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## - Inside Today

Dawn of Democracy in the Sands of Arabia

Article

The reunification of North and South Yemen was achieved in May 1990. Now under Ali Saleh, Yemen is embarking on an experiment in parliamentary democracy Page 4

### International



Princes of Wales watches a school entertainment in India CIS fails to resolve differences over unified army

### Business

Page 5

DCCI says the economy showing signs of improvement Page 7

### **Feature** Education

How literacy lose

grounds Page 8

## Metropolitan Dhaka Day by Day



With the change of time, Ekushey February is celebrated more like Moharram. It is more a day of festivity than a day of mourning - says eminent singer and cultural personality Kalim Sarafi who had been actively involved with the Language Movement Page 3

### NOTICE

The Daily Star is scrializing interviews in Dhaka Day by Day with important personalities who were directly involved with the Language Movement of 1952.

This "Ekushey Special" is appearing in this paper from 14th Feb '92 and will appear every day till 21st Feb '92. Editor

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### JS session to be prorogued Feb 18

By Staff Correspondent The winter session of Parliament is expected to be prorogued on February 18. sources close to the Parliament Secretariat said. The winter session began on January 4. A short session of Parliament is expected to be held in mid-April to fulfil the constitutional obligation.

#### JS business body meets today

The 10th meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Business Advisory Committee will be held at 11 am today at the of fice of the Speaker in Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

#### Hartal observed in Jessore

JESSORE, Feb 15: A halfday hartal was observed peacefully in the town today (Saturday) despite reports of several bomb explosions in which none was reported hurt.

# World bodies start rushing relief to Rohingya refugees

By Farid Hossain

International relief for tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees got under way virtually on Saturday after the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) granted I lakh dollars in emergency aid in response to Bangladesh's appeal.

Saying Bangladesh was facing a "grave crisis" High Commissioner Sadako Ogata promised in Geneva that additional funds will be released as soon as possible as my office receives the more detailed assessment of the

The aid was released on Friday in response to Bangladesh's appeal for international help for the refugees

who fled Myanmar's (Burma's) Arakan province and took refuge in Bangladesh, a UNHCR official told The Daily Star in Dhaka on Saturday.

refugees have poured into Bangladesh since last summer to escape alleged atroeities by military junta. S. Wijeratne, who is leading

An estimated one lakh

a two-member UNHCR advance assessment mission, said Bangladesh's formal go-ahead for the UN agency's relief work came on Friday. Wijeratne and his team

member Shamsul Bari reached Cox's Bazar on Saturday to assess the needs of the refugees. They will be joined by

Christopher Carpenter.

deputy director at UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asta and Ocenia who arrives on Sunday followed by a technical seam from Geneva next week. The assessment mission

will draw up. in consultation with Bangladesh government, a comprehensive assistance programme, Wijeratne said The results of this mission

will form the basis of an inter-

national appeal for help to the

refugees, said Wijeratne, who is based in the Philippines. Shamsul Bart, the UNHCR representative in Malaysia, said the primary role of the UN agency will be to provide protection to the refugees and

help Bangladesh find out a

durable solution.

Bari, a Bangladeshi official, said the mission will work in cooperation with the local offictals in drawing up a programme of assistance. The assistance will include

food, shelter, water and medicines The mission will also help Bangladesh prepare a list of

the refugees, he said. Bangladesh's appeal for international help was conveyed to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman in

a letter on Thursday. The appeal was made as hopes for a bilateral solution to the refugee problem were fad-

See Page 12 Col 5

# Proposed benefit raise for MPs to costTk3cr extra

The bill seeking to revise the financial benefits of the Members of Parliament, if passed in the present form. would cost the state exchequer an additional amount of about Taka three crore a year.

With retrospective effect from July 1, 1991, the benefits are expected to be approved by the Jatiya Sangsad when it resumes session this afternoon.

The bill, Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill 1991, was earlier moved on February 11.

But members belonging to both the Treasury and the Opposition benches refused to

asked her party MPs not to

press for an increase in the

remuneration and privileges

beyond what have been pro-

posed in the bill on political

Opposition members of

Parliament insisted on a revi-

sion the Treasury Bench would

servations while addressing a

meeting of BNP Purliamentary

Party at the Sangsad Bhaban

Begum Zia, who is also the

Leader of the House, was 'firm

but cool'. Quite a number of

MPs participated in the delib-

erations and some of them are

learnt to have expressed in-

dignation at the way of the

Parliamentary Party was con-

vened in the backdrop of dis-

organised state of affairs that

because apparent when the

Law Minister moved the bill

for amending the remunera-

tion and privileges of the

The meeting of the BNP

According to an insider.

yesterday afternoon.

parliamentary party.

Begum Zia made these ob-

But she indicated that if

grounds.

consider.

endorse the bill in the form it was presented. The Speaker deferred its passage till this afternoon.

If the bill is passed, the remuneration and allowances payable to a Member of Parliament will go up from Taka 5,200 to 10,200 a month. Apart from that, they will be entitled to an additional amount of Taka 48,000 as telephone bill and Taka 30,000 as travelling expenses

The revised benefits in clude remuneration Taka 6,000, sumptuary allowance Taka 1.000, constituency al-

See Page 12 Col 5

# PM asks party MPs not to push for privileges

Star Report Members of Parliament on Begum Khaleda Zia has February 12.

> According to a consensus reached at yesterday's meeting, the BNP MPs, who moved amendments to the bill, would withdraw.

Begum Zia, according to insiders, has also directed the MPs to regularly visit their constituencies and maintain a 'friendly' relationship with the ministers.

The question of relationship with the ministers came under close scrutiny from the MPs. Some of the angry MPs criticised the attitude of the ministers and the ministers de-

fended themselves. Citing ministerial obligations, the insiders say.

Referring to the import of duty free ears, Begum Zia advised the MPs to wait further and, according to sources, commented 'you will get it when the time comes."

On the question of pension. it was indicated such proposal would be considered at a later

As a safety measure, it was See Page 12 Col 8

# Shaheed Day

Star Report

When the Jubo (youth) League met at the Dhaka Bar Library December 30-31, 1951 for its first annual conference. more than 10,000 people had already died of starvation during the year in the district of Khulna and the famine was taking hundreds of lives daily.

The conference opened with a report on the famine existing not only in Khulna, but in many other places in East Bengal

The League's general scoretary Oli Ahad, in his report to the conference, painted a grim picture of the prevailing socioeconomic-political situation in the province.

The report identified the disastrous economic situation as the root cause of the poor state of education in East Bengal. The bankruptcy of the government's policy towards See Page 12 Col 7

## Khaleda follows footprint of Ershad: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hastna Saturday accused her arch opponent Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of running the government like autocratic Ershad, reports UNB. 'Khaleda Zia is ruling the

country following the footprint of autocratic Ershad, betraying all her commitments to the nation. People will not forgive BNP if democracy stumbles due to the government's wrong policies", she said

Addressing the concluding session of the two-day extended meeting of the City Awami League, Hastna said the BNP government has launched 'a shameless propaganda against her party only to cover up its own failure and inefficiency".

The Awami League President said people now could well understand that BNP came to power through false propaganda. "The state machinery is now being used". she alleged, "as an weapon to exploit people".

Hasina said there were discontent, frustration and agitation among general people. \*BNP is yet to formulate a

See Page 12 Col 2

# School students face uncertain future

Airport Saturday afternoon by officials of the Bangladesh Ophthalmological Society.

A 23-member team of Project ORBIS, the DC-8 aircraft-based moving eye hospital, being received at the Zia International

# One month of academic year lost

The country's Secondary

and Higher Secondary eduction faces tough days ahead with 30 days already lost in the beginning of the academic year due to indefinite strike of the non-government teacher.

Out of around 275 days in the academic year only about 200 days remained excluding the scheduled and weekly holidays. Besides, there are several

vacations during the year in the schools, colleges and madrasas for promotion tests to higher secondary levels. tests of SSC and HSC classes summer vacations and others.

Over 17.5 thousand nongovernment schools, colleges and madrasas are still closed due to the strike of teachers of the non-government institutions of the country.

The non-government teachers' started the indefinite strike from January 18 demanding the implementation of their 15-point charter of demand including salary raise.

Admission in several schools in and out side the capital could not be completed while students of those institutions

By Masud Arif

were worrying to complete their syllabus for the coming SSC exams.

Test examination for the HSC faced uncertainty because of the boycott by the striking teachers.

While talking to The Daily Star, some principals and school headmasters said that finishing the syllabus would be tough if the strike continued.

However, they added that normally in the past years "we could not complete the syllabus smoothly due to the uneasy political situation prevailing during the autocratic regime in the country."

"We hoped not to face such problem this year especially under this democratic government", the teachers added.

The Director of the Secondary Education Mohsinur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that finishing the syllabus would not be so difficult if the classes began within a short

He, however, added that the strike of the teachers created inattentiveness to studies among the students. The Director of Higher Secondary eduction said we would try to make up the gap after the strike was with-

drawn He felt that some vacations might be shortened to over-

come the situation. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Shikhak Samity leader Kamruzzaman said that probably they would be able to take two term end examinations out of three as the classes in the first term were not held.

He also mentioned that it would be difficult to pay the salary of the teachers as the tuition fees of the students were not collected in due

Beside it was reported that classes in some government schools and colleges were not held smoothly. A small number of students were attending the

Some school students in the capital told this correspondent that they did not get the booklists as the schools were closed.

"Our school is not closed but the teachers are not attending the classes", a class six See Page 12 Col 8

## ORBIS in city

-Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Project ORBIS, the 'flying' eye hospital, arrived in the city Saturday afternoon on a threeweek visit.

Led by staff ophthalmologist Dr Chedly Bouzouaya, the 23member team arrived from Beijing following a similar trip to China.

The ORBIS team was received at the airport by Dr Mustafizur Rahman and Professor S Modasser Ali on behalf of the Bangladesh Ophthalmological Society. The 3-member advance team of the New York-based organisation was also present.

During its stay here, the project ORBIS team - with a motto of providing "Medical Education for the Eyes of the World" - will treat pre-selected ophthalmological patients and in the process conduct demonstrative surgery to provide hands-on training for local doctors.

The team, which includes physicians, nurses, bio-medical engineers and technicians, will also hold a number of training courses for nurses and techni-

Dr Bouzouaya told the Daily Star that in addition to the five staff physicians on board the See Page 12 Col 4

## Raising undue demands won't help: Khaleda

GAZIPUR, Feb 15: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today alleged that a section of people in collusion with alien forces was out to frustrate the government's development efforts by raising undue demands, reports UNB.

'Raising undue demands will not bring development' she told a big rally arranged on occasion of re-excavation of Chilai canal at Pubail Primary School ground here this morning.

Presided over by Dr. Giazuddin Ahmed, the rally was addressed among others. by Jute Minister Bring (Retd) Hannan Shah. Religious Affairs Minister M.A. Mannan, Hamida Hafiz MP and Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui.

Re-excavation of a 3-kilometer section of the Chilai canal from Pubail Bazar to Sural is expected to help produce additional 5,000 metric tons of food-grains on about 3,000 acres of land benefiting nearly 2,000 families of adjacent five unions.

The Prime Minister said the only demand at present should be to increase production in all sectors, particularly See Page 12 Col 8

# वाः लाप्न थकौ न विश्वविদ्यालय, णका



সমাবর্তন-১৯৯২

### বুধবার ২৬শে ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৯২

সকাল ৯১০০ থেকে ১২১৩০ মিঃ যথাযথভাবে সনাক্ত করার পর বিকাল ২ঃ০০ থেকে ৫ঃ০০ টাঃ

**डिशी** थात्री गएन या या चानुष्ठानिक গাউন বিতরণ। ञ्चान : श्र टकौनन विश्वविमानग्र

খেলার মাঠ।

খেলার মাঠ।

## বৃহস্পতিবার ২ ৭শে ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৯২

সকাল ৯১০০ থেকে ১২১৩০ মিঃ যথাযথভাবে সনাক্ত করার পর

বিকাল ২১০০ থেকে ৪১০০ টাঃ

**डि**शी थात्री गएन प्र स्था जानुष्ठानिक গাউন বিতরণ।

श्रान : श्राकोशन विश्वविमाना

# ভক্রবার ২৮শে ফ্রেক্সারী ১৯৯২

সকাল ৮৯৩০ থেকে ১১৯৩০ মিঃ সমাবর্তনের মহড়া প্রদান। মহড়ার জন্য ডিগ্রীধারীগণ সকাল ৮১০০ টা'র মধ্যে সমাবর্তন প্রাঙ্গনে (বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের খেলার মাঠ) তাদের আসন গ্রহন করবেন।

### শনিবার ২৯শে ফ্বেক্স্যারী ১৯৯২

সকাল ৮৯৩০ মিঃ

সকাল ৮১৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে ডিগ্রিধারীগণ অবশাই সমাবর্তন প্রাঙ্গনে গাউন সহ তাদের আসন शर्प कत्रत्न।

वि: मु: \* সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহনকারী ডিগ্রীধারীদের আলাদা কোন আমন্ত্রণ পত্র ইস্যু করা হবে না।

\* \* মূল সনদ পত্র নেওয়ার সময় প্রভিশনাল সার্টিফিকেট অবশাই ফেরত দিতে হবে।

ফোন নং ঃ ৫০১৪৩৬ (অফিস) ৫০১৮৬৬ (বাসা)

পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক

# Smugglers reappear with novel strategy From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Feb 14: The smugglers seems to be back to their business in the port city. reportedly adopting novel means this time.

With the slackening of the anti-smuggling drive, contraband foreign goods have begun to appear in posh city markets.

The kingpins of the alleged smugglers who had earlier gone into hiding at the time of the anti-smuggling crackdown. now as a 'test-case' have put some glamourous ladies in the forefront for trafficking in the

contraband items including

drugs, informed sources said.

These glamour women who have long been in the smugglers ring, have reportedly started flying through Chittagong Calcutta. Dhaka-Calcutta and Dhaka-Singapore routes to carry out their illegal

Sources from city's posh markets report that a group of lady smugglers left for Calcutta last week via Dhaka to bring Indian contraband including medicines. The carriers are supposed to come back this week by Calcutta-Chittagong flight as they consider Chittagong airport to be very

convenient their purpose. On their way to Calcutta and

Singapore via Dhaka from Chittagong the lady smugglers often carry gold, drugs and other costly goods which have demands there, according to sources. They said the carriers also took orders from a section of businessmen of the posh markets here on advance contract-basis to bring contra-

band of their choice. These lady smugglers who

frequently fly in their illegal

games possess dozens of pass-

ports under fictitious names, sources added. Sources say, the glamourous

women employed for the trafficking in contraband in most of the cases work at the behest of kingpins, who live in the posh residential areas of the country's second biggest city. more or less known to the administration people.

Witnesses say contraband goods reappeared in all the markets of the port city immediately after the slackening of anti-smuggling drive. All kinds of contraband items are

Chittagong, known as heaven for smugglers, re-

prices are a bit higher.

available here though the

mained almost unhit by the anti-smuggling drive as the Task Force men merely raided a few shopping centres in the city in cooperation with the members of shop owners associations that resulted in the recovery of nothing more than nominal items. A senior Task Force official told The Daily Star that swoop on the hideouts of smuggled goods would begin soon.