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by S B Chaudhuri

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NEWS BRIEFS

DUCSU polls after
Eid-ul-Fitr

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and hall union elections will be held in between the third week of March to the first week of April after the Eid-ul-Fitr this year. The decision was taken unanimously in a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor of the university Professor Enayuddin Ahmed with the leaders of different student organisations yesterday afternoon. The meeting also urged the government and the authorities concerned not to amend the University Ordinance 1973. Provosts of different halls and the proctor were present.

Shopowner shot,
robbed

By DMCH Correspondent

A shopowner was shot and reportedly robbed of Tk 24,000 at Chankharpur in the city yesterday. Keramat Ali, 30, proprietor of one Shumam Store, was waylaid by a gang of three to four snuggers yesterday noon. The snuggers, according to witnesses, fired at him and sped away with the money. Keramat was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Andrews meets
FM

The visiting Irish minister for Defence and Marine David Andrews called on foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman here yesterday. During the meeting, the Foreign Minister recalled with appreciation that Ireland was one of the few countries who recognised Bangladesh immediately after its independence, reports UNB.

Foreign aid pledges
may exceed \$2400m

By Inam Ahmed

This year's foreign aid commitment is expected to exceed the pledged amount at the Paris Club meeting held in April last year since some major projects start rolling on before the end of the fiscal 1993-94, according to Finance Ministry sources.

It has been estimated that this year's commitment would exceed 2400 million US dollars at the end of June. The pledge

at the Paris Club was 2135 million dollars.

Of this amount, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) commitment is expected to be around 700 million dollars, the World Bank's portion about 650 million dollars and Japan's commitment another 600 million. The rest would come from different bilateral and multilateral donors.

The ADB will be supporting the 200-million dollar Jamuna Bridge and an 80-million dollar railway project in addition to its already committed 331 million dollars for other projects.

The World Bank's support would come as 200 million dollars for the Jamuna Bridge, 250 millions for the jute sector restructuring project and about

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BNP candidate for Dhaka City Corporation mayor Mirza Abbas waving to the crowd during yesterday's projection meeting at Gulistan in the city. — Star photo

BNP mayoral candidate launches campaign

I want to serve you again: Abbas

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling BNP-backed mayoral candidate in Dhaka Mirza Abbas formally began his election campaign from a public rally at Ganatantra Square in the capital yesterday seeking a fresh mandate to serve the city dwellers.

The former mayor addressed the big rally after the party secretary general and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder introduced the BNP nominee amid clappings and slogans for the candidate and his poll symbol, the bicycle.

"I stood by you in your struggle against autocracy and again I will sincerely try to serve you as the mayor of the

city," Abbas, also a Member of Parliament, told his audience and sought their support in the January 30 polls.

In his brief speech, the BNP nominee told the rally he was disliked by some people for his performance as mayor but his role was appreciated by the citizens. "Now I hope the voters in the city will evaluate my record as mayor for 31 months," he remarked.

Introducing Mirza Abbas to the audience, Barrister Talukder said Abbas had no substitute to build up Dhaka as a megacity for the next century and urged the city dwellers to elect the BNP candidate just as

they had given their verdict for all the party nominees in the city in the 1991 general elections.

Chaired by the BNP city unit chief and Food Minister Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali, the projection meeting was also addressed by Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Environment Goyeshwar Roy, BNP vice-chairman Choudhury Tanvir

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'EC working hard for a
sound electoral process'

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Abdur Rouf, yesterday said the Election Commission was working hard to develop a sound electoral process in the country.

He felt that mere mechanical application of the election rules would not help develop a sound process. "Rather, making the people aware of the election rules and their commitment to uphold the rules would contribute more to creating an effective polling system," Justice Rouf observed.

"However, we shall not hesi-

tate to apply the rules strictly in case of violations by any candidate in the forthcoming city corporation polls," the Chief Election Commissioner said.

He added that several warnings would be issued to the alleged violators before taking such steps.

Justice Rouf was talking to the newsmen on different legal and technical aspects of the city corporation polls at the conference room of the Election Commission in the city yesterday afternoon.

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Manzur pledges to
solve transport
problems

Mayor candidate Manzurul Ahsan Khan yesterday said that he would address Dhaka city's transport problem if he is elected in the coming polls of Dhaka City Corporation, reports UNB.

He said he would introduce more buses, minibuses and tempos for the city's limited income groups as well as more minibuses, taxis and baby taxis with metre system for the higher middle class to ease the transport problem.

Ahsan said the Prime Minister, ministers and secretaries were busy in buying lat-

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Bangabandhu's
homecoming
day today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is the homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this day in 1972, the Bangabandhu returned to Dhaka after nine months of captivity in Pakistan during Bangla-

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desh's War of Independence. His arrival in Dhaka was marked by a tumultuous reception.

In observance of the day, the Awami League and its front organisations will organise public rallies and discussions and

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Envoys to ME discuss
export strategy Jan 19

By M Anwarul Haq

A meeting of the heads of missions of Bangladesh in the Middle-eastern countries would be held in Dhaka, in the third week of this month for discussions on increasing exports in line with the Prime Minister's new thrust on 'economic diplomacy'. The meeting will stress on strategies of increasing manpower export to the Middle-eastern countries.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia is expected to inaugurate the two-day conference of the envoys beginning

January 19, an authoritative source in the Foreign Ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

This would be the second such regional meeting of Bangladesh envoys with the Prime Minister. The first, attended by Bangladesh heads of missions in Europe, was held in London on October 6. The Prime Minister presided over the meeting on her way back home after addressing the United Nations General Assembly. More such meetings with the country's

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Dhaka relays BBC
programmes
from next month

Star Report

Radio listeners in Dhaka will tune BBC better, hopefully from next month, when the British Broadcasting Corporation starts relaying its programmes using Radio Bangladesh's transmitter at Shahbagh in the city.

Official sources said that the BBC will be allowed to use the two-kilowatt FM (frequency modulation) transmitter after signing an agreement with the Bangladesh government.

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3-day strike by
Prokrichi, BMA
from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Some sixty thousand non-administrative civil servants and the professionals, including engineers and agriculturists, will go on a three-day strike from tomorrow.

The decision was announced by the leaders of the coordination council of the agitating non-administrative government officials and the professionals at a press conference in the city yesterday evening.

The coordination council announced the three-day work stoppage to press for the implementation of their 17-point charter of demands and protest the government's recent order retiring Abu Hena, secretary general of the council.

On the other hand, the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will go on an indefinite

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MCCI concerned
at discrimination

By Staff Correspondent

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), in a statement yesterday, expressed grave concern at the attempt made by a public sector corporation to prevent the private sector from importing high-speed diesel (HSD).

The statement, issued by its acting President Azimur Rahman, said the import of HSD is now permissible under the Import Policy for 1993-95.

He said the private sector importers availed of the policy change and arranged imports after fully complying with the import requirements and even paid the import duty. But they have now been prevented from clearing the duty-paid consignments without any written order, he alleged.

Now their competitor public sector corporation has issued a show-cause notice on them under the Petroleum Act of 1994, he added.

The MCCI acting President said that in spite of international price crash of petroleum products, the Bangladesh consumers have been denied the benefits merely to improve the profitability of a public sector corporation.

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Ensure peace, PM asks police

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia yesterday reminded police officers of their responsibility of ensuring peace and discipline which are pre-conditions for socio-economic development of the country, reports UNB.

Begum Zia said her government was committed to ensuring peace and stability in the society and asked the police force to be more vigilant in maintaining law and order and checking crime.

"Police have to earn confidence of the people which will go a long way in checking crimes and maintaining law and order," impartiality and carefulness in dealing with the com-

plaints of the people will help increase people's confidence in the police force, the Prime Minister pointed out.

The Prime Minister was addressing senior police officers, including DIGs Police Commissioners and SPs at the International Conference Centre in the morning. The police officers are here in connection with the 'Police Week' that began on Saturday.

Focusing on the role of police force in a democratic system, Begum Zia said policemen would have to go ahead with the ideals of freeing commonman from the claws of society's wicked circles.

She pointed out changes in the nature of crimes and stressed the need for modern training.

Begum Zia lauded the role of police in checking women's repression, recovery of illegal arms, curbing terrorism, checking smuggling and drug trafficking and resisting toll collection.

Interview with CCC mayoral candidates

Ctg will be a garden city: Nasiruddin

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: The BNP nominee for the January 30 mayoral election here Mir Md Nasiruddin wants to turn Chittagong into a beautiful and prestigious garden city.

Nasiruddin said: "If I return, I will totally ban hill-cutting and go for massive plantation on the hills for its natural balance and beauty." The ex-mayor, who recently resigned after serving for 28 months, said "Even when I took over as mayor I had instructed the law enforcing agency and other organisations concerned to help stop the rampant hill cutting, a burning issue here."

"I still don't understand why the previous administration had permitted hill-cutting despite massive protests," he added.

In an interview with The Daily Star at the office chamber at his residence the lawyer-turned-politician pledged to turn this port city into a "healthy city with a festive look."

"During my tenure, the action plan for healthy city project" had already identified eleven areas for development," he said.



Mir Md Nasiruddin

Nasiruddin said "On implementation of the WHO action plan, I am confident that Chittagong would become a healthy city in the real sense." "I will make all-out efforts for implementation of the healthy city project here," he

added. "During my tenure I also brought 15 shun areas under the 'shun improvement project' which provided 35000 families with all civic amenities in addition to a loan of Tk 2000 per family," Nasiruddin said.

"Moreover, I planned to improve 20 more shun areas next year at a cost of Tk 2 crore for 40,000 distressed families," he said.

Nasiruddin said he had also taken up plans for construction of the Agrabad access road and the Zakir Hossain road to ease traffic jams in the city.

Replying to a question, the ex-mayor pointed out that Chittagong had witnessed a 'business-migration' to Dhaka due to frequent hartals here by a particular section of leaders in their own interest.

"If I win, I will take steps to make this city free from hartals, toll collectors and terrorists by mobilising public support," Nasiruddin affirmed.

Hearing deferred
as no lawyer
stood for Ershad

Former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and two others, including one of his ministers, yesterday appeared before a special judge's court to hear corruption charges likely to be brought against them, reports BSS.

But hearing had to be deferred because of the absence of any lawyer to defend Ershad. Ershad has been proposed to be the principal accused in this case, while former Minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former Works Secretary Abdur Rouf are to be charged with abetting, prosecution sources said.

Presiding Judge Muhammad Abdus Salam, a senior special judge, fixed January 18 as the next date for hearing on charge framing and granted Ershad's prayer to have consultations with his lawyer. The Judge also directed the jail authority to ensure that Ershad can have consultation with his lawyer by maintaining secrecy, as far as possible.

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Deben Sikder
dead

Veteran communist leader Deben Sikder died of old age complications at his residence at Kumira in Chittagong yesterday afternoon. He was 77, reports BSS.

Chairman of the advisory council of the Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (M-L) and its central committee member Sikder left behind one son, one daughter and a host of political friends and admirers.

An emergency meeting of the presidium of the Samyabadi Dal was held at its office here yesterday with the party chief Dilip Barua in the chair, to condole the death of Sikder.

In April 1930, Sikder was greatly influenced by the historic happenings of the Chittagong armoury raid, and made contacts with the terrorist parties.

Later in 1937, he severed his links with the terrorist activities and joined the Communist Party of India, Chittagong district. He organised a strong trade union of the rail, port and dock workers in 1937.

Comrade Sikder was in See Page 12 Col 6

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

ঢাকা।

বিষয় : ভ্যাট সংক্রান্ত ক্যাশমেমো বা
চালানপত্র প্রদান/গ্রহণ সম্পর্কে

ইমানি পল্লীর উদ্দেশ্যে লক্ষ করা যাবে যে মূল সংযোজন কর আইন (ভ্যাট) '৯১ এর আওতায় কিছু কিছু সেবা প্রদানকারী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান যেমন, হোটেল-রেস্টোরাঁ, ড্রেনেজ/সেত, বর্ধকার, কমিউনিটি সেন্টার, বিজিটি পারলার, মিউজ়া ভান্ডার, গ্রন্থিন স্টো নির্মাতা ইত্যাদি কর্তৃক সেবা প্রদানের বিনিময়ে জনসাধারণ তথা ক্ষেত্র বা সেবা গ্রহণকারীদের নিকট থেকে মূল সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) গ্রহণ করা সত্ত্বেও ভ্যাট বা মূল সংযোজন কর আইন অনুযায়ী ক্ষেত্র বা সেবা গ্রহণকারীকে কোন প্রকার চালানপত্র/ক্যাশমেমো প্রদান করা হচ্ছে না। ফলে, ক্ষেত্র বা সেবা গ্রহণকারী কর্তৃক মূল সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) পরিশোধ করা সত্ত্বেও সরকার কোষাগারে তা জমা হচ্ছে না। এতে একদিকে যেমন সরকার প্রয়োজনীয় রাজস্ব প্রাপ্তি থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছেন, তেমনি অন্য দিকে দেশের উন্নয়ন প্রক্রিয়া ও অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রগতি ব্যাহত হচ্ছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, সকল সেবা প্রদানকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে তাদের নিজ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ হতে সেবা প্রদানের সময় অবশ্যই চালানপত্র/ক্যাশমেমো প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাবে। অনুরূপভাবে, সেবা গ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকেও স্বাধীন দেশের সন্তোষ ও দায়িত্ববোধ নালিক হিসেবে চালানপত্র/ক্যাশমেমো প্রদানে সেবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাবে।

মানে রাখবেন, ক্ষেত্র হিসেবে আপনাদের সন্তোষনতা দেশের উন্নয়ন ও অর্থনৈতিক উন্নতিতে করবে।

ডিরেক্টর (ডি. ২০০-৪/১)

১০-৯৬

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড