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Inside Today

Article

Food : Will There be Other Somalias? Page 4

International

Uneasy calm holds in Bombay

Clinton policy worries minorities Page 5

Business

Saifur signals beginning of an expansionary credit programme Page 7

Magazine

How the Stage was Set by Yahya for the Crack-down, My World by S M Ali, Bye-Bye, Bamboo, Write to Mita and Book Review Pages 9, 10, 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The travails of the women driver Page 3

Bush hints at more strikes : Saddam vows to retaliate

Clinton warns Iraq of renewing ground war

NEW YORK, Jan 14: US President-elect Bill Clinton said he would not rule out renewing the ground war against Iraq if necessary to force compliance with UN resolutions, but also indicated he was ready for a fresh start with President Saddam Hussein, the New York Times reported in its Thursday editions, reports Reuters.

In an interview with the newspaper, Clinton added that he could imagine a normal relationship with Hussein provided the Iraqi leader behaved in accordance with international norms.

Clinton said he wanted to send the Iraqi leader a signal, which he summarised by saying, "I am going to judge you by your behaviour. I am not going to sit around trying to figure out what is motivating you."

President Bush also warned Iraq that even though he leaves office in a week, he could order additional military strikes if Baghdad keeps violating the terms of the Gulf war cease-fire.

"I'm President until the 20th, and I will run foreign policy and make these kinds of decisions as long as I'm President," Bush told reporters Wednesday, hours after more than 110 US and allied warplanes returned safely from their bombing mission over Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iraq said today it would "definitely" respond to the lightning allied air raid against missile sites that left 19 people dead in the south of the country, AFP from Baghdad reported.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said the raid was a failure and that Iraq was still fiercely opposed to the air-exclusion zone set up by the United States, France and Britain to protect Shiite Muslims in the south.

"President George Bush is wrong if he thinks he will change Iraq's principled stand to defend its sovereignty and

See Page 12 Col 1

Disciplined Armed Forces most vital: PM

JESSORE, Jan 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today emphasised 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 training exercise here, Begum Zia said despite resource constraints the government had been making continuous efforts to strengthen and develop the defence.

The Prime Minister praised all those who participated in the impressive exercise for demonstration of their skill.

Begum Zia stressed the need for continuous rigorous training to improve professional skill. She said skill is the pride of a soldier. Describing moral values as the source of strength of a soldier she said, "We expect from them a high morale, discipline and wise leadership."

Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah al Noman, Selima Rahman MP, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan and high military officials were, among others, who witnessed the exercise.

See Page 12 Col 3

Cold wave sweeps country

Star Report

Temperature abruptly fell by 5 to 6 degrees Celsius Thursday as a cold wave started sweeping the country from early hours, weathermen said.

The cold wave, followed by the 'westerly disturbance' which caused rain and shower over the country early this week, may continue for more than three days, one forecasting officer told The Daily Star.

He said that temperature drastically fell in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna regions but the region of Chittagong

See Page 12 Col 7

Business without fire licences 1400 units served notices

The government has recently issued notices against 1400 enterprises for carrying out business without any warehouses and workshop licences of the Fire Service Department.

According to the Fire Service Ordinance, '89, any business organisation dealing in inflammable items is bound to take the Fire Department's licence.

According to concerned sources there are about two lakh business houses dealing in inflammable items and only 6,000 of them have fire licences.

Sources said most business houses had so far avoided tak-

ing licences by bribing some unscrupulous Fire Department men. This also caused a loss of Tk one crore revenue earning each year.

However, the Fire Department has now decided to take action against the offenders. Sources said the Fire Department would file cases against a number of business houses which did not respond to the notice for taking licence.

According to the Fire Service Ordinance, the offenders could be fined Taka 100 for each day for carrying out business without licence.

With this new drive, it is expected that the revenue collection from issuance of li-

cence will reach Taka 50 lakh surpassing the last year's collection by Taka 10 lakh.

According to concerned sources the number of fire incidents could be reduced drastically if all the business houses dealing in inflammable items take fire licences. When an enterprise takes fire licence, the Fire Department ensures that the organisation is equipped with firefighting equipment. The government has already identified 180 items as inflammable which include jute and jute goods, cotton, plastic, cloth and inflammable chemicals.

Last year, a total of 4605

See Page 12 Col 6



The passenger bus that fell from the Uthuli Bridge yesterday. — Star photo by Salim Khan

18 killed, 60 injured in eight road mishaps

At least 18 persons were killed and 60 others injured in eight separate road accidents, according to reports from across the country on Thursday.

Of them, eight persons were killed and 47 injured in a bus accident on the Dhaka-Aricha highway. Eight others were killed in separate accidents on Bogra-Rangpur and Bogra-Nagarbari highways.

A minor boy was killed in Savar and another person died in Narayanganj, our corre-

pondents reported.

Our Manikganj Correspondent said the accident at Uthuli under Sibhalaya thana, 79 km off Dhaka occurred when the passengers packed bus rammmed the railing of a bridge and fell into the river Ismati at around 3:30 am.

The night-coach of 'Shoukhin Paribahan' from Jessore was carrying 56 pilgrims to the three-day Bishwa Ijtema (a Muslim congregation) at Tongi scheduled to begin from tomorrow (Saturday).

Four of the victims who died on the spot were identified as Ashraf Ali (50), Nurul Islam (50), Ibrahim (45), and Kalu (30), helper of the bus. Four others — Abdus Sattar (65), Nasiruddin (49), Altaf Hossain (45) and an unidentified man (50) succumbed to injuries at Uthuli Health Complex and Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Among the dead, Nurul Islam was the elder brother of Social Welfare and Women

See Page 12 Col 7

Biswa Ijtema begins tomorrow

TONGI, Jan 14: Tens of thousands of Muslim devotees from home and abroad started converging on the bank of the river Turag ahead of the Biswa Ijtema, scheduled to begin tomorrow, reports UNB.

As countdown began for the three-day Ijtema, the second largest congregation of Muslims after Hajj, preparations are almost complete for holding it at its usual venue here, 20 kilometres from the capital. It is held at the same venue for last 28 years.

The venue of the congregation on a four square kilometre area has a capacity of accommodating more than 20 lakh people to participate in the deliberations as well as 'Akhari Munajat' at the end of the Ijtema.

Politics of BNP nothing but bluff: Hasina

BHERAMARA, Jan 14: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today said the BNP government has totally failed to salvage economy from stagnation and lead the country towards development because of its inefficiency, reports UNB.

The nation is going to lose the achievements of nine years' struggle against the autocratic regime because of the ruling party's wrong policies and decisions, the Awami League president told a public meeting at Bheramara Dakbungalow premises on the third day of her five-day organisational campaign.

She alleged that BNP backed out from its all election pledges after assuming power.

"The politics of BNP is nothing but bluff and empty slogans."

Referring to parliamentary system, Hasina said restoring parliamentary democracy was her party's electoral commitment. But the system fails to function as an institution of accountability of the government due to BNP's 'autocratic' attitude.

"Parliamentary system of government becomes meaningless as the ruling party does not know how to run parliament and its norms and practices," she told the meeting.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament also criticised the Prime Minister for her 'failure' to hosting the 7th SAARC summit as, she

See Page 12 Col 8



An Indian soldier tells people to clear riot-torn street during curfew in Bombay yesterday. — AFP photo

14 more killed in Bombay riots

BOMBAY, Jan 14: Fourteen more persons were killed today in incidents of stabbing and arson in the metropolis which is still struggling to recover from the orgy of violence let loose for the past eleven days, reports PTI.

Six people were knifed to death and four others injured, three occupants of car burnt alive at Antop Hill and five bodies recovered from a gutter, city Police Commissioner, S K Sapat told reporters here today.

He said Shiv Sena MLA Madhukar Sarpatdar was arrested here this afternoon along with five others following recovery of two unlicensed and

See Page 12 Col 7

Gunfire, blasts mark hartal in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: A half-day hartal observed in Chittagong today was marked by violence that left at least 10 persons injured.

Among the injured two were admitted into Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the rest in local clinics for treatment.

Both the local units of Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra League gave the call for half-day hartal today. Islami Chhatra Shibir called the hartal in protest against the killing of its activist Mosarrat Hossain. Shibir leaders blamed the Chhatra League activists for killing Mosarrat Tuesday night. Chhatra League called the hartal to protest the

rampage Tuesday night unleashed allegedly by Shibir supporters in Anderkilla and Chawkbazar areas.

During hartal period the activists of Shibir and Chhatra League exchanged gunfire for several hours from 9 am at Anderkilla crossing and Strajuddaulah Road, witnesses said. Police fired in the air to stop the violence there. Besides, sporadic blasts of cocktails were hard while chase and counterchase took place at most of the places of the city injuring at least 10 persons, witnesses added. Several hundreds of police, most of them in riot gear, were earlier deployed in the

See Page 12 Col 8

EC gives Bosnian Serbs 6 days to accept peace plan

PARIS, Jan 14: The European Community set a six-day deadline Thursday for the Serbs of Bosnia-Herzegovina to approve unconditionally the latest peace plan for the war-torn country or face total international isolation, reports AP.

"Because time is running out, we will not tolerate any delaying tactics," Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said on behalf of the 12-nation EC.

"We have seen that on too

many occasions in the past," he said.

Ellemann-Jensen, whose country holds the EC's rotating presidency, spoke after a late-night meeting of Community foreign ministers on the plan agreed to Tuesday by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Geneva.

The plan would divide the country into 10 zones based on the Serb, Croat and Muslim ethnic groups. It would allow Bosnian Serbs much of the land they have gained in the

war against the other groups, but deny them an independent state.

It prevents the Bosnian Serbs from joining the present Yugoslav Republic, composed only of Serbia and Montenegro.

"The proposals for a political solution in Bosnia-Herzegovina taken to Geneva present, as we see it, the only solution for a peaceful outcome," Ellemann-Jensen said.

Serbia, considered by the EC to be the main aggressor in the wars raging in the Balkans

over the past two years, must pressure the Bosnian Serbs to accept the accord, Ellemann-Jensen said.

If the Bosnian Serbs refuse, the European Community will ask the United Nations Security Council to "consider measures to be taken accordingly," Ellemann-Jensen said.

"We will start immediate work on the practical preparation of establishing total isolation on Serbia and Montenegro should this be necessary," Ellemann-Jensen

said.

This work would start next week, with a focus on at least enforcing the current UN trade embargo and no-fly zone, Ellemann-Jensen said.

The EC will also support the UN Security Council in setting up an international court of justice "to deal with crimes committed against human rights in this conflict," he said.

"We need to maintain the present pressure because we have not seen any results," Ellemann-Jensen said.

"If no improvement is reached, we are preparing ourselves now for what is indeed a very, very heavy weapon against the aggressors — the total isolation of a community and its citizens," he said.

In Washington, US Secretary of State-designate Warren Christopher said on Wednesday the United States and other countries should put real economic and military pressure on Serbia to halt the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

See Page 12 Col 7



Romanians reach tomorrow's final

Sports Reporter

FC Ploesti of Romania will play Polonia Warszawa of Poland in the final of the seventh President Gold Cup final at the Dhaka Stadium tomorrow.

FC Ploesti edged past Krylia Sovetov of Russia by a solitary goal in the second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Valentin Negoit scored the all-important goal for the winners in the 24th minute of the extra time.

Both teams were locked goalless after the scheduled 90 minutes of play.

Detailed report on Page 10.

3 Deputy, 14 Asstt Attorneys-Gen appointed

The government has appointed three new Deputy Attorneys-General and 14 Assistant Attorneys-General, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

The Deputy Attorneys-General are Advocate A F M Shahid, Advocate A K Mujibur Rahman and Advocate Abul Mansur Mohammad Sairuzzaman.

New Assistant Attorneys-General are Advocates S A Hasan, Mohammad Aliafur Rahman, Mohammad Sirajul Huq, Syed Abu Kawser Mohammad Dabirussan, Mir Hasmat Ali, Syed Mukades Ali, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Farid Ahmed, Abdur Rouf Mia, Saedur Rahman, Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Suraiya Begum, Syed Matul Islam Montu and Abdus Salam Mamun.

Sec 144 imposed on Beanibazar

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 13: Section 144 has been imposed on Beanibazar thana headquarters for 24 hours with effect from 6 am today to defuse the tense situation prevailing there.

Beanibazar thana unit of both BNP and Jatitya Party had earlier declared to hold public meetings at the same venue in Dakshin Bazar area at 2 pm today.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Acting Chairman of Jatitya Party who was scheduled to attend the JP meeting could not reach Beanibazar, due to ferry blockade at Sheola Ghat.

See Page 12 Col 6

AL postpones tomorrow's hartal in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Awami League leaders of Chittagong today agreed to postpone their Saturday's (January 16) hartal for a month following assurance from the district administration to arrest the murderers of Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury within a month, reports BSS.

The AL leaders agreed to postpone their hartal at a meeting held here today with Deputy Commissioner A M M Abul Kasem in the chair.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Awami League leaders Abur Rahman Khan Kaiser, A B M Mohiuddin and Moslem Uddin Ahmed and senior officials of the district administration.

JCD-BCL clash at Patgram: 8 arrested

LALMONIRHAT, Jan 14: Police picked up eight activists of two student groups who clashed at Patgram Jashmuddin Government College today (Thursday), spreading tension at the thana headquarters, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, six were of Jattatabadi Chhatra Dal and two of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League. They were named Palash, Osman Ali, Kibria, Mashur Rahman, Dilip Kumar, Asaduzzaman.

See Page 12 Col 3

Science, Technology Week opens Jan 27

The central exhibition and competition of the 16th National Science and Technology Week will be inaugurated on January 27 at Agrabad Science and Technology Museum. A total of 150 competitors, who stood first in regional level competitions at the 68 centres of the 64 districts, are taking part in the competition. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the four-day competition, reports BSS.