## 300-mw coal-fired thermal power plant approved

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved the project conceptual paper of a 300 Megawatt Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant, reports

The project, first of its kind in the country, involves an estimated cost of Tk 1,000 crore with a foreign exchange component of Tk 700 crore, said an official handout vesterday.

The approval was given at an ECNEC meeting held on Monday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair. Ministers, concerned members of the Planning Commi ssion and secretaries attended the meeting.

The meeting directed the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to look for foreign donors for undertaking technical feasibility studies and also for financing the large project.

The proposed plant to be set up near the Boropukuria Coal Mining Project has longevity of 30 years as compared to that of 20 years of a gas-based power plant. The coal reserve at Boro-

pukuria is estimated at 100 million tons and is likely to run for 100 years if estimated lifting capacity of one million tons per year continues. The finance minister di-

rected the executing ministry to look for possible bidder countries which are pioneer in using this type of coal-fired plants and also look for cost effectiveness.

The ECNEC meeting also approved a revised Tk 1.018 crore 3rd phase of the Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project scheduled to be completed by 1996 for expansion and rehabilitation of the transmission and distribution system.

The project, on completion, is likely to improve the efficiency of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) by reducing load-shedding.

The DESA now consumes 45 per cent of the electricity while the Power Development Board (PDB) and the Rural Electrification Board (REB) 45 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. The proposed pro-

From Page 1 Col 8

overhauled Bangladesh's +0.03

Bangladesh, also have two wins

from their three robin league

games earlier confirmed a slot

in the final by virtue of a supe-

dent vesterday. Bangladesh

skipper Akram Khan preferred

form the way they did in the

previous match," said the burly

right-hand middle-order

Talking to this correspon-

"My boys would try to per-

Akram said the Indians

would be keen to efface the

memories of Monday's upset

Opposition

From Page 1 Col 3

opposition parties, despite

having wide differences in ide-

ologies and opinions, had

united, boycotted Parliament

proceedings for long, held

dialogue with the government

and finally decided to resign,

showed obstinacy on the popu-

lar demand for elections under

a caretaker administration.

"We'll give a befitting reply to

the Prime Minister's position

against the people's will just

to cling to power for a short

Minister's reported comments

on the Opposition programme

for a fresh agitation, Nasim

said, "We heard such threat

from the autocratic govern-

ments in the past too and we'll

said the Opposition had not

received any proposal from the

Public rallies

From Page 1 Col 4

government and the Opposi-

tion to reach a last-minute

position programmes also

include submission of resigna-

tion letters to the Speaker

after the rallies, between 4 pm

to 7 pm today, according to

will be held at the Manik Miah

its rally at the south gate of

Baitul Mukarram, also at 2 pm.

while the Jamaat-e-Islami's

meeting will be at the north

gate of the national mosque.

The Awami League's rally

The Jatiya Party will hold

The earlier announced Op-

ruling party yesterday.

face such warnings the way we

Replying to a question, he

Reacting to the Prime

time," he added.

did previously."

compromise.

Opposition sources.

Avenue at 2 pm.

Nasim said the government

India, who like Pakistan and

for a place in the final.

nor net run rate.

guarded optimism.

batsman.

he said.

31 overs, they would have up.

ject includes purchase of 1,000 transformers for the

The PDB runs about 5,000 transformers all over the country and several thousand more transformers are inoperative.

The finance minister directed the authorities con cerned to submit a report by February 28 next on the transformers which are not operat-

The ECNEC meeting also approved the area-wise expansion of rural electrification distribution system to be undertaken by the REB.

The project aimed at installation of 5,000 KM power supply line by next year at a cost of Tk 203 crore. The REB has a massive plan for installing 25,659 KM of power supply line under the 4th five-year

The ECNEC meeting also gave a go-ahead signal to the Sadipur, Sheola and Baroigram Bridge Project under Sylhet district at a cost of Tk 31 crore to be completed within two years.

It also okayed the 2nd phase of the bridge development and maintenance project at a cost of 16 million pound. British Overseas Development Agency (ODA) will provide grant for the project.

Regarding the Panthapath road project linking Sonargaon Hotel with Mirpur Road involving a cost of Tk 27 crore, the ECNEC directed the Works Ministry and RAJUK to submit a report before January 25 next explaining why the government has to pay Tk 17 crore as compensation against an original estimate of Tk 2.7

The meeting also instructed the authority concerned to explain why more than Tk 8 crore had already been paid without taking prior concurrence of the ECNEC and to explain whether decision of the arbitration in this connection was appealable.

The ECNEC also approved the revised project proforma of the Babubazar 2nd Buriganga Bridge Project at a cost of Tk 128 crore, which was originally Tk 133 crore.

and beat Bangladesh all ends

the newly-appointed captain of

the host squad. Minhazul

Abedin Nannoo, the stalwart of

the local batting, has recov-

ered from his leg injury and

expressed his intention to

clusion in the eleven will de-

pend on a pre-match fitness

test and team manager

Tanveer Haider made sure that

he wants to field a hundred

Indians may make changes in

On the other hand, the

per cent fit side.

squad in 1983.

Nevertheless, Minhaz's in

There was good news for

Cricket final today



Palestinian women in the West Bank argue with Israeli border policemen at a disputed hill side south of Bethlehem yesterday where villagers from El-Khader and Israeli Peace Now activists are trying to prevent Israeli settlers from starting constructions that will enlarge the Jewish settlement of Ephrata. - AFP photo

### Palestinian

From Page 1 Col 4 500 housing units on 150 acres of land just south of Bethlehem. Erekat said the Israel-PLO liaison committee was meeting to discuss the issue, and it would also be taken to the Israeli Supreme Court.

The land on the outskirts of the Palestinian village of Al-Khader is claimed by the Jewish settlement of Efrat heavily populated with Americans and other Westerners. Al Khader residents say the land was taken from them illegally.

### Interview of BNP nomination seekers tomorrow

The applicants seeking nominations of the BNP for contesting by-elections in Bakerganj-6, Brahmanbaria-6, Sherpur-3, and Natore-3 constituencies have been requested to remain present at 7:30 pm tomorrow at the party central office, a BNP press release said last night, reports

Presidents and general secretaries of the BNP of those districts have also been requested to be present there.

### Nirmul to observe 'nat'l hatred day' tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday held a demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club to make the "National Hatred Day" tomorrow a success.

Speakers at the rally said the Jamaat-e-Islami, on December 29, 1991 declared Golam Azam as its Ameer. As a mark of protest, the Nirmul Committee observes this day as the 'national hatred day'.

Sikh leader renews

call for homeland

CHANDIGARH, Dec 27: A

Sikh leader, Simranjit Singh

Mann, on Tuesday reiterated

the demand of a Sikh home-

land, two years after the gov-

ernment crushed the Sikh

Mann, who heads a splinter

group of the Akali Dal, said

only the homeland, called

Khalistan, is acceptable to the

Sikhs, who are in a majority in

the northwestern state of Pun-

uprising, reports AP.

their squad for today's match It was addressed by Kamal Hossain Badal, Al-Haj Khaled and manager Sandeep Patil didn't quite rule out the possi-Ahmed R N Bose and Md Shahidullah.

There may be changes but Like the previous years, the Nirmul Committee will put up I can't tell you right now who an effigy of Golam Azam at the will play tomorrow and who won't," said the former Test Press Club premises tomorrow. Other programmes include cricketer who was a member of India's World Cup winning public meeting and procession.

Meanwhile, Al-Baraka Bank (Bangladesh) Limited has announced a cash award of Taka 25,000 for the man of the final while Impress Group, a business house, has declared a set of prizes for the hosts. The private concern will give Taka 20,000 each for the highest Bangladeshi scorer and wicket-taker in today's game.

### Incentives for cricketers

Different organisations including Bangladesh Biman have announced lucrative prizes for the Bangladesh team which will play the final of the second SAARC cricket tournament against India today at the Dhaka Stadium, reports UNB.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will offer Dhaka-Hong Kong-Dhaka air tickets to the Bangladesh team if it clinches the trophy.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Biman held yesterday with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan in the

Impress Group, a business house, has announced an award of Taka 20,000 each for the highest Bangladeshi rungetter and wicket-taker in today's final.

The Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) and Bangladesh Sports Journalists' and Writers' Community (BSJWC) have also decided to give different prizes for the 'man-of-the-tournament' for the home side.

### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from 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, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

# KAFCO begins urea production

By Staff Correspondent

The Karnaphuli Fertiliser investor in the project. Company Ltd (KAFCO), the largest multinational joint venture in the country, has started production of urea at its Chittagong plant vesterday.

"KAFCO is pleased to announce that urea production commenced today at its plant in Rangadia, Chittagong," said an announcement from the company's head-office here vesterday.

The KAFCO plant, built under a 510 million US dollars project, started production of ammonia earlier this, month The KAFCO project has private equity participation from a number of countries, including Japan and the Netherlands. Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation is the local

Earlier last month, the company cancelled the scheduled inauguration of the plant on November 2 to make what the company said necessary changes

rated capacity is going to produce 1,500 metric tons of ammonia and 1,725 MT of granular urea. Approximately 1,000 MT of ammonia would be consumed for production of urea while the surplus ammonia and the entire urea pro-

The KAFCO plant at its

The company said that the expected earnings from the export of the KAFCO products would be around 150 million dollars per year.

duction would be earmarked

## Hasina at party meeting

for export.

From Page 1 Col 4

The Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president said: "We'll submit the resignation letters to the Speaker from 4 to 7 pm today after a rally at Manik Miah Avenue, if the demand for a caretaker government is not met by the ultimatum given to the ruling party. "The nation has now

plunged into a grave crisis and we will resign after today's meeting at Manik Miah Avenue. Our deadline was upto December 27.

Addressing the special extended meeting of the Awami League central executive committee at the Bangabandhu Avenue, she charged, the desire of a person to cling to the chair has created the crisis in the country.

"The Prime Minister will not give up power though she agrees to give up everything, Hasina said, adding: "Free and fair elections are not possible under this government. So we have started the agitation for a caretaker government to establish the voting right of the people."

"What is the use of going to this Parliament where we will not be able to discuss the problems of the people?" Hasina asked just a day before the Opposition's planned resignation from Parliament after the boycott of the House for more than nine months on the demand.

The BNP has ruled the country for more than nine months ignoring the opinions of the people and created immense misery for the people by unleashing widespread terrorism, corruption and politicisation, she alleged.

"The government did not

allow us to discuss in the House their corruption, and the proposals related to the welfare of the people," Hasina "We want to save the nation

from the naked game of capturing power. Development of the country is (not possible without a change in this situa-The welfare of the people

the playing of ducks and drakes with votes cannot be stopped, she added. "This is an alarming sign that the people are losing their

people to them," she added. "Our politics is for the peosacrifice anything for the peo-

The meeting also condoled the deaths of all national and international figures. It was also addressed by AL General

### Rabbani declares truce, won't resign now

KABUL, Dec 27: Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has declared a unilateral ceasefire in war-torn Kabul, but has not announced his expected resignation from office, an official presidential spokesman said today, reports AFP.

# Fighting near Grozny continues

# Yeltsin asks army to crush rebellion

GROZNY, Dec 27: Chechen independence forces were deflant today as Russian troops continued their onslaught at two strategic positions and President Beris Yeltsin called on the army to make every effort to crush the Chechen rebellion, reports AFP.

By early evening Russian troops had again proven unable to break, the stalemate at key positions east and west of the capital Grozny.

There was fighting at Karpinski hill, about 12 kilometres to the west and clashes were expected in Argun, 18 kilometres to the east. Rockets, artillery and heavy machine guns could be heard from central Grozny.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's eldest son was badly wounded in fighting

today, Interfax reported. Avior Dudayev, 23, was seri-

ously hurt as he took part in an attack against Russian positions near Argun, Chechen Vice Foreign Minister Ruslan Meanwhile, the Russian Air

Force plans to use special laser-guided bombs against military targets in Grozny, a senior Defence Ministry official told Interfax news agency to-

force had only been able to use the high-precision weapons sparingly so far against targets in Grozny because of bad weather hampering visibility.

peared to be hardening, excluding any possibility of negotiations to end the bloodshed - that started December 11 when Russian troops entered Chechnya to crush its three-

In Moscow, President Boris

tion," Hasina told the party will not be possible if their voting right cannot be ensured, if

faith in the electoral process because of the rigging by the government. We want to give back the voting right of the

ple. The Awami League can ple," Hasina said and called upon the people to intensify the struggle to protect the interest of the nation.

Secretary Zillur Rahman, party sources said.

Border talks with RAJSHAHI, Dec 27: The two-day border talks between the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi and the District Magistrate of Murshidabad, India.

Chimayev said.

The official said the air

Political positions also apyear independence bid.

Yeltsin addressed his troops. seeking to define the meaning of the operation, which was originally billed as a police action but turned into a war.

"A clear objective has been placed before you: Disarm bandit formations, get them to lay down or destroy their heavy weapons, I ask you to make every effort to reach that goal and believe that you will," he

Chechnya is "part and parcel of the Russian Federation," he reiterated, adding that "no territory has the right to secede. He said the first stage of the

operation, to establish Russian control over Chechnya's bor-ders was complete. The nearest airports to Chechnya, in the cities of Mahakchala and Vladikavkaz, were closed for military reasons today, western journalists arriving in Grozny

### The Midnight Eile People concerned at political impasse,

survey says

By Staff Correspondent

of the people are concerned at

the persisting political crisis

and want a peaceful solution to

lic opinion survey conducted

by 'Power and Participation

Research Centre (PPRC)' amo-

ng a cross section of people in

Dhaka and three district to-

the respondents felt that the

continuing stalemate was caus-

ing a great deal of anxiety.

Seventy-nine per cent of

Emphasising the need for

exercising flexibility by both

sides, 63 per cent of the re-

spondents urged the govern-

ment to go for a dialogue,

while even a larger number

(70 per cent) wanted the

The opinion poll on the ba-

sis of findings in December is

the second survey conducted

by the same organisation, the

first being in September. It

found that 92 per cent of the

between the government and

the Opposition had failed.

Eleven per cent were still

hopeful of further talks to end

Fifty-five per cent of the re-

spondents said lack of mutual

trust between the two sides

was the cause of failure of the

dialogue. Eighteen per cent

said government intransigence

and 17 per cent said intransi-

gence of the Opposition was

Ahmadiyyas

concerned

at press

reports

By Staff Correspondent

community yesterday expre

ssed its concern over the re-

ported move to ban their

ence in Dhaka, leaders of the

Ahmadiyyas, better known as

the Quadianis, said such a

move would curb their free-

dom of expression as well as

freedom of religious activities

as guaranteed by the country's

cently reported that imposi-

tion of a ban on the Ahmadiyya

publications was under consid-

madiyya Muslim Jamaat Mo-

hammad Mostafa Ali, Naeb-e-

Ameer Tawfig Elahi Chow

dhury, Secretary General Mir

Mobashsher Ali, Tobarak Ali

and Chief Missionary Abdul

Awal Khan Chowdhury spoke at

Mohammad Mostafa Ali al

leged that certain circles

were conspiring against the

Ahmadiyya community for po-

Ahmed Towfiq Elahi Chow

dhury said that a section of re-

ligious extremists was threa-

tening the Ahmadiyyas at diffe-

dhury brushed aside allega-

tions like Quadianis were non-

Muslims and said such pro-

paganda was "politically moti-

India ends

ended at the Circuit House

The two sides discussed bi-

lateral matters including de-

marcation of land boundary,

Nirmal Char problem and

assessment of land boundary

between the two districts will

be held in February next year.

maintain "peace and tranquility

at all cost" in the border belt of

the two districts and also help

check cross-border smuggling

mmissioner, Rajshahi led the

five-member district level

Bangladesh delegation to the

talks. The other members we-

re Superintendent of Police,

Commissioner, Revenue, Raj-

shahi, representative of Twen-

Director of Land Survey.

ty Rifle Battalion and Assistant

Magistrate of Murshidabad led

the six-member Indian delega-

tion which comprised Supe-

rintendent of Police, Mur-

shidabad, Deputy Director of

Land, Assistant Director of

Survey, Deputy Commandant,

BSF and Assistant Comman-

dant, BSF.

Sanjib Chopra, District

Abdul Malek, Deputy Co-

including drug trafficking.

It was decided that the

Both the sides agreed to

here today, reports BSS.

cross-border smuggling.

Abdul Awal Khan Chow-

rent places of the country.

the press conference.

litical gains.

vated."

National Ameer of the Ah-

A section of newspapers re-

Speaking at a press confer-

publications.

Constitution.

eration.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat

the cause of failure.

was prevailing.

the crisis.

Opposition to avoid hartals.

wns, covering 1335 persons.

This was revealed in a pub-

An overwhelming majority

### Student killed in Riyadh during protest: IRNA

TEHRAN, Dec 27: Saudi Arabia's security forces last week crushed a protest against King Fahd at Riyadh University killing at least one student and wounding several others, the official Iranian news Agency (IRNA) said today, reports AFP.

### 24 killed in Bolivian bus accident

LA PAZ, Dec 27. A crowded bus plunged into a 150-metre ravine west of La Paz, killing 24 people and injuring 22, police said Tuesday. Police Commander Gen Willy Arriaza said most of the victims were peasants who were on their way to spend Christmas at Moco-Moco, a village 120 kilometres w.st of La Paz, near the Peruvian border, reports AP.

# Efforts continue

From Page 1 Col 4

or minor in nature he replied. We can only comment after we have been conveyed the actual proposal." He also hinted that the government leaders were unable to armive at a common decision

Besides top leaders of the respondents felt that a crisis Awami League, Jatiya Party leader Anwar Hossain Maniu People were, however, and NDP leader Salauddin keenly following the efforts for Quader Chowdhury were preresolving the crisis, the survey sent at the marathon meeting said. Eighty-nine per cent of at Sheikh Hasina's private resthe respondents were aware of idence where she moved on the dialogue process while 71 Sunday. per cent felt that the dialogue

themselves.

FBCCI president Salman Rahman was also there for some time

Meanwhile, the ruling party had reportedly failed to reach any decision at its meeting which continued till 00:15 am a BNP source said. The BNP leaders will meet again today after party chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returns from Gazipur where she will attend a convocation ceremony at the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT).

The source hinted that the Gazipur function may be can celled at the last moment.

Another source said "The opposition parties have added some new points during the negotiations, which have created problems.

He said the attending lead ers received phone calls from opposition leaders during their more than four-hour meeting.

In a related development Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP, who played a key role in organising last-minute negotiations between the two camps, held an hour-long meeting with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at his residence.

Barkatullah Bhulu, MP, was present at the meeting which began after midnight. Both Jamal and Bhulu declined to comment.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar said. "The negotiation process is

He hoped that something positive would be worked out

Another BNP standing committee member said the proposal that his party was discussing now was from the Opposition which, he claimed, had declined to put it in writ-

He said that all-out efforts would be made by both sides today for an amicable, honourable settlement

According to another source, speaking on condition of anonymity, the ruling party and the Opposition were bargaining till late last night with regard to certain provisions of the proposed formula for an interim government with the President heading a 10-member cabinet — five each from the two sides.

The opposition was demanding that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her cabinet should resign immediately after the announcement of the election schedule. But the BNP was insisting that she would resign on the last day set for withdrawing the nominations papers, it was reliably learnt from both the sides.

The opposition also wanted that the BNP Chairperson should convey her acceptance of their demand either in writing or through a public announcement.

On the other hand, the BNP high command demanded a guarantee that the Opposition would honour any such announcement.

Both sides were discussing the nitty-gritty of the proposed compromise formula and hoped that they would be able to iron out the differences at the eleventh hour, competent Rajshahi, Additional Deputy sources said.

> The opposition parties are scheduled to submit their resignation letters to the Speaker between 4 pm to 7 pm today if the negotiations fail.

Meanwhile, the major opposition parties in Parliament held a joint meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday evening with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Hasina reportedly

briefed the MPs on the latest situation. The Jatiya Party's parliamentary group chief Moudud Ahmed and the Jamaat's parliamentary leader Matiur Rahman Nizami also addressed the meeting.

Earlier, the parliamentary groups of the opposition parlies had met separately.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad held another round of talks with the Prime Minister at 'her office at noon yesterday. It lasted about an hour, a source at the PM's office said. He however, declined to disclose the outcome of the meeting

PM's office to invite her to the wedding ceremony of Hasina's daughter on January 3. Hasina's son Joy and an AL MP were present at the time Meanwhile, Begum Zia yesterday evening convened a

Samad Azad had gone to the

meeting of the senior members of her cabinet to finalise the matter. The meeting, which started at around 8 pm. was continuing till the filing of this report at 1:15 am. A BNP source said that some hardline ministers were learnt to have advised the

Prime Minister that it would be unwise to accept the provision for an interim government unless maximum advantage could be gained from the negotiations. An Opposition source said that the Speaker might act as a guarantor to ensure that both

sides honour any announcement regarding the resolution of the crisis, through a compromise which would then be adopted unanimously in Parliament "Everything depends on the

meeting of the BNP stalwarts. being held now," one source said. The matter may linger till this noon, he added.

### 10 hurt in N'ganj gunfight

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Dec 27: At least 10 persons were injured. four of them seriously, in a gunbattle between two groups here this morning. The inci-

dent occurred over purchase

of a garments stock in the Masdair graveyard area. Four persons who received serious bullet wounds are Jewel. 20, Rassel, 7, Rahim, 35, and Belal, 25. They were admitted to the Narayangani

Hospital. Some ten crackers were exploded during the clash witnesses said, the two groups were from Gabtoli and West Masdair.

### HSC merit lists From Page 1 Col 5

According to sources, the publication of the withheld results of around three per cent examinees of the three other boards - Comilla, Jessore and Rajshahi —, would take another two weeks The computer centre of the

Engineering University

(BUET) has not yet received the replies to its queries from these three boards. The services of the computer centre are being utilised for the publication of the results. The Dhaka Board authori-

ties would revise the combined merit lists of the three groups after publication of the withheld results of the remaining 400 examinees.

### PM: Biharis From Page 1 Col 5

The Prime Minister termed the existing relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan as good and hoped that the bilateral ties, particularly in the field of trade, would be further strengthened in the years to

Anwar Kemal, who began his diplomatic assignment in Bangladesh about five years ago, said he had many rewarding experiences during his tenure in the country. He termed Begum Zia as a

great lady for her important role during the anti-autocratic agitation in 1990 and for playing a very significant role in building up the nation. "You have already con-

tributed a lot for the nation. The people of the country will remember you for your contribution in establishing democracy." the envoy told Begum