

Inside Today

Article

Fundamentalism: A Threat to Internal Cohesion and Stability

Column: On the Record by Shah A M S Kibria Page 4

International



Americans intensify operation in Mogadishu

US keeps Pakistan under review Page 5

Business

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman has said the country is capable enough to carry forward its development programmes Page 7

Living

Eating out for a Change, Curb it with Karate, Body Maintenance and Fish for Fancy Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Saving the Unfortunates Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

PM opens textile fair tomorrow

One and a half month long Textile Fair '93 will begin at the northern side of Zia Uddayan at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here tomorrow. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the fair, reports BSS.

Grenades recovered

By Staff Correspondent Lalbag police Saturday recovered six hand grenades and four grenade boxes from a primary school ground in the capital. Police officials said that they recovered the grenades at about 11:00 am from Azimpur Primary School ground.

BDR seizes Indian Phansydil Syrup

RAJSHAH, Jan 9: Bangladesh Rifles yesterday seized 815 bottles of Indian Phansydil Syrup worth about Taka 1.63 lakh from Alimganj of the district, a PID handout said here tonight. A special squad of BDR seized the contraband searching a Chapti Rajshahi-bound passenger bus Dur. Duranta Paribahan, reports BSS.

Workshop on river technology

A six-day long workshop on river technology organized jointly by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Delft University of Technology (DUT) in Netherland began today in BUET. A total of 56 participants from the BFTs, WDB, WAPRO, JRC, IWT and other water related organizations are taking part in the workshop, reports UNB.

Bhatia arrives today to explain situation

SAARC summit postponed again as Rao won't come

Star Report

The seventh SAARC Summit has been postponed once again, and this time for an indefinite period.

The announcement of putting off the January 13-14 summit came yesterday after India had informed host Bangladesh government late Friday night that Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao would not be able to attend the

two-day event due to the communal disturbances in the aftermath of the Babri Mosque incident.

Rao, along with five other heads of government was to come to Dhaka December 12 to attend the rescheduled summit.

The summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was

originally scheduled for last December 12-13, but was deferred by a month three days before the date at the request of India after adverse developments in the region as a sequel to the demolition of the 16-century mosque by Hindu militants December 6.

New dates for the twice-postponed summit would be decided after consultations

among the member nations, a Bangladesh government spokesman said formally announcing the postponement.

The spokesman expressed "regret and disappointment" of the Bangladesh Government at the developments as "every effort was made by Bangladesh to hold the summit in the larger interest of the SAARC" despite

Bhutanese FM arrives on 'a holiday'

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering arrived in Dhaka yesterday afternoon for "a holiday" as he came to know on the way that SAARC summit was postponed, reports UNB. "I'll have a holiday here" as the rescheduled December 13-14 SAARC summit has been put off, Dawa Tsering told newsmen on arrival.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman received him at the Zia International Airport.

The Bhutanese Foreign Minister, who flew in here from New Delhi, said "I got the

See Page 12 Col 6

Army ordered shoot-at-sight as 23 more killed in Bombay

BOMBAY, Jan 9: Shoot-at-sight orders have been given to the army to stem the violence in the Metropolis, where 23 more persons were killed today taking the toll in the second spell of Ayodhya-related violence to 68 and the number of injured to 300, reports PTI.

Maharashtra Minister of State for Home Babanrao Pachtu said 17 persons died in stabbing and six in police firing between midnight last night and 1400 hrs today and of the injured, 192 were hurt

in stabbing incidents, 51 in police firing and others in incidents of private firing and stone throwing.

Seventeen army columns had been deployed in the city, including two in the worst affected Jogeshwari, a north-western suburb. A dozen platoons of the State Reserve Police (SRP) had been recalled from Delhi and the Central Reserve Police has also been requisitioned, in view of the large scale rioting, arson, looting and stabbing incidents, Chief Minister Sudha-

karrao Naik told reporters here.

Searches were being conducted in various areas to trace those involved in riots and unearth illegal arms, he said.

The Defence Minister Sharad Pawar said he had no information regarding smuggled arms being used in the city riots. The Navy and coast guard had been alerted to maintain vigil. There was also no intelligence report regarding foreign hand inciting the violence.

See Page 12 Col 8



Flanked by 5-party alliance colleagues and daughter, Rashed Khan Menon waving to the crowd assembled at Zia International Airport to greet him upon his arrival from Bangkok yesterday. — Star photo

Curbing terrorism linked with combating black money-holders, says Menon

By Staff Correspondent

Rashed Khan Menon MP who has survived the assassins' bullets has said unless government combats the black money-holders, curbing terrorism will remain a far cry.

Menon, riddled with bullets on August 17 last year, was addressing a reception in his honour upon his return after a prolonged treatment in London and Bangkok in front of the National Press Club yesterday.

"While I was away, the anti-terrorism law was enacted but I don't know whether terrorism has been curbed," Menon said adding fighting terrorism needed strong political will of all concerned.

The Workers Party MP who rose to the rostrums erected on the Topkhana Road for his reception to the tune of the song 'we shall overcome' said, "I know that some day I will come back to you as your love for me cannot go in vain."

UNB adds: Earlier thousands of party workers from different parts of the country massed in the capital by buses and trains to greet their leader who flew in Zia International Airport from Bangkok by a Thai airliner at 12:55 pm.

"I don't know whether I will be able to reciprocate your love, but I make a solemn

See Page 12 Col 1



Alexander Tsyganov (wearing No 2 on his shorts) is engaged in a tussle with his Polish opponent for the control of ball in the first drawn encounter of yesterday's President Gold Cup football ties at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Cold wave in northern dists kills 40 in 2 weeks

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 9: Severe cold wave that has been sweeping over four districts of Rangpur with mercury fluctuating between five and nine degrees Celsius for past two weeks has claimed at least 40 lives.

The cold wave killed fifteen at around 7 pm leaving a trail of devastation. It continued for about two hours. More than five thousand thatched houses were damaged totally or partially in the storm.

Gowainghat, Companyganj and Jaintapur are the worst hit thanas of the Sylhet district.

The sun remained invisible for the last ten days over a wide area causing an impact on prices of foodstuff. Lack of drying facilities swelled prices of rice, flour and pulse in the area.

UNB adds: An old man died in Pabna Sadar thana as temperature in the region dropped further with drizzles and strong winds that continued for the last 12 hours.

The dead was identified as Sudip Saha, 65, of village Bajitpur who died early yesterday morning due to shivering cold, villagers said.

There had been scattered drizzles which began early on Saturday. Normal life in the town was disrupted and most people stayed indoors.

25 killed, 1000 hurt as storm lashes 2 Sylhet dists

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 9: At least 25 people were killed and over one thousand injured when a severe storm lashed three thanas of Sylhet district and two of Sunamganj Friday evening.

According to reports, the storm hit different villages at around 7 pm leaving a trail of devastation. It continued for about two hours. More than five thousand thatched houses were damaged totally or partially in the storm.

Gowainghat, Companyganj and Jaintapur are the worst hit thanas of the Sylhet district.

Bangabandhu's homecoming day today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) and other organisations will observe the homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today (Sunday).

Bangabandhu returned to Dhaka on this day in 1972 after 9 months of captivity in Pakistan during the War of Liberation.

Awami League will mark the day by hoisting party flag at its central office, at Banga-

See Page 12 Col 7

Mahathir to visit Bangladesh

Star Report

Dr Mahathir Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, is expected to arrive here on Feb 13 on a three-day official visit, it is learnt.

The Malaysian leader will be accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah binte Mohammad Ali.

This will be Dr Mahathir's second visit to Bangladesh. His previous one took place in 1984.

During his stay, the Malaysian Prime Minister will hold detailed discussion with

See Page 12 Col 7

'Strong army a must to uphold independence'

NILPHAMARI, Jan 9: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today stressed the need for strong and well-disciplined Armed Forces for upholding the country's independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

Addressing the officials and jawans after witnessing the combined winter exercise here, Begum Zia said the government has been taking pragmatic steps to strengthen and modernise the defence.

She also praised the participants in the exercise for their impressive performance. Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, parliament members, Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan were among others who wit-

See Page 12 Col 6

Mujib concluded 7th March speech saying 'Joy Pakistan': Huda

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had called for the non-cooperation movement on the basis of the six-point on March 7, 1971 and concluded his speech by saying "Joy Bangla" and "Joy Pakistan", reports BSS.

Huda argued that the speech which was concluded with "Joy Pakistan" could not be the call for independence.

The Information Minister

See Page 12 Col 3

Over 300 stranded Pak nationals go home today

Star Report

The long awaited repatriation of the first batch of stranded Pakistanis finally takes place today.

According to a Foreign Office official yesterday, a total of 63 families comprising over 300 members will be flown to Pakistan aboard a chartered Russian aircraft scheduled to leave at 11 am.

This is only a token repatriation and the full process will begin in a couple of months and the next phase will involve 3000 families," he said.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman is scheduled to be present at the Zia International Airport on the occasion. The visiting Assistant Secretary General of Rabat, Al-Alam Al-Islam, Amin Akel Attas, and Pakistan High Commission officials will also be present.

The token repatriation starts following an agreement signed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with her Pakistani counterpart Newaz

Sharif, during her visit to Islamabad last year.

A Rabat spokesman yesterday told The Daily Star that 53 of the families, totalling about 290 members, will be from the Adamjeenagar refugee camp in Narayanganj while 10 families will be from the Mirpur camp.

He said members of the stranded Pakistanis were selected on alphabetical order based on the names of the camps. The 10 families from the Mirpur camp were selected because they were off-loaded during an earlier repatriation process in 1974.

On that occasion, a total of 4,000 families, numbering about 1,75,000 members, were repatriated by UNHCR.

The present repatriation process is being funded by the Saudi Arabia-based Rabat Trust and the Pakistan government.



Reds held 1-1 by Malaysians

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Reds, the senior of the two national selections, shared points with the Olympic team of Malaysia in a one-all draw in the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium.

Zakir put the Reds ahead in the eighth minute while Paul Raj drew level for the Malaysian team in the 37th minute.

Fancied Krylia Sovetov of Russia dropped a point when they drew with Polonia Warszawa of Poland 1-1 earlier in the afternoon.

Detailed reports on Page 10.

Iraq has bowed to Allied demands, US says

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: The United States said today that Baghdad has bowed to Allied demands that it move anti-aircraft missiles from threatening positions in southern Iraq and cease violations of a no-fly zone established to protect Shi'ite Muslims, reports Reuter.

In a White House statement, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater signalled the end — at least for now — of the crisis that erupted late last month, saying, "all evidence indicates that Iraq is acceding to the requirements of the coalition's January 6 1993, demarche (demand)."

No Iraqi aircraft have entered the no-fly zone south of the 32nd parallel and the Iraq surface-to-air missile have been dispersed and are no longer threatening coalition flight operations, Fitzwater said.

"Once again Saddam Hussein has backed down in the face of coalition solidarity, Iraq re-

mains isolated and a pariah among nations due to its flagrant attempts to violate the [Gulf war] ceasefire regime," the spokesman said.

The United States, Britain and France on Wednesday gave Iraq 48 hours to move Soviet-made SAM-2 and 3 missiles out of threatening positions in the restricted part of southern Iraq.

Their ultimatum expired at 5:30 pm Washington time (2230 GMT) on Friday and because of heavy cloud cover over southern Iraq, the United States took its time before declaring that the need for western retaliatory action has been averted.

But Fitzwater cautioned Iraq that the Allied warning not to interfere with coalition patrolling in the no-fly zone was permanent.

The zone was established by the western allies last August to protect Shi'ite Muslims from attack by Saddam's

forces.

"We will continue to scrutinise Iraqi activity. No further warning will be issued if Iraq violates the requirements of the Jan 6 demarche, Fitzwater said.

AFP adds: Iraq today rejected a Security Council warning over a ban by Baghdad on UN flights in the country, saying UN officials must use Iraqi aircraft.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf issued a statement saying, teams of UN experts must use Iraqi planes to enter or leave the country, or the Amman-Baghdad road like Iraqis, Arabs and other foreigners.

On Friday, the Security Council said Iraq's ban would have serious consequences. Earlier, AP from Nicosia said: The Iraqi leadership urged its people Saturday to prepare for an "honorable holy war" against the United States

See Page 12 Col 5

40.20 acres land in Tejgaon passed out of govt possession

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia has unearthed a major incident of irregularity and corruption for fraudulently allowing 40.20 acres land in Tejgaon industrial area worth over Taka 100 crore out of the government possession.

Disclosing it to BSS here yesterday morning at his Secretariat office, the Minister said the then East Pakistan government had acquired a total of 520 acres land under Tejgaon thana in 1964 to make industrial plots and PWD Tejgaon sub-division had taken the possession and had been responsible for the maintenance of the area.

But, he regretted that out of the 520 acres acquired land, 40.20 acres was shown outside the original land map of the acquired area and that portion of land was passed out of the government possession in 1974 by showing fake land identification number in col-

See Page 12 Col 1