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## JCD rivalry over VP post Student killed in BAU gunbattle

From Our Correspondent

**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, Sharifuzzaman, 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-

### Khulna JCD rivals clash, snatch BNP leader's pistol

From Staff Correspondent

**KHULNA, 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.

Over a dozen shots were fired by the clashing groups. Police resorted to baton charge and picked up two JCD workers from the scene. The pantyky people ran helter-skelter and the shops in the busy area closed.

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

UNB adds: Earlier, two factions of the JCD clashed at the Commerce College premises leaving a student activist wounded.

Witnesses said several shots were fired during the clash. Rubayat Hossain Inana 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.

## Babri Mosque demolition Delhi terms JS resolution an 'interference'

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian government, in a 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 "unshakable 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

### Diarrhoea kills 25 more in 3 districts

From Our Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL, Jan 23:** Diarrhoea 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 realise their 14-point charter of demands.

The strike was jointly called by the leaders of the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association (BDNA), Diploma Student Nurses Union (DSNU) and Assistant Nurses Association (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, 1993.

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



Two British helicopters with International Committee of Red Cross team flying to no-man's land to evacuate Palestinian deportees. — AFP photo

### Mass Upurge Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The 24th anniversary of the historic mass upurge of 1969 will be observed throughout the country today.

On this day in '69, the anti-Ayub movement turned into a mass upurge that culminated in the fall of dictatorial rule in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

Matiur, a student of class nine of Nabakumar institution of the Dhaka city and others were killed in police firing on this day and the killings caused mass agitation.

In observance of the Mass Upurge Day, different political parties and socio-cultural and student organisations have drawn up programmes.

The Five-party alliance will hold a rally at the JSD-BSI square in the city at 4 in the afternoon. Central leaders of the alliance will address it.

Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya will place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at 7 am and hold a students rally at the foot of Aparajee Bangla on the Dhaka University campus at 11 am.

### Repatriation of Rohingyas No use of coercion, FM tells US refugee body

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has outrightly denied charges brought in a meeting in Washington that Bangladesh coerced Rohingyas to go back home in Myanmar, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh is interested to see the Rohingyas 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 gave a brief account of the background of influx of the Rohingyas into Bangladesh and the present situation including the repatriation process.

Mostafiz also told the meeting 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 UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) would soon involve itself again in the stalled repatriation of an estimated 2.65 lakh Myanmar refugees.

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## Engineers' convention opens Evolve ways for best use of resources : PM

**RAJSHAHI, Jan 23:** Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the engineers to evolve appropriate technologies for the optimum utilisation of the country's natural resources and labour power to build a prosperous Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the 37th convention 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 appropriate technology could work as a formula in coordinating our resources and labour power which in turn will help attain targeted development.

The Prime Minister expressed her confidence that the engineers would be able to prove their efficiency in building the nation and said the present democratic government was working to create opportunities and suitable atmosphere which were necessary to help the engineers work effectively. She said the yearly grant provided by the government for the engineers would be enhanced to Taka 30 lakh from Taka 13 lakh.

Begum Zia said: "We are at the threshold of a new century which will be a century of development 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 world."

Reminding the engineers of their responsibilities, the Prime Minister said, "We want speedy industrialisation for creating increased job opportunities to solve the great

### 17 Palestinian deportees evacuated

**MARJ AZ-ZOUHOUR** (Lebanon), Jan 23: Three British Air Force helicopters evacuated 17 sick or mistakenly deported Palestinians from an eye tent camp in South Lebanon today, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

The 17 were given an emotional farewell by the remaining deportees.

The evacuees prayed on the road before boarding the helicopters, clutching bags containing their few belongings.

Many of them weeping, the remaining deportees hugged and kissed them, gave them the salute of the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas) and chanted Islamic slogans.

As the Green helicopters with Red Cross insignia and the Union Jack hovered over the makeshift camp, the deportees on the ground waved them goodbye.

The deportees had refused to take in medical supplies carried to them by the Red Cross officials, saying they only wanted to return home.

## 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 ones in a desperate bid to stimulate further the economy by raising investments, reports BSS.

Encouraging the BSB management to finance fresh projects and provide adequate working capital to the innovative new generation of entrepreneurs 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 compared to India.

Saifur was addressing a large gathering of new brand entrepreneurs here, yesterday afternoon at the BSB auditorium.

Bank Chairman ATM Alamgir, MP presided over the function which was addressed among others by Bangladesh Bank Governor Khorsheed 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 Razaque Khan and Nasimuddin.

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

Pointing to the large attendance of the entrepreneurs and their suggestions, he said, "It's an encouraging sign".

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### 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 Transwaison Jute Factory for about three hours until fire fighters from 12 units put it out.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately.

## UN experts leave for key Iraqi chemical arms site

**BAGHDAD, Jan 23:** UN weapons experts headed for a key chemical arms complex north of the capital on Saturday, a day after US aircraft bombed an anti-aircraft missile site in northern Iraq, reports AP.

The billion dollar complex at Muthanna, 65 miles (100 kms) northwest of Baghdad, was Iraq's main chemical factory.

UN inspectors estimate the 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 VX, a nerve gas and one of the most toxic chemicals produced, the UN experts said.

Iraq claims the plant was used to manufacture pesticides.

Iraq on Tuesday backed down from its refusal to allow the weapons inspectors to arrive on their own-planes and travel over the southern 'no-fly' zone. But Baghdad has not yet declared that it will cooperate fully with the UN Special Commission set up to dismantle Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Friday, two US warplanes fired two missiles at an Iraq radar site in the northern Iraq 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

### Auranga's trial begins

By Staff Correspondent

Trial of Hemayetullah Auranga MP, the accused of murdering a DGP Naik AH Azam began in the court of an Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, after 12 years Saturday.

Two witness — plaintiffs of the case M T Fazul Haq, a constable of DGF and the recording officer of the case Kazi Imdadul Haq were examined and cross-examined in the court on the first day.

Awami League MP Auranga was arrested from Hotel Purbani 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 Fazul Haq, lodged a case with Ramna police station

### Rao's warning to BJP 'Stop fuelling communal tension or face action'

**NEW DELHI, Jan 23:** Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao in his toughest statement yet warned a Hindu opposition party Friday that action would be taken unless it stopped fuelling communal tensions, reports AFP.

Rao was quoted by the Press Trust of India (PTI) as saying that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 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 state.

The Prime Minister said his government would be forced to take action against the BJP unless it stopped creating communal tensions, the news agency reported.

"They want to get votes in the name of Ram(a) and 'Hinduwa' (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 elections.

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 a disputed site in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

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### CIS buys jute goods worth Tk 135 cr

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an offshoot 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 CIS.

About 15,000 tons of jute goods will be supplied immediately 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 countries, is the sequel of a memorandum of understanding signed in Moscow in July last year.