today. The dead was identified as Rebati Mohan Chakma (28) of the Upazila, reports UNB.

68 held in city

Metropolitan Police during the last 24 hours arrested 68 people from different parts of the metropolis on charges of various offences, reports BSS.

Hectic parley to end transport strike

MAGH 30, 1398 BS,

By Staff Correspondent

Minister

A heetic negotiation was on between the government and the transport owners Wednesday night to end a five-day transport strike across the

Leaders of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association Wednesday night sat for a 'final' round of talks with the government to break the stalemate, Talks focused on reduction of fuel price to the pre-Gulf war level, the foremost demands of the transport The meeting between the

for

Communication Fazlur Rahman and the central leaders of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association, the owners' platform, began at 9-15 pm and continued till late last night. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Chairman B Zaman See Page 12 Col 1

Government Wednesday urged road transport owners to call off their strike immediately saying that people of all walks of life, overall development activities of the country. transport owners as well as workers are being affected due to their strike, reports BSS.

Otherwise, the government will be compelled to take legal measures the responsibility of which will have to be borne by the leaders of Sarak Paribohan See Page 12 Col 6

DU campus

Dhaka University campus was rocked with gunshots when supporters of two rival student groups triggered automatic weapons Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (S-A) allegedly opened fire from Mohsin. Suryasen, Jagannath. Jasimuddin and Zahurul Haq halls.

A resident in Dhaka University staff quarter said about 50 rounds of gunfire were heard as the trouble erupted at about 9.30 pm.

Campus sources said the trouble started when supporters of the two groups exchanged gunfire in front of the Vice Chancellor's residence.

Police were patrolling the See Page 12 Col 7

JKLF chief arrested: 12 marchers killed in clashes



Supporters of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), defying curfew, demonstrating Tuesday in northern Kashmir

CHINARI (Pakistan), Feb 12: and 300 of his most dichard Pakistan security forces ar supporters had reached the rested a Kashmiri militant border village of Chakothi. rested a Kashmirt militant leader and 100 of his dichard supporters after up to 12 people were killed in clashes while trying to march to the border with India today, reports Reuter.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said its leader, Amanullah Khan, and several of his closest aides were snatched by the army after being separated from other activists who had fought their way to the border.

There was no immediate confirmation of the arrests. Pakistani officials had vowed to halt the JKLF march which is in support of a Muslim uprising in the part of Kashmir ruled by India.

After smashing their way through a police barrier six km (four miles) from the Indiandefended ecasefire line, the JKLF said that Amanullah Khan

They said 12 people had dted in a series of battle since several thousand JKLF activists set out from Chinari in the morning to march 10 km (stx miles) with the intention of storming across the heavily defended line into Indian

Doctors confirmed at least four dead and said they experiod the casualty toll to rise. They said police shot dead

at least three people at a bridge outside Chinari where security forces made their first serious attempt to halt the march that left the Azad (free) Kashmir capital Muzaffarabad on Tuesday. "We will continue our

march and no power on earth can stop us from that," 57year-old Khan said after his activists forced security forces to withdraw from the bridge.

In Indian-ruled Kashmir hundreds of people staged demonstrations on Wednesday to back the pro-independence march from the Pakistant side.

Witnesses said demonstrators in Srinagar, taking advantage of a five-hour break in an indefinite curiew imposed on much of the Kashmir valley. carried placards demanding an end to Indian rule.

'Death is better than slavery," proclaimed one banner. Security forces fired in the atr to disperse the crowds, police said. There was no immediate word of any civilian ca-

Pakistant Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told reporters in the capital Islamabad he regretted the casualties, saying, 'we feel regret when we have to use force against freedom fighters." But he said the government

would not allow innocent lives See Page 12 Col 8

Myanmar recalls retired soldiers to tackle unrest

By Staff Correspondent

Myanmar is recalling re tired soldiers to duty to tackle anti-government agitation, according to some Robingya refugees who have fled to Bangladesh.

The refugees at Teknaf said Wednesday that Myanmar's military government is raising a special force comprising retired army personnel to help regular soldiers and police crush the pro-democracy movement.

Rohingya Muslim refugees are fleeing mainly from Arakan, home to 3 million people. More than 90,000 Rohin-

gyas have fled their homes and fertile rice fields to escape alleged ill-treatment by Myanmar's military junta.

Myanmar, the new name of Burma, has also deployed at

Bangladesh Textile Mills

Corporation (BTMC) incurred a

total loss of Taka 219.74 crore

from July 1972 to June 30.

port of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on Public

Accounts placed in the Jatiya

Accounts Committee headed

by I K Siddiki while briefing

newsmen in the Sangsad later.

however, said that the losses

have substantially come down

Committee received commer-

cial audit reports of 17 min-

istrics up to 1984-85 fiscal

year. Meanwhile, the commit-

tee has examined the report

The Committee found six

The Public Accounts

over the last two months.

on the Textile Ministry.

The 15 member Public

Sangsad vesterday.

This was disclosed in a re-

least 55,000 troops along its 175-mile frontier with Bang-

The refugees said that the authorities in Maungdwe and Kyan Pyu, an island town, have banned English films for local cinema houses and public video centres.

The military government thinks that foreign films are inspiring the local people to resort to anti-state activities." said a Rohingya farmer, one of about 1000 refugees who arrived at Teknaf on Wednesday.

On Tuesday 72 Bangladeshi crew reached Chittagong along with their three trawlers leaving a Bangladesh-Myanmar

joint venture fishing project. Myanmar side of the joint

fundamental reasons behind

the enormous loss in eight

particular mills of the country.

cording to the Committee re-

port, include, lack of proper

market study before fixation of

the target of commodity pro-

duction, non-recovery of out-

standing dues, sale of yarn

with high discount, stockpiling

of products due to lack of

quality of the commodity and

low price, increased estab-

lishment cost due to delay in

constructions, unfriendly rela-

tions between the workers and

the management and shortage

Committee virtually worked

jointly with the Standing

Committee on the Textile

Mills Corporation and they, in

See Page 12 Col 4

The Public Accounts

of working capital etc.

The causes of the loss, ac-

BTMC incurs loss of

Tk 219.74 cr since '72

By Staff Correspondent

According to the crew the venture started misbehaving a Burmese patrol killed a BDR jawan and a civilian in an attack on a BDR outpost at Rejupara of Bandarban district.

with them since Dec 21, when

They alleged that Myanmar authorities at Kyan Pyu island, the base of the joint venture project, restricted their movements and often prevented them from going to mosques.

The 6-trawler joint venture project that started in 1990 for a seven-year term, was scheduled to be expanded this year to a 20-trawler venture for fishing along the Arakan Under the terms the entire

catch was to be exported to countries other than Myanmar and Bangladesh. Most of Kyan Pyu's 1.5 lakh

residents are Muslims.

100 houses gutted

in two fire

incidents

in the city yesterday burnt

about 100 tin shed kutcha

houses and made more than

500 people homeless in

Mirpur and Kathalbagan areas.

Fire brigade sources said 40

to 50 big tin shed structures

on the Sonargaon road at

Kalabagan were burnt into

ashes. About 200 people used

The fire which originated

from a match factory, quickly

engulfed the adjoining kutcha

Another fire incident near

Section-10. Mirpur gutted

about 50 kutcha houses of a

slum and six other shops at

around 11.50 am. It reportedly

originated from a shop which

was selling petroleum prod-

ucts "illegally", police sources

houses at about 5.15 pm.

reports UNB.

to live there.

Two separate fire incidents

By Mahfuz Ullah

A good news for television watchers but a bad (?) one for the silver screen idols.

Subarna, Faridi, Shami Kai ser, Bipasha Hayat, MacGyver and the likes are going to lose their monopoly over the magic box. They are going to have new competitors. And they are no less than the members of the Jattya Sangsad.

The question of perfor mance of the MPs on television came up for a lively but humourous reference in the Sangsad yesterday. Grey haired veteran of Awami League Mohjuddin Ahmed sought clarification about a memo he received earlier from the Deputy Leader of the House Prof See Page 12 Col 1

Commentary

Govt hesitancy may prove to be expensive

By Mahfuz Anam of over Tk 400 erore, not pro-

It is curious as to why an elected government should be so hesitant about going to its electorate when it is being so unreasonably pressured to implement sectarian interest. quite clearly at the cost of the national. As there is really no means available to the government to provide what is being asked for the hesitancy can be self-defeating.

Whenever there is agitation or strike by some group, the government goes in for secret negotiations and then waves the so-called compromise understanding reached - compromise being mostly by the government — as an example of its political acumen and dexterity always entailing a big bill for the national exchequer. Remember the Pay Commission. It came at a cost

vided for in the budget. The barricade by the jute and textile workers - resulting in the infringement of rights of citizens all over the country, not to speak of the

loss of national property when railway lines were uprooted and public transport set fire to - brought about another 'victorious' compromise that put a stop to the privatization policy, which, we have been told, lies at the very core of **Bangladesh Nationalist Party's**

economic philosophy. These and other responses by the government - giving-in to the demands of secondary school students to scrap examination reform moves, which to us seemed quite sensible have given a totally misleading See Page 12 Col 7

Bench member ATM Alamgir's See Page 12 Col 2

Responding to a Treasury

Milon murder case 3 more witnesses declared hostile

By Staff Correspondent The prosecution side in Dr

Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder case Wednesday declared three more witnesses hostile in the Court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka. The Public Prosecutor (PP)

also prayed for adjournment of the trial for one month yesterday, but the Additional Sessions Judge, M Ismail Mia. rejected the petition.

In the petition, PP Abdur Razzak Khan said, since four of the 14 accused have been absconding, the witnesses could not be free to make statement. He declared them hostile and pointed out that it was hampering the trial.

The other witnesses declared hostile yesterday were Yusuf, Abdul Jalil and Golam

Teachers' grand rally postponed

By DU Correspondent

The teachers', employees' grand rally scheduled to be held on 15th February has been postponed due to the transport strike. it was announced at a

meeting of the Central Liaison Committee in the Teachers Movement (CLCTM) Wednesday at its office with Dr M Akhtaruzzaman in the chair. The fresh date will be an-

However the CLCTM leaders said that the strike of the non-government teachers was continuing successfully across

Fire gutted about 50 houses in Kanthal Bagan area in the city yesterday.

Expert group re-examining terms of KAFCO deal

A government expert group is re examining certain terms of the KAFCO deal to make it acceptable to the government as well as the foreign shareholders, official sources said Wednesday, reports UNB.

The group of experts drawn from the Ministries of Finance and Law is due to finalise its report for submission to the Prime Minister early next Sources said Prime Minis-

ter Begum Khaleda Zia had

directed the officials con-

cerned to examine the dis-

puted terms of the KAFCO deal and evolve suitable alternatives acceptable to both sides.

The move from the highest authority of the government came apparently after the Japanese government recently indicated to link its future assistance, including funding of Jamuna Bridge project, to the implementation of the KAFCO project. A four-member special cab-

inct sub-committee had earlier

examined the KAFCO deal fi-

nalised in 1990 at the fag end

of Ershad regime and found it

against the interest of the na-Prices of gas and its pay

ment modality are in the centre of the row between the government and the foreign shareholders, particularly the Japanese investors who have a major stake in the project. Japanese shareholders are

pressing for the supply of gas

at 75 cents per thousand cubic

feet (MCF) as per the original

deal initialled in 1982. But the

government refuses to accept

the price saying it is less than

economic price of gas in the current market. According to World Bank

50 per cent of the minimum

estimates, the current economic price of gas should be 1.70 US dollar per MCF. While in production, KAFCO

(Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company) will require 65 million MCF of gas everyday forcing the Bangladesh Gas System Limited (BGSL) to incur losses of at least Tk 100 crore a year if rates remain at 75 cents per MCF.

Sources said Japanese

shareholders have recently agreed to increase the gas price at 1 dollar per MCF but stuck to their position on deferred payment for gas after three and a half years.

According to a position paper on KAFCO deal, prepared by the government in November last for some foreign missions, deferred payment for gas would result in the collapse of the BOSL which is already incurring heavy losses. BGSL incurred a loss of

about Tk 18 crore last fiscal

The position paper said. "KAFCO will bring foreign investment but does not serve

some of its terms are restructured. The government, however, is trying to retain the project making its terms acceptable through bargaining with

the interest of Bangladesh'

shareholders. iton US dollar project.

- Star photo year (1990-91), the sources

it is a risky project unless

Bangladesh holds only 30 per cent share of the 456 mil-

nounced today.

the country.

DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1992 Gunshots rock 'Call off strike Countdown to or face legal Shaheed Day action' Star Report