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The Daily Star

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 Tel: 605957, 861985
 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

VOL. IV NO. 12 REGD. NO. DA 781

MAGH 12, 1400 BS, DHAKA TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994 SHABAN 12, 1414 HIJRI

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NEWS BRIEFS

US gen visits Ansar Academy

GAZIPUR, Jan 24: Commanding General of US Army, Pacific Lt Gen Robert L. Ord paid a good-will visit to the Ansar Academy at Shafipur today. The Lt Gen was accompanied by Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Muhammad Abdus Salam and 150 high military officials of 35 countries participating in the 10-day 18th Pacific Armies Management that began here on January 15. It was co-hosted by Bangladesh Army and US Army, Pacific, reports UNB.

7 electrocuted in Bogra

BOGRA, Jan 24: Seven villagers were electrocuted when they boarded a bus that was electrified after it rammed an electric pole on a highway in Sujabad area of the district this afternoon. Fire service sources said frightened passengers luckily abandoned the Bogra bound bus from Dhaka as soon as the accident occurred, but a live wire from the pole soon fell down on the bus when people from nearby villages came to inspect the vehicle, reports UNB.

Probe body time extended

The government has extended the time table for another two months in addition to 30 days allotted initially to the enquiry commission on the incident of November 17 at Naniarchar under Rangamati hill district, according to an official handout yesterday, reports BSS.

Repatriation of Chakma refugees begins Feb 15

AGARTALA, Jan 24: Repatriation of the Chakma refugees, sheltered in six evacuee camps in south Tripura district since 1986, to their homes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of neighbouring Bangladesh will begin in phases from February 15 next, a press statement issued by the Rajbhavan here yesterday said, reports PTI.

The statement said a delegation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Jumma Refugee Welfare Association, led by Upendra Lal Chakma, president of the organisation and an ex-MP, yesterday called on the Governor, Ramesh Bhandari and informed him of their decision to start repatriation to the Chittagong Hill Tracts from

February 15 next.

Expressing satisfaction over the repatriation decision, the Governor hoped that this would mark the beginning of a new era, not only in Indo-Bangladesh relations but also in the north-east.

UNB adds: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed who heads the Parliamentarians' Committee on the Hill Tracts, today expressed satisfaction over the decision.

The government is committed to taking back the Chakma refugees and ensuring their full safety and security, a handout quoted Oli as saying. He further assured that the homes and legitimate property would be given back to respective refugees enabling them to live

in dignity after their comeback.

During a meeting of the refugee leaders, Indian officials and Bangladesh parliamentarians led by Rashed Khan Menon on January 16, an agreement was reached on repatriation of the refugees.

The refugees are demanding assurances of providing opportunity to the students studying in different institutions in India to get admission in Bangladesh and recognition of their Indian degrees.

The demands of the refugees also include proper rehabilitation of repatriated tribals, who had taken shelter across the border in the wake of insurgency by the outlawed Shantibahini.

PM lays foundation of ICMH in city

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday laid the foundation stone of the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH), the first of its kind in the country, at Matuail, 7 kilometres from here, reports BSS.

"I am happy to be present at the foundation-laying ceremony of the institute. This (institute) is a notable addition to the promotion of health services of children and mothers of the country," Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister said, "We are conscious about the child and mother health... we have taken up massive programmes for the promotion of health and nutrition of mothers and children keeping in view the objective of ensuring health for all by the year 2000."

Financed by the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank, the institute would be constructed over an 12.62 acres

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Removal of graffiti and camps Poor response to EC directive

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission's bid to erase writings on the walls and remove campaign stalls from the city roads and pavements has apparently failed due to non-cooperation of the candidates contesting the January 30 polls.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) authorities are also finding it difficult to implement the decision, reached unanimously by the Chief Election Commissioner and the leaders of the major political parties in this regard earlier this month.

The Election Commission (EC)'s repeated calls and the DCC's attempts to erase the graffiti and remove the

makeshift camps have yielded little results. During the past few days, election camps were dismantled only at a few places while the graffiti remained in place until yesterday although campaigning for the elections will end in three days time.

The DCC authorities have, meantime, informed the EC that it was not possible to assess the costs of wall-writings and election camps of each of the 24 mayoral and 675 commissioner candidates in Dhaka by January 28, official sources said.

The Zonal Officers of the DCC are now confused as to

See Page 12 Col 2

Cabinet okays three major decisions

The government has decided to reduce the Biman fair for hajj pilgrims by Tk 1,000 and postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags, reports UNB.

The decisions were taken at a cabinet meeting yesterday which approved the hajj policy for 1994. The meeting at the Bangabhaban was presided over by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

A handout said Biman fair for the hajj pilgrims this year was fixed at Tk 40,000 as against Tk 41,000 last year.

The meeting also decided that the pilgrim pass and Ahkamul Hajj which was sold earlier at Tk 25 will now be distributed free of cost among the pilgrims. The intending pilgrims who have not yet de-

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Cricket Bangladeshis richer for the experience

Sports Reporter

A blow on the head to Bangladesh skipper Faruque Ahmed by a wickedly kicking ball from Pakistani fast bowler Ata-ur-Rehman was the only disturbing experience for the local cricket enthusiasts as the Pakistanis chalked up a comfortable seven-wicket win against the hosts in the second and final Gold Leaf one-day cricket series at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The current world champions of instant cricket had beaten Bangladesh, an ICC Associate Member, by 62 runs in the first match held at the same venue Sunday.

Compared to the first encounter, yesterday's engagement held less entertainment value, for obvious reasons.

Waqar Younis, the fastest bowler of the world and the centre of attraction, was not fielded yesterday as captain Saleem Malik did not want to exert his main strike bowler for the more important upcoming tour of New Zealand.

The whirlwind approach of the Bangladeshi batsmen in braving a rather bookish challenge of the Pakistan team was not there although Athar and Akram Khan kept up their good shows.

The Bangladesh side, obviously tired from the exertion of continued cricket of late, gave a pedestrian performance on the field while defending their total of 184 for five and Pakistan, although progressing at almost snail's pace initially, stepped on the gas in time to pull off a fairly big victory.

The brief exposure to some of the top cricketers of the world should leave the Bangladeshi players, who leave Dhaka for Kenya today to take part in the ICC Trophy, in a much stronger mental frame than ever before.

The Bangladesh team, under the guidance of coach Mohinder Amarnath, the former Indian Test star, has been preparing hard for the ICC Trophy. Only last week the boys returned from a hectic tour of Pakistan.

The Pakistanis leave today for Singapore en route to New Zealand.

Detailed report on Page 10



Pakistan opening batsman Aamir Sohail is given out leg before to Jahangir Dulu during yesterday's Gold Leaf one-day exhibition cricket match at the Dhaka Stadium. Pakistan beat Bangladesh by seven wickets. — Star photo

Hasina warns electorate in Ctg BNP picking its own men to conduct polls

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina alleged that the BNP government was putting its own people in charge of conducting the upcoming City Corporation polls in a bid to rig it.

Addressing the lawyers here at the Chittagong Bar library today, Hasina said the ruling party was trying to adopt various tactics in the January 30 elections to get its candidates elected.

She urged all to remain alert against any conspiracy to destroy the normal election process.

Hasina said the Awami League believes in the transfer

of power through the ballot and not bullet, and that is why it has strived for establishing the right of franchise.

She said the politics of her party was aimed at institutionalising democracy in the country to ensure economic emancipation of the people.

"We want to establish the rule of law because people are now facing insecurity," she added.

The Awami League president said the BNP government had ignored the Indemnity Repeal and separation of judiciary bills.

Hasina also alleged that the ruling party was harbouring

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Begum Zia ends her campaign in capital

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday concluded her extensive mass contact in the capital in support of her party mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas and the commissioner candidates.

Begum Zia addressed a number of public meetings and toured the residential areas of Jurain, Jatrabari, Gopibagh, Golapbagh, Arambagh, Jasimuddin Road, Kamalapur Bazar, Shahjahanpur, Sabujbagh, Bashabo and Madartek.

This was her last whirlwind tour of the capital which she started a week ago. The BNP chairperson will tour the port cities of Khulna today and Chittagong tomorrow to campaign in favour of her party

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News Analysis AL takes lesson from 1991 debacle

By Special Correspondent

All leaders and workers of the Awami League (AL), are now striving relentlessly to win the January 30 mayoral elections in the four cities.

The AL's seriousness over such local body polls suggests that the party has taken lessons from its debacle during the last Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections held in February 1991. In that election, strong AL candidates, including Sheikh Hasina herself, were nominated by the party for the eight JS constituencies within the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) area. But none of them could return from the constituencies which were captured by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Surprisingly, strong candidates like Sheikh Hasina, Dr Kamal Hossain and others lost by wide margins of votes to some unknown BNP nominees.

Political analysts and the AL leadership later agreed that the debacle was mainly due to the party's over-confidence about itself and under-estimation of its rivals.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina contested the 1991 elections from two constituencies in the metropolis. The AL leadership

was so confident about Hasina's victory in those seats that they virtually ignored campaigning for her in the capital. Her electoral campaigns remained limited to a few public meetings or rallies. Consequently, the AL chief had to concede defeats to BNP nominees who were not even front-runners in their own party.

The party's other candidates in the city — Kamal Hossain, Sajeda Chowdhury, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Sahara Khatun, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and the AL-backed CPB nominee Saifuddin Ahmed Manik — all met similar fates, losing to the BNP. Among the victors, BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia won two seats

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Partial strike in industries

By Staff Correspondent

Life across the country remained normal yesterday despite the strike call given by labour bodies of five nationalised industrial sectors. The strike was, however, observed partially in the country's industrial belts, according to information available in Dhaka.

There were clashes at the Latif Bawani and Karim Jute Mills in Demra on the outskirts of the city.

According to trade union sources, about 35 workers were injured when some anti-strike elements attacked the jute mills.

The call for a six-hour hartal was given by labour bodies, representing the jute, textiles, sugar, steel and engineering and railway sectors, to press home their nine-point charter of demands. The demands include implementation of the accord signed in July last, cancellation of the govern-

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Businessmen urged to exploit export potentials in Gulf states

Bangladesh ambassadors in the Gulf countries yesterday urged the business community to exploit the export potentials in the Gulf region, reports UNB.

Exports to the Middle East are increasing gradually in recent years and there is a good prospect for expanding the volume by three to four times if a vigorous initiative is taken by the business community.

At a meeting here with the business community, the country's envoys listed some possible items for exporting to the Gulf countries. The businessmen, in turn, highlighted their export problems.

The ambassadors said there is a good scope for exporting jute products, vegetable, rice, fruit, fish, garments, flowers, plants, handicraft and other nontraditional items to these countries.

The businessmen will have

to go to those countries to explore market opportunities, the envoys said, and assured of all help by providing them with information and communication facilities.

Some businessmen said the government had introduced a free market policy and new facilities to promote exports but there remained many constraints in availing those.

They highlighted the problems of shipment, lack of incentives, storage problem, immigration harassment and bureaucratic red-tape that stood in the way of boosting exports.

The discussion, held at the FBCCI conference room, was attended by Bangladesh ambassador to Libya Aminul Islam, ambassador to Iran, Ahmed Tareq Karim, ambassador to Kuwait Ruhul Amin, ambassador to Bahrain Akhtarul Alam, ambassador to the UAE

Zia-us-Shams Chowdhury, ambassador to Saudi Arabia C M Shafi Shami, ambassador to Oman Ahmed Sharif Ahsan and High Commissioner to Malaysia Mahbubul Alam.

The meeting was presided over by FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman while Alhaj Akram Hossain, Syed Jamal Uddin Haidar, Syed Taufiq Ali, Mohsin Ali, Riazul Islam, Syedur Rahman, Nazibur Rahman and Obaidur Rahman took part in the discussions on behalf of the business community.

FBCCI chief Mahbubur Rahman said the government should provide a package of incentives for promoting exports. He said although the market situation changes, the government's policy is often not adjusted to the new situation.

Ambassador Shafi Sami said

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Prokrichi demands probe into 'misdeeds' by admin cadres

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council have demanded the government to form a national commission to investigate into the "misdeeds" committed by the members of the BCS administration cadre over the past four decades.

The leaders of the council at a meeting yesterday observed that a section of the members of the administration cadre had created anarchy, discrepancy and disorder in the administration of the country.

The meeting also held the cadre members responsible for foiling all earlier moves to reform the existing bureaucracy of the country.

Chaired by the Central Action Council president Dr M A Majed, the meeting was attended by agriculturist Dr. Gul Hossain, M A Hena, engineer

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Aminul Huq back at work

By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Huq, after a brief confusion regarding his job, joined office yesterday.

A government handout released Saturday had said that Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker had been made acting Attorney General since Aminul Huq was away from the country for treatment.

But Aminul Huq, who was very much in the country at the time and had even attended office on the previous working day, was taken aback by the news of his temporary replacement on the ground of his absence from the country. As such he did not attend office on Saturday due to indisposition.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's Office informed Aminul Huq Sunday morning that he was not relieved of his

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National Board of Revenue
Dhaka.**

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- Information certified by the listed PSIA on the classification, quantity and quality of goods will be accepted for customs assessment purposes;
- In case where there is no prescribed tariff value for imported goods, duties and taxes will be assessed on the basis of declared values certified by the listed PSIA;
- Speedy clearance of goods inspected by the listed PSIA will be ensured.

2. The NBR has listed twenty-nine companies for preshipment inspection of imported goods. The names and addresses of these companies are available with the NBR and all customs stations. For additional information, the undermentioned official may be contacted in writing or over telephone.

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