

Myanmar junta adjourns convention abruptly

YANGON, Jan 11: A massive national convention of some 700 Myanmar men called by the ruling junta to frame a new constitution was adjourned abruptly here today, only two days after it was opened, reports AFP.

There was no immediate confirmation as to whether the adjournment was planned or unplanned, but the fact the move was called 'a clarification' suggested it was unplanned.

Conference Convenor Major-General Myo Nyunt told the 699 delegates they would reconvene in Yangon on February 1.

The break, starting Tuesday, was to allow delegates "sufficient time for appropriate study" and because the SLORC, as the ruling junta is officially known, felt delegates representing 10 political parties "may need time to consult," he said.

Myo Nyunt said all members would be provided with transport to their home region.

The SLORC, the State Law and Order Restoration Council opened the conference Saturday with massive internal publicity. But the meet was boycotted by the European Community, which saw it as an attempt to legitimise the military's grip on power.

No timetable was given, but Myanmar government sources said at the time that they expected the conference to last from a month to six weeks.

Myo Nyunt's announcement of the 20-day adjournment was greeted in the convention hall with a buzz of surprise from the delegates, and observers said it appeared they had not been forewarned.

Lower level officials and foreign diplomats present at the hour-long session Monday appeared to show that SLORC was, in the words of one Asian Diplomat, "in no hurry".

Before the announcement, Chief Justice Aung Toe told the delegates -- who came from all regions of the country as well as the 10 political parties -- that there was no time limit.

"I would like to remind you that no time limit has been set, so that panel discussions may be carried out by the distinguished delegates to their hearts content," Aung Toe said.

Termination of Qureshi: Rule issued on BDRCS Chairman

A High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court has issued rule on the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and its Chairman to show cause why the termination of its Secretary General Major (Rtd) Ali Hassan Qureshi not be declared to have no legal effect, reports UNB.

Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice K M Hasan gave the ruling on Sunday upon a petition of Qureshi challenging the letter of termination issued on December 31.

The petitioner alleged that the Managing Board of the society suddenly terminated him with effect from January 1, 1993 without assigning any reason although he, appointed on regular basis, had been discharging his duties to the satisfaction of all concerned since the appointment on March 19, 1979.

The court also directed the respondents to allow the plaintiff to continue to live in his official accommodation.

The rule has been made returnable within six weeks and stay order granted for three months.



Rupanjali Natya Sangstha staged 'Andhare Musafir' at Shilpakala Academy yesterday on the occasion of National Jatra Festival there. — Star photo

Gangsters damage 50 thatched houses in city

By Staff Correspondent
Young gangsters raided a slum area and damaged at least 50 thatched houses at City Polli in Demra yesterday afternoon.

Witnesses said, score of people sustained minor injuries during the raid. Three of the injured persons, Tara Banu, 23, Abdul Kader 28, and Babul were given first aid at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Local people informed, the raid was a sequel to a row between two groups over playing carom yesterday.

The attackers exploded at least 25 crackers during the raid. They ransacked the houses and damaged them, witnesses said.

When contacted Demra police said that they had been informed of the incident. But they were yet to receive any complain from the affected people and no arrest was made in this connection.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8
has chalked out several programmes for women welfare." The concluding session was chaired by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad President Dr Kazi Khaliquezaman. The seminar also adopted a 19-point recommendations. Dr Nilima Ibrahim was the special guest at the function.

Hasina said that the existing law of inheritance also deprive women from equal rights, while the religious bars also hinders their advancement.

She admitted that AL could not nominate more women during the parliamentary elections for "various reasons."

Referring to the fact that only five members were directly elected in the present parliament.

She said that more and more women should come out for jobs as the economic independence would help them get equal rights and social security.

The recommendations of the seminar suggested that the prevailing socialisation process and patriarchal attitude should be changed in all levels of life.

Educational programme should be undertaken to increase social consciousness on gender disparity, the curriculums should be changed and be made gender neutral.

The recommendations also suggested giving women right to enjoy their own income and allowing them a positive role in decision making in the family.

Proper interpretation of religious views should be ensured so that the women, particularly of the village, were not misled.

The recommendation suggested political commitment at all levels for the welfare of the women.

There should also be policy for men and women in family planning and gender issues should be focused in the mass media, said one of the recommendations.

BCL (M-I) sweeps Siddeswari College union polls

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League won the Siddeswari Degree College Students' Union polls held yesterday (Monday), bagging 11 seats including GS and AGS out of 17, reports UNB.

Dangerous controversies

From Page 1 Col 7
the important post he occupies, Minister Huda has some basis for making the claim that he did. But the point is what does it matter? Is Sheikh Mujib to be judged on the basis of a phrase here, and a particular action there? What about his nearly two decades of being in prison, fighting for the rights of Bengalis? What about his courageous, uncompromising and leading role during the fifties and sixties that earned him the love of his people. Then again, how are we going to judge Major Ziaur Rahman who was, during the period in question, saluting the very generals and brigadiers who were planning the most heinous genocide against our people? Did he not take oath, that he will protect Pakistan and hold high the flag, which the students had replaced with our own on 3rd March? The flag which had become the very symbol of everything we hated? Since the time of Ayub's martial law, the Pakistani army was the instrument of oppression, deprivation and colonisation of the people of East Pakistan. Are we to condemn Major Ziaur Rahman for being an integral part of that machinery? While Zia was getting his medals and promotions, Mujib was mostly rotting in the jail set up by the army backed regime. Do we blame Zia for being a component of the very institution that did us so much damage? No. We overlook all that and judge him for that act of rebellion in which he chose right over wrong, freedom over oppression, justice over injustice, truth over falsehood — he chose his people (publicly for the first time) over its oppressors. For that act of patriotism he became our instant hero. Subsequently as a valiant sector commander, and later as the President he earned a place in the heart of the people.

I myself, with thousands of other Dhaka University students, and millions of my countrymen was present in Suhrawardy Uddyan on that auspicious day. I went in a procession of Mohsin Hall students, and we all sat in a group. Frankly, I don't remember whether Mujib ended his speech with "Joy Pakistan" slogan. I don't recall any of my hall students mentioning this point, either then or later. However, I do remember that on that sun-drenched early spring afternoon, I was a part of an ocean of humanity which had gathered hours before the historic meeting was to start, and whose million-voice-slogans "Joy Bangla" and "Joy Bangabandhu" resonated for miles and shook the very bones of the generals who were monitoring the event from the safety of the fortified cantonment. I also remember that the speech inspired me, and electrified me. It made me hold my head high. When the speech ended the golden rays of the setting sun lighted our faces, reflecting the pride, the determination, the patriotism and an inner glow that came from feeling that we were all part of a process that would soon lead to the emancipation of our people.

In my view, Minister Huda does the greatest damage to the memory of Zia when he tries to build it by denigrating that of Sheikh Mujib. Zia has his own place in history and he will be loved and respected for that role. No amount of distortion or falsehood can change anything. Sheikh Mujib's place is his own. Here, again, history will make its own judgement. No minister of information, especially no minister of information, but only historians will ultimately determine it.

As a freedom fighter I am fully aware of the role that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played as the founder of the state of Bangladesh and in being the supreme leader of our liberation struggle. His was the leading role in the rise of Bengali Nationalism and the struggle that took place during the decades of fifties and sixties. As a freedom fighter I am also fully conscious of the critical impact that Major Zia's announcement, in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, made on me, in those initial days of an armed struggle. Zia's announcement convinced me, and others like me, that the Bengali soldiers were revolting and that our mukti bahini will now have that crucial military expertise which is so important to win against an army like that of Pakistan. I want to live with both my heroes, each in his own place, remembered and loved for his own separate and distinct contribution. I watch with dismay when responsible leaders like minister Huda tries to build up his own hero by the unnecessary denigration of the other. Such attempts only create its own and equal backlash. BNP stalwarts should not make Shaheed Zia a controversial figure. In his own domain, let him be.

5 feared killed as boat capsizes in Isamati

SATKHIRA, Jan 11: At least 5 people were feared dead after a boat, loaded with smuggled goods, capsized in the Isamati river near bordering area of Basantapur in Kaliganj Sunday night, reports UNB.

Two dead bodies were recovered from the river Monday morning. They were identified as Abul Hossain (40) of Basantapur and Hari (52) of Himgaljan of 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

Local people said at least 15 alleged smugglers with a loaded boat with contrabands worth over Tk one lakh while entering into the area was challenged by a BSF patrol boat. At one stage it hit the boat of the smugglers which capsized instantly.

The boat was yet to be salvaged.

ICIMOD to provide \$ 2.46 lakh for CHT development

The international Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) will provide Bangladesh 2,46,000 US dollars for financing four socio-economic development programmes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, reports BSS.

Four separate memorandums of understanding were signed here yesterday between Bangladesh and the ICIMOD.

Of the amount, 2,01,600 US dollars would be spent for Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information System (MENRIS), 10,000 US dollars for Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), 18,000 US dollars for holding a national workshop to frame a future guideline for the development of the Hill Tracts region and 9,000 US dollars for strengthening farming infrastructures.

The memorandum of understandings were signed by Dr Tej Pratap on behalf of the ICIMOD. On behalf of Bangladesh government, three of the memorandums were signed by the Director General of the Special Affairs Division, H M Nuruddin while the other one by Zafar Karim.

The ICIMOD was formed in 1983 at Kathmandu with eight countries — Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

RU Syndicate

From Page 1 Col 5
Rahman, Assistant Professor of Marketing, A K M Saiful Alam, Lecturer of Sociology and Prof Rafiqul Alam, Provost of Matbar Hall.

Contestants from the rival Green panel are: Altaf Hossain, Professor of Zoology Department, Dr Sadequul Islam, Associate Professor of Political Science, Amzad Hossain, Assistant Professor of Finance and Banking, Shaifque Alam, Lecturer of Applied Chemistry and Prof Afsaruddin, Provost of Madar Box Hall.

Contenders for six Dean posts are: Faculty of Arts — Prof Ali Asgar (Yellow) and Prof Mukhlesur Rahman (Green), Faculty of Science — Prof Lutfar Rahman (Yellow) and Prof Yusuf Ali (Green), Faculty of Commerce — Prof Nasim Anjum (Yellow) and Prof Dr Abdullah Harun (Green), Faculty of Social Science — Prof F R Khan (Yellow) and Prof Abdul Kashem (Yellow) and Prof Jehadul Karim (Green) and Dr Abdul Jabbar Khan (Green), and Faculty of Life and Earth — Prof Shamsul Alam Rumi (Yellow) and Prof M Taher Ahmed (Green).

Iraqis thrust

From Page 1 Col 5
Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission. UNIKOM, an unarmed multinational force, was formed in 1991 to demilitarize the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Asked about Sahhaf's remarks, Kabbaj said the Iraqis did not have a permit to be in the area.

Boutros-Chali told reporters in Bonn: "I hope that the Security Council will have a very stiff answer."

The border incidents occurred about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Kuwait City near the port town of Umm Qasr, where Iraq had a naval base before the war.

Late last year, a UN-appointed border commission completed the first formal demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq frontier and the naval base was awarded to Kuwait. Iraq retained Umm Qasr.

Iraq has refused to recognize the new border. In fact, Baghdad still claims sovereignty over all of Kuwait.

Kabbaj said the UN personnel, who are unarmed, tried unsuccessfully to stop the raiders by blocking their vehicles with trucks. He said at least one UN vehicle was rammed.

Kabbaj said that on Jan 2-3, some 500 Iraqi soldiers crossed in an attempt to take containers, water tanks, power cables and other equipment they claimed belonged to Iraq and had been stranded when the border was redrawn. They apparently left empty-handed.

Menon, Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5
Paltu, Begum Matia Chowdhury and Sultan M Mansur were present.

Meanwhile, the press release said, Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) leaders went to the residence of Menon yesterday afternoon and enquired about his health.

PDF leaders Nurul Islam Nahid, Shekhar Dutta, Moulana Ahmedur Rahman Azmi, Dilip Barua, Abdur Rouf and Haji Abdus Samad were present.

The Midnight File

By-elections in 8 Indian states postponed

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: Fierce Hindu-Muslim clashes in western India forced the government today to postpone a dozen by-elections scheduled to have been held in eight states next month, reports AFP.

Bhatia arrives in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, Jan 11: Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs R L Bhatia arrived here this evening from Dhaka on a one-day visit as a special envoy of Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, an official said. He was received by Nepalese Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and Indian embassy, reports AFP.

US moves aircraft carrier to Adriatic

ROME, Jan 11: The United States moved an aircraft carrier closer to the Adriatic on Sunday, apparently ready to enter the sea as soon as the western allies decide on what action to take on the crisis in Bosnia, reports Reuter.

JU remains tense

From Page 1 Col 7
The Syndicate expelled Mohammad Moazzem Hossain, Organizing Secretary of JCD, JU unit and S M Abu Yousuf, Assistant General Secretary of Al-Beruni Hall for one year on Nov 27.

In protest, the JCD activists held the Syndicate members hostage for about 16 hours.

Two ministers assured the members of BNP students' wing that they would look into the matter. The Vice Chancellor was supposed to hear an appeal from the two accused at its regular meeting.

The Syndicate at its special session Saturday, however, dropped the prayer of the two as per varsity regulation, enraging the JCD members which sparked off another round of violence Sunday.

The JCD demonstrated against the Syndicate members and termed its decision as 'illegal'.

A press release, issued by the JCD president and JUCSU vice president Masud Hasan Talukder condemned the decision and alleged that the Syndicate had manipulated the situation.

Teachers community, however, expressed their grave concern over the incident.

President of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman in a press release condemned terrorist activities of 'some miscreants' in the guise of students.

The Syndicate met into special session at 11.30 am yesterday at the residence of the Vice Chancellor amid tight security. Police were deployed in every strategic point of the university.

The Syndicate members however walked out of the meeting at 4-30 pm without any effective decision.

A Syndicate member, on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that the meeting reviewed the whole situation and is likely to come up with a resolution today (Tuesday).

Meanwhile, a huge contingent of police force has been deployed on the campus. Most of the residential students have already left their dormitories fearing further violence.

Somali warlords agree to truce

ADDIS ABABA, Jan 11: Somali warlords agreed today to declare an immediate ceasefire and to start disarming their militias of heavy weapons, a statement issued at the end of UN-brokered talks said, reports Reuter.

The statement said 15 factions meeting for the past week in the Ethiopian capital also agreed on an agenda for national reconciliation talks starting in Addis Ababa on March 15.

OIC demands

From Page 1 Col 7
decision on committing French military forces rested with President Francois Mitterrand.

Dumas announced his proposal during a radio interview Sunday, saying the situation in Bosnia, is becoming unbearable.

Dumas said he had asked Kouchner to work with him in planning envoys that would go to the camps as soon as possible and free detainees held there, by force if necessary.

Simone Veil, former president of the European Parliament, said it would have been better for French forces to move into the camps unannounced, rather than making advance declarations that would make any liberation attempt more dangerous.

Veil joined Dumas and Kouchner at Monday's meeting.

Bombay riots spread

From Page 1 Col 7
vehicles being torched and said they had come under sniper fire from a mosque.

Police said the lessening violence in a number of areas may have resulted from an appeal by a prominent Hindu militant leader.

Bal Thackeray, firebrand leader of the Militant Shiv Sena (Lord Shiva's army), whose followers have been blamed by Muslim groups for instigating attacks, called for an end to the fighting.

A prominent Bombay-based Hindu militant leader called on Hindus Monday to end the rioting in the western metropolis, but his followers apparently ignored the appeal.

People were fleeing on trains, buses and cars with meagre belongings to the nearby cities of Pune and Thane, they said.

In the western city of Ahmedabad, Hindus and Muslims fighting pitched battles attacked police Monday after officers shot dead 16 rioters in an overnight action, police said.

They said BJP workers were barricading roads in the city to enforce a general

Japan to rely on US military umbrella: Miyazawa

BANGKOK, Jan 11: Japan, which has shunned military forces since its defeat in World War II and is constitutionally bound to avoid aggression, will not rearm and become a regional policeman, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said recently, reports AFP.

Instead, Japan will continue to rely on the US military umbrella for its defence even though Washington is reducing its forces worldwide following the disintegration of Soviet armed might and the end of the Cold War, Miyazawa said.

He made the statements in Tokyo in an interview with Bangkok Post Editor Paisal Sricharatchanya. The Post reported the interview on Monday.

Paisal asked Miyazawa if Japan would expand its regional military role if President-elect Bill Clinton reduces US strength even further. Under outgoing President George Bush, Washington has given up its bases in the Philippines and is pursuing a 10 per cent across-the-board cut in its forces stationed in Asia.

Japan "will not walk the path of a military power", Miyazawa replied. He said the role now played by the US military is irreplaceable and is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

The United States has some 50,000 military personnel and some of its latest hardware stationed at dozens of bases in Japan, which is close to the tense Korean peninsula, Russia and strategic trade routes.

Rao's letter to PM

From Page 1 Col 3
last month forced host Bangladesh to postpone once again only three days ago, to explain what the Indian official said "why the Indian Prime Minister could not come".

Bhatia left Dhaka for Kathmandu yesterday to do the same job after meeting his Bangladesh counterpart, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

Bangladesh Foreign Ministry officials, understandably annoyed with their Indian counterparts, did not give any substantial statement on what Bhatia had discussed with his counterpart in Dhaka.

Bhatia's meeting with the Prime Minister was not even officially acknowledged.

GOLF TOURNAMENT AT COX'S BAZAR

An invitational Golf Tournament will be held at Cox's Bazar 'Bay View Golf Links' on 26 February '93 Friday. Befitting to this occasion a package programme has been developed which would cost Tk. 7,140.00 (Deluxe Accommodation) and Tk. 5,340.00 (Economy Accommodation) per person. Besides accommodation, the package includes both way air ticket, food, cultural programme and other facilities. Golfers willing to participate are requested to contact and register their names in the following addresses by 31 January, 1993:

Manager, Golfer's Inn (Restaurant) - Ph: 604592

Tourist Information Centres:

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel	Ph. 509479, 863391/566
Sonargaon Hotel	Ph. 811641/4937
Parjatan Head Office	Ph. 317836, 326155-9

D.F.P. (BA) 212-10/193

BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION
National Tourism Organization

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana-Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmohi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500091-4. Advertisement: 500091. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.