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DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1993

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Discussion,

drama on

Star Report

Ekushey programmes yester-

day, Bangla Academy organised

a discussion meeting on

"Recitation Practice in Bang-

ladesh" at 4 pm at its pre-

Mostafa, Prof Naren Biswas,

Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqi and

Nasim Ahmad took part in the

discussion. Eminent artistes of

the country recited poems

organised by the Sammilito

Sangskritik Jote, Mohona

Natya Gosthi staged a street

drama in the Central Shaheed

Oasis Books, an Ekushey book

stall, yesterday as some stu-

dents attacked it protesting

Today's programme of

Bangla Academy: Discussion on

the practice of Rabindranath.

Tagore's songs in Bangladesh

in the afternoon. The speakers

are Wahidul Huq, Prof Sanjida

Khatun and Dr Mridul Kanti

Chakravarty. Musical soirce in

Feni blast: 3

more die,

death toll

may rise

FENI. Feb 11: Death toll

from the gas cylinder blast in

Feni rose to 9 with three more

people reported to have sue>

cumbed to their wounds suf-

fered in the disaster, reports

today said the three people

died after they were taken to

their homes with severe injury.

ple, including a child and two

women, still being treated at

Feni Sadar Hospital. Six seri-

ously wounded were sent to

Chittagong Medical College

feared that the death toll

might increase as most of the

injured were suffering from

breathing problem. They were

Two days after the disaster,

also attacked by pneumonia.

Doctors at the hospital

There were at least 38 peo-

Police and local villagers

sale of 'controversial' books.

Meanwhile, police guarded

Minar compound.

the evening.

As part of the programmes

after the discussion meeting.

Syed Hasan Imam, Golam

mises.

On the 11th day of Amar

- Inside Today

Article

From hartal to what Page 4

Metropolitan

Spirit of Ekushey Lives on



Of books, bangles and basic things Page 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

To mark the significant occasion of the visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Bangladesh, we considered it besitting to publish a sixpage supplement. This has forced us to drop some of our regular pages including the Weckend Magazine and the Business section.

We profusely apologize to our readers for inconvenience and request their kind indulgence to bear with us on this occasion.

NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda greets Rafsanjani

The Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, has greeted President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of its 14th anniversary of Iranian Islamic Revolution, reports BSS.

Kamal Amrohi dead

NEW DELHI, Feb 11: Indian film-maker Kamal Amrohi who graduated from suspense thrillers to lavishly-mounted historical costumed dramas, died today at the age of 76. Amrohi, whose career dated back to the silent movie era, died of heart failure at a hospital in Bombay where he had been ailing, his son Tajdar Amrohi told the Press Trust of India. A widower, Amrohi was married to Meena Kumari, a movie actress famed as the eternal "Tragedy Queen" o Indian cinema, reports AFP.

BUTA concerned at RU incidents

Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (BUTA) yesterday expressed grave concern at the serious incidents and brutal killings in Raishahi University on February 6. In a statement, Prof S M A Faiz and Prof M Shamsur Rahman, President and Secretary General of the association strongly demanded finding out the persons responsible for the incident and to give them exemplary punishment, reports BSS.

Three killed in bus plunge

FARIDPUR, Feb 11: Three people were killed and 45 injured, 12 seriously, when a bus plunged into a ditch from a bridge at Chopghat on the Faridpur-Kamarkhali highway today (Thursday). Police and witnesses said the bus tumbled off the bridge by smashing its railing while overtaking another bus at about I pm. Two of the dead were identified as Rabindranath Biswas (32) and Astí (2). Another victim was an unidentified old man of about 60 years. All three died, on the spot, 32 kilometres off the district headquarters, reports

22 women's hostels soon

The government will construct 22 working women's hostels in the country to reduce residential problems of career women. This was stated by the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Mrs Sarwari Rahman ycuterday evening, reports BSS.

Bosnian hijacks Lufthansa plane with 104 on board

FRANKFURT, Feb 11: A lone gunman hijacked a Lufthansa jetliner carrying 104 passengers and crew to the Middle East on Thursday and ordered it flown to New York, German authorities said, reports AP.

The plane was expected at John F Kenedy International Airport on Thursday afternoon from Hanover, where the plane refueled after being hijacked over Austria. It was the first hijacking of a Lufthansa plane in more than 15 years.

A radio station said a ham radio operator taped a radio conversation between the plane and authorities indicating that the hijacker intended to release all hostages and surrender in New York.

The ARD television network and the N-TV news channel reported that the hijacker was a Bosnian man with complaints about the United Nations," which has been trying to arrange a peace accord in Bosnia's ethnic war.

Security sources in Hanover, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed * that the man spoke German, but declined to give other de-

supply has fallen (below).

Ingo Marek, spokesman for the Lower Saxony Interior Ministry, said the hijacker's only demand was to refuel the plane and 'be flown on to New

MAGH 30, 1399 BS,

Marek, speaking on N-TV, said he was not aware of any negotiations between the hijacker and German authorities.

It was the first Lufthansa hijacking since October 1977, when gunmen forced a flight to go to Mogadishu, Somalia. The plane was recaptured by German commandos.

The last time a hijacked plane crossed the Atlantic apparently was in September 1976. In that incident, five Croatian nationalists hijacked a TWA plane flying from New York to Chicago and forced it to go to Paris, where they surrendered.

Thursday's hijacking occurred over Austria as the plane, a twin-engine Airbus 310 carrying 94 passengers and 10 crew, was flying from Frankfurt to Cairo, Egypt, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The plane turned back and landed in Hanover.

After about 90 minutes on the ground, the plane took off

A large number of trawlers are anchored at Sadarghat as they cannot go fishing for want of

ice (above) and fish wholesalers at Shwarighat in city selling fish at exorbitant price as

at 1:44 pm (1244 GMT) and headed for New York. Lufthansa said. Bill Cahill, spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, said the plane was expected at 1:45 pm local time (1845 GMT).

It appeared no one was allowed off the plane in Hanover. Officials of the FBI and the Port Authority said they were making preparations to deal with the hijacker once the

plane arrived. German police said it was unlikely the plane would have taken off unless it had received permission to land in New

after leaving Frankfurt, authorities said. "According to information from the chancellor's office in Bonn, a man with a pistol sub-

The plane's crew reported

the hijacking about a half-hour

dued the pilots, " the ARD network said. A spokesman for the Austrian Bureau for Civil Aviation said the Lufthansa airliner, Flight 592, was hijacked

soon after entering Austrian

airspace near Lofer. "The pilot reported he had

ice factory

strike on

Star Report

ries has already hit the fish

markets with tons of fish rot-

dropped by about 50 per cent

at the wholesale points and

frozen fish export has also

been hit hard due to the slump

Prices of fish sky-rocketed

The ice manufacturing cold

resulting from the lowsupply

storage factories have been on

strike since February 5 de-

manding withdrawal of Value

At the Sadarghat and

Shwarighat points, about 100

fishing boats were seen idle as

they could not carry fish due to

lack of ice. This has doubled

the price of fish in the mar-

A small size hilsa selling at

Talking to The Daily Star,

the secretary of Shwarighat

Wholesale Fish Merchants

Association, Aman Bepari said

that the sellers were dumping

the rotten fish in the river. He

See Page 12 Col 6

Taka 25 earlier is now being

ting at Shwarighat

Added Tax (VAT).

sold at Taka 60.

in supply.

Thursday.

The strike in the ice facto-

Supply of fish has also

a passenger with a weapon on board and asked us to turn back. We gave him the permission," the spokesman said.

The hijacking was bound to raise new questions about security at Frankfurt airport, the largest and busiest on continental Europe.

The airport came under severe international criticism after the bombing of l'an American Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 that killed 270 people.

Critics say lax security in Frankfurt allowed suspected Middle East bombers to smuggle explosives aboard the Pan Am flight. German authorities have defended their security measures.

It was the first hijacking of a Lufthansa plane since 1985.

The most spectacular Lufthansa hijacking occurred in October 1977, when four Middle East terrorists seized a Boeing 737, killed the pilot and landed in Mogadishu, Somalia. German commandoes stormed the plane, killing three of the hijackers.

Warm welcome to Mahathirs today

Star Report

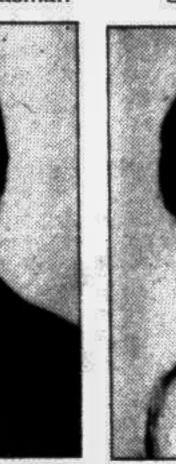
A warm welcome will be accorded to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he arrives in Dhaka this afternoon on a three-day official goodwill visit to Bangladesh, his second in

ten years. Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by his wife Dato Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah

during the visit which takes place at the invitation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Nineteen gum salute with herald the guests arrival in the capital. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman will welcome them at the Zia International Airport.

See Page 12 Col 7



Dr Mahathir



Madam Mahathir

JP MPs walk out over 'humiliation' of Mizan at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (JP) MPs staged walk out in Parliament yesterday evening protesting harassment of their leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury by the Customs officials at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) Wednesday

chowdhury, acting chairman of the JP, along with two of his party colleagues, was reportedly humiliated by the Customs officials in the name of checking baggages prior to his departure for Jeddah for performing Umrah.

One of the JP leaders, Nurul Islam Milon, accompanying Chowdhury, is said to have See Page 12 Col 8

Malaysia's sultans agree to constitutional amendments

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11: Malaysia's hereditary sultans agreed Thursday to constitutional amendments that will sharply curtail their legal immunity, ending a month-long confrontation and defusing a potential constitutional crisis, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar

Baba announced, reports AP. According to sources attending Ghafar's conference, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the rulers, who wield limited constitutional powers, reversed an earlier rejection of the amendments and have accepted the legislation with some modifications.

On the second day of rulers' meetings, the sultans and the government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad issued a joint statement on the

The statement said that the constitutional amendments recently approved by the Parliament, but awaiting final consent from the King, will be returned to legislators with several changes agreed to by both parties.

"The Conference of Rulers has unanimously agreed to give consent to the proposed amendments, inserting several changes," the statement said.

106 Indians cross into Bangladesh

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: At least 106 Indian refugees belonging to Tripura tribe sneaked into Bangladesh territory in the past one week and took shelter in the villages of Panchhari thana under Khagrachhari district, security sources said. Thirty three refugees en-

tered Panehhari near Indian border on February 4 while another batch of '73 arrived on February 8 and all of them took refuge in the houses of their fellow tribal people or relatives in Buddhapara, Kestamonipara and other nearby villages, sources added.

women and children trekked into Bangladesh through the dense forest routes dodging the eyes of border guards to escape what they said atrocities unleashed by an Indian government backed youth organisation, sources also added.

The tripura tribal men,

The refugees disclosed to the Bangladesh authorities that the youth organisation gutted their houses and tortured them accusing them of patronising the Indian tribal insurgent front All Tripura Tribal Force (ATTF),

The refugees alleged that See Page 12 Col 8

Resist politics of hartal, gherao: Khaleda NAGARPUR (Tangail), Feb

11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia asked the peaceloving people of the country to stand against the destructive politics of hartal, strike, siege, gherao and setting public property on fire, thus helping the government continue its development and productionoriented programmes, reports

"We have to stop the politics of hartal, gherao, destruction and setting the public property on fire ... we have to stop the destructive activities and to carry on the nationbuilding activities ... there should be now work and only work" the Prime Minister told a huge gathering at Nagarpur Government College field here.

The Prime Minister in her sharp criticism to the opposition's current anti-government agitational programmes, said an opposition party had resorted to destructive politics as they did in the past. She said that the particular

political party had taken the path of chaos, confusion and indiscipline as it was opposed to development, nation-building activities and wanted to keep the country in a state of backwardness. "Harfal yields no benefit,"

said the Prime Minister urging the people to strengthen the hands of the representatives of "Sheaf of Paddy," BNPs election symbol, so that they could carry out the programmes of development and production. Begum Zia said the country

had been liberated at the cost of many valuable lives and hence it is the responsibilities of all to build the nation and develop it by rising above all differences and confusions. She said the people had

fought against autocracy, repression and injustice for nine years to restore democracy." "Now our movement will be

against poverty and for building the nation ... our needs now are roads, bridges, electricity and education," said the Prime Minister. Presided over by Khandaker

Abu Taher, PM, the meeting was addressed by State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfur Rahman Khan, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq, Ansar Ali Siddiqui PM, Khandaker Badruddin Ahmed MP, Anwara Habib MP, Abdus Salam Pintu MP, Hamidul Huq Mohan President, Tangail district BNP See Page 12 Col 6

mystery still shrouded over the blast as experts were yet to ascertain the cause of the tragic accident. The explosion took place on Tuesday night as a Dhakabound truck carrying gas cylinders from Chittagong reached village Lemua, 7 kilo-

Hospital.

People may move for govt's ouster,

metres from Fent town, killing

two people on the spot and 75

others injured.

says Imam By Staff Correspondent

Jahanara Imam yesterday warned the government that the people in the movement against Golam Azam and his Jamaat-e-Islami party might lose patience and move for its

"We offered many opportunities to the government to execute the people's verdict on the war criminal Golam Azam. In return, the government increased its atrocities on our leaders and workers whose patience has now reached the limit," she told a public meeting in front of the GPO in the city yesterday evening.

The meeting was organised to celebrate the first anniversary of the Ekatturer Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee of which Imam is the convenor.

Delivering her presidential speech, Imam felicitated all who had contributed to the Samannaya Committee struggle in many ways. She also expressed her gratitude to those oppressed and deeply condoled the martyrdom of many in the last one year's movement of the committee.

Evaluating the organisation's movement in the past year, the committee chief said, 'Our movement helped people to be aware of the killers and collaborators of '71, created hatred among the masses who See Page 12 Col 3

Hasina visits Rajshahi today

Another RU teacher assaulted

Referring to Ayodhya, teacher and a hall official of Rajshahi University were assaulted today (Thursday) on the closed campus allegedly by some activists of All-Party Students Unity in a continued backlash to the February 6 gunfight, reports UNB.

> of Chemistry Department, who is known as a leader of Jattyatabadi teacher's group, came under the wrath of activists of APSU, which also groups pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi

administrative building at 11

Chhatra Shibir, which was the 12 noon.

was beaten by the same group on suspicion that he is a Jamaat worker.

See Page 12 Col 7

BJP to defy ban, hold rally Feb 25 porters at the Boat Club ous" at a time when communal NEW DELHI, Feb 11: The not at this time and in the tension is high following the present circumstances give

Indian government announced a ban today on a proposed rally here by the main Hindu-revivalist party, setting the stage for a potential confrontation with the largest opposition group, reports AFP.

The cabinet made the decision amid fears that the rally by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) (Indian People's Party) could turn violent, Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan said in a statement."

The BJP which has been stepping up pressure on the government to hold early elections, had pledged to gather more than one milion supground near parliament in The party immediately an-

central Delhi on February 25. nounced plans to hold an emergency meeting Friday and stressed that it would go ahead with the rally, billed as the largest ever in the Indian capi-

We're not going to call of the rally, so the possibility of confrontation is there," said a BJP spokesman Devandas Apte." The strategy for the future course of action is to be decided at tomorrow's meet-

In his statement, the Home Minister said holding the rally would be "inherently danger-

destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu extremists. The BJP, which is seeking

to build a Hindu temple in Ayodhya on the mosque site, led the campaign which resulted in the destruction of the 16th century Islamic shrine on December 6.

More than 1,800 people have died in Hindu-Muslim violence across India since then.

In his statement, the Home Minister said that "this is just not the time for provocative actions. "The government has,

Chavan added: "India has already been witness to the events of December 6. "In spite of assurances by the BJP and its allies, the or-

permission to the BJP for

holding the proposed rally."

control the situation there. That memory inspires little confidence that the rally now being called would be peaceful and free of untoward incidents."

Chhatra Dal, in front of the RAJSHAHI, Feb 11: A

ganisers of the (Hindu templebuilding drive) at Ayodhya Sources said Prof Yusuf Ali failed completely to contain or

Superintendent of Zoha Hall, the stronghold of Islami

bloodiest scene of Saturday's clash, was also beaten up in front of the library at around Sources said Golam Mustafa

Meanwhile, an all-party