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Inside Today

Article

Inflation Psychosis: Bangladesh Experience

by Abdul Bayes

Page 4

International

PLO, Israel agree to resume peace talks next week



Mystery surrounds fate of Gamsakhurdia

Page 5

Business

Japanese businessmen seek cut in income tax- es to revive economy

Clinton will urge
Yeltsin not to slow
pace of reforms

Pages 6, 7

Weekend Magazine

The Good Times and the
Bad Times in 1993; Dis-
tant Drum; The British
Council Language
Matters; Fact, Fiction or
Sheer Malice; Trading in
Dreams: London Motor
Show; Hollywood Turns
to Fiction for 1993
Source Material

Pages 9, 10, 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Oddities of TV Ads

Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas to attend ICS,B convocation

President Abdur Rahman
Biswas will be the chief
guest at the first convocation
of the International College of
Surgeons, Bangladesh ICS,B
section to be held in Dhaka today,
reports BSS.

Cold wave claims two in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 6: Severe
cold wave claimed two lives,
including one minor boy in
Kamarkhand and Kazipur
thanas of the district last
night, family sources said.
The victims were identified as
Shamsul Huda, 48, of Kamark-
hand thana and Shahidul Islam,
5, of Shallgram in Kazipur
thana, reports UNB.

Irish minister arrives today

Irish Minister for Defence
and Marine David Andrews ar-
rives here today on a four-day
visit to Bangladesh. Andrews
will inaugurate an Irish trade
centre in the city tomorrow.
Ireland is opening the trade
centre here in a move to ex-
pand its trade with
Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Kabir new AIGP

By Staff Correspondent

Ahmed Fazlul Kabir took
charge as an Additional In-
spector General of Police
(AIGP) yesterday. Earlier he
was on deputation with the
Foreign Ministry. He also
served as Principal of the
Sarda Police Academy and po-
lice commissioners of Chit-
tagong and Khulna.

Delay in project implementation of ADP PM may intervene to remove bottlenecks in ministries

By Inam Ahmed

Sluggishness of some line
executing agencies and line
ministries has caused an inor-
dinate delay in project imple-
mentation of the Annual
Development Programme (ADP)
even long after signing of aid
agreements with donors, ac-
cording to the Planning Ministry
sources.

"The Economic Relations
Division (ERD) had completed
all negotiations with the donors
in time, but the ministries failed
to release the funds timely," a
highly-placed source in the
Finance Ministry pointed out.

In some cases, there had
been delays in setting up
Project Implementation Units
(PIU), recruitment of staff in
PIU, finalisation of bid docu-

ments and awarding to work
order.

"It was found that some
projects could not start rolling
even after two to three years of
signing the contracts with
donors," the source added. "We
do not find any problems with
the availability of foreign aid
and delays in aid negotiation
can also be ruled out because
projects are not usually in-
cluded in ADP without firm
donor commitment," the source
said.

The Agriculture, Irrigation,
Education, and Health Minis-
tries have been found among
the worst performers in project
implementation. In view of their
sloth, the Prime Minister is
expected to hold a number of

review meetings with the
ministries this month to
remove the bottlenecks.

The ministries and divisions
which have done well in the five
months of the fiscal 1993-94
(July-November) are Energy,
Primary Education, Local
Government and Roads and
Highways.

Utilisation of Taka compo-
nent was worse than project aid
utilisation during the five
months. But the state of self-fi-
nanced projects was even
worse.

About 15 per cent of the to-
tal ADP is supposed to be fi-
nanced from the country's own
sources. But the progress in
this regard is now even lower
See Page 12 Col 7



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the members of the 46th Infantry Brigade of the Bangladesh Army at its winter exercise site at Munsifchar in Narsingdi district yesterday. Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Noor Uddin Khan is seen on her right. — PID photo

Army to be expanded: PM

NARSINGDI, Jan 6: Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
said here today that initiatives
were being taken to expand the
army keeping in view the de-
mands of the time and the geo-
politics of the region, reports
BSS.

Addressing the members of
the 46th Infantry Brigade who
are participating in the winter
exercise at Munsifchar of the
district, she said the army is
the sentinel of the country's
independence and sovereignty.

Prior to her brief speech, the
Prime Minister witnessed the
winter exercise of the members
of the 46th Infantry Brigade.

Commander of the 46th bri-
gade Brigadier Imamuzzaman
briefed the Prime Minister
about the winter exercise.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan
Shah, State Minister for Relief
and Rehabilitation Harun al
Rashid, State Minister for Plan-
ning Dr A Moeen Khan, chief
of the army staff Lieutenant
General Muhammad Noor Ud-
din Khan were present on the
occasion.

The Prime Minister said the
armed forces have brightened
the image of the country in the

international arena by their
participation in the United Na-
tions peace keeping process.
"They have been shouldering
their responsibilities skillfully in
Kuwait, Namibia, Georgia,
Roumda, Saharrah, Yugoslavia,
Somalia and Cambodia," she
said.

"Despite resource con-
straints, we are determined to
turn the armed forces into a re-
sponsible and high quality one
by providing them with appro-
priate training and modern
weapons", the Prime Minister
asserted.

She cited the example of the
recently created new infantry
division in Mymensingh.

Terming the profession of
soldier as a noble one, Begum
Zia said there was no alterna-
tive to training for attaining pro-
fessional skills and along with it
one have to show the highest
degree of discipline.

She said it has to be kept in
mind that discipline and train-
ing are the preconditions for an
all round armed forces.

She called upon them to
come forward to motivate people
to adopt family planning meth-
ods, tree plantation and other

productive ventures.

Begum Zia made it clear that
austerity has to be maintained
in spending resources, specially
public resources beginning from
the personal life upto the state
level.

"One has to abide by the fi-
nancial rules and regulations.
Irregularity and mismanage-
ment will not be allowed," she
reminded.

Begum Zia said modern
weapons alone was not the
prime consideration in building
armed forces capable to defence
the country. "We shall have to
keep faith on Almighty Allah
and have to take tough training
inspired by the patriotism. All of
us expect an honest, well-dis-
ciplined, dutiful and patriotic
armed forces," she said.

Manzur begins campaign tomorrow

The left parties alliance can-
didate for the mayoral election
in Dhaka, Manzurul Ahsan
Khan, will launch his campaign
through a public rally in front of
the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow
at 3 pm, said a press release.

The rally will be followed by
a procession.

People reaping benefits of BNP politics: Khaleda

BHAIRAB (Kishoreganj), Jan
6: Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia today said the
people have started reaping the
benefits of the BNP-initiated
politics of production and de-
velopment, and vowed to con-
tinue such politics for the over-
all development of the country,
reports BSS.

Addressing a big public
meeting at the stadium here,
she said her government is
meeting the basic demands of
the people through increasing
food production, constructing
roads, bridges, culverts, new
schools, health complexes and
supplying electricity.

Begum Zia said a number of
steps, taken for socio-economic
development during the last
three years, have resulted in the
increase of food production, per
capita income and a rise in lit-
See Page 12 Col 3

Rule issued on HBRI for evicting slum

By Staff Correspondent

A Division Bench of the High
Court yesterday issued an in-
junction on the eviction of the
slum dwellers of the Pora Basti
at Kallyanpur in the city.

The dwellers of Pora Basti
were evicted in the presence of
a Magistrate yesterday, report-
edly without prior notice.

Madhumala, a resident of
the slum and a victim of the
eviction, moved the court, say-
ing that the government had
not provided her with a 30 days'
notice before eviction, as re-
quired by law. The authorities
had thereby breached her fun-
damental rights to life and to
protection of the law.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared
on behalf of the petitioner.

The court issued a rule nisi
upon the Director of Housing
See Page 12 Col 3

10-yr-old kills 7-yr-old in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A school boy was stabbed to
death, allegedly by one of his
senior fellows at South Mugda
in the city yesterday.

Seven-year-old Shimul
Ghosh suffered stab injuries on
his chest and died at the
Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
(DMCH) after admission.

Relatives accused 10-year-
old Tufat — a student of Class
Four of a local kindergarten —
of the murder. Shimul was a
student of Class One of the
same school.

Witnesses alleged Tufat
stabbed Shimul at around 10
am on the street near Shimul's
residence at 44/4 South
Mugda.

Police said the two boys had
quarrelled while playing and
the murder might be a conse-
quence of that.

Sabujbagh police said they
had recorded a murder case but
Tufat was absconding.

The body of Shimul was sent
to the DMCH morgue for au-
topsy. Shimul was the son of
one Gaura Das Ghosh.

BMA calls indefinite strike from Jan 11

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical
Association (BMA) has called an
indefinite strike in all govern-
ment hospitals from January 11
to press home its 21-point char-
ter of demands.

"We are aware of the incon-
veniences the strike will cause
to the people, but the govern-
ment left us with no choice but
to go on a strike as our previous
agitation had failed," the BMA
leaders said at a press confer-
ence in the city yesterday.

Held at the BMA Bhaban,
the press conference was ad-
dressed by BMA Secretary
General Dr Gazi Abdul Haq and
its President Dr M A Majed
while it was attended by Dr
Shakhawat Hossain Jibon, Dr
Rafiq Chowdhury, Dr A B
Bhuiyan and Dr S M Sadek.

However, during the strike,
the doctors will work in the
emergency departments of the

eight government hospitals and
the BMA voluntary doctors will
run substitute outdoor units in
the medical hospital premises.

The BMA has about 11,000
members while some 8,000
doctors across the country will
actively participate in their
agitation which is aimed at
mainly restructuring the health
sector.

The 21-point charter of de-
mands includes increased bud-
get allocation for the health
sector, building up an infrastruc-
ture for primary health care
facilities to ensure health for all
by 2000, setting up new hospi-
tals and recruitment of more
manpower for the health sector.

The other demands are: au-
tonomy for all medical colleges
and institutions, equal pay-
scale for medical officials at the
thana level and filling all the
See Page 12 Col 8

Forced retirement of officials

Prokrichi gives govt 96-hr ultimatum

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of the non-ad-
ministrative civil servants and
the professionals including the
engineers, agriculturists and
doctors (Prokrichi) yesterday
threatened the government with
fresh agitations unless Abu
Hena and other officials who
were forced into retirement re-
cently were immediately rein-
stated.

Dr MA Majed, chairman of
the coordination council of the
non-administrative officials and
the Prokrichi, while addressing
a news conference in the city
yesterday, gave the government
a 96-hour deadline to meet
their demand.

Abu Hena, secretary general
of the coordination council, was

sent on leave preparatory to re-
tirement (PR) yesterday. The
Prokrichi leaders claimed that
13 officials, involved in the
struggle for administrative re-
forms, had so far been sent on
forced retirement during the
last month.

The forced retirement of
Hena, Director General of the
Bangladesh Management
Development Centre (BMDC), is
a direct blow to our administra-
tive reforms struggle," Dr Majed
told the newsmen.

Dr Majed also observed that
the move against Hena was a
clear violation of the under-
standing the Prokrichi leaders
had reached on the issue with
See Page 12 Col 7

Hasina pledges subsidy to agriculture

PANCHAGARH, Jan 6: Awa-
mi League president Sheikh
Hasina today promised that her
party, if returns to power,
would give subsidy to agricul-
ture and initiate steps for
speedy industrialisation to build
a self-reliant economy, reports
UNB.

Addressing a huge public
meeting at the Panchagarh
Sugar Mills maidan this after-
noon, she criticised the govern-
ment for failing to ensure
fair price of farm produce and
set up new industries to boost
the national economy.

Hasina, also Leader of the
Opposition in Parliament, said
nearly 4,000 industries were
closed down, thousands of in-
dustrial workers and employees
sacked, many nationalised mills
sold out at throwaway prices
among BNP men.

On the agriculture sector,
she said growers were facing
untold economic hardship due
to four time rise in fertilizer
price on the one hand and low
price of agricultural products
on the other.

The Awami League, she said,

would buy produce from farm-
ers at fair price, set up godowns
in 460 thanas, establish small
and heavy industries and un-
dertake agro-based income-gen-
erating projects for rural
women.

Criticising the rule of the
BNP, Hasina said people have
been disappointed by govern-
ment's failure to ensure work
and food for them. "Corruption,
terrorism and politicisation
have bred chaos on administra-
tive and economic fronts."

After going to power, the
BNP has betrayed with the 4-
point accord for trial of Golam
Azam, agreements with labour
union leaders, 10-point de-
mand of students and the
commitment for making the ra-
dio and television autonomous.

Referring to the Farakka
See Page 12 Col 6

BNP launches campaign Sunday

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Bangladesh Na-
tionalist Party (BNP) will kick off
its campaign for the forth-
coming elections to the Dhaka
City Corporation (DCC) from a
grand rally at the Democracy
Square on Sunday.

"The campaign that will start
from the square that day will
actually be a door-to-door elec-
tioneering", M A Jafri, Special
Assistant to the BNP chairper-
son and Media Coordinator of
the DCC Election Steering
Committee told The Daily Star.

The campaign strategy was
finalised yesterday at a joint
meeting of the steering com-
mittee, presidents and secretaries
of the thana committees and
ward committee leaders, held at
the residence of the BNP candi-
date, former mayor Mirza
See Page 12 Col 5

Clinton's mother dead

HOT SPRINGS(Ark), Jan 6:
President Clinton's mother,
whose colorful ways and sunny
disposition hid a will of iron
that she passed along to her
son, died of complications from
breast cancer Thursday, Vir-
ginia Kelley was 70, reports AP.

Mrs Kelley, a retired nurse
anesthetist, dealt with adversity
with a confidence that bordered
on cockiness, and friends said
Clinton, who idolized his
mother, dealt with personal and
political trouble by following
her example.

Reuter quoting CBS radio
said Mrs Kelley died at home in
Hot Springs, where she lived
with her fourth husband, Dick,
a retired food executive.

A White House spokesman
said the President was notified
of his mother's death early
Thursday morning and that
funeral arrangements were being
made.

Clinton's mother, was at the
White House for Christmas and
he visited her at her home in
Hot Springs last week.

Biswas, Khaleda shocked

President Abdur Rahman
Biswas and Prime Minister
Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday
condoled the death of mother
of US President Bill Clinton,
reports BSS.

In a message to President
Clinton, President Biswas said,
"I am grieved to know about
the sad demise of your mother.
This tragic loss of your family
and yourself is shared by us."

"I convey to you our deep
condolences. May the departed
soul rest in peace."

In another message, Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
said, "It is with a deep sense of
sorrow that I have just come to
learn about the sad demise of
your beloved mother. Please
accept my sincere condolences
at this moment of personal
loss."

"We share this sad moment
with Your Excellency and your
family. We join you in prayers
for the peace of the departed
soul."

Bicycle for Abbas, fish for Hanif

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission
(EC) yesterday allocated sym-
bols among the candidates con-
testing the January 30 elections
to the Dhaka City Corporation
(DCC).

Twenty-four symbols were
allotted among the mayoral
candidates while another 20
among the commissioner can-
didates in 90 wards of the DCC.

Of the 24 mayoral candi-
dates, Mirza Abbas, MP, a nom-
inee of the ruling BNP, got the
Bicycle as his election symbol
while Mohammad Hanif of the
Awami League got the Fish, the
Jatiya Party's Col (Retd) Abdul
Malek — Umbrella, the Jamaat-
e-Islami's ATM Azharul Islam —
Chair and Manzurul Ahsan
Khan of the 10-Left party al-
liance — the Wheel.

Announcing the allocations
at the Returning Officer's office
at Segunbagicha in the evening,
the EC Joint Secretaries, SM
Zakaria told journalists that
Mirza Abbas, Col (Retd) Malek
and Manzurul Ahsan Khan got
the symbols according to their
first preferences while

Mohammad Hanif and ATM
Azhar were allotted their second
choice symbols through a lot-
tery.

He said Mirza Abbas was
given the Bicycle after two other
candidates who had initially
wanted the same symbol
changed their minds. Col (Retd)
Malek won a lottery with Azhar
over the Umbrella. Later Azhar
was allotted his second choice
the Chair. Manzurul Ahsan
Khan had no competitor for the
Wheel.

Hanif lost a lottery for the
Rose, which was sought by as
many as eight candidates.
Nurul Amin Sarkar got the
much coveted Flower. Hanif
also had to bargain with an-
other candidate to get his sec-
ond choice the Fish, according
to the EC official.

The Returning Officer, Syed
Ehtesam Rasul, and other EC
officials were present during the
allotment of symbols.

EC officials distributed the
poll symbols among the 24
mayoral candidates from 10 to
See Page 12 Col 4

Interview series with DCC mayoral candidates I'll modernise garbage disposal: Abbas

By Nazmul Ashraf

Mirza Abbas, MP, if elected
mayor of Dhaka, will give top
priority to the construction of
some alternative roads, bridges
and fly-overs to ease traffic
jams in the national capital.

Besides, the ruling BNP
nominee for the January 30
mayoral election said, "The city
needs recreation spots, such as
parks and parks for the chil-
dren in each and every corner of
the growing metropolis."

In an interview with The
Daily Star, Abbas further said,
"I also plan to modernise the
garbage disposal system and
will strive to augment civic
amenities for the nearly 80 lakh
city dwellers, if I win."

In the interview, recorded at
his Shahjahanpur residence in
the city, the former mayor said,
"I'm contesting the election
with a commitment of doing
something better for the citizens
of Dhaka."

Abbas, who resigned recently
after serving as an appointed
Mayor of the DCC for 31
months, said he had tried his
best to eradicate the political,



Mirza Abbas

administrative and financial
anomalies he inherited from
the past autocratic regime.
"I found everything disor-
derly but succeeded to some
extent in putting back things in
order," the former mayor said.
"Civic amenities were in bad
shape and I improved those
during my time."

"I had to clear the debris left

by nine years' of autocracy".
Asked for his comments on the
first-ever direct polls for the
post of city father, the BNP
nominee said, "It's an excep-
tional election in Bangladesh. It
is a fresh experience for both
sides — the candidates and
those conducting the polls."

Abbas is fully confident that
the upcoming city polls will be
as fair as those held under the
BNP government earlier. He also
termed as "adequate" the steps
taken by the Election Commis-
sion to hold the elections in a
free, fair and neutral manner.

The BNP candidate considers
all his rivals eligible to become
the mayor but pointed out, "He
who will be chosen by the ma-
jority will be the mayor."

Asked to comment on the
opposition allegation that min-
isters campaigning for the ru-
ling party candidate were influ-
encing the voters, Abbas said,
"They are not