त्रमी इन्हात्नगामनाल

্বৰং মিউ ইক্ষাটন বোড, ঢাকা, ফোনঃ ৪১৬১০৫, ৮৩৩৬১৭

The treasury bench mem-

bers were locked in an incon-

clusive debate in Parliament

vesterday on whether the

House should discuss the rule

nisi issued by the High Court

on the Speaker regarding the

resignations of 147 opposition

and Parliamentary Affairs.

Mirza Golam Hafiz opposed

such deliberations by MPs, cit-

ing relevant constitutional

points, while Chief Whip

Khandaker Delwar Hossain was

A number of other legisla-

tors spoke on the matter -

some of them supporting the

an extension wing.

Special bench of HC

to hear writs

tomorrow

By Supreme Court

Correspondent

Court constituted by the Chief

Justice is likely to begin hear-

ing the two writ petitions re-

garding the resignations of

147 opposition MPs tomorrow.

prises Justice AM Mahmudur

Rahman, Kazi Ebadul Huq and

in the list today for hearing on

JCD continues

strike in CMCH

Normal functioning of the

Chittagong Medical College

Hospital (CMCH) remained

standstill for the third consec-

utive day today as the Jatiy-

atabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) con-

tinued their enforcement of

The JCD enforced the in-

definite strike at the college

See Page 12 Col 1

strike, reports UNB.

CHITTAGONG, Jan 30:

Wednesday, HC sources said.

M Abdul Karim.

The special bench com-

The matter would come up

A special bench of the High

in favour of such a discussion.

Minister for Law, Justice

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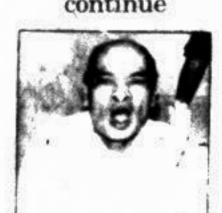
- Inside Today -

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Saudi-Yemen talks continue



Rao fails to heal split within party ranks Page 5

Business

DCCI chief hints at new law to protect consumers right

Iraq's economy will soon rebound if curbs on oil exports removed Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET 843.90 (-0.33%)

Market capitalisation Tk Turnover in volume Turnover in value Tk 20435065.50 million

Feature

Environment

Sustainable Development and the Environment in Bangladesh

Indians in Antarctica Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Dog Excels in **Fidelity**

NEWS BRIEFS

Page 3

Cabinet approves 2 draft Bills

The cabinet has approved the draft Bills of the Oppression of Women and Children (Special Provision) Act and the Representation of the People(Amendment) Act 1995 The approval was given by the regular weekly cabinet mee ting held lastnight at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

BNP-JP clash in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 30: Twenty people were injured in a clash between supporters of BNP and Jatiya Party at Satiani in the town this evening, witnesses said. They said two rounds of shots were fired during the clash that erupted over previous enmity between the

JCD factions clash in Jhenidah

two groups.

JHENIDAH, Jan 30: Two local leaders of the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured in an intra-party clash on the Jhenidah Government College campus today. College sources said the clash between the rival groups of the JCD was the sequel to their quarrel on January 18.

919 Rohingyas go home

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Jan 30: Another 919 members of 169 stranded Rohingya families were repatriated today to Myanmar across the river Naf. With this 1,52,008 stranded Rohingyas have so far been repatriated to their homeland. More 750 Rohingyas will head home tomorrow.

Debate in JS over discussing HC rule

By Staff Correspondent

contention of the Law Minister while some others were in favour of the Chief Whip.

After more than one and a half hours of lively discussion. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali adjourned the session at 9 pm. It resumes at 6-30 pm today. The other participants in the debate were: Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Nazmul Huda, Abdur Rob Chowdhury, Nurul Islam Moni, and Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman.

The MPs who supported a discussion on the HC ruling maintained that Parliament

had every right to discuss the matter since it infringed the sovereignty of the House and breached the privileges of the

The others said whether the High Court was right or wrong in issuing the rule could be decided by the Supreme Court and that they could take the help of the Supreme Court.

Immediately after the brief question-answer session, the Speaker told Khalilur Rahman that he could seek permission of the chair to raise his privilege motion under Article 164 of the Rules of Procedure.

Khalilur Rahman then read See Page 12 Col 3

New office-timings during Ramadan

The government has changed the office-timings for the month of holy Ramadan, a PID handout said yesterday. reports BSS.

According to the decision, the offices in Dhaka city including the Secretariat (ministry/division) and offices connected to the secretariat. directorate and other offices. autonomous bodies and corporations will work from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with a break from 1:15 to 1:30 pm for Zohr

The divisional, district, thana and mofassil offices and courts based in Dhaka and across the country will function between 10 am to 4:00 pm with a break from 1:15 to 1:30 pm for Zohr prayers. These offices will work without break from 10 am to 1:30 pm on Thursday. All offices would follow the

See Page 12 Col 3

Plan for alternatives to tax holiday

The government is considering discontinuation of tax holiday, a traditional fiscal incentive to encourage industrial investments, and seeking suitable alternatives, reports UNB.

An official source said three consultants, appointed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), were now working on developing alternatives to tax holidays. They are scheduled to submit their reports to the authorities by end February.

The source, however, said the decision on the matter would have to come from the political level as there were strong pressures from the private sector lobbies to continue the facility.

The current schedule of tax holidays, usually renewable every five years, is due to expire

next June. The International Monetary

Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have been insisting on the government to discontinue tax holidays, arguing that it proved ineffective as a real incentive to investment and worked only as a means of

evading taxes. Instead, the IMF has been suggesting reduction in the rates of corporate taxation as a more effective mechanism to encourage investment.

Some 2,000 industries countrywide are, at present, enjoying the fiscal benefit.

The government, as per existing alternative to tax holiday, allows the industries accelerated depreciation of machinery and plants at the rate of upto 100 per cent of actual costs from the year of commencing production.

An NBR source, however, See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka city to have 4 new overbridges in 3 months

By Krishna P Roy & Morshed A Khan

The Dhaka city will have four more pedestrian overbridges within the next three months in addition to the existing four, official sources

The Planning Commission has taken a 'crash programme' involving an expenditure of Tk 2.80 crore under which the overbridges are being constructed.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is implementing the project in cooperation with Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)

The new overbridges will be set up on Jatrabari intersection, on Mirpur Road in front of Shyamali Cinema, on Airport Road near Ananda Cinema and on the road near Shanir Akhra. sources in DCC said. Besides. the Farmgate overbridge will be expanded.

Several wreckers will be bought and steps for public awareness about traffic rules be taken under the same programme. Work on the construction of

the Jatrabari overbridge has already started. The lanes around the intersection would be expanded to facilitate smooth transport movement. The expansion work of the

Farmgate footover has also begun. It will have two arms reaching the Holy Cross College side so that people do not have to cross the street to reach it. This overbridge was built in

1978 in order to ease Dhaka's increasing traffic problem. But with the rapid growth in the vehicular movement, a road was opened between the eastern stairways and the foot-With the completion of the

25 lakh taka expansion work of the Farmgate overbridges, the pedestrians would now be landing straight on the foot-See Page 12 Col 7

case submitted

chargesheet in the sensational Isa murder case three and a half months after the killing of the schoolboy, reports UNB.

An electronics shop owner was also charged with buying the stolen goods from the al-

slaughtered by his friends and

Police arrested Habibur Rahman, 17. Shafiqul Islam Babu, 16. Zakir Hossain Biplob, 20, Zahidul Islam Prince, 18, and Amjad Hosain, 18, on

The five were charged under Section 396 (murder and dacoity) of the CrPC while

make TV

BEIJING, Jan 30: Chinese patriarch Deng Xiaoping failed today to make his annual lunar new year television appearance for the first time since 1988, in a further sign that the 90year-old leader may be in steep decline, reports AFP.

cover up Deng's absence, no other surviving "immortals"as China's early revolutionaries are known — made their traditional appearance in evening television news coverage of gatherings on the eve of the

new year's eve, when he appeared frail and vacant.

News every hour on radio from tomorrow

Radio Bangladesh is introducing news bulletin every hour starting from 7 in the morning till midnight, reports

Two bulletins in Bangla and English will be broadcast at 11:15 and 11:20 pm, the day's

The new time schedule will was announced vesterday.

Under the new timings the ten minute English bulletin of 7:30 am will go air at 8 am

while the 8:30 pm Bengali bulletin of same duration will go on air at 9 pm. The 9:30 pm English bulletin will be broad-The Commercial Bulletin.

currently broadcast at noon. will be at 5 pm while the Sports Bulletin, presently at 7:30 pm, will be at 8 pm.

Workers dismantling a section of the landings of the pedestrian overbridge at Farm Gate in the city for the construction of

Bangladesh now a proud,

reports UNB. Revolutionary changes have taken place in the country's production process due to adoption of coordinated and realistic policies in all spheres as well as establishment of democracy. Begum Zia ob-

served. The public life is now vi brant with activity. Now it is the responsibility of all to con tinue this trend of development and production by maintaining peace and discipline.

The Prime Minister was addressing the graduation ceremony of the 19th Army Staff Course, 13th Naval Staff Course and 15th Air Staff Course of the Defence Services Com mand and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur.

PM tells defence graduates

self-reliant country

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia vesterday said Bangladesh now stands out as a proud and self-reliant country with an emerging economy through sustained endeavours.

recognition of Bangladesh Na-

tional University and many of

the participants were being conferred upon masters degree in defence studies from this university for the first A total of 95 student offi cers, including 22 overseas

students from USA, China, India. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia. Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey Sri Lanka, Thailand, Zambia and Nepal took graduation. Begum Zia said initially only the army officers got training

from the college, but now it

had become a self sufficient

training institute for all the three services. Begum Zia said people of the country had earned independence through an armed struggle and lauded that the members of the armed forces had played a glorious role in

the War of Liberation.

See Page 12 Col 7

Addressing the defence

Hasina leaves for US today

-Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today for attending the 43rd Annual Breakfast Prayers in the United States at the invitation of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the USA.

The occasion is expected to be attended by the US President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, Mrs Al Gore, senior officials of the US administration. members of the judiciary and diplomatic missions and national leaders from 140 countries, according to an AL press

A member of the AL Presidium, Tofael Ahmed, will accompany Hasina.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: Sheikh Hasina vesterday urged the people to intensify the ongoing agitation for elections under a non-partisan neutral caretaker government.

The Opposition is demand ing three general elections under neutral caretaker government to stop rigging and See Page 12 Col 2

release issued last night.

Ekushey book fair: 603 stalls this year

By Staff Correspondent

Mela '95 (book fair) will begin at the Bangla Academy and adjacent areas in the capital tomorrow with the slogan "Be dictionary oriented, build up the habit of using dictionary."

The Ekushey will also be observed at the academy sale centres in Chittagong, Khulna, Kushtia and Rajshahi. The month-long book fair will remain open from 10 am

to 5 pm. There will be a break from 12:30 pm to 2 pm on Fridays. The academy has also arranged a number of pro-

grammes in its premises to

mark the Amar Ekushey. There will be no cultural functions at the fair venue except on the inaugural day, because of the Ramadan, the academy authorities said at a press conference yesterday.

The programmes of the academy include discussions, painting competition for the children, recitation, Amar

The Amar Ekushey Grantha Ekushey lecture and distribution of Bangla Academy Litera-

ture Award 1994.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) will organise a function on the inaugural day in the evening.

There will be 603 stalls of which 300 have been set up inside the academy premises while the rest would be along the road from the TSC to the Doel Chattar. Some 441 organisations are participating in the book fair.

Last year, 653 organisations took part in the book fair, setting up 845 stalls.

The academy authorities said vesterday they expect to earn around Taka 12 lakh 68 thousand from the stall rents. The rent for a single unit stall has been fixed at Taka 2500 and Taka 5000 for a double unit stall.

Besides, there will be a stall for displaying new books.

The budget for the book fair See Page 12 Col 3

Voters' ID cards possible in 9 months'

By Staff Correspondent Preparation of electoral database and identity cards for all voters in the country is possible in nine months. This was claimed by repre-

companies at a press conference held at the Jativa Press Club vesterday. The next general elections

sentatives of three local com-

puter software developing

are due early next year. IBCS-PRIMAX Software (Bangladesh) Ltd. Computer Shop Ltd and Computer Village arranged press conference where they also demonstrated the database and ID cards that they developed during the last two years. These were 'cost effective, they claimed

Managing Director of

Computer Shop Ltd Mozammel Haque said they would take three months for primary preparations and recruitment of a 12,000 strong field level workforce and then another six months to complete preparation of the database and ID cards for six crore voters. He claimed that their ID

cards could not be copied or manipulated as there would be See Page 12 Col 8



Database and ID cards being demonstrated on a computer screen during a press conference held jointly by three computer companies at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday — Star photo

Fresh fighting around Velika Kladusa

SARAJEVO, Jan 30: The Bosnian army and anti-government forces battled overnight around Velika Kladusa in northwest Bosnia, forcing civilians to flee contested areas, an spokesman said here today, reports AFP.

Major Koos Sol said a major artillery exchange appeared to be under way between the Bosnian Army Fifth Corps and forces loyal to dissident Muslim warlord Fikret Abdic. backed by rebel Serbs from Croatia.

Around 200 detonations were recorded early today south of Velika Kladusa, around the community of Mala Kladusa, making a total of 900 explosions in the 24 hours to 0700 GMT today, he reported. The Muslim-led Bosnian

government army also fired about 150 mortar bombs. Bangladeshi UN peacekeep-

disclosed that four Bosnian ers stationed in Velika Kladusa reported seeing streams of civilians fleeing the contested area and heading into the town Abdic loyalists regained

Velika Kladusa in December

Fifth Corps of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army in Neither Abdic nor the Croatian Serbs signed a New

after losing the town to the

Year truce that committed the government and Serbs from Bosnia to a four-month UNbrokered cessation of hostili-General Atif Dudakovic

commander of the Fifth Crops. has likewise refused to consider a ceasefire with Abdic, a renegade warlord and businessman who has broken with the Sarajevo government. UN negotiators have made

little headway convincing the parties to honour at least the spirit of the ceasefire, which in principle applies to all of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In another incident. Sol

army soldiers were slightly wounded on Saturday when French UN forces fired warning shots after about 30 Bosnian troops failed to evacuate a demilitarised zone on Mt Igman south of here.

Shahabuddin retires as CJ today

Star Report

Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed retires today on reaching 65 years of age. Justice Shahabuddin served on the bench for more than 23 years as judge of the High

Court division and the Appe-

llate division of the Supreme

Court. He has been Chief Justice since January 1990. Before elevation to the bench, he was in the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan during which time he served as a district and sessions judge. He was Registrar of the then East Pakistan High Court before being appointed a judge.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was appointed a judge of the High Court on 29 January 1972. He was promoted to the See Page 12 Col 7

Isa murder Police yesterday submitted

Chargesheet in

Five teenage boys, including schoolmates of the victim. have been chargesheeted for murdering Istiaq Ahmed Isa and committing daccity on October 19 in a government staff quarters flat at Hotel Elysium on Hatkhola Road in

the city.

leged killers. The case in brief is that Isa. a student of Class X of the Motifheel Government School and son of Sheikh Mazhar Ali, a senior Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of LGRD, was

acquaintances at the flat.

October 4. See Page 12 Col 5

Deng fails to appearance

In an apparent effort to

start of the Year of Pig. Deng has not been seen in public since last year's celebrations in Shanghai on lunar

UNB.

be effective from February 1, it

cast at 10 pm.