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NEWS BRIEFS

PM goes to Pabna today

PABNA, Dec 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will lay the foundation stone of country's 17th sugar mills, Pabna Sugar Mills, tomorrow (Sunday) morning. The Prime Minister will address a rally at the Sarwari High School ground after the foundation laying ceremony. Later, she will visit the Sugarcane Research and Training Institute at Iswardi on her way to Kushtia, reports UNB.

359 more Rohingyas go home

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Dec 26: Another batch of 359 Rohingya refugees this morning were repatriated to Myanmar. With them, 5343 refugees in 13 batches have so far been repatriated. Official sources said, more refugees may be repatriated tomorrow.

Foreign Secretary's briefing today

Star Report Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman will brief the heads of the diplomatic missions in Dhaka today on the Rohingya situation, official sources said. The briefing will be held in the Foreign Ministry conference room at 12:00 noon.

JASASS founding day today

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASASS) will observe its 14th founding anniversary today. On Monday Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend as the chief guest at a get-together arranged as part of the two-day programme of JASASS, reports ISS.

Rohingya repatriation to continue Dhaka terms UNHCR, US charges 'unfair'

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday dismissed charges that the Rohingya refugees were being forced to return home. "There has been no involuntary repatriation... nobody has been coerced into going back," said a spokesman terming the statements accusing the Bangladesh Government of denying the refugees their rights "unfair and uncalled for".

The former said the "coerced return" of Myanmar refugees. A Geneva-dated press release Wednesday by the UN body also accused the Bangladesh government of denying its staff "free and unhindered access" to the refugee camps and described the repatriation so far "involuntary".

Identical charges came the next day from the United States Government. A Department of State statement "deplored the use of coercion" and accused Bangladesh authorities of "preventing the UNHCR from fulfilling its international mandate to protect refugees". "We have accepted them, we have looked after these people, we have faced every kind of criticism... why would Bangladesh push these people?", said the spokesman, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman.

The government statement came three days after the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, wrote to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia calling for a halt to

the former said the "coerced return" of Myanmar refugees. A Geneva-dated press release Wednesday by the UN body also accused the Bangladesh government of denying its staff "free and unhindered access" to the refugee camps and described the repatriation so far "involuntary".

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Hasina demands urgent debate in parliament

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of tarnishing the image of Bangladesh by "inept and incompetent" handling of the Rohingya issue, reports UNB. She demanded an urgent debate in parliament on the problem of repatriation of the refugees as well as the "serious situation" that has arisen in the relation between the United Nations and the Bangladesh government. The opposition leader also asked the Prime Minister to give a full explanation of her government's failure in arranging the return of the refugees. Making a flash-back on her allegation in parliament of the BNP government's mishandling of the Rohingya issue, she said the UNHCR statement substantiated her observation. See Page 12 Col 4

Shantibahini extends truce, agrees to continue talks

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: Leaders of the Shantibahini Saturday agreed to extend their ceasefire for three more months to continue political-level talks on the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem, officials said. In the second meeting with the government-sponsored Committee at Khagrachhari, the tribal leaders agreed to extend the truce that expires next Thursday, until March 31, 1993, they said. The two sides also agreed to hold the third round of talks in the first week of February, a source who attended the meeting said, adding that "Saturday's talks took place in a cordial atmosphere."

J B Larma alias Shantu Larma, Chairman of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samithi (PCJSS) led the five-member Shantibahini delegation while Communications Minister Oli Ahmed headed the nine-member Committee. The Communications Minister also had a closed-door meeting with Shantu Larma. The first meeting was held November 5 in which the PCJSS declared the ceasefire until December 31. The tribal insurgents have been fighting an 18-year bush war over a five-point demand including constitutional autonomy. See Page 12 Col 6

BIRDEM loot Another alleged bandit dies in hospital

By DMCH Correspondent One more alleged bandit arrested in connection with the robbery in the Diabetic Hospital Wednesday succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Saturday noon. The bandit who could not be identified was being treated at the DMCH under police custody. Gangsters while escaping after looting Taka 17,500 from the cash section of Diabetic Hospital met a road accident as a motor bike carrying three of them collided head on with a minibus within 250 yards of the hospital on Wednesday. A gangster and a pedestrian were killed and two of the armed men were seriously wounded in the accident and the two injured were admitted to the DMCH under police supervision. Of the two, one succumbed to his injuries at the hospital yesterday noon while another one identified as Raju is still under treatment there. Ramna police are yet to make any progress in the investigation into the incident. Police said that no further arrest was made in connection with the robbery and the money was yet to be recovered.



A procession in city with body of a victim of police firing at Keraniganj yesterday. — Star photo

Eviction of 'peer' at Keraniganj 2 killed, 100 hurt as mob, police clash

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were shot dead and over 100 including 39 policemen injured as a mob clashed with police at Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital Saturday over the eviction of a said 'peer'. The clash began when angry people broke the police cordon to evict the 'khanka' (a place of religious meditation) of a so-called 'peer' Sadruddin Ahmed Chisty (70) at Chunkutia at Keraniganj. Police then opened fire to control the mob. Earlier police resorted to baton charges and used tear gas to disperse the mob that forced police to retreat from the spot, witnesses said. Two persons who died in police firing on the spot were identified as Saiful Halder Badsha, 12, a tea-stall boy and Belayet Hossain, 23, a grocer. Wounded people were rushed to the Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital. See Page 12 Col 4

Press Note: 2 killed, probe body formed Two persons were killed when police opened fire to bring under control an unruly crowd of about 5000 people at village Chunkutia under Savadya union in Keraniganj thana yesterday, a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said last night, reports ISS. The Press Note said, a Magistrate on duty and 39 police personnel including the Superintendent and the See Page 12 Col 3

Rajshahi tense: Sec 144 extended

RAJSHAHI, Dec 26: Authorities today extended the enforcement of Section 144 till December 31 in certain areas of the metropolitan city due to a tense situation, reports UNB. Section 144 was imposed on December 23 in Shahab-bazar, Sonadighi Crossing, Sadar Hospital and City College areas after supporters of JCI and Islamic Students' Union clashed over the quota for admission into Rajshahi Government College. More than 20 students were injured in the clash.

Autocratic forces using black money for terrorism: PM

JESSORE, Dec 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here that the autocratic forces were now engaged in creating terrorism through use of their accumulated black money, reports ISS. She was addressing a public rally at the Eidgah Maidan here. The Prime Minister, however, said with the passage of anti-terrorism bill there had been improvement in the law and order situation. She described peace and discipline as precondition for economic development. Presided over by local BNP leader Ali Reza Razu, the meeting was also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah MP, Shahidul Islam MP, Afsar Ahmed Siddique, Mashitir Rahman MP and Mafidul Hasan Tripti. Begum Zia said, the government wants all-out development of the economy by reducing imports. She said one

political party is out to create chaos and indiscipline to disrupt the on-going development programmes of the government. The Prime Minister said the same political party was in power immediately after War of Independence. She said the people could not forget the dark days of repressions and plunder of national wealths during the rule of that party. She called for collective efforts to fight poverty for the economic emancipation and said democracy will become meaningless without socio-economic development. Begum Zia said the government would patronise setting up of small and medium-scale mills and factories throughout the country for employment of the unemployed millions. The Prime Minister said the government had reopened many of the mills and factories which had been closed down during the autocratic rule. The mills which are still closed will also be reopened gradually, she said.

Begum Zia said the government had taken initiatives for exploitation of hardrock, coal and limestones found in Maddyapara of Dinajpur district. She sought cooperation of the people to stop smuggling as it was eating up the vitals of the country's economy. She said the people had to cooperate with the members of the law enforcing agencies to stop smuggling without which the local industries could not grow. Begum Zia said the government in fulfillment of its election pledges had already exempted agricultural loan upto Taka 5,000 and waived land tax upto 25 bighas. The age limit for entry to government service has been increased to 30 from 27. Referring to the demands raised at the meeting Begum Zia said all the demands would get due attention of the government. She said the government wants to build the economic infrastructure of all See Page 12 Col 3

Modernisation of armed forces to continue: PM

JESSORE, Dec 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today (Saturday) emphasised on proper application of latest and appropriate technology by the air force in defending the country's air space, reports UNB. The Prime Minister was addressing the passing out parade of 25th GD Pilot and 29th Ground Course of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) at the Mattur Rahman Base here this morning. Begum Zia said there is no scope for underestimating the responsibility of safeguarding national sovereignty on the pretext of resource constraints. "The process of modernising the armed forces should continue," she said. On arrival at the parade ground, the Prime Minister was received by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury and Base Commander Air Commodore M Rafiqul Islam. The Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute. The parade ended with See Page 12 Col 3

Big vessels stop plying Abnormal fall in Padma, Jamuna water levels

MANIGANJ, Dec 26: Plying big vessels in the Padma and the Jamuna has stopped due to an abnormal fall in the water level and authorities fear disruption of ferry services in all routes of the two major rivers shortly. Officials told UNB that Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority had plying ships above six-foot draft in the rivers while movement of all water vessels in CNB-Aricha and Aricha-Paksey routes also came to a halt. They said ferry services in Aricha-Dhaulatdia, Aricha-Nagarbari, Sirajganj-Nalchha, Sirajganj-Bahadurabad and Jagannathganj routes came under threat with emergence of huge shoals and heavy siltation of the river channels. Sources said over 8,000 shoals had surfaced in 210 kilometres of the country's vital river routes from Mawa to Sirajganj, making water transportation hazardous. Ferry accident is occurring frequently, with some 25 river

transport, including two ferries, reported to have run aground in the Padma and the Jamuna. Water experts say due to the dehydrational impact of the Farakka barrage, most rivers in Bangladesh are facing serious navigation problem besides an acute water crisis in the country, specially in the northern and southwestern regions. The crisis deepened with the expiry of the Indo-Bangladesh water sharing agreement (memorandum of See Page 12 Col 5

50 injured in Ramu road accident

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Dec 26: Fifty persons were injured in a bus accident near Ramu on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway this morning. The Chittagong-bound bus (Ctg Ja 2344) fell in a canal breaking off railing of a culvert when it tried to avoid collision with a Cox's Bazar-bound motor car. The injured were admitted to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, Duhdulazara Sadar Hospital and Ramu Health Complex. Among them condition of four persons was stated to be critical. They are: Ferdous, 36, Abul Bashar, 35, Omar Farook, 36, and Abdul Aziz, 40.

Substandard meat sales rampant

By Asiuzzaman

Sale of substandard meat is rampant in different city markets in defiance of existing laws. This meat is hazardous to health, market sources and residents alleged. A number of butchers slaughter animals in dirty places and supply meat to markets without the needed quality check by City Corporation officials, they said. According to the 1957 Meat Quality Control Law and the 1983 City Corporation Ordinance, a butcher should slaughter the animals in an authorised slaughter house and then take the meat to markets after getting the quality seal from a veterinary surgeon. A large number of meat sellers do not follow the rules and sell beef and mutton at dingy roadside shops or even

on the footpath, the residents also alleged. Some of them alleged that a section of meat sellers was selling buffalo-meat as beef and also selling the left-overs of the previous day. Talking to The Daily Star, a number of butchers rejected the allegation of selling stale meat. Undersize goats and sick old cows are not spared by the "unscrupulous" sellers, market sources also alleged. Beef and mutton are sometimes available in the market even on three meat-free days (Sunday, Monday and Thursday). However, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has only five "scientific" slaughter houses at Hazaribag, Kashiatali, Gulshan, Mirpur-1 and Mirpur-11, finding See Page 12 Col 8



One of the many unauthorised roadside meat shops in the old city area. — Star photo

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 ঢাকা

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন
 এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" - প্রধানমন্ত্রী

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আরকর অধ্যাদেশের ৯২ ধারা অনুযায়ী মালমাল সরবরাহকারী, চুক্তি কার্যকর করণকারী ও সেবা প্রদানকারীসহ সকল ঠিকাদারগণকে (Contractors) তাহাদের কাজের বিনিময়ে যে কোন প্রকার অর্থ পরিশোধ (অগ্রীমসহ) করিবার সম্বন্ধ পরিশোধকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ নিম্নের তফসিল অনুযায়ী আরকর কর্তন করিবেন।

তফসিল

ক্রমিক নং	পরিশোধের পরিমাণ	পরিশোধের উপর আরকর কর্তনের হার
১।	যে ক্ষেত্রে পরিশোধের পরিমাণ টাকা ২,০০,০০০/- এর অধিক নহে।	শূন্য
২।	যে ক্ষেত্রে পরিশোধের পরিমাণ টাকা ২,০০,০০০/- এর অধিক কিন্তু টাকা ১০,০০,০০০/- এর অধিক নহে।	১০%
৩।	যে ক্ষেত্রে পরিশোধের পরিমাণ টাকা ১০,০০,০০০/- এর অধিক কিন্তু টাকা ২৫,০০,০০০/- এর অধিক নহে।	২৫%
৪।	যে ক্ষেত্রে পরিশোধের পরিমাণ টাকা ২৫,০০,০০০/- এর অধিক	২৫%

সরকারের পক্ষে আরকর কর্তনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ একই দিনে পুরকায়ার (Book-Adjustment)-এর মাধ্যমে কর্তনকৃত কর সম্বন্ধে করার যথাযথ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করিবেন।

সরকার স্বাভাবিক অন্যান্য কর্তনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তনের তারিখ হইতে ৭ দিনের মধ্যে চালানের মাধ্যমে কর্তন কর সরকারী টেক্সারী, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক অথবা সোনালী ব্যাংকে যথাযথ আরকর বাতে জমা দিবেন।

ডিএফপি(বি)-২২২৩৫-২৩/১২
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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড