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The Language Movement was not only for language but also for political issues of great importance, says Iqbal Ansari Khan, a veteran of the movement Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Milam meets Food Minister

Bangladesh and the United States of America Thursday stressed on technical cooperation between them to modernise the food management and strengthen the food sector in Bangladesh. The two sides emphasised on the matter when the US Ambassador to Bangladesh William B Milam called on Food Minister M Shamsul Islam at his office Thursday, reports BSS.

Japanese grant

Japan will extend a grant aid of US dollar 40,408 for different educational and health related projects in northern region of the country. The projects are being implemented by a non-government organisation Terre des Hommes of Switzerland under its North Bangladesh Rehabilitation Programme, reports BSS.

Pak Air Chief leaves Dhaka

Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, NI (M) SBT, and the members of his delegation left Dhaka Thursday afternoon ending a week-long good-will visit, an ISPR release said. Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altuf Hossain Choudhury saw off Air Chief Marshal Farooq and the members of his delegation at Zia International Airport, reports BSS.

Judgement on election act

A single-judge bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Haq Chowdhury Thursday began delivering the judgement on the writ petition filed by Abus Saniad Azad, MP, and six others challenging the Presidential Election Act of 1991. The complete judgement will be delivered on February 18, reports BSS.

Myanmar massacres 250 Rohingyas

By Staff Correspondent

Myanmar soldiers gunned down at least 250 Rohingya Muslims in two separate massacres inside Arakan, according to the newly set up Arakan News Agency and refugees fleeing into Bangladesh on Thursday.

Refugees streaming into Teknaf alleged that Myanmar (Burmese) soldiers picked up 50 able-bodied youths during a raid on Lauding village near Buthidong on Tuesday night.

Armed with Light Machine Guns the soldiers herded the youths into a nearby jungle, lined them up and opened fire, killing all of them.

According to refugees in Teknaf the bodies were dumped into hurriedly-dug mass graves.

The other massacre of 200

men, women, children occurred late last week at the Apaukwa mountain pass between Buthidong and Kyauktaw, according to Arakan News Agency, run by Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO).

The agency in its first news bulletin available in Chittagong claimed that the soldiers blocked about 500 refugees fleeing into Bangladesh from Kyauktaw township, about 70 miles southeast of Teknaf.

The soldiers took away 200 refugees, killing them with machine guns at the foot of a hill. The bodies were dumped in mass graves, the agency said. Machinegun trooping soldiers were guarding the sites of both massacres.

As the Myanmar military

Junta steps up its atrocities, more Rohingyas Muslims are fleeing into Bangladesh, sources at Cox's Bazar and Bandarban said.

According to them 3,000 more refugees arrived on Wednesday and Thursday raising the total number to one lakh since last March.

The Bangladesh authorities opened two more refugee camps — one each at Dhamdhania in Teknaf and Nakhongchari in Bandarban districts. The camps have capacity for more than 18,000 people.

These are in addition to the two camps opened last month at Marichapalung and Kutapalong along Teknaf highway.

The sources said the four

camps together have capacity for about 30,000 people.

The government, head counting the refugees, estimates the number at about 50,000.

A list of more than 4,500 refugees has been submitted to Myanmar Embassy in Dhaka last week for repatriation.

Relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar chilled since Dec 21, when a Myanmar patrol killed a BDR jawan and a civilian and wounded 22 in an attack on BDR's Rejupara outpost.

At Monday's fourth flag meeting Myanmar returned to Bangladesh 32 arms and some ammunition its border guards looted from the Rejupara outpost. Two guns still remain unaccounted for.



With the calling-off of the transport strike, buses and trucks reappeared on streets. Picture shows a truck being loaded with foodgrain at Badamtali Ghat in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Move to defer punitive actions against 'sick' entrepreneurs

By Sohel Manzur

The high powered body on sick industries has decided to request the Ministry of Finance and the concerned banks and financial institutions to abstain from taking any legal action against the entrepreneurs of the sick industries, who have applied for rehabilitation, before April 30 of the current year, a source said.

The body will also request the concerned banks and financial institutions to postpone the prosecution of the cases which have already been filed against the entrepreneurs who failed to repay the overdue loans, the source added.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the body held on February 10 at the conference room of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), with Industry Secretary Ekram Hossain in chair.

According to the decisions of the meeting the body will approve the applications of the actual sick industries after scrutiny by ten sub-cells at its next meeting scheduled to be held on February 17.

The body will also submit the applications along with initial recommendations to the government immediately after the approval, the source said

adding that the ten sub-cells in the meantime suggested for, preparing the final reports mentioning the unit-based capital and working capital needed to rehabilitate the actual sick industries.

The body suggested for finding out sources of funds, aid or long-term loan under soft terms and conditions outside the country considering the limitations of the government and said the Shilpa Bank and the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) might perform the duty of Sec Page 12 Col 8

Buses, trucks back on roads

By Staff Correspondent

Private buses, trucks, mini buses and tank lorries have returned to the roads after a five-day transport strike across the country.

The strike was called off from Thursday morning following an agreement between the government and the transport owners late Wednesday night.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association, the private owners' platform, said that they withdrew their countrywide strike following an agreement signed on the basis of the announcement of Sec Page 12 Col 1

If needed the jobless will replace striking teachers, PM warns

JAMALPUR, Feb 13: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today cautioned that if necessary the unemployed would replace those trying to create indiscipline in national life by resorting to strikes, reports UNB.

"Holding the whole nation hostage and impeding production everywhere will not be allowed," she said pointing to the teachers on strike demanding pay scale.

The Prime Minister was addressing a rally at Raghunathpur Primary School ground after inaugurating re-excavation of the Banar-Shahakhali canal in Sharifpur union in the district this morning.

She said the teachers held the students hostage without realising that the pre-

sent government inherited a ruined economy from nine years of autocratic rule.

"The government will no longer tolerate but take stern action," she warned those, she said, trying to destroy the future of students. "They've already suffered a lot during the democratic movement."

The Prime Minister said the government, if necessary, would employ teachers from among those who are jobless.

In an oblique reference, she accused the opposition of instigating the striking teachers while showing the semblance of cooperation with the government.

For their past activities, the people have rejected those now hindering the development activities of the dem-

Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report

Formation of the Jubo (youth) League in March, 1951 through a conference in Dhaka, brought together hundreds of progressive and militant student and youth workers under one banner.

Many of these leaders, a number of whom were underground members of the East Pakistan Communist Party, had already played significant roles in the first stage of the Language Movement in 1948.

Following Muhammad Ali Jinnah's announcement, on March 21, 1948 that Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan, a delegation of the University State Language Action Committee (SLAC) went to meet him on March 24.

Before that meeting, Jinnah, then Pakistan's first Governor-General, reiterated his views about Urdu at a function held at the university in his Sec Page 12 Col 5

Speaker speaks to Daily Star

'Leader of the House need not be regular'

By Mahfuz Ullah

Shaikh Razaque Ali, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad has said that the Leader of the House, also the Prime Minister in Bangladesh, is under no obligation to be present in the Sangsad regularly.

But, if important matters are discussed she is always present as we have seen during the debate on amendments to the Constitution, the food crisis in Rangpur and so on, the Speaker added.

Besides, in a parliamentary system like ours the Leader of the House quite often remains busy with other state obligations. Nevertheless, under the convention if the Prime Minister feels the necessity to explain a viewpoint of the government on any issue then he or she comes to the House. In our situation, we have observed no exception to that convention, added the Speaker.

Shaikh Razaque Ali made these observations in an exclu-

sive interview with The Daily Star in his parliament chamber recently.

The Speaker was requested to give his comments on the Sec Page 12 Col 7



The Speaker making a point during interview. —Star photo

Withdrawal of water posing threat, Dhaka tells FAO meet

NEW DELHI, Feb 13: Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Haq said that one-third of the cultivable land of Bangladesh was under threat of desertification due to withdrawal of water of major rivers in the upstream, reports BSS.

He emphasised on rational use of water from these rivers by all beneficiary countries, to arrest desertification process in the flood plains of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river systems.

He was presiding over the 21st regional conference of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) held in New Delhi yesterday.

Twenty-seven countries are taking part in the conference, in which Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam are represented by their Agriculture Ministers, while Tonga by her Sec Page 12 Col 6

He shook my hand by force, so says Mohiuddin

By Staff Correspondent

Golam Azam suddenly caught hold of my hands from behind and tried to forcibly shake hands with me. However, I pushed his hands off and moved away. I don't have any relation with Golam Azam and never will I shake hands with him."

The identified enemies of the country's Liberation War deployed photographers who took snaps of the scene and got them printed in a daily to tarnish my image as well as that of my party."

This was how the elderly parliamentarian Mohiuddin Ahmed of the Awami League (AL) narrated the story behind his appearing in a picture Thursday in the Daily Meilatt that showed him shaking hands with the Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam at the Iranian Embassy in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The whole House plunged into laughter as the AL leader drew the attention of the chair on the 'mis-presentation' of the said photograph in the daily.

The incident occurred all of a sudden while the Speaker Shaikh Razaq Ali was giving Sec Page 12 Col 7

Amanullah Khan calls off independence march

MUZAFFARABAD, Feb 13: Kashmiri militants leader Amanullah Khan on Thursday called off his independence march into Indian-held Kashmir.

The Pakistan army had orders to shoot and I did not want to have many people killed, he told AFP by telephone.

It was called off, said the leader of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front.

Khan said he had achieved his objective.

The world has come to know the gravity of the struggle of Kashmiris in the Indian-held Kashmir, Khan told a

news conference on returning to this mountainous town, a base camp of the militant Kashmiri separatist movement.

At his press conference, he looked pale, shaken and visibly worn.

As he met reporters, scores of waiting women stood outside the JKLF headquarters.

The body of his vice president Raja Muzaffar's nephew, who died in firing Wednesday by police, had just arrived.

Amanullah Khan, returned to Muzaffarabad today, setting aside speculation on his whereabouts.

Journalists saw Khan returning to this capital of

Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, the day after Pakistani security forces fired on the march in an attempt to stop it. Up to 17 people were reported killed and more than 300 injured.

It was not known if any understanding had been reached with the Pakistani authorities, who said they had been negotiating with the JKLF.

The Pakistani army denied earlier Thursday that Khan had been arrested.

In Srinagar hundred of Muslims demanding independence defied a curfew and poured onto the streets today before snowfall and Indian security forces dispersed them,

witnesses said.

Three people were wounded when police fired at some 500 supporters of the outlawed JKLF who tried to march at Anantnag, 55 kilometers (37 miles) south of here, the witnesses said.

Officials however declined comment on the firing.

Similar demonstrations also erupted in this summer capital of India's Kashmir state and police fired tear gas on one group of 100 youths, senior Superintendent of Police Rajinder Kumar said.

The teargassing followed a noisy demonstration in which people shouted slogans hailing Amanullah Khan.

Amanullah Khan.

Small groups of JKLF supporters also staged rallies in narrow lanes of this Muslim-majority city, dispersing only when it began to snow, residents said.

Police and paramilitary forces cruised around Srinagar, reminding Kashmiris over loudspeakers of orders to shoot curfew violators. But pro-JKLF slogans continued to blare from rival loudspeakers fitted over mosques all over the city.

It was the third day of an indefinite curfew in most parts of Srinagar, to secure Kashmir. Earlier story on Page 5

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

সমাবর্তন-১৯৯২

কর্মসূচী

বৃহস্পতিবার ২৬শে ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৯২

সকাল ৯ঃ০০ থেকে ১২ঃ০০ মিঃ যথার্থভাবে সনাক্ত করার পর
এবং ডিগ্রীধারীগণের মধ্যে আনুষ্ঠানিক
বািকাল ২ঃ০০ থেকে ৫ঃ০০ টাঃ গাউন বিতরণ।
স্থানঃ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
বেলার মার্গ।

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শুক্রবার ২৮শে ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৯২

সকাল ৮ঃ০০ থেকে ১১ঃ০০ মিঃ সমাবর্তনের মহড়া প্রদান। মহড়ার
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গ্রহণ করবেন।

বিঃদ্রঃ * সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণকারী ডিগ্রীধারীদের আলাদা
কোন আমন্ত্রণ পত্র ইস্যু করা হবে না।
* * মূল সনাক্ত পত্র নেওয়ার সময় প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা সার্টিফিকেট
অবশ্যই ফেরত দিতে হবে।

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