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NEWS BRIEFS

B Chowdhury leaves Singapore Hospital

Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury has been released from the Singapore National Hospital after successful bypass heart operation, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday. The team of doctors who operated upon him certified that the condition of Prof. Chowdhury had improved tremendously during the short period of time. They, however, said that he would need rest for four to six weeks before starting his day to day activities, reports BSS.

FM goes to Qatar today

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman leaves Dhaka this morning on a two-nation official trip that takes him to Qatar and Saudi Arabia. He first visits Qatar and then flies to Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

Asaf-ud-Dowla's death anniversary today

The 10th death anniversary of former News Editor and Executive Editor of the Dainik Ittefaq Mohammed Asaf-ud-Dowla Reza will be observed today. Quran Kiwani and Milad Mahfil will be held after Maghreb prayers at his residence at 243/1, Purba Rampura, reports BSS.

Khaleda, Mahathir hold formal talks Malaysia will hire skilled manpower, buy more jute

By Staff Correspondent

Malaysia will hire doctors, nurses and engineers from Bangladesh in addition to the 18,000 unskilled Bangladeshis already working in the Southeast Asian nation, a spokesman said on the outcome of the formal talks between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her visiting Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad Saturday.

During the 90-minute talks at the International Conference Centre Malaysia also agreed to consider a Bangladesh offer to meet its entire requirements for jute and jute goods. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told reporters.

Begum Zia told Mahathir that Dhaka's jute and jute goods should also get preferential treatment from Kuala Lumpur to reduce the bilateral trade gap that currently stood at more than 34 million dollars against Bangladesh.

During the 1991-92 financial year Bangladesh's imports from Malaysia were worth 40.64 US dollars compared to its exports worth 6.54 million dollars.

Bangladesh said that the two countries having close friendly ties could benefit from a special trading arrangement that would also cover preferential imports of Bangladesh tea, urea fertilizer, cables, jute carpets, jute yarn and even special quality of fine rice.

The spokesman said that Begum Zia had explained to her guest, her government's investment policy and sought Malaysian investment in at least two of more than 200 industrial projects Dhaka has listed for foreign investment.

Bangladesh wants Malaysia to have joint ventures in packaging and paper industries, tyres, tubes, shoes, textiles, chemical engineering, food and allied products in addition to transfer of technology.

According to Rahman, Bangladesh also sought Malaysian assistance to develop a "Green Belt" covering 700 square kilometers along the coast mainly to protect the area from cyclones and floods.

The Foreign Secretary, however, could not give details about the Green Belt, but said that the Manila-based Asian Development Bank had recently completed a feasibility



Malaysia and Bangladesh held formal talks at the International Conference Centre Saturday. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad led their respective countries. —PID photo

Mahathir addresses banquet Our private sector will explore potentials

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad yesterday (Saturday) said privatisation policy of Bangladesh provides considerable opportunities for bilateral collaboration, reports UNB.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Senakunja last night, Dr Mahathir said his government will encourage the private sector to explore the potential in Bangladesh.

He noted with pleasure that Bangladesh became an important source of manpower in the expansion of Malaysia's industrial and plantation sectors.

Khaleda tells banquet Dhaka committed to an open market economy

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday (Saturday) made a strong plea that Bangladesh's exportables be allowed to enter the Malaysian market at a preferential rate of duty to increase bilateral trade, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh looks forward to increasing trade with Malaysia", she said addressing a banquet in honour of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad here last night.

"It is our ardent hope that our exportable products should be allowed to enter Malaysian market at a preferential rate of duty, at least at par with com-

Trade bodies sign accord

By Staff Correspondent

The two apex trade bodies of Bangladesh and Malaysia Sunday signed an agreement on economic and commercial co-operation to expand the present level of trade between them.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) signed the agreement at a luncheon meeting in the presence of the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The agreement was signed by Mahbubur Rahman, President of the FBCCI and his counterpart in the NCCIM, Tan Sri Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah.

The signing occasion was attended by a number of ministers of both the countries, officials, diplomats and entrepreneurs.

Under the agreement both the sides agreed to encourage and promote direct contact between the entrepreneurs of the countries and strengthen the development of commercial and industrial activities between them.

13 to vie for each DU Hons seat

By Masud Arif

As many as 13 students will compete for an Honours seat of Dhaka University for the session 1992-93.

This year about 47,012 candidates have applied for only 3,727 of first year Honours seats, according to statistics.

Last year, some 44,400 students applied for a total of 3,692 seats and the ratio was 12:1 while it was 11:1 in the previous year.

The receiving and selling of the application forms for admission ended yesterday (Saturday). The last date for submission of forms was February 10, but the Dhaka University authorities extended the date to February 13.

University authorities started giving the forms from January 25 for admission in 41 departments of the DU.

About 16,456 students, the highest number of candidates applied in 'Gha' unit. Those who want to change subject or faculty have to apply through this unit.

Beside, 13,890 students have applied in 'Ka' unit (Faculty of Science). The number was 12,620 last year.

About 10,166 candidate have applied in 'Kha' unit (Faculty of Arts) in which only 9,680 students applied last year.

Meanwhile, some 6,500 students have applied in 'Ga' unit (Faculty of Commerce) this year. Some 6,110 candidate applied last year in this Faculty.

Around 43,000 students applied for some 3,692 seats in 1990-91 session while 39,000 students competed for a total of 3,500 seats in 1989-90 session, according to available statistics.

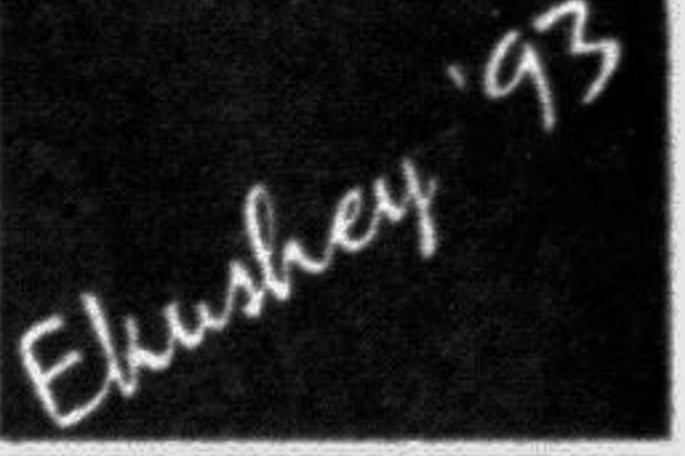
EC to recount Mirpur votes

Counting of votes in all the 117 centres of Mirpur constituency will be held on February 15 at 10 am at the Election Commission Secretariat following allegation of manipulation of the by-election results, reports UNB.

The decision was announced yesterday jointly by Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf and Election Commissioner Justice Syed Mejbahuddin Hossain.

Counting will take place in the auditorium of the Election Commission Secretariat and results will also be announced there after tabulation, EC officials said.

The Returning Officer Badrur Rahman, who is Dhaka



'Project Nazrul properly'

Star Report

On the 13th day of month-long Amar Ekushey programme Bangla Academy organised a discussion on "Nazrul Songs in Bangladesh" yesterday afternoon.

Khan Ataur Rahman, Asadul Huq and Khalid Hossain took part in the discussion.

Speakers at the meeting urged the singers of Nazrul songs to be cautious about its distortion saying that the perfection of the songs should be maintained for the interest of

Hasina tells press in Rajshahi Ban on Jamaat, Shibir if voted to power

RAJSHAHI, Feb 13: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina today (Saturday) said if returned to power with two-third majority, her party will amend the Constitution to ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with journalists at the local Circuit House, Hasina termed the bloody incident of February 6 in Rajshahi University "an outcome of clandestine understanding" between BNP and Jamaat.

At least 5 students died and several hundred others were wounded in the clashes between Islami Chhatra Shibir and the All-Party Student Unity, led by Awami League-backed Chhatra League and BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

"BNP does not want to blame Jamaat for the incident while Jamaat is very cautious about their remarks on the incident, indicating a secret understanding between the two", Hasina said.

She alleged that the Home Minister ordered police to fire on the supporters of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Oikya after Jamaat Leader Matur Rahman Nizami's telephonic conversation with the Home Minister and the Prime Minister.

BNP is instigating conflicts and anarchy under a conspiracy to disrupt the democratic process, the Awami League President further alleged.

"After the establishment of democracy in the country, people did not expect unrest and terrorism which prevail in different educational institutions, including Rajshahi, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Jahangirnagar Universities", she said.

The opposition leader accused BNP of ignoring the University Ordinance of 1973 and said such an unpleasant situation would not have erupted on the campus if that ordinance was obeyed.

The Vice-Chancellors in Rajshahi and Chittagong Universities were appointed by the government illegally, she said. "It is not possible to restore peace on the campus by those incapable Vice-Chancellors."

Hasina said Awami League had led the democratic movement against Ershad with the objective to protect fundamental rights of the people as well as their lives and property. "But what BNP is doing under the garb of democracy is pursuing a dictatorial policy."

"Those who cannot rely on the people are to depend on the strength of arms, she said, alleging that the present government lost credibility with the people and took up the arms to remain in power."

"How people with unauthorised arms could move scot free had there not been any backing from the government", she asked.

The press conference was attended, among others, by Dr Alauddin, Abdul Jalil, Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP.

Rajshahi incident Arrest order against Jamaat chief, 3 others

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 13: Rajshahi city Magistrate Saturday issued warrant of arrest against acting Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, Abbas Ali Khan and three others Shibir leaders while police detained 21 Shibir activists for their alleged involvement in February 6 Rajshahi University incident.

Magistrate B K Shaha issued the arrest order after the City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu sued them for making libelous statement against him relating to the campus clashes on February 6.

The other accused are Shibir central President Hamid Hussain Azad, General Secretary Rafiqul Islam Khan and RU unit President Matur Rahman Akandh.

The City Mayor who is also a BNP leader in his prayer said that the defendants issued statements to the press involving him with the university clashes that damaged his image as a Mayor.

Meanwhile, police arrested 21 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir for their alleged involvement in the bloody clashes on the campus that left five students dead and some 500 others injured.

Palestinian deportees reject UN formula

MARJ AZ-ZOHOUR (Lebanon), Feb 13: Palestinian deportees said today they would not accept a five-point UN Security Council formula aimed at defusing the crisis, reports Reuter.

"We reject this declaration totally because it is an attempt to get around Security Council Resolution (799)", the deportees' leader Abdul Aziz Al-Rantisi told reporters at their makeshift camp in South Lebanon.

The UN paper said Israel's offer to let 101 deportees re-

Warrants against 11 JP leaders

Warrants of arrest have been issued against 11 leaders of the Jatiya Party in a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act for causing damage to vehicles, attack upon police and creating anarchy by blasting cocktails, reports UNB.

The accused named in the case include Sirajul Hossain Khan, Syed Abu Hossain Babla, Mahbulul Haq Dolon, M.A. Gaffar, Talyebur Rahman, Iqbal Hossain Raju and five others.

All the accused have been charged with the case was filed by the officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon thana.

Meanwhile, a Jatiya Party leader, Nurul Islam Majumder alias Milon has been placed under detention for 30 days under the Special Powers Act.

Milon, International Affairs Secretary of JP, was arrested from Zia International Airport on February 10 (Wednesday) on the eve of his departure for Saudi Arabia with objectionable papers and documents in his briefcase.

Shopkeeper shot dead: Ctg BIT students go on rampage

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 13: A shopkeeper was shot dead and about ten shops were damaged when a group of students of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) attacked a local bazaar this morning, police sources said.

Maharram Ali, 22, was shot dead when he tried to obstruct the unruly students.

The incident was sequel to a pre-dawn storming of a dormitory of BIT by the supporters of a rival faction who were hunting for some outsiders.

A group of students brought out a procession protesting the attack on the dormitory. When the procession reached the Chowmuhary Bazar the shops came under attack.

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