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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### DMC classes resume tomorrow

All classes of the Dhaka Medical College will resume tomorrow after 22 days of unscheduled closure. The DMC was closed since Dec 1 on January 2 following a clash between Jatyaabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League. Residents will be allowed to return to their hostels from 4 pm today, reports UNB.

### BIWTC introduces new ferry service

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation introduced a new ferry 'Jessor' on the Matwa-Charjanajat route from Tuesday last, reports BSS.

### Tk 10 cr scheme for dairy farming

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 21: Forest and Livestock Minister Abdullah-al Noman today said the government had taken up a Taka 10 crore scheme to encourage investment and entrepreneurship in dairy farming. Talking to newsmen here today the minister, said under the scheme the government would provide 25 to 30 per cent of the required investment to entrepreneurs who would establish dairy farms with at least five high breed milk cows. These facilities would be extended to dairy farms having not more than 20 cows, reports BSS.

### 35 more held on various charges

Police yesterday arrested 35 people from different parts of the city on various charges. Of the arrested, 15 were wanted criminals, 14 under anti-terrorism law, one accused of robbery and five for stealing, police said. Besides, police arrested Kazi Wasuddin Ahmed Sumon (25) from near WAPDA Building at Motijheel this afternoon and recovered one pipe gun from his possession, reports UNB.

## Hundreds arrested

# BJP move to evict 'illegal Bangladeshis' in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: Police arrested hundreds of Hindus today, (Thursday) as they marched toward a Muslim neighbourhood to evict people they claim are illegal aliens from Bangladesh, reports AP.

The marchers were from the nation's main opposition party, which led Hindu extremists to the holy city of Ayodhya where they destroyed an ancient mosque on Dec. 6.

That led to nation-wide Hindu-Muslim riots that killed more than 1,200 people, and later riots in the city of Bombay that left at least 500 people dead.

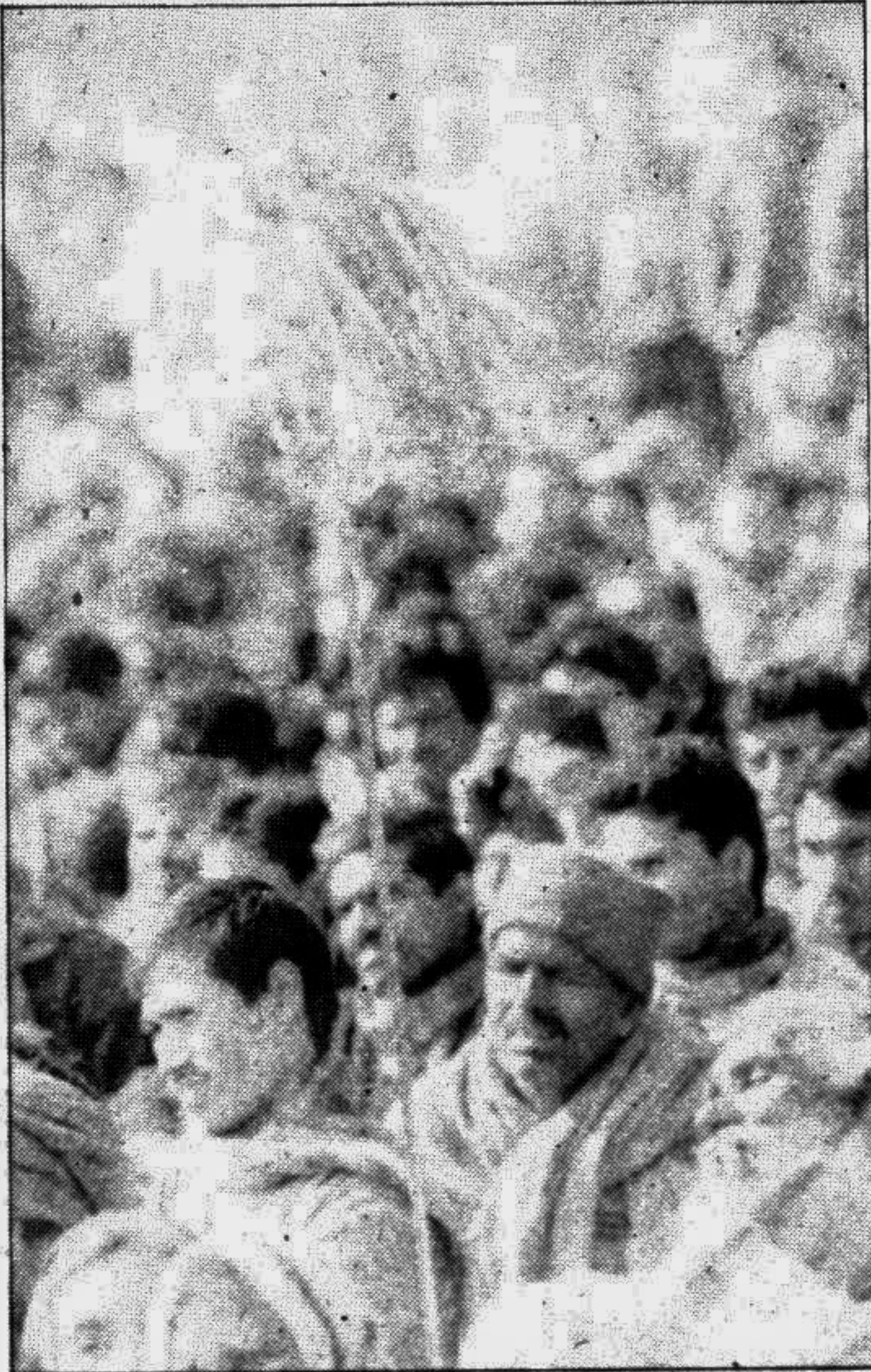
In order to prevent a new outbreak of communal violence, 600 policemen, many walking through the streets carrying rifles, blocked all roads in the New Delhi suburb of Kalkaji on Thursday.

The police allowed the Hindus to hold a rally in a park, but immediately arrested them as they walked into the streets and began marching toward the Muslim neighbourhood.

"The Bangladeshis take up our land, strain the civic amenities. The water shortage here, the power shortage, the lack of sanitation... it's all because of these Bangladeshis," Madan Lal Khurana, a top leader of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party told the protesters while they were still in the park.

The party's campaign to send home what it claims are 300,000 illegal Bangladeshis residents in the capital is widely viewed as an attempt to encourage simmering Hindu-Muslim resentment in India.

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A man holds a trident, a sacred emblem of Hinduism, while seated with activists of the Hindu-revivalist BJP yesterday in New Delhi prior to their arrest before a planned march to evict Bangladeshis refugees. — AFP photo

## Nationalised banks sanction Tk 178 cr for small units this fiscal

By Staff Correspondent

The nationalised banks have sanctioned Taka 178 crore for setting up 450 small and cottage industry projects in the private sector during the first six months of the ongoing fiscal year.

This was disclosed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in reply to a question by Treasury bench member Ataur Rahman Khan at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Of the sanctioned amount as of December 31, 1992, Taka 89.25 crore has been already disbursed, he added. Sonali Bank sanctioned Taka 47.30 crore while Janata Bank approved Taka 30 crore, Agrani Bank Taka 51 crore and Rupali Bank sanctioned Taka 48.78 crore for setting up small and cottage industries in the country.

In addition, the Minister informed the House that the four banks also sanctioned a total of Taka 104 crore for rehabilitating 98 sick industries during the same period.

The cumulative industrial project loans of the four banks at the end of 1992 stood at Taka 1213.81 crore. Of this, Sonali Bank provided Taka 513.64 crore, Janata Bank Taka 232.26 crore, Agrani Bank Taka 387.76 crore and Rupali Bank Taka 80.15 crore, Rahman said.

Replying to another question from Awami League member Prof Rafiqul Islam, the Finance Minister disclosed that seven officers of Rupali Bank were investigated on corruption charges filed in 1990.

Of them, charges and investigations against one have already been completed while three others dismissed and investigation into the charges against the remaining three

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## Introduction of 6 bills deferred at movers' request

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament yesterday witnessed the deferring of introduction of four proposed laws to its next session and the discussions on three resolutions to the next working private members' day at the request of the movers of the bills and resolutions.

Of the six bills deferred to the next private members day (Thursday) two were moved by the Treasury bench MP Abdur Rab Chowdhury, two piloted by the ruling party MP Begum Farida Rahman, one was by the Jamaat MP Matiur Rahman Nizami and the other by the Awami League MP Professor Rafiqul Islam.

Although the bills, accord-

ing to the order of the day, were supposed to be introduced in the House for discussion, the concerned MPs requested the Speaker to defer introduction of the proposed laws to the next working private members day.

Incidentally, Parliament members excluding those of the cabinet can, under the Rules of Procedure of the House, move any bill or resolution in their own capacities once a week—Thursday.

A bill seeking job quota in the government service on the basis of religious faith of the citizens failed to get introduced in the House for discussion by voice vote. Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of the National Democratic Party piloted the bill.

Another bill, moved by the Treasury bench MP Farida Rahman seeking annulment of the provision for pension to the MPs, was introduced in the House for discussion.

One of the deferred bills, moved by the BNP MP Abdur Rob Chowdhury, sought to undo the provision of sending any citizen to police custody on remand with the written consent of the person produced in the court following his or her arrest by the police.

The proposed bill also sought that no person shall be detained in police custody without providing for him reasonable facility for accommodation, food, toilet and other essential necessities.

Farida Rahman's bill seeking annulment of the provision for a monthly pension of Taka 10,000 to parliament mem-

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## JS session adjourned till Feb 1

Parliament yesterday went into a lengthy recess enabling MPs to campaign for party candidates in the January 30 Pourashava (Municipal) polls across the country, reports UNB.

"We will go to our areas to campaign for the party candidates in the ensuing Pourashava polls," said a front ranking member of the ruling BNP immediately after the adjournment of the House last night.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni adjourned the House to meet again at 4 pm on February 1. He however did not give any reasons for the lengthy recess.

Elections to 90 Pourashavas will be held on January 30.

## US jet fires missile at Iraqi ground radar

WASHINGTON, Jan 21: A US F-4G fighter jet on Thursday fired a missile at an Iraqi ground radar in the northern no-fly zone after the radar's search beam was directed against a French reconnaissance plane, US Defence officials said, reports Reuter.

It was the first incident of fire between Western forces and Iraq since the government of President Saddam Hussein on Tuesday declared a goodwill ceasefire with the new US Clinton administration.

The incident occurred within the past 12 hours in the northern no-fly zone, said a Pentagon source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source said the US warplane was escorting a French Mirage aircraft that was conducting a reconnaissance mission.

The radar was located about 10 miles south of the town of Mosul in northern Iraq, the source said.

The F-4G fired a HARM missile at the radar, but there was no immediate report whether any damage had been done the missile site, the source said.

Reuter from UN said, a UN official said today that plans to send five plane-loads of weapons inspectors to Iraq would go ahead as scheduled despite the latest American attack on an Iraqi missile site.

A Baghdad report adds: UN experts flew back into Iraq today, after being nearly two weeks stranded in Bahrain and said their Iraqi hosts were cooperative on arrival.

Kevin Saint-Louis, Baghdad field office for the UN Special Commission enforcing UN resolutions on a Gulf War cease-

fire, said their arrival went without a hitch.

Meanwhile, AFP said the UN resolution invoked by the US-led coalition to bomb Iraq did not specifically authorize the use of force, but it was up to the Security Council to decide whether the actions were justified, a UN spokesman said today.

Washington and its allies have cited UN Resolution 688 as the legal authority for the air exclusion zones in Northern and Southern Iraq.

"Since it was not a Chapter 7 Resolution, this resolution did not have an enforcement provision in it," said Joe Sillis, spokesman for UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Chapter 7 of the UN Charter authorizes the use of force.

Earlier Report on Page 5

## Snakes threat to existence of fish in Bay

High population of snakes in the Bay of Bengal is threatening the existence of fishes in most of the coastal areas of the country.

A multidisciplinary expedition team which recently visited the coastal belt of Bhola found enormous snakes caught by the fishermen along with fishes from the deep sea around Bhasan Char, Dhalchar and some small islets.

In each of the catch, the fishermen hold about 10 kg of fishes of which 10-15 per cent are highly poisonous snakes, the scientists told UNB. Some of these snakes are 10 times poisonous than Cobra.

Although these snakes are very poisonous, they are mild and innocent in habit and never tried to bite, said the scientists.

## BNP will fulfil its poll pledges: Khaleda

SERAJGANJ, Jan 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the government does not believe in politics of rhetorics, but in politics of production, reports UNB.

"BNP will fulfil its commitment to people through its politics of production and development," she said adding: "We have to change our fate through united efforts."

The Prime Minister was addressing a big rally at Serajganj Government College ground this afternoon.

The nation has been lagging behind by 20 years as a result of nine years of autocratic rule, she said. "To recover, we have to work hard and unitedly," she said, reminding that poverty cannot remain a hindrance on the efforts for development.

She stressed the need for peaceful environment for successful implementation of the

government's development programmes.

The Prime Minister alleged "vested quarters" of trying to disrupt the development efforts of the government and called upon the people to stand guard against those forces.

Begum Zia recalled that conspiracy was hatched against late President Ziaur Rahman when he started politics of production and success was being achieved in many sectors.

Conspiracy is once again being hatched against the BNP government because the vested quarters do not want the country to prosper, she said.

Referring to the bumper crop this season, Begum Zia said the trend of increasing production in all sectors has to be maintained for making the

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## Clinton starts clean-slate presidency

WASHINGTON, Jan 21: Bill Clinton starts his clean-slate presidency Thursday with a few last rounds of celebratory handshaking before getting down to business at meetings with domestic and foreign policy advisers, reports AP.

White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty said that on the first day, the new administration's priorities would be to change government, to get our country in place, to focus on the economic issues facing this country, to get people back to work.

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## Milam on Clinton's foreign policy No basic change except differences in style

Ambassador William B Milam referring to power transfer in US said that transactions are most complex in the area of foreign affairs because decisions have to be made in global context, reports BSS.

This is because the party out of power can never be fully aware of all of the information available to the administration, he explained.

But this is where continuity comes most importantly into play, he said, adding, the foreign policy objectives of the outgoing incumbents and incoming presidents — indeed, of all Americans — have been basically similar in most instances in the past, differences usually have been in style, tactics and priorities rather than in ultimate goals.

Milam was speaking at a function at the American Cultural Centre here on the occasion of inauguration of new US President Bill Clinton yesterday.

Milam listed, "the US foreign policy emphasis on Democracy and human rights as a good example of this continuity."

These twin goals have been a hall-mark of our policy in south Asia during the Bush

administration, he said adding, for the Clinton administration, human rights and furtherance of democracy promise to be pillars of foreign policy as well.

He hailed the smooth transfer of power from President George Bush to his successor William Jefferson Clinton, as an example of the healing power of transition and the reaffirmation of government principles.

During the transition, he said, the two teams worked side-by-side to brief the present-elect to ensure that he would be fully aware of the options and predicaments facing his new administration.

The US Ambassador said democracy is a treasure which Americans and Bangladeshis value.

Just as Bangladeshis are united in what it means to be Bangladeshis, Americans too, are united, he added.

In Bangladesh, he said, I witnessed the last stages of the struggle for democracy, and I saw the sacrifice and the enduring spirit of the countless thousands who fought to bring democracy to this country.

## Nurses go on indefinite strike

By Staff Correspondent

Some 27 thousand nurses at the country's 500 state-owned hospitals and health complexes Thursday morning went on a strike for an indefinite period to press for their 14-point charter of demands.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA), Diploma Student Nurses Union (DSNU) and Assistant Nurses Association (ANA) jointly called the strike for higher wages, promotion and other facilities.

At the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, all the nurses abstained from attending their duties during strike hours except for a team of the emergency squad.

Roaming reporters at DMCH found the wards and cabins almost without any nurse although an "emergency squad" of 64 nurses was on duty. Doctors and attendants of patients were seen pushing saline while many patients were leaving the hospital without getting admission, according to UNB.

Doctors and senior nurses admitted that not a single operation could be handled excepting the emergency ones due to the strike.

Different city hospital sources said many patients

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Dhaka Medical College Hospital Nurses' Association brought out a procession in city yesterday to press for their demands.



## Audrey Hepburn dead

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 21: Actress Audrey Hepburn, who reigned as one of Hollywood's major stars for decades, died on Wednesday at age 63 after a long illness, said a spokesman for UNICEF, the U N children's group with which she worked, reports Reuter.

AP adds from Tolochmaz, Switzerland: Audrey Hepburn, star in films such as "Roman Holiday" and "My Fair Lady," was mourned Thursday as a great actress and a true friend of children.

"God has a most beautiful new angel," actress Elizabeth Taylor said in a statement.

Hepburn, underwent colon cancer surgery last year, died at her home in this small village on the shores of Lake

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## Save children from influence of distorted history: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday appealed to the conscience of society to save posterity from the "clutches of those spreading a false and distorted history" of the nation.

"Teach the children the glorious history of the Bengali nation and let them know the facts relating to the struggle for the liberation of the country," the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said while addressing the 40th anniversary function of Khe-laghar, a juvenile organisation, at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the capital.

The AL leader accused whom she termed the local associates of Pakistan of belittling the great heroes and lakhs of martyrs of the Liberation War and debunking

See Page 12 Col 6

## Dutch team to study criticisms on FAP

By Inam Ahmed

A five-member Dutch team will arrive here Tuesday to study the criticisms on Flood Action Plan (FAP).

The team will find out whether the Netherlands position towards FAP is still in line with the Dutch development policy.

A letter of the Dutch counsellor in Bangladesh says "Since a lot of discussions are going on with regard to FAP, the operations review unit (ORU) of the Directorate General for International Co-operation in the Hague decided to field a mission to Bangladesh to study which points of criticisms are relevant for the Netherlands position towards FAP."

The Netherlands supports

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## Cold wave claims 78 in Rangpur region so far

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 21: Seventy-eight people of the Rangpur region have so far been killed in the cold wave which intensified further sending mercury down to a record low, five degrees Celsius, in the northern tip of the country today.

The homeless have been hit hard.

Of the victims, 26 died in Rangpur, 20 in Lalmonirhat, 10 in Nilphamari and 12 in Kurigram and Gaibandha districts.

The lowest temperature recorded in Rangpur today was below seven degrees Celsius while the mercury dropped below five degrees Celsius in northern parts of Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts close to the Himalayan range.