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The Daily Star

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VOL. III NO. 321 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 29, 1400 BS, DHAKA MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1993 JAMADIUS-SAANI 28, 1414 HIJRI 12 PAGES PRICE TAKA 4.00

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NEWS BRIEFS

BNP to support 3 sitting mayors

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will give support to Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Sheikh Tajyeb Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu, who are the candidates of the forthcoming Mayor election of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations respectively, party sources told BSS last night.

RU JCD leader held

RAJSHAH. Dec 12: Police arrested a Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader from the Rajshahi University campus today. Police picked up Nishtak Ahmed Rakhi, former AGS of the Mother Box Hall Students' Union at about 12:30 pm, reports UNB.

Beheded body recovered

By Staff Correspondent
Police recovered beheaded body of a teenage girl yesterday from Motijheel AGB Colony area. A rickshawpuller of the area identified the victim as Anwara, (18), a maid servant who hailed from Muktagachha. A case has been lodged with Motijheel police.

10 hurt in clash near ZIA

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the tempo drivers and extortionists near the Zia International Airport yesterday. Witnesses said a group of youths attacked the tempo drivers at the ZIA as they refused to pay them toll at about 11 am. They also damaged six of the parked tempoes. When contacted the Cantonment police could not confirm the incident, reports UNB.

FWP slashed due to wheat shortage

By Special Correspondent
The budget for the current fiscal year for Work Programme (FWP) has been slashed substantially, which will affect earth works in rural areas during this dry season.
According to the budget prepared earlier by the Ministry of Relief, 563,050 metric tons of wheat were allocated for the FWP. But that has recently been revised and refixed at 483,050 tonnes, 80,000 tonnes less than the original quantity.
Official sources said that the authorities had to take this decision following sudden withdrawal of the CARE's contribution of 120,000 tonnes of wheat. CARE, an American relief organisation which had been assisting the FWP for many years, was expected to provide the wheat for this year's programme and the Relief Ministry's budget was prepared accordingly in August this year. But later CARE informed the ministry about its decision to divert the wheat to other schemes under the LGRD ministry.
To meet this unexpected shortage, the Relief Ministry could arrange only another 40,000 tonnes, leaving a deficit of 80,000 tonnes.
"So, we are compelled to reduce the wheat allocation under the programme for all the districts this year," an official of the ministry told The Daily Star. Sources said that a recent inter-ministerial meeting on food planning recommended an additional grant of 100,000 tonnes wheat to meet the deficit in the FWP budget. But afterwards, the Finance Ministry sanctioned funds for only 20,000 tonnes.
According to the revised budget, 268,400 tonnes available as grant from foreign donors and another 214,650 tonnes provided by the government would be spent for the FWP in 1993-94.
The FWP will be begun across the country soon and will continue until 30 April next year. The Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate has received
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Martyred Intellectuals' Day tomorrow

The nation observes the Martyred Intellectuals' Day tomorrow to pay homage to the country's celebrated sons killed by the collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces just before the victory of liberation war in 1971, reports UNB.
The collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces — Razakar, Al-Badar and Al-Shams — staged the massacre of renowned teachers, writers, journalists and doctors under a blueprint to make the Bengali nation intellectually bankrupt and frustrate the fruit of independence.
Most of the intellectuals were picked up from their houses by Razakar, Al-Badar and Al-Shams who dragged them to marshy fields of Rayer Bazar and Mirpur and shot them to death on December 14.
Those who were killed included G C Dev, Jyotirmoy Guha Thakurtha, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, Munir Chowdhury, Dr. Abul Khair, Anwar Pasha, Dr. Fazle Rabbi, Sirajuddin Hossain, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazmul Haq, Shahjiddullah Kiaser, A S M Rashidul Hassan, A N M Golam Mostafa and Altaf Mahmud.
To pay tributes to the martyred intellectuals, people from all strata of life will visit the Shaheed Buddhijibi Smriti Soudha at Mirpur from early
See Page 12 Col 3



Workers sprucing up the memorial at Mirpur yesterday ahead of tomorrow's Martyred Intellectuals' Day commemorating those killed by the Pakistan occupation army and its local collaborators on December 14, 1971. — Star photo

\$50m WB credit for municipal development remains idle

By A Special Correspondent
A 50 million dollar credit from the World Bank for development of urban areas in Dhaka and Chittagong is sitting mostly idle because of project implementation delays in the Dhaka and Chittagong City Corporations and the Housing and Settlement Directorate.
The credit was given to Bangladesh by the World Bank in 1989 to fund an Urban Development Project. The principal components of the project were development in storm water drainage, solid waste collection and disposal and sanitation and low income area and shelter development.
In four years since the project began, only 30 to 35 per cent of the work relating to storm water drainage, solid waste collection and disposal and sanitation have been completed. Progress with low income area and shelter development has only been 40 per cent, according to authoritative sources.
Originally, the project involved drainage construction in the capital's Dholai Khal. Acquisition of land for this purpose was delayed. In the meanwhile, the World Bank adopted a new policy for resettlement of persons displaced by the World Bank-funded projects. The resettlement package required under the new Bank policy for people displaced from the Dholai Khal was found unacceptable to the government and ultimately the Dholai Khal component was cancelled.
At the start of the current financial year the credit had a balance amount of 41 million dollars. The government's estimate was that out of this 12 million dollar will be spent during the year. The World Bank has estimated that in four months until October only 3.5 per cent of this annual target has been met.
The city corporations operate under the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. Sources in the ministry say that delay in processing of contracts under the credit is continuing to plague implementation of the project.
According to a source, finalization of a 5 million dollar contract for construction of the Sheikh Mujib Road culvert in Chittagong has been delayed.
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Taka convertibility yet to boost investments: BB Governor

By Staff Correspondent
The Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor yesterday said that convertibility of the Taka had not as yet helped increase investments or industrial imports up to expectations.
However, he added, "Unlike other countries, the impact of Taka convertibility in Bangladesh is positive and encouraging."
Governor Khorsheed Alam was inaugurating a two-day workshop on the convertibility of the Taka at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) in the city yesterday morning.
The Governor maintained that at such an early stage of the convertibility, low investments and increase of reserves were natural consequences.
He said the foreign exchange market, which was one of the main components of the convertibility, was yet to become vibrant due to poor investment and imports.
Khorsheed Alam expressed the hope that in the near future, investments, specially foreign investment, would increase as the Taka was earning international status and the currency management system in the country had improved of late.
The Governor said that despite fears that convertibility would destabilise the money market, "All the banks have accepted the Taka convertibility in a competitive spirit. The exchange rates offered by different banks have very little difference."
He said, the international market was also responding to the convertibility by appreciating or depreciating the Taka.
"Foreign exchanges have already become a commodity," he said. "But we shall require a strong code of conduct when we increase facilities for full convertibility."
Describing the convertibility as part of a series of reforms introduced in the country in recent years for a free market economy, he said: "We have no option but to introduce convertibility because we are facing tough competition in the international market."
The Governor estimated that the current account deficit at the end of the fiscal year would be about US 670 million dollars.
The inaugural function was presided over by the Director
See Page 12 Col 8

M R Osmani takes over as Foreign Secy today

By Staff Correspondent
Outgoing Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman described his two-year tenure as one mixed with moments of 'happiness as well as despair'.
He also said Bangladesh can take a measure of pride regarding its foreign policy.
Reaz Rahman spoke on the broad aspects of the country's foreign policy without going into details at an informal meeting with newsmen on the penultimate day in office yesterday.
Rahman leaves Dhaka for New York shortly to take up his new assignment as the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. His successor, M R Osmani, who served as the Permanent Representative in Geneva, takes over as the new
See Page 12 Col 4

Mostafiz returns ROK entrepreneurs keen to invest in Bangladesh

Korean entrepreneurs are interested in investment in development projects of Bangladesh, reports UNB.
Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said this while talking to newsmen at airport on return from a three-day visit to South Korea.
The President of Dae Woo, one of the largest industrial complexes in the peninsula, will visit Bangladesh in the last week of this month to study investment prospects.
Mostafiz said he had talks with the officials of other big industrial houses, including Sam Sung Co and Wangeone Company, and all of them had shown a lot of interest for investing in Bangladesh.
The Foreign Minister said he had also discussed manpower export with Korean authorities who assured of recruiting and training Bangladeshis.
Meanwhile, Seoul has extended residential permits of 10,000 Bangladeshi workers in Korea by six months — up to July, next year.
He described his visit as successful in further extending relations and cooperation between the two countries.
During his stay in Seoul, Mostafiz called on President of the Republic of Korea Kim Yang Sam and held talks with his
See Page 12 Col 3

Keen contest expected in Ctg City Corpn polls

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: Speculations centring around the mayoral election have begun to gain momentum in the port city since the announcement of the poll date.
The elections of mayors and commissioners for the country's city corporations except Dhaka are scheduled to be held on January 30. Nominations close on December 21.
Meanwhile, the election of a city mayor has become the talk of the town because, informed sources say, there might be a keen contest among the candidates here for the key post of the Chittagong City Corporation.
The main contest is likely to be confined among the candidates from the ruling BNP, the Awami League, the Jatya Party.
See Page 12 Col 7

Defaulters can't contest city polls

Star Report
Defaulting clients of the nationalised commercial banks and other financial institutions will be barred from contesting the forthcoming city corporation elections.
According to Election Commission sources, no person having loans overdue with Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank, Krishi Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, Shilpa Bank, Shilpa Rin Sangstha, House Building Finance Corporation and the Board of Investment will be allowed to contest the polls.
Elections to three of the four city corporations — Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi — are scheduled to be held January 30 next while the date for the Dhaka City Corporation polls is
See Page 12 Col 8

Prokrichi-govt talks likely today

By Staff Correspondent
The government is likely to hold fresh negotiations with the professionals and 26 BCS cadres today (Monday) to resolve the crisis arising out of the current agitation of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council.
Highly placed sources yesterday indicated there were chances that the leaders of the professionals would be contacted to resume talks.
Some 70 thousand doctors, engineers, agriculturists and members of the 26 Bangladesh Civil Service Cadres have been on en masse three days' leave since Saturday to press home their 17-point charter of demands.
The demands include overhauling the present bureaucracy, removing service anomalies, formulating the Rules of Business and separation of the judiciary from the administration.
A senior member of the cabinet told The Daily Star that the seven-member special cabinet committee, which was formed last week to deal with the demands of the professionals, will meet today after a cabinet meeting.
There was every possibility the "Prokrichi issue" would be discussed in the cabinet meeting, he said. The minister declined to be named.
The special cabinet committee includes Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam
See Page 12 Col 5

Opposition impeding every development effort: PM

PAIKGACHHA (Khulna), Dec 12: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the programmes of her government are for the poor and vowed to go ahead with them despite the obstacles created by the opposition with hartals and destructive activities, reports UNB.
"We are confident about implementing our programmes as we have full support of the people, which is the most powerful force for our party," she told a mammoth public meeting at the Haridial High School ground in Paikgachha thana.
"The BNP believes in the politics of production, and this is why we are now thinking of export instead of import," she said. "The BNP will continue to work for ensuring welfare of the people on the one hand and furthering the politics of production and development on the other," she added.
The Prime Minister said, a certain political party had joined hands with the ousted autocratic force to subvert the development efforts and destroy democracy. She urged the people to reject that combine and cooperate with the government for continuing the forward march of development and democracy.
"The opposition is not only opposing my party, they are opposing every development efforts undertaken by the government and resorting to har-

JMBP bid validity dates may be extended

Star Report
With bid validity of various contracts related to the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP) nearing expiry, the government is planning to extend the validity dates, competent sources said.
The bid validity date of contract 3 — river training — and contract 4 — main bridge — expires on December 30 while contract 1 and 2 — east-west approach roads — will expire on January 26. But as Japan is still dragging its feet over its co-financing of the 700 million-dollar project, the awarding of the work orders for the above contracts has become uncertain.
See Page 12 Col 2

Sick units give ultimatum

By Staff Correspondent
Entrepreneurs of sick industries at a press conference in the city yesterday threatened to go for increased agitation from January 26 next year if the government did not take appropriate steps to meet their demands by January 15.
The demands include rehabilitation of the sick units and creating a congenial atmosphere for investments.
The entrepreneurs will hold a grand rally at Motijheel in the city on January 26 to announce their future action programme.
The press conference, organised by the Inter-Association Industrial Development and Rehabilitation Council (IAIDRC), was addressed by its Convenor Alauddin Ahmed. It was attended by, among others, Manzur Ahmed, Abdur Rashid Lebu, Mohammad Ishaq, Habibur Rahman and Abdul Maleq Chowdhury.
Alauddin Ahmed, in his writ-
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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR COMPUTER SPECIAL

THE NEXT ISSUE OF MONTHLY The Daily Star COMPUTER SPECIAL WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SUNDAY, 19 DECEMBER 1993.

FORUM MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING COMPANY NEWS AND PRODUCT NEWS BY WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2 PM. DUE TO 16TH BEING A HOLIDAY, WE REQUEST ALL MEMBERS TO RESPECT THE DEADLINE.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন
জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি
নগরবাসীর অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সরকারী সিদ্ধান্তমুতায়ী সভারেরে হতি সোববার পূর্ণ দিবস এবং সোমবার ও বুধপতিবার সকাল থেকে সন্ধ্যা পর্যন্ত গবাদি পশু জবাই পশু জবাই ইত্যাদি করপোরেশনের বাহ্যিক বিভাগ দ্বারা ঐ সময়ের তা মেনে চলবে না। এমন কি করপোরেশন পরিচালিত বিভিন্ন জবাইখানা হতে জবাই পূর্ণ এবং জবাই উত্তর পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে দেয় সীলসহ মাসে বিক্রির সুব্যবস্থা থাকা সত্ত্বেও উক্ত অসাধু মাসে বিক্রোতার কোন প্রকার আইনের তোয়াক্কা না করে যতদূর এমন সব পশু জবাই করে, সীলবিহীন নিয়মানুসারে মাসে বিক্রি করে — যা খেলে যক্ষ্মা ও জলাতনকর রক্ত মারাত্মক সংক্রামক ব্যাধিতে আক্রান্ত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা থাকবে।
এমতাবস্থায় নগরীর যে যে স্থানে উক্ত ঐনৈমিত্তিক পশু জবাই করে পরিবেশ কদুভিষ করে এবং নিয়মানুসারে মাসে বিক্রি করে জনস্বাস্থ্যের ক্ষতি করে তাদের নাম-পতিকা ইত্যাদি করপোরেশনের বাহ্যিক বিভাগ দ্বারা ঐ সময়ের আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাকে অবহিত করার জন্যে নগরীর সর্বস্তরের জনগণের নিকট আবেদন জানানো যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, সীলবিহীন মাসে এবং মাসেবিহীন নিয়মানে মাসে বিক্রি আইনভঙ্গ মনসীর অপরাধ ১০ ব্যাপারে করপোরেশন সর্বদা অসাধু মাসে ব্যবসায়ীদের বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে।
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