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NEWS BRIEFS

PM's Award for tree plantation

Prime Minister's Award for tree plantation has been introduced from this year to give recognition to the best tree planter of the country. The award will be given in nine categories including schools, colleges, universities madrashas, offices and individ uals. The award will be given to journalists for writing to make the on-going tree plantation programme a success, reports

Hasina goes to Halishahar today

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will leave for Chittagong today to visit the affeeted areas of Halishahar. The opposition leader will address a public meeting at Laldighi at 3 pm. She will also meet the members of Chittagong Lawyers Association at 2 pm, reports UNB.

UST classes starts today

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23 Classes will start at the University of Science and Technology (UST) here tomorrow, a press release of the University said here today National Professor, Dr Nuru Islam will inaugurate the classes, reports BSS.

5-Party public meet today

Five-Party Alliance will hold a public meeting in front of GPO today at 4 pm. The meet ing has been organised marking the mass upsurge of 1969 and mass killing in Chittagong in 1988, reports UNB.

DU Kaminee Dutta lecture Jan 26

A two-day Kaminee Kumar Dutta memorial lecture will begin at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University on January 26 (Tuesday) at 11 am. Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the lecture series and Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Strear will be the chief guest. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will present a keynote paper on "Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights", reports UNB.

JCD rivalry over VP post

Student killed in BAU gunbattle

MYMENSINGH, Jan 23: A student was killed and 15 others injured in a gunfight between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) unit this morning.

The victim was identified as Rezaur Rahman Sabuj, a second year student of Animal Husbandry. Of the injured, three have been admitted to the Medical College Hospital. They are: Tapan Pal, final year student of Economics, Sharifuzzanian, AGS of the JCD and Shamim, second year student of Fisheries. The rest were released after first aid.

The gunbattle started when the JCD-Kamal group attacked its rival the Chanchal-group at around 11 am at the Fisheries Faculty.

Sources said that before today's showdown, the Kamal group and the Chanchal group of the JCD had been maintain-

land to evacuate Palestinian deportees.

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

today called upon the engi-

neers to evolve appropriate

technologies for the optimum

utilisation of the country's nat-

ural resources and labour

power to build a prosperous

ceremony of the 37th conven-

tion of the Engineers'

Institution, Begum Khaleda Zia

said: "We could not attain the

desired level of development

because we have fallen back in

the field of technology." She

said the evolution of appropri

atc technology could work as a

formula in coordinating our re-

sources and labour power

which in turn will help attain

The Prime Minister ex

pressed her confidence that

the engineers would be able to

prove their efficiency in build-

BAGHDAD, Jan 23: UN

weapons experts headed for a

key chemical arms complex

north of the capital on

Saturday, a day after US air

craft bombed an anti-aircraft

missile site in northern Iraq,

at Muthanna, 65 miles (100

kms) northwest of Baghdad,

was lrag's main chemical fac-

facility, heavily bombed in the

Gulf War, had been capable of

producing 2-1/2 tons of sarin

nerve gas and five tons of

mustard gas a day. The plant

was also able to manufacture

VY, a nerve gas and one of the

most toxic chemicals pro-

duced, the UN experts said.

UN inspectors estimate the

The billion dollar complex

reports AP.

targeted development.

Addressing the opening

Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Engineers' convention opens

Evolve ways for best

use of resources: PM

From Our Correspondent ing a strained relationship over the Vice President (VP) post of BAUCSU that fell vacant following VP Saiduzzaman Kamal's

going abroad. Later, the BAU authorities made the Sports Secretary, Mukul the VP. But the BAUCSU General Secretary (GS) Chanchal did not agree to the decision and hostility brewed up between the Kamal group and the Chanchal group.

This morning, the Chanchal group brought out a procession in the Shamsul Haque Hall in the campus. Soon after the departure of the processionists, the Kamal group armed with lethal weapons entered the Hall and terrorised the in-

The Kamal group then came out of the Hall and attacked the Teachers Students Centre (TSC). From there, the group went to Fisheries Faculty and started shooting at the building from outside.

Two British helicopters with International Committee of Red Cross team flying to no-man's

ing the nation and said the

present democratic govern-

ment was working to ereate

opportunities and suitable at-

mosphere which were neces-

sary to help the engineers

work effectively. She said the

yearly grant provided by the

government for the engineers

would be enhanced to Taka 30

Begum Zia said: "We are at

the threshold of a new century

which will be a century of de-

velopment and technology.

The whole world is in the race

for this development and we

have to attain uplift by keeping

pace with the fast changing

their responsibilities, the

Prime Minister said, "We want

speedy industrialisation for

creating increased job oppor

tunities to solve the great

See Page 12 Col 4

UN experts leave for key

Iraqi chemical arms site

Iraq claims the plant was used

down from its refusal to allow

the weapons inspectors to ar

rive on their own planes and

travel over the southern "no-

fly" zone. But Baghdad has not

yet declared that it will coop-

crate fully with the UN Special

Commission set up to disman-

tle lraqi weapons of mass de-

fired two missiles at an Iraq

radar site in the northern air

exclusion zone. US officials

said the attack came after the

radar locked on the aircraft -

a necessary prelude to firing

radar-guided anti-aircraft

missiles. Iraq dismissed the

US claims as "fabricated" and

Friday, two US warplanes

struction.

Iraq on Tuesday backed

to manufacture pesticides.

Reminding the engineers of

lakh from Taka 13 lakh.

The armed men in the Chanchal group immediately returned fire from inside the building and severe fighting broke out.

Both the groups used sowed-off rifles, sten-guns, pistols and also blasted a number of crackers turning the whole area into a battlefiled.

The victim, Sabuj, was hit in the chest in front of the veterinary clinic at the faculty and fell dead on the spot. He was reportedly an activist of the Kamal group.

The battle continued for about an hour at the time about 1000 members of the BAU Employees' Samity armed with lathis bunched together and moved toward the battle site. At this, the feuding groups abandoned the fight.

Later, police arrived at the spot and went on guard duty. Following the incident, the BAU authorities postponed all

examinations till January 31.

- AFP photo

17 Palestinian

deportees

evacuated

non), Jan 23: Three British Air

Force helicopters evacuated 17

sick or mistakenly deported

Palestinians from an icy tent

camp in South Lebanon today,

witnesses said, reports Reuter.

tional farewell by the remain-

road before boarding the helt-

copters, clutching bags con-

taining their few belongings.

ing deportees.

them goodby.

The 17 were given an emo-

The evacuees prayed on the

Many of them weeping, the

remaining deportees hugged

and kissed them, gave them

the salute of the Islamic resis-

tance movement Hamas and

with Red Cross insignia and

the Union Jack hovered over

the makeshift camp, the de-

portees on the ground waved

to take in medical supplies

carried to them by the Red

Cross officials, saying they only

said it does not maintain anti-

aircraft missiles in the area,

near the northern town of

run Al-Jumhouriya daily ac

cused "remnants of the crimi

nal Bush administration" in

the Pentagon and CIA of trying

The Babel newspaper,

owned by President Saddam

Hussein's eldest son Udai,

warned that "the situation

could explode at any time,

since there was no positive re-

In a second-page commen-

tary, "Message to Bill Clinton,"

it said, "Clinton has begun his

journey in the presidency with

See Page 12 Col 4

to provoke Iraq.

On Saturday, Iraq's state

wanted to return home.

The deportees had refused

As the Green helicopters

chanted Islamic slogans.

MARJ AZ-ZOIIOUR (Leba-

Khulna JCD rivals clash, snatch BNP

From Staff Correspondent

KIIULNA, Jan 23: Panic gripped the Picture Palace cinema hall area of the city in the evening when two rival groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) locked in -armed clashes.

fired by the clashing groups. Police resorted to baton charge and picked up two JCD workers from the scene. The panicky people ran helterskelter and the shops in the busy area closed.

During the chases and counter-chases by rival JCD workers, the car of Imtiaruddin, a local leader of BNP, was damaged. The BNP leader alleged that his licensed pistol had been snatched away by group of JCD workers.

Commerce College premises leaving a student activist wounded.

were fired during the clash. Rubayat Hossain Rana of Chanchal group was allegedly beaten up severely by the supporters of rival Zakir group, according to sources at the campus. Rubayat was admitted to a local clinic.

Day today

By Staff Correspondent

historic mass upsurge of 1969 will be observed throughout the country today. On this day in '69, the anti-

Ayub movement turned into a mass upsurge that culminated in the fall of dictatorial rule in the erst-while East Pakistan. Matiur, a student of class

of the Dhakn city and others were killed in police firing on this day and the killings caused mass agitation. In observance of the Mass

drawn up programmes. The Five-party alliance will hold a rally at the JSD-BSD square in the city at 4 in the

Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya will place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at 7 am and hold a students rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla on the

Govt disinvesting industries at throwaway prices: Hasina

Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for a permanent labour policy keeping in view the welfare of workers as also maximising production in industries, reports UNB:

Wrong policy of the BNP industrial units, indiscriminate trial production, said Sheikh

She further alleged that the government is transferring nationalised industries to the private ownership at throwaway prices.

See Page 12 Col 7

Auranga's trial begins

By Staff Correspondent years Saturday.

Two witness - plaintiff of the case M T Fazlul Haq, a constable of DGFI and the recording officer of the case Kazi Imdadul Haq were examined and cross-examined in

Awami League MP Auranga was arrested from Hotel Purbant on October 27 last year in connection with the killing.

Ali Azam was murdered near Sakura Hotel at Shahbagh in the city on January 28, 1980.

M T Fazlul Haq, lodged a case with Ramna police station See Page 12 Col 5

Babri Mosque demolition

Delhi terms JS resolution an 'interference'

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian government, in strongly worded statement, "deeply" regretted and "categorically" rejected the resolution adopted by the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament), relating to the demolition of what it termed the "disputed structure" at Ayodhya.

"We categorically reject this resolution; it is a totally unacceptable interference in our internal affairs," read the statement issued by a spokesman of the government of India Friday and released here yesterday by the Indian High Commission.

Taking "strong exception", the statement attacked the ruling BNP for indulging "in public denunciation of our policy and actions and also arrogate to itself the right to advise us on matters in which it has no locus standi whatsoever."

The statement noted that for the government and the people of India, there existed an "unshaken belief in secularism and the age-old tradition of tolerance," which would remain in the future.

It blasted the "motivated

and ill-conceived advice from those, many of whom have been under the influence of fundamentalists of one complexion or another," which it added would hamper the lessening of tensions "all around." The statement alleged that

the resolution "completely ignored the tragic though widely known facts about the violent reactions in Bangladesh."

Saying that "these reprehensible developments since December 7, have caused untold sufferings and deep insecurity," the statement added "hence the attempt to present Sec Page 12 Col 8

Repatriation of Rohingyas

No use of coercion, FM tells US refugee body Foreign Minister A S M gave a brief account of the

Mostafizur Rahman has outright denied charges brought in a meeting in Washington that Bangladesh coerced Rohingya refugees to go back home in Myanmar, reports Bangladesh is interested to

see the Rohingya refugees go back to their homes in safety and honour," he told the meeting arranged on Friday by the US Committee for Refugees and attended by over 60 representatives from NGOs, the US State Department, political groups and members of diplomatic corps.

According to a message received here yesterday, in his address, the Foreign Minister

background of influx of the Rohingyas into Bangladesh and the present situation including the repatriation process. Mostafiz also told the meet-

ing that UNHCR was initially involved with the repatriation process, but it withdrew due to certain 'misunderstanding.'

He, however, expressed confidence that ongoing discussions would produce a new understanding in which UNIICR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would soon involve itself again in the stalled repatriation of an estimated 2.65 lakh Myanmar

Replying to questions fol-See Page 12 Col 1

Saifur assures BSB of fresh funds

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday assured Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) management of fresh funds for financing a dynamic generation of entrepreneurs and resilient old ones in a desperate bid to stimulate further the economy by raising investments, reports

Encouraging the BSB management to finance fresh projects and provide adequate working capital to the innovative new generation of en trepreneurs along with the existing ones, Rahman told the bankers to "respond promptly to the entrepreneurs' loan applications and for God's sake don't sleep with their applications sending their profitable viable projects to sink." Listing various measures

undertaken by the government for creating congenial environment for investment in the country, he said now Bangladesh had a far better investment environment comSaifur was addressing a

large gathering of new brand entrepreneurs here, yesterday afternoon at the BSB audito-

Bank Chairman ATM Alamgir, MP presided over the function which was addressed among others by Bangladesh Bank Governor Khorshed Alam, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Board of Investment Chairman Mostafizur Rahman, BSB Managing Director Dr. Abdul Mobin, entrepreneurs Dr. SM Ashequzzaman, Professor Kazi Md Ismail, Abdur Razzaque Khan and Nasimuddin.

The Finance Minister asked the bankers to go for promotional relationship banking replacing the present collateral banking. Pointing to the large atten-

dance of the entrepreneurs and their suggestions, he said, it's an encouraging sign See Page 12 Col 4

Rao's warning to BJP

'Stop fuelling communal

tension or face action' NEW DELHI, Jan 23: Indian less it stopped creating com Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao in his toughest statement agency reported.

yet warned a Hindu opposition party Friday that action would be taken unless it stopped fu elling communal tensions, reports AFP. Rao was quoted by the Press

Trust of India (PTI) as saying that the Bharatiya Janata Party (HJP) was using religion for political gains. Rao told a rally in the

Andhra Pradesh state capital of Hyderabad that the BJP's activities were in conflict with the Indian Constitution, which states that India is a secular

The Prime Minister said his government would be forced to take action against the BJP un-

munal tensions, the news They want to get votes in

the name of Ram(a) and 'Hindutva' (Hinduism)," he said at the rally in his home state. "What kind of policy is this?" Earlier, Rao told his fellow

ruling Congress (I) Party legislators that the BJP was trying to divide India on the basis of caste and religion to win elee-

The BJP, which is the main opposition party in the Indian parliament, is actively involved with other non-political revivalist Hindu groups in a joint campaign to build a temple at disputed site in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

See Page 12 Col 2

Diarrhoea kills 25 more in 3 districts

From Our Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 23: Diarrhoca claimed 25 lives and attacked some 1072 others in Barguna, Patuakhali and Jhalakathi districts during the last 24 hours ending his evening.

However, the overall situation in these districts and Pirojpur has reportedly improved.

The disease claimed 473 lives and attacked 15,541 people in these districts in the past three weeks according to official sources. Unofficial sources, however, gave higher figures.

In the coastal belt about one hundred fishermen died of diarrhoea due to shortage of pure drinking water and absence of treatment facilities. These death figures mostly remained unaccounted for, according to sources.

Nurses withdraw strike

By Staff Correspondent Nurses in the country's state-owned hospitals and

health complexes withdrew their strike last night as the government had accepted four of their demands. The four demands, out of a total of 14, accepted by the

government were the raise in monthly allowances to student nurses from Taka 500 to Taka 850, Taka 105 as increment for senior diploma nurses, raise in dress and washing allowances and change in the designation of sister tutors as instructors.

Some 27,000 nurses in about 500 hospitals and health complexes began an indefinite strike last Thursday to realisc their 14-point charter of de-

The strike was jointly called by the leaders of the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA), Diploma Student Nurses Union (DSNU) and Assistant Nurses Associa-

tion (ANA) last Wednesday. Before the announcement of the withdrawal of the strike. the leaders of nurses held a six-hour discussion with the Health Secretary and other government officials at the Secretariat from 3:00 pm to

9:00 pm Saturday. President of the BDNA, Kohinur Begum told The Daily Star that they withdrew the strike as the government accepted four of their demands with effect from January 1,

Kohinur also said that the government had also assured that other demands would be considered and implemented in different phases in future.

3 jute godowns in Khulna gutted

KHULNA, Jan 23: A fire that gutted three godowns in the city today (Saturday) burnt to ashes jute worth several crores of taka, police and Fire Brigade sources said, reports UNB.

The fire that broke out at about 5.50 am raged through the three godowns of Transwaision Jute Factory for about three hours until fire fighters from 12 units put it The cause of the fire could

not be ascertained immedi-

CIS buys jute goods worth Tk 135 cr

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an offshot of the former Soviet Union, will buy 60,000 tons of jute goods worth Tk 135 crore from Bangladesh, reports UNB. The deal was finalised

Saturday between Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and Technopromexport (TPE) of About 15,000 tons of jute goods will be supplied imme-

diately while the rest by February 1994, said an official handout. Former Soviet Union .used to buy from Bangladesh about 5,000 tons out of their annual

requirement of 102 lakh tons. The deal, biggest single ever signed with CIS coun-

tries, is the sequel of a memorandum of understanding signed in Moscow in July last year.

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1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD.

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 1993

leader's pistol

Over a dozen shots were

UNB adds: Earlier, two fac-

tions of the JCD clashed at the Witnesses said several shots

Mass Upsurge

The 24th anniversary of the

nine of Nabakumar Institution

Upsurge Day, different political parties and socio-cultural and student organisations have

alternoon. Central leaders of the alliance will address it.

Dhaka University campus at 11

Leader of the Opposition in

government led to closure of sacking of workers, unemployment, inadequate foreign investment and fall in indus-

She was addressing a group

Trial of Hemayctullah Auranga MP, the accused of murdering a DGFI Natk Alt Azam began in the court of an Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, after 12

the court on the first day.

action toward Iraq's goodwill