



DUNLOP Tested for the Unexpected



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Benazir tells Kim of N-dispute

Pakistan, a victim of discrimination

TOKYO, Dec 29: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, visiting North Korea, another nation whose nuclear programme has come under suspicion, said Wednesday that Pakistan had been subjected to unfair discrimination, reports AP.

In a speech distributed by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, Bhutto said Pakistan was committed to checking the spread of nuclear weapons.

"It is not fair to cast doubts on Pakistan's intentions and to subject Pakistan to discriminatory treatment," she added

Ctg BNP

From Page 1 Col 7 visit to Chittagong on December 15.

As a result, Mir Md Nasiruddin, who recently resigned as mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation, secured the party nomination overcoming the challenge of Ekramul Karim, leader of the splinter faction of the BNP here and general secretary of the party's city committee.

The BNP chairperson, during her visit, had asked Ekramul Karim to support Mir Nasiruddin in the CCC polls.

Accordingly, Ekramul Karim agreed to support Mir Nasiruddin. But when the city unit of the BNP here, led by Noman, organised a meeting in support of its candidate, Mir Nasiruddin, Ekramul Karim did not attend.

Rather he organised a separate meeting for the same purpose. Of the two rival groups of the ruling party here, one is led by Abdullah Al Noman, president of the city unit and the other by Ekramul Karim.

A split in the Chittagong chapter of the BNP had surfaced since 1991 following the by-election in the Doublemooring parliamentary constituency vacated by Premier Khaleida Zia.

The splinter faction formed a counter city committee of which the acting president is Humayun Kabir, husband of Rosy Kabir, the only lady MP from Chittagong. She supports the opposite group led by Noman.

The feud in the BNP here intensified in August this year when the splinter faction, led by Ekram, held a separate annual conference of the party in the port city. At that time, the ministers, Abdullah Al Noman and Zahiruddin Khan, at the directive of the BNP high command, took initiatives to end the rivalry.

But the differences of opinion between the two factions still continue, insiders added.

Workers

From Page 1 Col 8 denationalisation of factories, and withdrawal of cases against their leaders.

The organisers claimed that some 100,000 workers joined the six-hour demonstration, but witnesses estimated the number to be at the most a tenth of the figure claimed.

The federations which have joined forces are the Patkal Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad (jute workers), Suta-o-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation (textiles), Chinikak Sramik Federation (sugar), the Ispat-o-Prokoushal Corporation Workers' and Employees' Federation (steel) and the Railway Sramik League. Some 400,000 workers are members of these federations.

Announcing the fresh programme, labour leader and Workers' Party president Abul Bashar said that the jute, textiles, sugar, steel and railway sectors were on the verge of closure because the government was implementing the World Bank's arbitrary prescriptions in the name of revamping the sectors.

He said the government had earlier promised that any reform in the factories or re-trenchment of workers would be made in consultation with the workers' federations but the authorities had violated the agreement.

The slogan-chanting audience demanded tougher action programmes against the government to force the implementation of their demands.

Nearly a dozen leaders spoke during the six-hour rally in the heart of the city which caused a serious traffic dislocation. The speakers included Rehanuddin Rehan, Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, Badrul Alam Khan Lablu, Iqbal Majumder, Matir Rahman, Nurul Islam Khan, Kamshuddin, K M Sirajul Huq and Abdul Mannan.

at a banquet given by North Korean President Kim Il Sung.

"Pakistan firmly holds that nuclear non-proliferation should not be made a pretext for preventing states from exercising fully their right to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes geared to their economic and social developments," Bhutto said.

In his speech, Kim urged expanding cooperation among Asia's developing countries.

"They will be able to build a new, independent and prosperous Asia free from domination and subjugation," he said.

In China earlier Wednesday, Bhutto said, US sanctions against her country and China over an alleged missile deal were based "on erroneous information."

Bhutto, speaking at the end of a three-day state visit to China, also said the military build-up in India should be of concern not only to its neighbours such as Pakistan and China but to countries as far afield as the Persian Gulf and Pacific Rim.

Bhutto repeated Pakistan's denial of violating the treaty, but did not explicitly state that Pakistan has not purchased M-11 missiles or parts from China.

Bhutto rejected suggestions that her Chinese hosts had ruled out playing a mediating role in Pakistan's long-running dispute with India over Kashmir.

Related Story on Page-5

4 aspirants

From Page 1 Col 5 January 30, "I don't see my main rival," he said.

Mohammad Hanif of the Awami League said if elected, he would devote himself to resolving various problems being faced by city dwellers over the years.

Hanif, president of the city Awami League, regretted that the Dhaka City Corporation had been turned into a 'centre of organisational activities' of past and present ruling parties.

"If elected mayor, I will turn the Dhaka City Corporation into a symbol of hope and aspiration of the city dwellers," Hanif said.

Col (Retd) M A Malek of the Jatiya Party, a former Dhaka Municipal Corporation Administrator, hoped people in Dhaka city would evaluate his work in the past and elect him again to the office.

Malek said various developmental works which he could not complete during his time had not yet been completed by the BNP government in the last three years. "Not a single inch of roads or a school has been constructed in last three years."

In a pointed reference to the newly-constructed Nagar Bhaban, he said 90 per cent work of the building was completed during the Ershad Government, which had made him the mayor. The present government only inaugurated it, he said.

Manzurul Ahsan Khan of the 10 left-wing parties said he would contest the mayor election to fight against the "Games of black money and muscle power." He hoped the people in Dhaka city would exercise their right of franchise judiciously.

Mirza Abbas

From Page 1 Col 5

contests the elections by retaining or quitting the mayoral post. I would not have enjoyed the DCC facilities even if I had retained my position."

"I've resigned to satisfy all those for and against me," he said. "Now I'm contesting the polls as an ordinary candidate with full-confidence in my voters."

BNP Secretary General and LCRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, addressing the meeting, announced Mirza Abbas' candidature publicly as a BNP nominee for the DCC mayoral poll. City BNP chief and Food Minister Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, State Minister for Environment Goyeshwar Roy, Amanullah Aman, MP, Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, Barqatullah Bhula, MP and other party leaders also addressed the gathering.

With him, all the mayors of the four city corporations of the country, nominated by the government, resigned prior to the first-ever direct elections, to the posts.

The Chittagong Mayor Mir Nasiruddin and the Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu resigned on December 23 while the Khulna mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman followed suit the next day following opposition demands to this regard.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia joined the traditional procession during the First Convocation of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Khulna yesterday. Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar is seen on her left. — PID photo

BIT convocation

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dressed, among others, by Education Minister and Chairman of BITs Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, BUET Vice Chancellor and Vice Chairman of BITs Prof Mohammad Shahjahan and Director of Khulna BIT Prof MA Hannan.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Local MPs and elite were present at the function.

Earlier, the head of the respective departments placed some 454 graduates before the Chairman of Board of Governors Prof MA Naser for conferring the degrees.

Another report says, Begum Zia today called upon the influential section of the society to motivate the people in implementing development programmes undertaken by the government.

"Our main objective was not only to establish democracy in the country, but also to change the lot of the common people," she said while addressing a meeting of distinguished persons of Khulna city at the local Circuit House in the afternoon.

Begum Zia said that the past autocratic regime had ruined the country's economy and destroyed all the institutions through massive corruption and nepotism.

But the BNP government has improved the overall economy and a good macro-economy is now prevailing in the country. The purchasing power of the commonman has increased as a result of the correct economic measures taken by the government, the Prime Minister said.

Begum Zia said that if everybody helps the government in implementing its programmes, it would be easier to curb poverty rapidly.

The distinguished citizens listed various problems of the area, including law and order and communications. Begum Zia gave a patient hearing to their problems and assured them of resolving the problems as soon as possible.

Sunamganj fish harbour to be relocated

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Livestock at a meeting yesterday decided to relocate the Sunamganj fish harbour, reports UNB.

The harbour, set up during Ershad regime, could not be opened due to its faulty site selection and efforts are underway to transfer the harbour to some other site.

The meeting also discussed ways and means to activate the Barisal fish harbour full-fledgedly, said a PID handout.

Four high-risk zones for AIDS

By DMCH Correspondent

Medical experts have identified Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna and Noakhali as the high-risk areas for AIDS.

This was disclosed at a seminar on 'Time to Act' held at the lecture gallery of the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) yesterday.

Organised by the DMC, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) the seminar was addressed by Dr Emmanuel Jesuthasan—programme management consultant of WHO, Dr Mustafa Kamal—National Consultant of AIDS, Prof Latifa Samsuddin—Professor of Gynaecology of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Dr Anwarul Haque—Associate Professor of the Skin and VD of the DMCH, Dr Kazi Shahidul Alam—Associate Professor of Orthopaedics and Mohammad Mazharul Shahin—joint convener of the Youth Forum of the National AIDS Committee.

The seminar was chaired by Prof Shafulah—Vice Principal of the DMC. Dr Mustafa Kamal in his speech said that 12 individuals were detected with HIV positive this year while the figure was nine upto 1992.

Dr Kamal also said that in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 31 Bangladeshis were detected HIV positive and they would be repatriated soon. Among the detected persons 19 were affected in foreign countries, he added.

Prof Latifa Shamsuddin in her speech said, AIDS virus is transmitted to the baby from an AIDS patient by breast-feeding and through the placenta. Prof Latifa informed that females are more vulnerable to HIV infection.

Blood, semen, saliva, female genital secretion, breast milk and exchange of body fluid are the sources of HIV—the germ responsible for the AIDS disease, Prof Latifa added.

Dr Emmanuel Jesuthasan told the seminar that six girls are affected by HIV every day in Madras of India.

Accompanied by their supporters, reached the Returning Officer's office in convoys of buses and trucks to submit their nominations. Police on duty stopped the vehicles at different points leading to the office. The candidates and their supporters entered the office in processions, chanting party slogans. Some of the candidates were seen being garlanded by their companions after the filing of their nominations.

Earlier, colourful processions, on foot and in buses and trucks, were brought out by the nominees of different parties and independent candidates from their respective areas. Some of the professionalists were accompanied by bands.

The rest of the 26 mayoral candidates include Mirza Abdul Halim of the Bangladesh Janata Dal, Dr M A Rab of the NDP, Shahban Shah of the Jana Dal, Abdul Matin of the Khelafat Andolon, Alhaj Nurul Amin Sarkar of the PNP, Mostafa Ahmed of Bhasani (NAP), Subhash Chandra Devnath of National Congress, Maulana Shaikh Md Abdulla Sayeed of the Islamic Biplabi Party, Mohammad Sadek of the Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon, Mojibur Rahman of the Jatiya Gano Party, and Abdul Kader of the Chhinnamul Hawkers and Moniruzzaman of the Jatiya Janata Party.

The JP has finalised its 90 commissioner candidates Tuesday and they all submitted their forms yesterday. However, from the BNP, more than one candidate filed nomination papers for each commissioner post in most of the 90 wards, party sources said. The party would eventually nominate one for each ward by asking the other candidates to withdraw, sources added.

The JP has finalised the list of its 80 candidates. Like the BNP, more than one JP candidate filed nominations in 10 other wards yesterday, the party's mayoral candidate Col (Retd) Malek said. The other candidates of the party in the 10 wards would be asked to withdraw their candidatures by January 5.

The components of the Left-party alliance filed nominations on individual party basis but the candidatures would be coordinated later.

The nomination papers of the mayoral candidates were received at one counter while those for the commissioner posts at 13 other counters from 10 in the morning till five in the afternoon without let.

The mayor and commissioner candidates of major parties, accompanied by their supporters, reached the Returning Officer's office in convoys of buses and trucks to submit their nominations. Police on duty stopped the vehicles at different points leading to the office. The candidates and their supporters entered the office in processions, chanting party slogans. Some of the candidates were seen being garlanded by their companions after the filing of their nominations.

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Nirmul observes 'hatred day'

By Staff Correspondent

The Ghatak Dal Nirmul Committee yesterday observed the 'National Hatred Day' protesting Prof. Golam Azam's return to national politics as Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The day-long programme began at 11 am with the hurling of a stone at the 15-feet effigy of Prof. Azam placed in front of the Nirmul Committee office at Tophkhana Road. It ended with the burning of the effigy near the Jatiya Press Club in the evening.

3 killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons, including a maid servant, were killed and one committed suicide in separate incidents in the city Wednesday.

A young boy died when a speeding minibus knocked him down near the Sangsad Bhaban at about 10:00 pm Tuesday.

Pia, 10, a housemaid, slipped off from a fourth floor house roof yesterday morning.

Seriously injured, the victim was admitted to the DMCH where she died at about 1:30 pm the same day.

A young man reportedly committed suicide at his house at Muradpur under Demra Police Station Wednesday morning.

The police have sent all the bodies to the DMCH morgue.

Shibir worker killed in blast

By Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Dec 29: A huge explosion, reportedly while making crackers, left one Islamist Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activist dead and at least two others critically injured at Tongi town Tuesday night.

The ICS member Manjurul Alam, a student of the Dhaka College, was pronounced dead by doctors when rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The injured victims are Shamsuzzaman Khan Reza and Mosharrarf Hossain.

According to witnesses, at around 10:00 pm Tuesday, the house of a Jamaat leader Advocate Mohammad Shawkat Al was rocked by an explosion which cracked the window-panes of the house and damaged its walls.

The neighbours found three bodies lying unconscious in the debris. They also saw a number of young men speeding away on six motorbikes.

Police arrested two ICS members following the explosion.

Jabbar Khan laid to rest

Alhaj Abdul Jabbar Khan, pioneer of film industry, who died here Tuesday night, was buried at the family graveyard at Mayakanan here after Asr prayers, family sources said, reports BSS.

Among others, former mayor Mirza Abbas, MP, city Awami League president Mohammad Hanif, film personalities, relatives and admirers were present.

Earlier his namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers. Two more namaz-e-janazas were also held at the Film Development Corporation (FDC) premises and Lions International at Agargao.

The quikhwan of late Khan will be held tomorrow after Magreb prayers at his Mayakanan residence.

Born in 1916 in a Muslim family in Munshiganj, late Khan obtained diploma in civil engineering from Ahsanullah Engineering School in 1941. He joined the Pakistan movement in 1945 after resigning from his post as sub-divisional officer of Assam PWD, and later settled in Dhaka in 1948.

Late Khan joined the Bangladesh movement and served as director of the Mujibnagar film department. He was an adviser of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

He was involved in drama and staged 'Tipu Sultan' in 1949 through forming Kamalapur Drama Club. Late Khan produced the first talkie of Pakistan named 'Mukh-o-Mukhosh' which was released on August 3, 1956.

He received various awards for his contribution to social welfare activities. The FDC has set up 'Abdul Jabbar Khan Library' in his memory.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia expressed her deep shock at the death of Alhaj Abdul Jabbar Khan.

In a condolence message, the Prime Minister recalled the contributions of this great film maker.

The Midnight File

Belgium rejects Indian plea for extradition of Amanullah

LONDON, Dec 29: The Belgian government today rejected the Indian government's plea for extradition of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) leader Amanullah Khan and deported him to Karachi in Pakistan. According to Indian embassy sources in Brussels, the Belgian authorities sent them a note verbale stating that the Justice Ministry was unable to comply with the Indian government's plea for extradition of Amanullah Khan. The decision was purely on technical grounds rather than political considerations, reports PTI.

Israel-Vatican diplomatic ties

VATICAN CITY, Dec 29: Israel and the Vatican on Wednesday gave final approval to an agreement establishing diplomatic relations that is expected to improve relations between Jews and Roman Catholics. The historic agreement long sought by Israel and Jewish groups around the world was to be signed in Jerusalem on Thursday by Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and Monsignor Claudio M Celli, undersecretary of state for the Vatican, reports AP.

Govt upgrades posts

From Page 1 Col 4

Action Council at the residence of the State Minister for Establishment to work out a settlement with the country's professionals who had been agitating for their 17-point demands.

According to sources, the government side was represented by Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Establishment Minister Aminul Huq and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam. Establishment Secretary Habibur Rahman was also present.

Meeting sources said that leaders from the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council present included Dr H A Majed, Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Javed Iqbal, Ruhul Matin and A K Azad.

The government side insisted on a stop to the crippling agitation and acceptance of the government's pay revision plan. Prokrichi sources stated that they would 'suspend' their ongoing en masse resignation programme if the government also conceded their demand that 'pay would determine the status' and an order to stop coordination of development works, by the Deputy Commissioners.

Engineer Ruhul Matin said, the mass resignation programme "was still on" and that a final decision by the agitating professionals would be taken at the Council session of the Prokrichi-BCS scheduled at the Institution of Engineers tomorrow.

The government had earlier agreed to four of the 17 demands of the professionals. Later, it also set up a seven-member special cabinet committee to hold discussions with the Prokrichi leaders. The Committee, headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, met several times.

The government press note said: "These elevations (in pay scale) would be applicable to all non-cadre engineers and architects of various organisations at district and similar levels.

The Action Council of the Prokrichi-BCS, a platform of some 70,000 professionals like doctors, engineers, and agriculturists, have been waging a struggle seeking removal of 'service anomalies' of the professionals, change in the Rules of Business making the elected public representatives chief executives of the concerned ministries, separation of the judiciary from the administration and restructuring of the present bureaucracy.

The members of the various professional cadres started signing mass resignation letters from December 15 last to press home their demands.

The government also appeals to all concerned to refrain from all kinds of unlawful activities and help institutionalise democracy and sustain developmental activities," the press note said.

Rao: Opposition

From Page 1, Col 4

It came to light in April 1982 when the Bombay Stock Exchange crashed. The opposition members also lashed out at two other ministers named in the JPC report, submitted on December 21, and demanded action against foreign banks accused of involvement in the scam.

"This government is on trial, for never before has the country witnessed a financial scandal of these dimensions," said Somnath Chatterjee, an MP from the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Chatterjee and other opposition MPs pressed Rao to accept Manmohan Singh's resignation, brushing aside fears that the minister's exit might derail India's economic reforms.

"A person who claims to have resigned but sticks to office like a leech has to answer..." added Ashok Mitra, a communist and a former state Finance Minister.

এজেন্টদের প্রতি চূড়ান্ত নোটিশ

ইতিপূর্বে পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেওয়ার পরও দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকার যে সমস্ত এজেন্টগণ নভেম্বর '৯৩ মাসের বিল এবং বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধ করেন নাই, এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের ৭ দিনের ভিতর উক্ত এজেন্টগণকে নভেম্বর '৯৩ মাসের বিলসহ সম্পূর্ণ বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় ব্যর্থ এজেন্টগণের এজেন্সিতে পত্রিকা সরবরাহ বন্ধ এবং বকেয়া টাকা আদায়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হবে।

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The Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking the birthday of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. — Star photo