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 ship Syndrome
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NEWS BRIEFS

**PM opens engr's
 convention today**
 The 4-day 37th convention
 of the Institution of Engineers,
 Bangladesh begins today at
 Rajshahi Metropolitan City.
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda
 Zia is expected to inaugurate
 the convention at 10:00am at
 the premises of Rajshahi cen-
 tre of IEB. Upo-Shahar,
 Rajshahi, as the chief guest,
 reports ISS.

**Hasina shocked at
 death of Mahub**
 Bangladeshi Awami League
 President and Leader of the
 Opposition Sheikh Hasina yester-
 day expressed profound
 grief at the death of Dhaka Bar
 Association President Al Haj
 Syed Mahub Ali. In her mes-
 sage Sheikh Hasina recalled
 the contributions of Ali who
 was an activist in the 52
 Language Movement, an organ-
 iser of 71 Liberation struggle,
 an elected commissioner of
 Dhaka Municipal Corporation
 and former General Secretary
 of Dhanmondi Thana unit of
 Awami League.
 She expressed her deep
 sympathy for the members of
 the bereaved family and prayed
 for the salvation of the
 departed soul, reports ISS.

**Shishu-Kishore
 festival begins**
 The three-day Shishu-
 Kishore Festival marking the
 40th founding anniversary of
 the central Khelaghar Asar
 began here yesterday. Chair-
 man of the University Grants
 Commission Prof. Shamsul
 Haque inaugurated the func-
 tion as the chief guest held
 at the Teacher-Student centre of
 BUET, reports ISS.

US jet fires missiles at Iraqi radar site again

WASHINGTON, Jan 22: A US plane attacked an Iraqi radar site in the northern no-fly zone today, said Pentagon officials.
 A F-4g fighter launched two missiles at the site after the Iraqis turned on the radar and locked on to the US plane but Pentagon officials said the missiles missed.
 "First indications are that the missiles apparently missed the target. We don't know why that happened," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.
 It was the second incident since Saddam Hussein an-

nounced a ceasefire to be in effect last Wednesday.
 On Thursday two US fighters attacked a radar site, also in the northern area.
 AF adds: Baghdad denied its air defenses had violated the ceasefire before Thursday's attack and promised to uphold its truce.
 US military officials say Iraq provoked the latest US aerial attack, but they are not sure whether the incident in the northern air-exclusion zone means Iraq is resuming a pattern of hostility.
 The officials said two Air Force jets were "illuminated or targeted, by Iraqi radar Thursday just inside the so-called no-fly zone. One jet fired a missile at the radar and the other dropped bombs on it — a tit-for-tat response that had become a daily occurrence before Iraq declared a ceasefire Tuesday.
 President Clinton said he would continue to insist that Iraq abide by the United Nations resolutions and the establishment of the no-fly zones. I think what happened today is a reflection of the determination that the Clinton administration will have in that area," he said.
 See Page 12 Col 4

Film Award '91 distributed Depict life of people in movies: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the filmmakers to produce more movies depicting the life of the people, reports ISS.
 She said thousand years of history has enriched the nation. The components for making great films existed here she said, adding there was no scope for copying stories. I hope the filmmakers will come forward to make more films mirroring the life of the people, Begum Zia said.
 The Prime Minister was addressing the distribution ceremony of Annual Film Award 1991 of Bangladesh Film Producers Association at Osmany Memorial Hall.
 Begum Zia expressed her hope that the country's films, the most simple and cheap entertainment media, would contribute greatly to making the present government's social movement for attaining social peace, discipline and stability.
 The Prime Minister said this country is a protest and a challenge. We want you to be in the role of protestors and challengers. This time your challenge will be against poverty, illiteracy, underdevelopment.
 The Prime Minister said
 See Page 12 Col 4

Patients leaving hospitals as nurses continue strike

By Staff Correspondent
 Nurses in the country's some 500 state-owned hospitals and health complexes Friday passed the second day of their strike to press for their 14 points charter of demands.
 Responding to a joint call by Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA), Diploma Student Nurses Union (DSNU) and Assistant Nurses Association (ANA), some 27 thousand nurses went on strike for indefinite period on Thursday.
 The nurses sat with the authorities Thursday but failed to reach any agreement, the
 See Page 12 Col 6

Attorney-Gen nominee withdrawn Clinton suffers major setback



WASHINGTON, Jan 22, President Bill Clinton announced on Friday that Zoe Baird has withdrawn as his candidate for Attorney-General, reports Reuter.
 Clinton issued a statement early this morning, calling her "a gifted attorney, and a woman of decency and integrity."
 Baird bowed out after she came under pressure from both Republican and Democratic senators at two days of confirmation hearings because she had hired illegal aliens to work at her Connecticut home.
 Baird proved unable to withstand the strong public disapproval, reflected in polls and in a flood of messages to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee consid-
 ing her nomination.
 Clinton, who took office on Wednesday, accepted blame for failing to evaluate fully the impact of "the child care matter."
 "Clearly, our review process prior to her selection failed to evaluate this issue completely," Clinton said, "for that, I take full responsibility."
 "I hold Zoe Baird in the highest regard, and I believe she has much to give to her profession and our country. I hope to continue to seek her advice and counsel," the President said.
 Baird, a 40-year-old corporate lawyer, would have been the first woman to hold the top law enforcement post.
 She initially rejected suggestions that she quit because
 See Page 12 Col 1

Cold spell paralyzes life across country

Star Report
 The bite of the cold spell has paralysed the life of the people across the country while the mercury fell to 4.6 degrees Celsius at Ishurdi yesterday (Friday).
 The cold wave which has been sweeping the country for over five days has compelled people to put on warm clothes most of the time, while others hardly ventured out of doors, but the miseries of poor people who cannot afford warm clothes have increased many folds.
 The streets of the cities and towns were reported to have been mostly deserted with a
 See Page 12 Col 3

BNP backing terrorists for 'murders': Hasina

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the BNP government of backing armed terrorists for committing 'murders' in different parts of the country in recent days, reports UNB.
 "The countrywide revival of anti-liberation forces has taken place at the direct patronisation and instigation of the government", she said. "By forming the armed Juba Command, the ruling clique gave licence to the anti-liberation elements for terrorism, killing and murder, pushing the nation towards a terrible end."
 Hasina made the allegations in two statements on the killing of Jessore District Chhatra League leader Liton and tortures on Chhatra League
 leaders Sakhawat Hossain Arfin and Alauddin in Mirsara in Chittagong.
 The law and order situation deteriorated seriously and the government has "completely failed to ensure security to public life", she said.
 The Awami League President strongly protested the killing of Liton. She said the government has chosen the path of killing, conspiracy and terrorism to stop the onward march of Awami League and its student wing, Chhatra League.
 Liton was killed Thursday in a Jessore suburb in daylight.
 Hasina demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Liton and punishment to the culprits.
 She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and ex-
 See Page 12 Col 6

Sharif asks Biharis to move out of Punjab

ISLAMABAD, Jan 22: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, making his first visit Friday to a colony housing 323 Biharis repatriated from Bangladesh, advised them not to move elsewhere, reports AFP.
 He told the Biharis, settled in Punjab, that resettlement would create administrative problems and provide his rivals with a propaganda opportunity, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.
 Residents of southern Sind province had opposed plans to repatriate more than 230,000 Biharis from Bangladesh.
 Biharis have been stranded in camps in Bangladesh where they sided with Islamabad dur-
 See Page 12 Col 7

Import of API pipes cripples NTL

Star Report
 The management of the National Tubes Ltd (NTL) has sought adequate tariff protection to sustain the only quality pipe producing plant in the country.
 According to the management, the government decision to allow the import of API pipes upto eight inch diameter with a low duty — only 7.5 per cent — has threatened the existence of the industrial unit that produces the same in abundance.
 As a result, NTL officials say, the country's gas sector organisations, main consumers of the pipes, have been importing these pipes.
 Two units of the NTL were set up only to produce these pipes which are of international standard. The NTL, a subsidiary of the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation, is the only unit in Asia, other than ones in Japan and Korea which are licensed by the American Petroleum Institute (API). It also maintains British standard specification.
 The officials also claim that a section of unscrupulous traders are taking advantage of low import duty on this particular category of pipe by submitting false declaration to import M S and GI Pipes on which duty is 60 per cent.
 In view of the circumstances, the management has requested the Tariff Commission to reimpose a 60 per cent duty on API pipes from 1/2 to eight inch diameter "to help compete this state-owned industrial unit with importers."
 Earlier, the NTL management proposed to the Tariff Commission that either the ban on import of GI, MS and API pipes upto eight inch diameter be revived or a 150 per cent import duty and a 20 per cent sales tax be imposed on these items.
 It was also suggested that duties on the steel strips and zinc ingot, being imported by NTL, be reduced to the barest minimum to lower the production cost of these items.
 Responding to the appeal, the Tariff Commission put forward some suggestions to the National Board of Revenue (NBR). The NBR did not implement the suggestions fully. Rather, the NTL officials say, the NBR allowed import of API pipes and reduced the duty on imports to only 7.5 per cent.
 Import of all these items was banned until the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports withdrew GI, MS and API from the list of the Import Policy Order '89-90, providing for free and unregulated im-
 See Page 12 Col 8



An old couple trying to ward off cold with whatever they got in a city slum yesterday. — Star photo

Funds crisis stalls BLRI researches

By Shariar Khan
 Research work in the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) has almost come to a halt owing to funds crisis.
 The funds crisis caused by delay in approval of BLRI projects has already given rise to irregular payment of salaries to its 177 staff including 47 scientists, sources said.
 The Planning Commission which gives approval to the projects is yet to okay the BLRI project profiles submitted as early as July 1991, sources said.
 The BLRI, which started functioning from mid 1985, has so far completed 22 long-term and 28 short-term projects on better breeding, cattle feed, animal diseases and quail raising.
 From mid 1986 to June 1991, the BLRI received a total allocation of about Taka 20 crore, sources said, but since June 1991 the BLRI has been running on funds raised from its own income generating projects.
 BLRI men also attributed the delay in project approval to frequent changes in the top echelon of the organization. In three years from '86 to '90, three directors of the Institute had been changed, source said.
 Sources say the World Bank is keen to fund research projects of the BLRI, but the desire has hit snag as the government is not agreeing to all World Bank conditions. A World Bank team, however, is expected to arrive on February 2 to look into the problems, sources informed.

Give up politics, doctors ask Benazir

KARACHI, Jan 22: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has been ordered by her doctors to give up politics indefinitely and rest at home because of a gall bladder ailment, a spokesman said Friday, reports AP.
 The spokesman did not know how long Ms Bhutto would be sidelined.
 The 39-year-old opposition leader has been criticised from all political quarters since she accepted the Islamic government's offer to head a parliament.
 See Page 12 Col 1

Ctg Mass Killing Day tomorrow

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will pay a day's visit to Chittagong on January 24 to attend programmes arranged there in observance of "Chittagong Mass Killing Day", reports ISS.
 On this day in 1987 a number of people were killed when police opened fire on a crowd at Laldighi Maidan public meeting scheduled to be addressed by Sheikh Hasina as part of her massive campaign for the fall of autocracy, an Awami League press release said last night.
 Sheikh Hasina will address as chief guest a public meeting on the day at Laldighi Maidan,
 See Page 12 Col 1

Delhi likely to ban Shiv Sena

NEW DELHI, Jan 22: The Indian government is planning to ban a Hindu nationalist party blamed for bloody attacks on Muslims and their property during the Bombay riots, the Home Minister said today, reports AFP.
 Shankarrao Chavan said in the northern city of Lucknow that the government was actively considering banning the Shiv Sena (Lord Shivaji's army) headed by Bal Thackeray, his Marathi compatriot, the Press Trust of India reported.
 He accused the Sena, which champions the cause of Marathi natives in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, of trying to change the cosmopolitan character of Bombay by fomenting violence to spur and exodus of immigrants.
 Chavan said other organisations responsible for the communal divide and seces-

economic reforms that have taken a back seat since the mosque demolition.
 A report from Bombay adds thousands of Muslims are staying away from work in Bombay out of fear or pressure from Hindu militants following two weeks of communal violence in India's commercial capital, officials said today.
 Mass Muslim absenteeism has been noted as factories, companies and other business reopened for the first time this week following the Hindu-Muslim clashes which began January 5 and left nearly 700 people dead, they said.
 Rohitas Patil, the Labour Minister of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, said the government had ordered a survey of employees in a number of industries to determine the extent of Muslim absenteeism.
 See Page 12 Col 7

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