



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, along with party leaders, placing a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar on Monday as a mark of respect to the Martyrs of the Language Movement. — Star photo



Leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) placing a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar on Monday. — Star photo

Second BTV channel from Dec likely

The second channel of the Bangladesh Television (BTV) is likely to become operational from December this year, parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Md Niyamat Ullah (BNP) during the question hour, Information Minister Nazmul Huda said the BTV second channel is needed to highlight the increasing development activities of the government. It will telecast programmes for 18 hours a day.

The minister, however, said the government has no plan to give permission for any private TV channel in the country.

To a supplementary question, Barrister Huda said three regional TV centres and five relay stations would be set up soon.

Of the programmes telecast by BTV, 21.46 per cent is foreign and 78.54 per cent local, the Information Minister said.

He added that in fiscal 1992-93, the government

spent over Tk 1.05 crore for telecasting foreign programmes but earned more than Tk 22.72 crore from advertisement during such programmes.

Replying to another question from Prof Rafiqul Islam (AL), the Minister said the government now has a policy both for domestic and commercial use of dish antenna. But a draft policy for commercial use of dish antenna is under consideration of the government, he added.

The Information Minister said licence fee for a single connection of dish antenna is Tk 2,000 annually. The annual licence fee is Tk 10,000 up to 10 connections but another Tk 500 is charged for each extra connection beyond the 10, he added.

No accord with US on waste-based industry, JS told

Industries Minister A K M Zahiruddin Khan said that his ministry had not signed any agreement with a US company for setting up an industrial-waste-based industry in the country, reports UNB.

"I am in charge of the Ministry of Industries, and don't know of any such agreement signed with my ministry," he said while replying to a question from Md Abdul Awal Mia of the Awami League in Parliament yesterday.

Awal said the government had signed an agreement with Solar International, an American company, to set up an industrial complex that would use imported industrial waste as raw materials.

Authorities have already acquired 300 acres of land in Mongla for the purpose, he said.

When the AL member wanted to know if any accord was signed by any other ministry or the Prime Minister's office, Zahiruddin said, "I am not supposed to know anything beyond my ministry."

Awal alleged that the move to set up the industry is part of a plan to turn the country into an international dumping zone.

Storms

From Page 1 Col 5

remote area caused by the storm could not be ascertained immediately.

Electricity was, however, restored this afternoon.

UNB adds from Sirajganj, a middle-aged man was killed and more than 150 kutcha houses were damaged in four thanas following an hour-long thunder-storm in the early hours of today.

Of the injured, three were rushed to the Sadar Hospital.

Another report from Savar adds: ten people were injured and some 100 thatched houses were damaged when a violent storm raged through two unions — Ganguta and Amtal — in Dhamrai thana early today.

Standing crops on about 2,000 acres of land in the two thanas were also damaged during the fury, local UP chairmen said.

Contraband

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On Monday, customs officials also seized about 90 tolas of gold bars and ornaments from one Bachchu Mia who also came from Singapore by a Bangladesh Biman flight. Medicine worth about Tk 2.45 lakh were also seized from another passenger who arrived from Karachi.

All the four persons were released after cases were lodged against them.

City polls

From Page 1 Col 5

discipline in the economy and retrenched redundant workers.

"As a result of such reforms, we are now in a position to finance the Annual Development Programme (ADP) to the extent of 33 per cent from our own internal resources," he said.

The minister pointed out that during the discredited Ershad regime, the funding of ADP from our own resources had dropped to zero.

He said that those who were hit by the reform measures launched a campaign of calumny against the government to tarnish its image.

Those people not only refrained from voting for the BNP candidates in the mayoral elections, but also campaigned against the ruling party, he added.

There has been a growing feeling in the rank and file of the party that the organisation must be revamped in all its tiers to enable it to face the future challenges squarely, Rafiqul Islam Mia said.

Chinese Vice Premier due tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Chinese Vice Premier and minister in-charge of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen arrives in Dhaka tomorrow on a four-day visit.

The Chinese Vice Premier, who will be accompanied by his wife, will lead a 12-member high powered delegation.

Qian is expected to apprise Bangladesh leaders of its foreign policy in the context of its improving relations with India, with which it had traditional rivalry in the region.

The Chinese leader would arrive in Dhaka after a visit to Islamabad. He will also go to Sri Lanka and Maldives after his Bangladesh tour.

During his four-day stay Qian Qichen is scheduled to meet President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Qian Qichen will hold extensive talks with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman where the entire gamut of bilateral relations will come up for discussion. He is likely to sign an agreement for 8-million dollar Chinese credit for Bangladesh.

Qian is also likely to meet the leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

50 injured in Cox's Bazar clash

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 22: Some 50 people were injured, six with bullet, in armed clashes between rival groups over the possession of a saltbed and a shrimp project in the coastal belt on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said today 28 people were injured, five seriously, in a three-hour-long gunfight for occupation of Charaghona saltbed at Baromaheskhal village in Maheshkhal thana Monday morning.

About 100 shots were fired from both sides during the battle which continued from 8 am to 11 am.

Kush Bibi, 55, Nurul Huda, 32, Ejahar Miah, 28, Kabir Ahmed, 30, and Mustaque Ahmed, 40, were sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition. They got bullet wounds.

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First phase ends 663 more Chakmas return home

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: The first phase of repatriation of Chakma refugees concluded with the return of the fourth batch today.

According to official sources, 663 tribal refugees of 131 families returned to Bangladesh today through Tabalchhari camp of Khagrachhari district.

Earlier, in three other batches, around 1200 tribal refugees came back to their homesteads in the CHT.

The repatriation began from February 15 following a tripartite understanding among the representatives of Bangladesh, India and the Refugee Welfare Association.

The returnees were sent to their home for resettlement by the government.

Prokrichi concerned

By Staff Correspondent

Agitating civil servants and professionals, including doctors, engineers and agriculturists, yesterday expressed their deep concern over the delay in holding the proposed Cabinet Committee's meeting with them.

The concern was expressed at a meeting of the Prokrichi at the Institution of Engineers yesterday with its president, Dr M A Mazed, in the chair.

The meeting observed that the Cabinet Sub-Committee led by the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed was not taking sufficient initiative in solving the 17-point charter of demands of Prokrichi.

6 killed, 36 hurt in separate road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least six people were killed and some 36 others injured in separate road accidents on the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Aricha highways during last two days.

Three people including a woman died on the spot and 21 others were injured when a Dhaka bound bus over turned after hitting against an island near the Kanchpur Bridge on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway early yesterday.

On Monday, a minibus skidded off the highway and plunged into a ditch leaving two persons dead and 15 others injured near the Bata Shoe Factory at Dhamrai.

The injured people were admitted to the Dhamrai Thana Health Complex.

A young boy Karim was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Kalampur area on the highway the same day.

Homage to martyrs

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Chancellor of the Dhaka University.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations observed the day by holding discussion meetings, milad mahfil, cultural functions, morning processions and placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put special programmes and newspapers brought out special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

A musical soiree was organised at the Ramna Batamul which was participated by the artistes from various cultural groups.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas held a milad mahfil at Bangabhaban Monday in observance of the Amar Ekushey. Ministers, MPs, foreign diplomats and judges of the Supreme Court attended the function.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) hoisted national and party flags at half-mast besides black flag at the party central office at Nayapaltan in the morning.

Leaders and workers of the BNP and its front organisations assembled near the New Market at 6 am and wore black badges. Later, they marched towards the Azimpur graveyard, offered feteha and placed wreaths at the graves of the language martyrs. They also laid wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Awami League's programme on the day included hoisting of national and black flags at half-mast at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 5:30 am.

Thousands of Awami League leaders and workers joined a morning procession brought out from the New Market at about 7 am and proceeded to the Shaheed Minar through Azimpur and the Plassey crossing.

Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman and Mayor-elect of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif led the procession. Party leaders placed wreaths at the mazar of the martyrs at Azimpur and at the altar of the Shaheed Minar.

The 10-party left alliance, JSD, BSD, CPB, NAP, Gano Forum placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar in the morning.

Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) organised a discussion meeting and cultural function at the Ramna Park on the occasion.

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Salam Talukder attended the function as the

6 stabbed

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admitted to the DMCH with stab injuries in his chest.

Jahangir Alam, 26, was also stabbed by a group of miscreants at Sayedabad at about 3:30 am Tuesday, when he went for a stroll after Sehri.

In another incident a group of miscreants stabbed Mohammed Firoz Ahmed, 30, and snatched Tk 5000 at Kajla at about 6 am Monday.

The victim, Feroz, an employee of the National Drug Company alleged that he was waylaid by a group of miscreants in front of Kajla petrol pump at about 6 am.

Julhas, 26, was stabbed by a group of miscreants at Maghbazar at about 7 am Monday.

The victim alleged that he was waylaid near Gulistan by a group of muggers an was stabbed.

The miscreants snatched Tk 500 and a wrist watch from him.

10 hurt as dock workers clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups of dock workers of Chittagong port in the Chittagong court building premises today.

Hospital sources said, the injured were released after first aid.

Police said the trouble began when the dock workers' leader Jahangir Alam Chowdhury who is an accused in the Hannan murder case, appeared before the court for bail.

The supporters of two rival factions demonstrated for and against the bail of Jahangir which led to the clash, witnesses and police said.

Police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the mob. Jahangir was, however, not granted bail, police said.

Hannan, a pro-BNP Sramik Dal leader of the dock workers of Chittagong port, was killed by gunmen in broad day light last year.

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UN asks NATO jets to buzz Serbs

ZAGREB, Feb 22: The United Nations has asked NATO jets to immediately buzz rebel Serbs who have sealed off a UN military peacekeeping post on the Croatian-Bosnian border, diplomatic sources said today.

They told Reuters UN officers called for an intimidating show of force from the skies after learning the Serbs were sending two dozen tanks to back up 100 military police who have been blocking the UN post at the Sava river town of Nova Gradiska since Friday.

AP adds: Cautiously optimistic about the cease-fire in Sarajevo, President Clinton is giving slow on the possibility of protecting other cities in Bosnia with a NATO ultimatum threatening air strikes.

Body to look into Telegraph issue

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Press Council yesterday formed a six-member probe body to look into the sudden closure of The Daily Telegraph. Headed by Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, the other members of the body are: L K Siddiqui, Abu Yousof Md Khalilur Rahman, Prof K A A Kamruddin, Prof Md Hanur Ur Rashid, and Ahammad Ali.

Donors

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The representatives also felt the importance of plugging the losses of the public sector bodies. "The loss in the public sector in every 18 months can build one Jamuna bridge," Linden said.

Khenissi said the country's foreign exchange reserve now at 2.6 billion dollars is a very comfortable one and there is now need for the donors to help maintain balance of payments through structural credit programmes.

Earlier, the convenor of ERF, Shamsul Huq Zahid welcomed the donors representatives for meeting the country's economic reporters. Shahiduz-zaman, joint convenor of the forum delivered the vote of thanks.

Speaker asks for documents

From Page 1 Col 4

tions of corruptions against the government.

Professor Chowdhury demanded expurgation of the opposition MP's statement on the ground that he did not raise any point of order because he said the MP had failed to point out any provision of the Constitution or the JS Rules which had been violated in the House.

At this stage, the chair told the House that the notices of adjournment motions would be disposed of by the Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali who was due to enter the House a few moments later. The chair returned to the Order of the Day amidst the opposition protest against his decision not to allow Nasim to finish his speech.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina entered the House at this point and took the floor to call upon the chair to allow Nasim to finish his speech. "It is not possible to resolve the problem by preventing the opposition MPs from speaking when the ministers are involved in corruptions", Hasina told the chair. She said, the opposition would be forced to walk out if they

Parliament resolution a warning to Pakistan: BJP

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: The BJP today said the resolution on Kashmir passed unambiguously by Parliament was a warning to Pakistan and a signal to others that Kashmir was an integral part of India. Talking informally to newsmen here, the leader of the opposition Atal Behari Vajpayee said the resolution was the "collective will of the people."

Japan to postpone several nuclear projects

WASHINGTON, Feb 22: Japan has decided to postpone several nuclear power projects for as long as 20 years because of the international outcry over the shipment of Plutonium from Europe, the New York Times reported today. Tokyo's decision to put off building breeder reactors that consume and produce Plutonium and a second reprocessing plant to turn nuclear waste into Plutonium will be announced in the next few months, unnamed Japanese and American officials told the daily, reports AFP.

Unanimous resolution in Indian Parliament Stop support for Kashmiris

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: The Indian Parliament cut across party lines and sent a hands-off Kashmir warning to Pakistan today, accusing Islamabad of fanning a violent Muslim guerilla war in the disputed state, reports AFP.

A resolution unanimously adopted by both houses of the legislature asked Pakistan to stop its support for the campaign and vacate the northern third of Kashmir, it holds.

It voiced India's resolve to "firmly counter all designs against its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Kashmir, it said, "has been is, and shall be an integral part of India and any attempt to separate it from the rest of the country will be resisted by India by all necessary means."

The resolution was adopted without discussion as members of the youth wing of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) Party staged a demonstration near the Pakistani embassy here.

Some 200 activists chanted anti-Pakistan slogans and burned Prime Minister Benazir

Injunction on Jamalpur JP conference

JAMALPUR, Feb 22: District Senior Assistant Judge AKM Morshed has imposed injunction on all activities of holding of Jatiya Party (JP) district conference, reports UNB.

Court sources said that Prof Momin, secretary — education and student affairs of the district unit of the JP in a case (No 128/93) submitted that he was expelled from the party 'unconstitutionally' and sought injunction on holding of JP district conference till the expulsion order was withdrawn unconditionally.

The judge issued the show cause notice earlier to Reza Khan, district president and Shaiful Islam Khoka, Convenor of the conference preparatory committee of the party.

However, there was no response to showcause notice.

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Energy situation

From Page 1 Col 8

tee formed to formulate the policy aimed at exploration, extraction and production of energy had, so far, had 14 meetings and the policy was almost finalised.

Putting stress on stabilising power supply, the meeting took note of a target of 8323-kilometre line expansion, of which PDB will set up 1781 km, REB 5,800 and DESA 742 km.

Demand for additional 190 megawatt electricity will be created by expansion of the network for which generation capacity has to be increased, the meeting noted.

The Energy Minister emphasised more investment in the power sector in order to increase generation capacity.

The PDB officials informed the meeting that a huge production shortfall compared to the demand of electricity resulted in load-shedding for a month since January 15 till February 15 when the deficit rose to 500 megawatt. Completion of maintenance work of the Ghorasal Power Plant has improved the situation.

The meeting also discussed the cause of national grid failure on January 27 which rendered many parts of the country, including the capital, powerless for several hours.

Referring to gas crisis in some parts of the capital on February 16, officials said the low-pressure problem was due to system overloading. Gas from Rashidpur in Habiganj was diverted through the North South Pipeline to mend the situation.

It was assured that like the previous year there would be no crisis of diesel in the northern districts this year.

Nurjahan murder

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religious injunctions.

A case was filed against nine people with Kamalganj thana.

A large number of people, including the parents of Nurjahan, Ayesha Khanam and Baby Moudud of Mohilla Parishad were present during the judgement.

Fifteen lawyers, including Advocates Nirmalendu Deb, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury and Kishore Pradadeb appeared on behalf of the plain-tiff, Azizur Rab Chowdhury and Mirza Siraj Beg and two other lawyers pleaded for the defendant.

BEXIMCO

From Page 1 Col 8

macropiea (30th edn 1993). Therapeutic Drugs of Sir Colin Dolery (1st edn 1991), British Medical Journal (Vol 288, 24 March, 1984) and Clinical Pharmacology of Laurence and Bennet (6th edn 1987), all concluded that Ketotifen was not only an antihistamine, but also a potent asthma prophylactic. Ketotifen was first marketed in the world under the brand name Zadetin, which is now available all over the world.

It is not the policy of this newspaper to permit the use of advertisements to malign other companies, or their products. In the case of public interest information and advertisement, we request our valued clients to bring such facts to our notice. We will investigate, and if found substantiated, we will be happy to publish such information as news items. — Editor

Bangla Academy programme ends

The 22-day programme of the Bangla Academy in observance of the Ekushey February concluded here yesterday through a day-long programme, reports BSS.

In the morning, a recitation and musical competition for children was held. Despite inclement weather, a large number of children participated in the competition. Twenty-seven children were adjudged winners.

Besides, nine children, who had participated in a painting exhibition held earlier in observance of the Ekushey February, won prizes.

The academy's book fair, which is likely to remain open until February 28, was less crowded yesterday due to inclement weather.

In the afternoon, the prize giving ceremony for the Bangla Academy Literary Award 1993 was held with Poet Begum Sufia Kamal in the chair. Bashir-Al-Helal and Khaleda-Aadib Chowdhury received their awards.

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