

## Hasina addresses rally in Ctg Elect AL candidates for a corruption-free CCC

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina urged the people to vote for her party candidates said if elected, they would work to make the city corporation administration free from corruption.

Hasina was addressing a big election rally organised in support of the Awami League mayoral candidate for the Chittagong City Corporation A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury at the Agrabad-Badamtoli crossing at noon today.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that the BNP people, during the past three years, had misappropriated public funds through widespread corruption.

The Awami League president announced there would be no increase of any taxes if her party men were elected in this city corporation polls.

"By raising taxes, electricity and water charges, the ruling party had aggravated the conditions of the common men," she said.

"Besides, the BNP government has ruined the country's economy by closing down many mills and factories," she added.

The Awami League chief accused the BNP of breaching the pledges made by it to the people before the 1991 parliamentary polls.

She said "The BNP government is ignoring the demands of the labourers and farmers and also not implementing the framework formulated by the Three Alliances in 1990".

## Hanif warns against polls manipulation

The Awami League's DCC mayor candidate Mohammad Hanif yesterday warned that if the results of the city corporation polls are manipulated, these would be the last elections for Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

Hanif's warning came while he was addressing an election rally organised by the people of Narsingdi district living in Dhaka at Bangabandhu Avenue in the afternoon.

This election is important for the nation, Hanif said, as the present government has used the corporation as a tool of consolidating its power, without caring for the improvement of amenities for the city dwellers.

He said the city corporation is run by taxes paid by the people but the previous mayors or administrators had used the Dhaka City Corporation as their source of political strength.

"If elected by the grace of Almighty Allah and by the people's verdict," Hanif pledged: "I will not use the corporation for the Awami League but for the 70 lakh city dwellers. The city corporation cannot be a property of any party or quarter."

Hanif said he would not increase holding taxes for the next five years. If necessary, taxes would be reduced from many sectors, he told the meeting.

In another election rally, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, MP yesterday accused the Prime Minister of violating the election rules by making pledges during her campaigns for the ruling BNP's mayoral candidate in the city.

Such a commitment, just a few days ahead of the city polls, is a gross violation of the election rules, he said.

## Privatising BSRS

From Page 1 Col 3

Bank Limited (DBL) which, according to its memorandum and articles of association, has got registration to act as a commercial bank besides financing for industrialisation.

According to the memorandum and articles of association, the DBL is supposed to provide 80 per cent of its disbursement loan as term loan for the industrial sector.

The process, however, came to a total halt just before the handing over ceremony of the shares and undertakings of the BSRS to the DBL in April last year, when the owners of the BSRS-financed projects appealed to the petition committee of the Jatiya Sangsad for re-examination of the net worth of the DBL. The BSRS was being handed over for Tk 83 crore, but the entrepreneurs claimed that the value would be much more.

The entrepreneurs of the BSRS-financed projects also questioned the procedure of selling out the institution, claiming that it was being done to serve the interest of a vested group.

Meanwhile, the government, with a view to reorganising the corporation, has appointed a new Chairman and Managing Director for the BSRS. A high-level meeting of the concerned government officials and the Managing Director of Sangstha will also be held soon to take decisions on a number of issues including recovery of overdue loans, rehabilitation of sick industries, terms and conditions for rescheduling the loans, funding of new projects and sources of funds required.

At present, the liability of the Sangstha to the government is Tk 3400 crore and the amount of outstanding loan of the entrepreneurs to the BSRS is about Tk 900 crore. The amount of overdue loan is, however, Tk 605 crore.

According to sources in the BSRS, the Sangstha needs immediate rescheduling of its debts to the government and needs more fund for financing new projects and providing loan for the balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion of a number of projects.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**  
Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863036. GPO Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.

## Khaleda campaigns for BNP nominees in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today travelled all the way to Rajshahi to campaign for her party's mayor and commissioner candidates for the January 30 city corporation elections, reports UNB.

On her arrival at the northern city, thousands of people from all walks of life greeted Begum Zia and chanted slogans in favour of her party nominees.

Seeking votes from the citizens of Rajshahi for "Fish", the election symbol of Mizanur Rahman Minu, the BNP candidate, she led a large procession in the town in the afternoon.

When the Prime Minister passed different city streets, hundreds of men, women and children came out of their houses to greet her.

The residents welcomed the BNP chairperson and wished her party's success in the mayoral election.

Before leading the procession, Begum Zia also addressed a mammoth election meeting at Madrasa Maidan.

During her day-long campaign, she talked to the local people.

## Dr Nurul Islam admitted to CMH

By Staff Correspondent

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam suddenly fell ill at the Zia International Airport yesterday morning and was rushed to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) where he is under treatment at the intensive care unit.

According to family sources, Dr Islam suffered chest pain. However, his condition was improving. Dr Islam felt the pain when he was waiting at the VIP lounge of the airport prior to his departure for Chittagong. He was immediately taken to the CMH and admitted there.

A press release of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) said that all programmes in connection with the first founding anniversary of the USTC, scheduled for today (Monday) have been postponed due to the sudden illness of Dr Islam, who is also the founder president of the USTC.

## Dainik Barta reappears Feb 21

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: A delegation of the Dainik Barta Trustee Board led by former minister Emran Ali Sarkar met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Circuit House here today, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation discussed with the Prime Minister the publication of the daily from February 21.

The Prime Minister assured them all possible cooperation in this regard.

## White Paper

From Page 1 Col 5

withdraw the retirement orders of the Prokrichi secretary general Abu Hena, Engr Md Yusuf, Engr Rezaul and the suspension order on Khademul Islam immediately.

The meeting said that otherwise Prokrichi would announce agitational programmes.

The meeting was addressed by Dr Gul Hossain, Abu Hena, Dr Gazi Abdul Haq, Engr Ibrahim Mia, Engr Ruhul Matin, Dr Mushtaq Hossain, Engr A N H Akhter Hossain and others.

The speakers reiterated their will to continue boycotting all district development coordination meetings headed by the Deputy Commissioners (DC) until the DCs were replaced by public representatives.

Regarding a news report about a Tk 114-crore project to train 500 BCS (Admin) cadre officers abroad, the conference observed that such a huge amount of money could be better utilised for setting up training infrastructure for all officials of government, semi-government and autonomous organisations.

It also demanded trial of 10 bureaucrats — who were known as the 'G-10' — for their alleged involvement with the previous autocratic government.

"Some top bureaucrats are trying to create bureaucratic terrorism in order to repress the Prokrichi-BCS activists," it observed and said they were misusing their powers.

"In order to protect ourselves from bureaucratic terrorism, the Prokrichi-BCS would be compelled to declare a programme of non-cooperation with those bureaucrats," the central action committee said.

The conference declared that the Prokrichi-BCS would observe February 5 to 10 as a 'protest week' and launch public relation activities throughout the country from February 11 to March 31 in favour of the organisation's 17-point charter of demands.

## India protests Clinton's remarks on Punjab unrest

NEW DELHI, Jan 23: The Indian Foreign Ministry Sunday protested President Clinton's remarks on the Sikh insurgency in Punjab, saying it "could have a negative impact on bilateral relations," reports AP.

President Clinton in a letter to Congressmen Gary Condit, D-Calif., had favoured a peaceful solution that "protects Sikh rights." The letter was released to reporters Friday in Washington by the US-based Council of Khalistan, a separatist lobby group.

Condit had written to President Clinton asking for an active US role in solving the insurgency in the northern state of Punjab.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the BNP's RCC mayoral candidate Mizanur Rahman Minu wave at people in front of the Makhdoom Shah (R) mazar during a door-to-door campaign in Rajshahi's Dargahpara area yesterday.

## Make cultivators aware of modern technology: PM

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today underlined the need for making the cultivators aware of modern technology and equipment to help boost production in farms and fields, reports BSS.

"We have to innovate new technology to boost production, reduce cost and raise income. We have to diversify our crops to reduce dependence on the import of agriculture commodities," she told a huge gathering after inaugurating the Taka six-crore newly-constructed Rajshahi Agriculture College at Narikelbaria, 10 kilometres from the city.

The Prime Minister said, agriculture is a lifeline in our economy and added Bangladesh can attain self-reliance through crops diversification and massive production.

Agriculture is still the mainstay of most of the people of the country, Begum Zia said and laid emphasis on setting up more agriculture colleges to help spread knowledge to the farmers on how to grow more food.

Recalling that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had attached importance on boosting agricultural production to strengthen national economy the Prime Minister said her government was implementing the policies of the late president.

We have progressed a lot in the field of agriculture in the last three years, she said adding that food production had increased and emphasis was given on the crops diversification.

The Prime Minister also underscored the necessity of educating the farmers with modern agro-technology, replacing the age-old cultivation and utilising every inch of agricultural land.

Begum Zia said efforts have been taken to attain self-sufficiency in all agricultural products including pulse and oil.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the country would be self-reliant if the ongoing programmes taken by her government could be implemented smoothly.

State Minister for Land Kabil Hossain, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq, former mayor of Rajshahi and BNP central leader Mizanur Rahman Minu, spoke on the occasion.

Presided over by the member of the managing committee of the Rajshahi Agriculture College Qamrul Munir the function was also attended by Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mohammad Shahjahan, Raushan Elahi MP, Begum Lutfunnesa MP and former president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Rizvi Ahmed.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Taka 3.4 crore Motherbox Home Economics College at the Padma residential area in the city. She planted a *Neem* sapling there.

Begum Zia exchanged greetings with the elite of the city and the local people here. She talked to them and enquired about their welfare.

She visited the Taka 17.25 lakh under-construction Rajshahi Sramajibi Hospital at Raninagar in the city.

Begum Zia also spoke briefly to a cross section of people here.

Earlier, in the morning the Prime Minister witnessed the fish-catching by the fishermen at the 10-kilometre long Naohata, canal under Poba thana.

The canal, re-excavated last year, is now producing about 50 metric tons of fish per year besides helping in irrigation in this area.

## Five die in incidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons died and one was injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Of the dead, two reportedly committed suicide, tow — including a minor boy — died in accidents while a young man was beaten to death.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports, housewife Parvin Kajo, who had torched herself on Friday last, succumbed to her burn injuries yesterday.

According to family sources, the 24-year-old Kajo set fire to herself in the kitchen of a third-floor apartment at Property Estate, Shantinagar. Kajo's neighbours, however, suspected foul play. Police, investigating the case, is awaiting the autopsy report.

At Goran, a teenaged girl Matul reportedly consumed poison in the afternoon following a quarrel with her elder brother. She died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after admission.

Another young woman, Lucky, 24, was also admitted to the DMCH yesterday. Lucky reportedly tried to take her own life by drinking acid.

An old man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus near the Shaymoli Cinema Hall Saturday night. The victim, identified as Noor Mohammad, 60, died on the spot.

A three-year-old boy drowned yesterday afternoon at North Mugda. Rony reportedly slipped into a water-filled ditch while playing.

Our SSMCH Correspondent adds: Demra police recovered the body of one Firoz Ahmed Badal, 15, from Pukurpitha, yesterday afternoon.

According to sources, Badal was attacked by a group of unidentified youths at around 3 pm. He was allegedly struck with bricks and then strangled.

All the bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy.

## India protests Clinton's remarks on Punjab unrest

NEW DELHI, Jan 23: The Indian Foreign Ministry Sunday protested President Clinton's remarks on the Sikh insurgency in Punjab, saying it "could have a negative impact on bilateral relations," reports AP.

President Clinton in a letter to Congressmen Gary Condit, D-Calif., had favoured a peaceful solution that "protects Sikh rights." The letter was released to reporters Friday in Washington by the US-based Council of Khalistan, a separatist lobby group.

Condit had written to President Clinton asking for an active US role in solving the insurgency in the northern state of Punjab.

## DCC polls diary



By Staff Correspondent

It seems the DCC elections are not going to earn any terrorists or 'madams' any extra income. The polling camps are reportedly free of their presence. Peace reigns in these camps.

However, a couple of infamous 'mastaans' were seen sitting at a polling camp yesterday in Shahjahanpur. Both were seen during the 1991 general elections, patrolling the area with guns and what-nots.

"This time they were not carrying guns but pens. They were busy writing voters' numbers on slips to be used for the campaign by the candidates they were working for."

"Nobody is hiring us this time. So we have decided to be good boys," one of them was heard saying.

"But trust me, it's too boring to be good," he remarked.

Nowadays, the campaigns begin from 8.30 am. The target group must be housewives. The residential areas of the city become cacophonous with slogans chanted via loudspeakers on moving rickshaws.

Even at midnight, at Mirpur, a group of campaigners brought out a procession Saturday and was chanting slogans in favour of the 'candle'.

But the target group reacted adversely. Some family members, awoken from their sleep cursed under their breath: "we will blow out your candle!"

## Colombian leftists kill 32

BOGOTA, Colombia, Jan 23: Gunmen believed to be leftist guerrillas fired automatic weapons at a gathering of political rivals in northwest Colombia early Sunday, killing at least 32 people, authorities said.

The massacre in the town of Apartado, 300 miles (480 kms) northwest of Bogota, was the bloodiest in Colombia in more than five years. Eight other people were wounded.

## Legal action

From Page 1 Col 4

auditorium in preparation for smooth voting on January 30.

Justice Rouf was, however, assured of full cooperation in this regard by the mayoral and commissioner candidates present in the meeting.

Justice Rouf laid emphasis on the need for freeing elections from the influence of 'black money' and creating awareness among the people about election rules and regulations. He said distrust and unawareness are the two things that hamper the election process.

Secretary to the Election Commission A Z M Shamsul Alam, the Chittagong Divisional Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, candidates for mayor and commissioner posts, the returning officer, district-level and department officials, officials concerned with the election, political representatives and local elite attended the meeting.

## The Midnight File

### Bosnian Muslims appeal for NATO air strikes

SARAJEVO, Jan 23: Bosnian Muslims appealed today for NATO air strikes against Serb gunners besieging Sarajevo, asking what more must be done to spur military intervention after six children were killed by mortar fire. Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said Saturday's attack only a few hundred metres (yards) from UN peacekeeping force headquarters in a city designated a UN 'safe area' was another Serb snub to a passive outside world, reports Reuters.

### Gaddafi for trial of Lockerbie suspects in Hague

TRIPOLI, Jan 23: Libyan leader Moamer Gaddafi on Saturday suggested the two Libyans accused of the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing could be tried by the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Colonel Gaddafi warned at the same time that Libya is 'ready for confrontation with Western imperialism,' if the Lockerbie crisis escalates, reports AFP.

### Arab-Israeli talks today

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: Arab and Israeli negotiators are scheduled to renew peace talks tomorrow in one-on-one meetings away from the media. The chief negotiators for Syria, Lebanon and Jordan were due to meet their Israeli counterparts in undisclosed locations in Washington while a lower level Palestinian team will also hold talks with Israelis, reports Reuters.

## Impartial polling

From Page 1 Col 4

ing of the polls.

However, the Commission, with 685 staff members and 83 district-level election officers throughout the country, is actually short of manpower for running its activities smoothly and independently.

Although constitutionally an independent body, the Election Commission has to request the Head of the State for officers of the executive wing of the state to perform its functions and the President is under obligation to meet the requirement of the Commission. According to the Constitution, it shall be the duty of all executive authorities to assist the Election Commission in the discharge of its functions.

The Election Commission has already requested the President to depute a large number of officials, belonging to different cadres including the police, defence, judiciary and administration. The government is now deputing the necessary manpower required by the Commission to conduct the polls.

The Chief Election Commissioner has so far no complaint against the government regarding its cooperation for holding the city corporation elections. The Election

Commission this year is determined to punish the government officials in case they fail to behave legally during polling.

The city corporation rules provide that a government official would be considered 'guilty of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and shall not be less than one year, and also with fine, if he misuses his official position in a manner calculated to influence the result of the election.' In that case, what the Election Commission needs is filling of specific charges against any official by any candidate in a legal manner.

### DUTA's denial

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) denied issuing any press release regarding its general meeting held yesterday.

DUTA General Secretary Dr A M S Arefin Siddiqi told UNB last night over telephone that the association did not release any press statement, but a vested quarter had issued a press release on plain paper to different dailies without the signature of its General Secretary.

He, however, described the act as 'motivated to create confusion among the university teachers and urged the newspapers to ignore the item.

### Chanpa murder

From Page 1 Col 5

Bangladesh Penal Code and fined Tk. 10,000/- each and in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for another year.

District and Sessions Judge Hamidul Haq in his verdict, also convicted the three under Section 201 of the BPC for concealing evidence and sentenced them to three years' RI and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to serve 6 months more in jail.

Both sentences will run concurrently.

The judge, however, acquitted Farida Jesmin, Jesmin Ara and Afroza Begum Bijlee since they were not found guilty.

The accused were also charged with an attempt to murder Chanpa's son, Sakhar, but the charge was not proved.

Twenty-four witnesses out of a total 45 were cross-examined by the defence.

According to the prosecution, Chanpa, a housewife and student of BM College, was brutally killed in her father-in-law's house on Fakirbari road in the town on October 18, 1989.

Her brother-in-law, Nasiruddin Jamal, the following day filed an FIR with Kotwali police.

On November 13, 1989, the case was handed over to CID police and CID Inspector Bimal Kumar Das lodged a new case on March 27, 1990 and charged six people. They are Chanpa's brothers-in-law Nasiruddin Jamal and Zahiruddin Kamal, Jamal's wife Afroza Begum Bijlee, sister-in-law Jesmin Ara, Jesmin's husband Zillur Bari and Chanpa's elder brother-in-law's wife Farida Jesmin.

But the proceedings of case were stayed since August 1990 following a petition by the accused. The trial resumed on October 16 last year in the court of the District and Sessions Judge.

Arguments continued for four days until January 15. The judge delivered his judgement in a crowded courtroom at 4 pm today.

### Labour bodies

From Page 1 Col 8

a statement last night, expressed apprehension that serious law and order situation might arise in the private jute mills and property and personnel in the mills might be in danger.

It urged the authorities to take measures to protect the mills.