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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hasina's tour programme

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka tomorrow for a two-day organisational tour of Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Srimangal, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj. The Awami League Chief will address public meetings at Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Srimangal and Moulvibazar on January 7. She will address public rallies at different places in Sunamganj on January 8, reports UNB.

### Three hijackers arrested

Police arrested three youths Monday night and detained under the Anti-terrorism Act for alleged hijacking of the car of Prime Minister's Private Secretary. The arrested were identified as Harun-ur-Rashid, Shafi Ahmed and Kari Mohammad. They were produced before court yesterday and later sent to jail. Police said the trio halted the car at Fakirpur at about 11 pm and forced the driver to follow their order. But the driver, coming to Motijheel area, drove it straight into Bangabhaban where security guards on duty caught the "miscreants" and informed police. Sources said the youths were drunk. reports UNB.

### FPAB workshop begins today

Three-day annual Project Development Workshop '93 of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) begins at Cerdit of Gazipur today. A total of 150 participants representing volunteers and workers at grassroots level, policy making volunteers and programme managers at national and district levels will attend the workshop, reports BSS.



## Unusual fog envelops country

Star Report

A thick blanket of fog covered most of the country Tuesday reducing visibility to a record low and disrupting normal life.

A weatherman said the visibility at Zia International Airport was recorded 10 metre, the lowest in this season, between 6-50 am to 7-50 am Tuesday. "It is uncommon for the season," he added.

Life remained partially paralysed from 10 pm to 11 am because of the foggy weather that started late

December. Met office forecast that it would continue for at least another three days.

A number of flights were cancelled Tuesday from Zia while several others, international and domestic, were delayed, one source said.

The officer on duty at Zia declined to give details of the flight schedule requesting to contact the General Manager (Public Relation) whose telephone was found to be out of order. The Airport Manager and Deputy General Manager

(Traffic) also gave similar replies.

The capital city looked deserted since 10 pm with only a few vehicles belonging to the essential services plying.

Night coaches left the city terminal early but became stranded at Aricha and some other points, terminal sources said.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent said some 3,000 passengers were stranded at the local launch ghat because of fog since Monday midnight.

Several launches left the terminal at around noon Tuesday, he added.

Meteorologists said influx of "humid air" from the Bay of Bengal to the comparatively cold mainland was causing the fog.

"It is uncommon, there should be a high pressure (anti-cyclone) over the bay but instead a low pressure is currently prevailing which is bringing moisture to the land," Sajedur Rahman, Deputy

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## PM urges political parties

# Work together despite differences

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Jan 5: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon all political parties to work unitedly for alleviating poverty and building the country, reports UNB.

"We might have differences in opinion, but we all have to work together for building the country," she said.

Begum Zia was addressing a public meeting organised by the district BNP at the local stadium here this afternoon.

Presided over by Syed Monzoorul Hossain MP, the meeting was also addressed by State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman, State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Huq, Whip Shahjahan Miah, Lutfunnessa Hossain MP and district BNP president Kamrul Hassan.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for united

efforts to make the country self-reliant which she said is the aim of the present government.

"We have to work together for our future... I believe we can build the country unitedly with the same efforts with which we removed autocracy and established democracy in the country," she said.

Begum Zia pointed out that her party had established the politics of production. "We want to increase production in fields and factories," she said.

Begum Zia said the unemployment problem of the country cannot be solved by providing government jobs. "Employment has to be created through setting up of new industries."

Emphasizing on self-employment, she asked the people to take the advantage of

the new industrial policy which provides loans for setting up small and cottage industries.

The Prime Minister pointed to the local resources including fruits which can be the raw materials for small industries. She particularly referred to mango which has a great potential for canning.

She also laid importance on self-employment of women who constitute half of the country's population.

Begum Zia mentioned different development programmes of her government particularly in the education, communication and power sectors. But she alleged that a certain political party was hindering the development efforts of the present government.

On the second leg of her

See Page 12 Col 6

## Hasina shocked at Halihsahar, Jessore incidents

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of five persons and injuries to other people in police firing in the incident in Benapole border in Jessore, reports BSS.

In a statement Sheikh Hasina said that she was deeply shocked and concerned at the police firing incident in Benapole border of Jessore district on Monday.

She said five invaluable lives were lost on Monday as the government remained mysteriously silent and allowed the long marchers proceed towards the border after its organisers announced their march plan following Babri Mosque demolition in Ayodhya.

She also alleged that the government did not inform anything to the organisers of the march nor the people of the country before the long march reached up to the border point and the incident was

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## Halishahar Incident

# Sporadic blasts mark hartal in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: A half-day hartal was observed today in Chittagong port city amid a wave of protests against the atrocities by a section of Navy personnel at Bandarilia of Halishahar area on January 2 and 3.

Six persons, according to police and other officials here, were killed in the incident while around 200 people were injured mostly from bullets. Property including dwelling houses and shops worth crores of taka were torched and damaged.

The local units of Awami League, 5-party, PDF, Ganatantrik Biplabi Jote and Ganatantri party gave the call for today's half-day hartal.

Different political parties here organised protest rallies and brought out processions demanding immediate punishment to those Navy personnel responsible for the incident. The leaders of those parties also demanded the shifting of Chittagong naval base from Halishahar area, immediate court martial of the persons responsible, com-

penation for the losses and rehabilitation of the effected people of Halishahar.

During the hartal period today the normal life came to a halt in the city and its surrounding areas. Sporadic blasts of cocktails and massive picketing marked the half-day hartal. Some vehicles were damaged in the city, witnesses said. The blasts and picketing, mostly took place at Jamal Khan Road, Chawkbazar, Anderkilla, New Market crossing, Agrabad and Port road.

All kinds of vehicles including rickshaws stayed off the roads and shops and markets remained closed. Both public and private offices could not function and production in mills and factories came to halt during hartal. Cargo handling at Chittagong port was also hampered, official sources said. Truckloads of police were seen patrolling the city roads.

However, tension at the trouble-torn Halishahar area is yet to ease, with Police and BDR men still patrolling the area to prevent any further

See Page 12 Col 3

## Firing on long-marchers in Jessore protested

By Staff Correspondent

Several religious and other organisations Tuesday observed protest day amid partial hartal, demonstrations and mourning processions condemning the firing on Monday's long march in Jessore in which at least 5 persons were killed.

The Long March National Implementation Committee called for observing the day supported by a number of other organisations.

In Dhaka, the Committee organised a procession which paraded major city streets. It started from the north gate of Baitul Mokarram.

The Islamic Chhatra Shibir also brought out a procession that ended in a brief rally at south gate of the national mosque.

Our Jessore Correspondent reports: A dawn to dusk hartal was observed partially yesterday at the district protesting police firing on the long-marchers to Ayodhya Monday.

All the markets and busi-

ness centres remained closed during the hartal hours, but vehicles moved as usual.

No incident of clash, injury nor any casualty was, however, reported.

The Long March Implementation Committee held a rally yesterday at 3 pm at the Daratana Square of the town protesting police action.

The rally presided over by Kazi Muttassim Billah was addressed by Saikul Hadiah Maolana Azizul Huq and other leaders of the Committee.

Maolana Aziz criticized the Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tarkul Islam and Minister for Religious Affairs MA Mannan saying that the police made the heinous attack on the long-marchers in presence of the two minister.

He also announced that the committee will organise a gherao January 12 at the Zia International Airport during the arrival of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in

See Page 12 Col 6



## President Cup soccer kicks off today

Sports Reporter

The seventh President Gold Cup international football tournament comprising eight teams including six foreign and two local sides kicks-off today with reigning champions Bangladesh Reds taking on Polonia Warszawa of Poland at 6 pm at the Dhaka Stadium.

The 11-day long tournament ends on January 16 with the champions becoming richer for 12,000 US dollars. The runners-up will get 8000 dollars.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will give live coverage of the inaugural match.

Detailed report on Page 10.

## Jamaat resents killing of 5 long-marchers

An emergency meeting of the central executive committee of Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday strongly resented the killing of five long-marchers by police firing in Jessore on Monday, reports UNB.

Jamaat also announced that it will observe a protest day on January 8 all over the country to condemn the killing.

The meeting, presided over by party Acting Ameer Abbas Ali Khan, adopted a resolution demanding immediate judicial inquiry into the "indiscriminate police firing".

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## Dhaka-11 by-polls: All nominations found valid

All the 20 nomination papers submitted for contesting parliamentary by-election in Dhaka-11 (Mirpur) constituency were found valid after the scrutiny yesterday, Election Commission said, reports UNB.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 12 while the election will take place on February 3.

The Mirpur seat of Jatiya Sangsad fell vacant with the death of Harunur Rashid Mollah of BNP.

## 4686 file nominations for poura polls

By Staff Correspondent

Nomination papers for the ensuing pourasava election were filed Tuesday at the offices of the returning officers.

A total of 511 candidates filed nomination papers to contest for chairmanship while 4175 candidates as commissioners. The applicants included 46 women for commissionership.

The nomination papers will be scrutinised Wednesday.

Out of 106 pourasavas, elections to 91 will be held January 30. Election to Savar pourasava scheduled for the same day has been postponed due to an injunction of the High Court.

Polls in the remaining 14 pourasavas will not held due to disputes over area-selection and ward-division.

This will be the fifth pourasava polls in the country, the last being held January 3, 1989.

According to the election schedule announced by the Election Commission, candidates can be withdrawn by January 13 at the latest.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh adds: A total of 19 candidates filed nominations for the posts of chairmen and 228 candidates for commissioners in Mymensingh.

For chairmen posts, ten candidates filed from Mymensingh, four from Muktagachha and five from Gouripur.

A total of 124 candidates filed applications from Mymensingh, 39 from Muktagachha and 65 from Gouripur for

commissioners posts.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Five persons will be contesting for chairmanship in Sirajganj and 54 persons for five ward commissioners' posts.

In Shahjadpur, seven candidates will be contesting for chairmanship while 65 others for three ward commissioners posts.

Our Maulvibazar Correspondent adds: A total of 42 commissioner candidates submitted nomination papers for three wards. Of them 14 for Ward No-1, 9 for Ward No-2 and 19 for Ward No-3.

In Sreemongal pourasava, 6 candidates submitted nominations for the post of Chairman. They are: Md. Mahsin Miah, Md

Arfan Miah, Abdul Malek, Abu Sahid Md Abdullah, Fajle Elahi and Mansur Bakht Chowdhury.

A total of 39 commissioner candidates submitted nomination papers in Sreemongal. Of them 20 for Ward No-1, 10 for Ward No-2, and 9 for Ward No-3.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent adds: Eight nomination papers were filed for the posts of chairmen in Jamalpur and Sarisabari pourasavas in the districts.

Sixtyeight nomination papers for the posts of four commissioners of Jamalpur pourasava were filed while 52 nomination papers were submitted for the three posts of commissioners in Sarisabari pourasava.

## Tea producers turn to home market

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: Bangladesh tea producers and traders, battling for survival, have now turned their eyes on home market by jumping into a vigorous media campaign.

Export price losses and shrinkage of traditional and potential overseas markets have forced them to go for aggressive home market hunt which authorities earlier hardly encouraged.

According to tea traders and officials, any sort of bid for raising home consumption of tea is almost like sailing in the reverse direction of government's policy as it always encouraged to boost tea export to fetch more foreign current-

economic sanction imposed on it, the official added.

"If the tea producers can establish a steady home market for their crop, after all, they may not be totally threatened in the absence of foreign buyers," the official also added.

He informed that Bangladesh Tea Board had already proposed to the Commerce Ministry to organise a vigorous advertising campaign in most of the foreign media through Bangladesh embassy with the slogan "Drink Bangladesh tea" that could draw the attraction of foreign buyers.

According to official reports, during five the months from July to Nov '92, the ex-

port of Bangladesh tea came down to 12.83 million kgs worth Taka 63 crores from 13.92 million kgs worth Taka 80 crores 72 lakhs in the corresponding period of 91-92 fiscal.

The average export price of tea fell to Tk 38 per kg this year from Tk 47 per kg in the previous year, broker sources and tea board officials said adding that it was absolutely below the cost of production which ranges between Tk 45 to Tk 50 per kg.

But the weather this year greatly favoured Bangladesh's tea crop resulting in an increase in production. Official

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বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

সমাবর্তন-১৯৯৩

কর্মসূচী

বুধবার ১৩ই জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৩

সকাল ৯:০০ থেকে ১২:৩০ মিঃ

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সকাল ৮:৩০ থেকে ১১:৩০ মিঃ

সকাল ৮:৩০ মিঃ

বিঃ দ্রঃ- সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণকারী ডিগ্রীধারীদের আলাদা কোন আমন্ত্রণপত্র ইস্যু করা হবে না। মূল সনদপত্র নেওয়ার সময় প্রকৌশল সার্টিফিকেট অবশ্যই ফেরত দিতে হবে।

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