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NEWS BRIEFS

**Khaleda goes
 to Ctg today**

CHITTAGONG, Jan 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will arrive here tomorrow morning to join a day-long campaign in this port city in favour of her party's mayoral candidate for the Chittagong City Corporation Mir Md Nasiruddin Begum Zia in addition to making extensive mass contact. is scheduled to address over a dozen election rallies at different parts of the city.

**Businessman
 robbed at Nganj**

From Our Correspondent
 NARAYANGANJ, Jan 25: In a daring daylight hold-up, Tk 9 lakh 55 thousand was snatched from a businessman by a group of armed young men in front of bank here this afternoon. According to sources, four armed youths riding a private car exploded cocktails in front of the Janata Bank, Corporate Branch on the B B Road and snatched the cash from Khabiruddin Mollah, proprietor of Mollah and Sons, importers of cement at Pagla.

**Khaleda greets
 Rao**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated the Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, to mark the National Day of his country today in a message of felicitations to Rao, Begum Zia said. The government and the people of Bangladesh join me in extending to you and through you to the government and the people of India our warm greetings and felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Republic Day of India, reports BSS.

DEPZ to make up for slow growth in CEPZ

By A Special Correspondent

the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) is projecting that new investment in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) during the current fiscal year will total 2.9 crore dollars.

Actual investment in the CEPZ during July-December 1993 was 1.4 crore dollars. BEPZA expects another 1.5 crore dollars' investment in the remaining part of the fiscal year.

If the projection of 2.9 crore dollar new investment is correct, then it will constitute a 12 per cent increase in the annual investment level. The annual growth of investment in

that these investors will invest around 5.6 crore dollars. Eight of these twelve industries are either foreign owned or are joint ventures with foreign investors.

If all of these investments materialise then total investment in DEPZ during current fiscal year will reach 1.2 crore dollars. This will mean that total investment in the export processing zones in Bangladesh will be 4.1 crore dollars.

In the last six months 1638 new jobs have been created in the CEPZ for Bangladeshi nationals. If expectations about new investment for the second half of the fiscal year are

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the CEPZ was around 56 per cent in the preceding fiscal year.

Bangladesh has two export processing zones which are currently operational. After the CEPZ, the second export processing zone is in Dhaka. The Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) was commissioned last June. Five foreign-owned units have already started commercial production in the DEPZ. Total investment by the five foreign investors is 47 lakh dollars.

BEPZA sources say, during the last six months, 12 other investors have taken initiatives to set up industries in the DEPZ. The DEPZ estimates

BCS (Admin) cadre starts agitation today

Administrative officials will start agitation today to press the government to remove 'disparity' created in the cadre services through upgradation in non-administrative cadre services, reports UNB.

The newly-floated BCS Administration Action Committee announced a 14-day agitation programme from a three-hour-long meeting at the BCS (Administration) Academy where 500 officers of deputy and assistant secretary ranks were present, meeting said.

They gave the government up to February 7 to remove discrepancies in the salary structures, failing which the committee would announce greater action programme on February 8.

18-man steering committee formed

450 from 70 bodies to observe city polls

By Staff Correspondent

An 18-member national steering committee for observing the city corporation elections, 1994 was announced at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The unofficial committee was formed with Justice K M Sobhan and Dr Hamida Hosseini as joint-convenors. Executive director of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB), Masud Hassan Siddiqui, was elected member-secretary of the committee.

The steering committee also selected 450 members from 70 organisations of the CCHRB to observe the January 30 polls in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi

and Khulna.

Addressing the press conference, Justice Sobhan said, the Election Commission had permitted the steering committee to observe the polls and issued identity cards for its 450 members.

He said the committee would announce its primary observations about the polls at a press conference on January 31 and its detailed report within ten days after the polls.

Justice Sobhan said the committee had already started monitoring the election campaign through the electronic and print media. But he declined to say if any candidate

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CEC asks voters, candidates to help ensure fair polls

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf yesterday sought cooperation of all candidates contesting the January 30 elections to make it free and fair, reports BSS.

"Cooperation of the voters and the candidates is must for holding peaceful elections," Justice Rouf told a gathering of candidates at the Agargaon Community Centre here.

Justice Rouf said an atmosphere had been created in the country where people expect that free, fair and impartial elections would be held.

Election Commissioner Justice Mesbahuddin Hossain, Secretary, Election Commission, A Z M Shamsul Alam, and Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ahmed Nazmul

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Rule issued for violation of DCC poll laws

A High Court Division Bench yesterday issued rule upon the Election Commission, the Ministry of Local Government, the Home Ministry and the Dhaka City Corporation to show cause on January 27 as to why they should not be directed to comply with the direction of the Election Commissioner touching upon the various acts of the election campaign of the candidates violating the laws and rules before the election of commissioners and mayor on January 30.

"It's the BNP which established multiparty politics in the country and gave back the people their franchise. It also introduced direct elections to the city corporations, violating the laws and rules before the election of commissioners and mayor on January 30, reports BSS.

The Bench comprised Justice Mohammad Ismailuddin Sarker and Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq.

The court may consider the prayer for injunction restraining the Election Commissioner from holding the election after the hearing of the petition on January 27.

Dr Mohiuddin Faroque, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, filed the writ petition on behalf of the Association.

BSP demands import of newsprint

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Sangbad Patrika Parishad (BSP) yesterday demanded that the import of newsprint be allowed and excise and duties reduced because of the Khulna Newsprint Mills' failure to supply newsprint to the newspapers.

The parishad, in a meeting presided over by its president Kazi Shahed Ahmed at the Daily Sangbad office, also demanded proper and just distribution of government advertisements to the newspapers.

The meeting also demanded measures for publication of all advertisements through the advertising agencies.

The BSP will hold a meeting with the representatives of the advertising agencies regarding this issue on January 29. This meeting will also discuss timely payment of advertising bills.

The BSP meeting was also attended by Enayet Ullah Khan, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Ahmed Kabir, Mahfuz Anam and Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Security agents beaten up at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Two security personnel of Zia International Airport were severely beaten up by villagers from neighbouring areas at 8.45 pm yesterday.

According to sources, two security personnel of a private agency, Shield, engaged recently to strengthen security at the airport, were attacked by ten to 15 people from the nearby Bawali village near the Town Protection Embankment. The victims, admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, were in serious condition.

The security personnel tightened vigil around the airport after a man trespassed into ZIA and got on board a Biman aircraft. Accordingly, the villagers, who used to enter the airport premises from different points to collect grass for their cattle, were barred from entering the air-

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With just days to go for the January 30 city corporation polls, the demand for loudspeakers for campaigning purposes has increased manifold.

Steps taken to return toxic fertiliser

Steps have been taken to return the consignment of toxic fertiliser to the United States, the exporting country, and the process is underway to take legal action against its suppliers and their local agents, reports BSS.

This was stated in an official handout issued here yesterday.

The handout said attention of the government has been drawn to the publication of baseless and misleading reports in a section of the press about the import of toxic fertiliser.

A daily newspaper published a report on January 9 stating that no action has been taken against the persons responsible for the import of toxic fertiliser.

These reports have created confusion in the minds of the people and the government deems it proper to clear the confusion, the handout added.

According to the handout, the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) had imported 6000 metric tons of zinc oxy sulphate fertiliser from the United States during the fiscal 1991-92. This fertiliser was accepted on the basis of certificate of an internationally reputed inspection company and the Bangladesh Agricultural

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Elect AL candidates for check & balance : Hasina

RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today called for creating check and balance in the government by electing opposition candidates to the city corporations, reports UNB.

"The government will have a fear and the mayors will not dare to resort to corruption if you can create check and balance in the administration," she told a huge election rally at the Shahidullah Square here this afternoon.

Hasina alleged that the ruling BNP was intimidating people by saying that allocation for development works would be reduced if BNP candidates failed to win the elections.

"Development is a right of the people because they pay taxes. If they are deprived of their due rights, we know how to realise them," Hasina warned.

She urged the people not to be misguided by the propaganda of the ruling party and called for voting for her party candidates to ensure development.

The BNP is now out with a basketful of commitments, although it did not fulfil its

earlier pledges given to the people during the national elections, she told the meeting organised by the city Awami League.

Citing examples, the Awami League leader said the BNP did not implement the joint declaration of the then Three Alliances, the four-point demand signed with the Opposition in Parliament, and the 10-point demand of the students.

"We are sure that the ruling party is again going to bluff the people by making false pledges," Hasina said, adding that the Awami League would keep its words. "We will fulfil our commitments at any cost."

Criticising the government for making contradictory statements, she remarked that the BNP, on the one hand, was claiming that the country was riding on the crest of development, and on the other, was saying that the country could not be developed due to non-cooperation of the Opposition.

Describing the present government as inefficient and incompetent, she said that the ruling party was trying to shift

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Private agency gets ZIA security job

By Staff Correspondent

A private agency in charge of security at the airport said Shield was also in charge last year, but was withdrawn because their service was not found satisfactory.

Shield Bangladesh Ltd, the private security service agency, has already deployed 50 per sonnel — two supervisors and 48 guards — for this purpose from January 13.

A complement of 16 guards has been detailed on each floor of the ZIA terminal building, sources said. Before Shield, an Ansars battalion was deployed for guard duty.

Despite the appointment of Shield, two more persons were arrested yesterday while attempting to board an aircraft without passports or valid papers.

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Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inspecting a guard of honour after inaugurating her country's first police station exclusively staffed by women in Rawalpindi yesterday — AFP photo