## Rains continue to flood northeastern Europe

AMSTERDAM, Jan 30: Torrential January rains forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people in northeast ern Europe and German and French officials today proclaimed the situation the "flood of the century," reports Reuter.

At least 15 deaths in France have been attributed to the weather over the past week and five people are missing. The death toll in Belgium was put at six and in Germany officials said at least three had died. One man was reported drowned in Britain over the weekend but no flood-related deaths have been recorded so far in the Netherlands.

Flooding in the German Rhineside city of Cologne beat the previous record set at the end of 1993 and officials expected water levels to go on

In the Netherlands, the biggest Dutch civilian evacuation for more than 40 years was under way today. Twentyfive thousand people in the eastern province of Gelderland were told to flee the rising Rhine and 9,000 have been evacuated in Limburg province

## 30 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 30: Some 30 people were injured, six seriously, in separate clashes in Sadar thana today, reports

Police said 20 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of people at Ranigram area at about 10 am. The clash erupted following a family feud, they said.

Seriously injured Miran Das. 23. Gobinda Das. 25. Shani Das. 26, and Shrimati Surva Bala, 40, were admitted to Sirajgani General Hospital.

In another incident, 10 people were injured as the rival people of Dhanbandi and Ekdala villages clashed with each other in the morning. A businessman, Sajadul Islam. 20, was kidnapped from Kalibari area in the town following the clash.

Of the injured Rahman, 26, and Badal, 14, were admitted to a local clinic with head injuries, police said. Two separate cases were

filed with the local police.

## JU student beaten up

By JU Correspondent

A student of Jahangirnagar University was injured when a group of rival students as saulted him near the Min Mosarraf Hossain Hall yesterday morning.

Mohammad Nazrul Islam. 25, a student of chemistry, was later admitted to the DMCH The incident was a sequel to the factional conflict be-

tween the local and non-local factions of the JCD on the campus, it was learnt. Sources said, a group of

eight JCD activists severely beat up Nazrul with bricks and sticks when he was coming out from the hall at about 12.30

## Japan's bid to ship N-waste protested

TOKYO, Jan 30: About 20 countries have protested Japan's planned shipments of highly radioactive nuclear waste from France by sea next month, a major Japanese daily reported today, says AFP.

The Asahi Shimbun said countries in the Pacific, including the Philippines, have told the Japanese government they would not permit the passage of the nuclear waste shipments in their territorial

### **CMCH**

From Page 1 Col 2 demanding punishment to those responsible for killing of its leader and medical student Ahsan Ullah Apel. He was killed by unknown miscreants on Saturday.

Doctors said out door treatment remained suspended while emergency surgical operation was also suffering due to the strike.

The first professional examination of final year MBBS scheduled for today could not

be held. A meeting of Staff Council of the college was held today with its Principal Prof Sayeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan. It had decided to inform the overall campus situation to the author-

ities for immediate action. The JCD leaders, who joined the meeting, vowed to continue their programme until the arrest of the killers.

They also brought out a procession in the college premises protesting the killing.

along the River Mas (Meuse). Local Dutch officials were contemplating whether to tell 47.000 more people in the two provinces to abandon their

emergency financial aid to flood victims in the northeast of the country.

been affected."

Belgian officials reported the situation in the southern vears in Belgium.

In Cologne, the water level reached 10.64 metres (32 feet), exceeding the 10.63metre mark hit at Christmas 1993 and sending more murky water gushing over flood barriers into the Old Town, the city's entertainment centre.

## Boy stabbed in N'ganj dies

Mohammad Shah Alam Masum, 12, a schoolboy and son of one Mohammad Abdul Majid from Fatullah. Narayanganj who received stab injuries during a cricket match Sunday died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday

bbed by Sumon, his playmate. In another incident, Monammad Omar Faruk 30, was electrocuted at Sayedabad under Demra police station yes-

Police also recovered body of a person aged about 25 from a garden in front of the Radio office at Agargaon in the city

JAIPUR, Jan 30: Former Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh today said he had no quarrel with Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao or any other in the party the party leadership realise the need for correcting the wrong perceptions going to the people about the centre's new economic policies," reports PTI.

He said there was an urgent need to correct the perception of masses that the new economic policies were against the poor to strengthen the party which is loosing electoral battles over the issue.

"They can do anything but can't deprive me of my right of being a congressman." he said

### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5

yesterday afternoon.

behaving like autocrats, she said it has snatched away the people's rights to food and vote, and is using the media as inherited property. The Opposition is fighting to establish the rights of the people. she said.

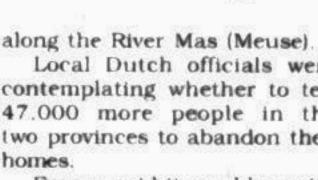
people's condition would not improve as long as "this autocratic, corrupt, vote dacoit and inefficient government stays in

power.' She called upon party leaders and workers to carry forward the agitation for forcing the government to step down and hand over power to a neutral caretaker government to

conduct free and fair polls. Hossain Amu, Mohammad Nasim. Mozaffar Hossain Paltu. Prof Abu Saveed and Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin were present on the occasion.

### Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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France said it would provide

"In many areas, we are talking about the flood of the century," French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's office said in a statement. Nearly half the country has

part of their country was deteriorating but evacuations had so far been kept to a minimum. Emergency workers said this year's floods were fast reaching the levels of December 1993 the worst for more than 60

By DMCH Correspondent

Masum was allegedly sta

terday afternoon. yesterday morning.

## Arjun denies any quarrel with Rao

but "I am only trying to make

Participating in a meet the press programme, organised by the press club here. Singh. who has been suspended from the Congress(I), said, "Others might have prejudices against me but I have no prejudice against anyone."

"I would rather wait and see what action the disciplinary action committee of the AICC(I) take," he said when asked what he proposed to do in case he was expelled from the party.

vote dacoity, she said at a meeting with newcomers to her party at its central office

A party press release said some 2,000 leaders and workers of different political parties, including the BNP, Jatiya Party and JSD formally joined the Awami League at the meet-

Accusing the government of

Hasina maintained that the

said the objection raised by Rob Chowdhury deserved consideration. He said, if the House wanted to discuss it could be done in camera.

posed to send the matter to the privilege committee but Awami League leaders Amir the Speaker said that usually privilege motion notices were sent to the relevant standing committee but it was brought before the House because of its special importance.

> Shaikh Razzak Ali said if the House wanted to begin discussion. 15 members must support the motion.

He said that there was no such provision to discuss the issue in camera.

Nazmul Huda argued in

The treasury bench member said in one rule nist the Speaker was restrained for 10

# Delhi police fire on protesters: 3 killed

NEW DELHI. Jan 30: Three people died and more than 50 were injured here today when police opened fire on a violent crowd protesting over the death of a teenager allegedly beaten by police for defecating

Iraqis shopping Sunday in a Baghdad market for the holy month of Ramadan, which is due to

start tomorrow. In the last 10 days, food prices have jumped by about 25 per cent in

anticipation of increased demand.

Ramadan begins

in S Arabia

Yemen today

will mark the start of the

Muslim holy month of Rama-

dan today, the Saudi Press

Agency said. Ramadan will also

start in neighbouring Yemen

Office-timing

From Page 1 Col 5

earlier time-table after the

The new time-table, an-

nounced by the government, is

applicable to all government

offices, corporations and esta-

blishments. However, banks

post and telephone offices.

railway, hospital, nationalised

other organisations who are

under essential services would

follow their own time-table

under the purview of their

respective rules in the public

Strike observed

in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

full-day transport strike was

observed on Chittagong-Cox's

Bazar highway today leaving

commuters including foreign

tourists stranded here. The

Arakan Road Transport

Workers Union enforced the

dawn-to-dusk strike to protest

alleged recent police atrocities

on transport workers at

Ekushey fair

is Taka 15 lakh while it was

Taka 18 lakh last year, the

leaders of various student bod

ies and cultural organisations

have discussed different issues

relating to the book fair and

have also taken a number of

decisions to make it a success.

Academy Prof Mohammed

Harun-ur-Rashid addressed

the press conference. It was

also attended by among

others, Golam Moinuddin,

Subrata Barua, Nurul Huda and

From Page 1 Col 4

out his notice to initiate a gen-

eral discussion on the High

Court ruling which, he

claimed, breached his privi-

in a ruling on Sunday, ac-

cepted a similar notice by Nu-

rul Islam Moni and said the

matter would be discussed in

the House today (Monday). Ac-

cordingly, the notice was

mentioned in the order of the

completed his discussion Ab-

dur Rob Chowdhury raised ob-

jection to the general discus-

sion and said it would not be

proper to discuss the rule nisi

He, however, said there

Taking the floor Khondker

as the matter was sub-judice.

could be a discussion in cam

Delwar Hossain said, the mat-

ter was very "complicated the

touchy" but he added that it

would have been better had

Rob Chowdhury not raised any

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury

Delwar Hossain then pro-

When Khalilur Rahman

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali,

Azhar Islam

lege as a MP.

era only.

objection.

Director General of the

The authorities and the

From Page 1 Col 7

academy authorities said.

Chokoria.

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 30: A

industrial units, factories and

today, reports BSS.

Ramadan.

DUBAI, Jan 30: Saudi Arabia

in a park, reports AFP. Three people died in police gunfire, a police spokesman said adding that forty-five policemen and 13 residents were injured in clashes after the incensed crowd attacked the police in a northwestern sub-

Nearly 3,000 people went on the rampage breaking car and shop windows, damaging property and stoning policemen after the death of an 18year-old who was beaten by an officer for defecating in a public park, the spokesman said. "It was a public complaint,

clock as local people had complained of the stench. "A constable ran after the boy, who fell down. Locals say the officer then kicked him in

he said. "Four policemen were

guarding the park round-the

the stomach and he (the boy) The spokesman said some 3.000 shanty-town residents surrounded the park, blocked the police from carrying out the body and demanded that

## Three beheaded in Saudi Arabia

the policemen be delivered to

RIYADH; Jan 30: Three for eigners were beheaded today Ministry said, reports AFP.

Nigerian in Jeddah, western Saudi Arabia.

of smuggling heroin, hashish and other illegal drugs into the them for "punishment."

We could not allow a lynching," he said, "So brought additional men and fired teargas shells. The incensed crowd they

- AFP photo

stones and attacked bungalows bordering the slum, prompting the firing in which three people were killed, he

Several shanty-towns in the Indian capital do not have toilets and few streets have public lavatories. People defecat ing in the open is a common sight in the poorer quarters of the city of nine million peo-

## Isa murder case

From Page 1 Col 8

Safed Ali, the owner of Kabir Electronics at the Dhaka Stadium Market, was charged under Section 412 (buying stolen goods) of the criminal procedure code.

Forty-seven people have been named as witnesses, police sources said.

Meanwhile, another detective team investigating the sensational double-murder of a professor-mother and student daughter at Lalmatia in the city on October 2 is likely to sub mit the chargesheet today police sources said.

Romena, the maid of the house, who has confessed to the crime, will be formally charged with the murders under Section 302 (murder) of the CrPC

Police named 45 persons as witnesses.

A teacher of the Home on October 19.

from a village in Shibalaya thana of Manikgani district on October 21 and recovered a sizeable quantity of gold jewellery and cash from her pos-

#### The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC-Ejaz) announced

vesterday that it would sponsor the march. SPGRC Mirpur and Mohammadpur units will bring out a

Stranded Pakistanis

march towards

Pak embassy today

march" towards the Pakistan

Embassy in the city today as

part of their agitation on a

four-point demand, reports

A group of stranded Pakistanis will stage a 'short

procession at 10 am, said a press release. The demonstrators will also burn an effigy of the Home Minister of Pakistan, Nasrullah Khan Babar, in front of the

National Press Club for his ut-

terances against their repa-

triation, said the release. It said the march to the Pakistan Embassy aims at realising their demands, including issuing of identity cards and Pakistani passports.

#### Strikes in Pakistan Feb 5 on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Jan 30: Pakistan called today for a nation-wide general strike on February 5 to back a revolt in Indian-ruled part of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, reposts Reuter

The government said the strike, a repeat of one observed last year on the same day, was part of its continuing efforts to arouse world opinion in support of the Kashmiri rebels."

## B'baria-6 polls: Rigging alleged

ii the recent Brahmanbaria-6 by-election yesterday brought allegations of widespread rigging and demanded polling in the constituency.

Addressing a press confer ence in the capital the candidate. Dr Rawshan Alam, said that massive "vote dacoity" during the by-election in Bancharampur January 25 had overshadowed the rigging in the Magura by-polls in March last vear.

BNP supported Md Shahja han Mia won the polls.

Election Commission for not

tres in a bid to help the BNP supported candidate to win. "The whole Bancharampur area was terrorised by the hoodlums belonging to the BNP who forced my agents out of the polling centres, cast

he alleged. The defeated candidate said that the EC had shifted polling centre from one place to another without informing

"It will, be proved during investigation why the voters could not exercise their right to franchise, why 'vote dacoity took place at 23 centres or why the results were suspended at four polling stations. he said.

## By Staff Correspondent An independent candidate

Dr Alam also criticised the

cancelling the votes despite his complaints of malpractices. He alleged that the authori ties had cancelled 12,000 votes cast in his lavour and suspended polling in 23 cen-

false votes and opened fire.

the voters.

### has now become a sub-judice to Parliament and the Speaker

About the jurisdiction of the High Court to issue rule nishi on the Speaker, former information minister Nazmul Huda said that it should be decided by a superior court.

Rafigul Islam Mia described Speaker. He said the court could

have reacted only after the Speaker had given his decision on the resignation letters of the opposition members.

opposition parties to destabilise the government Mirza Golam Hafiz again

took the floor and referred to on the privilege motions.

with the request to consult it carefully before giving his decision on the subject. Golam Hafiz said there has been a misunderstanding between Parliament and the ju-

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali sions later

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 30: A six-storey apartment block collapsed, killing 27 people, a Brazilian rescue worker said today. Nine people were pulled from the rubble alive after the building collapsed on Saturday in the resort town of Guaratuba along Brazil's coast, reports Reuter.

The Midnight File

Building collapses in

Brazil: 27 killed

## Blast claims 20 in Algiers

TUNIS. Jan 30: A powerful explosion today killed at least 20 people and wounded 60 outside Algiers central police station, state-controlled Algiers Radio said. The radio said the blast at about 3:20 pm in Amirouche Street, caused major damage. It broadcast an order from the interior Ministry for all doctors, surgeons and other medical staff to report urgently to nearby Moustapha Hospital, reports Reuter.

## Hartal observed in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 30: Traffic in six routes of the district was disrupted today as the Pabna District Truck Drivers' Union enforced a day-long hartal to protest the killing of its line secretary, reports UNB.

Habibur Rahman Habil, 30. the line secretary of the union. was critically injured as he was beaten by some extortionists at Nagarbari ferryghat on January 22. Habil succumbed to inriries at the Rajshahi Medica! College Hospital on January 23. The union supporters also held a rally in front of DC office

manded immediate arrest of the killers. Presided over by Md Man sur president of the union the fally was addressed, among others, by Shimul Biswas and Rafigul Islam Rafig.

in the afternoon and de-

#### Shahabuddin From Page 1 Col 8

Appellate Division on 16 April.

Justice Shahabuddin was the head of the country's interim government as Acting President from 6 December 1990 until 1991, taking over from HM Ershad.

During his administration, elections to the country's Fifth Parliament were held in a free and fair atmosphere on 27 February 1991. After handing over power to the elected government, Justice Shahabuddin resumed his duties as the Chief Justice. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

his contribution as head of the interim government following the ouster of the Ershad regime through a mass move-Justice Wonammad Habibur Rahman will take over as the new Chief Justice tomorrow

was named 'Man-of-the-year'

for 1991 by The Daily Star for

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will administer the oath tomorrow morning at the Bangabhaban. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association tomorrow will formally bid farewell to the outgoing chief

new chief justice. The function will be held at the bar association building at 4:30 pm.

justice and also welcome the

Ozair Farooq, general secretary of the bar association, has requested all lawyers to attend the function, a press release said yesterday.

## PM: Defence

From Page 1 Col 4

graduates from home and abroad. Begum Zia said they earned an essential and prestigious degree of the armed forces through tireless training and exercise. Your success heartens me. I

am confident that this education will help you in discharging greater responsibilities in future. Begum Zia congratulated the graduate officers of the

successful completion of the staff college course. The Commandant of the DSCSC, Major General Mustafa Kamaluddin, also addressed the function

army, navy and airforce for

Ministers, diplomats, Chiefs of Staff of the three services. Defence Secretary and other senior civil and military officials were present on the oc-

Earlier, on arrival at the DSCSC, the Prime Minister was received by the Commandant of the college.

## Overbridges

From Page 1 Col 7 The capital CHY now has

four overbridges at Farmgate, Newmarket, near the Judge's Court in old city and near the airport. All these were built by the Roads and Highways Directorate

The DCC, which is implementing such work for the first time also has plans to construct seven more over bridges with its own funds by the end of this financial year said an official in its engineer ing section.

Those footovers will be set up at the Purana Paltan near Baitul Mukarram Mosque, at the lttefag intersection. GPO intersection. Dainik Bangla in tersection. Mouchak intersec tion. Malibagh intersection and Sadarghal in old city, he said

#### 3 electrocuted in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Jan 30: Three sweepers of the Patuakhali district jail were electrocuted today inside the jail

The incident occurred

when they were setting up a disused (elephone post for pfl ing hav around 1:30 pm As soon as they had set up the post it hit an overhead

33.000 KV electric line. One Ayub Ali, 45, was immediately electrocuted. Two others Deboprashad, 30, and Azhar, 37, were rushed to the Patuakhali Sadar Hospital where doctor declared both of them dead. The bodies of the three were sent to the hospital morgue for

#### JCD protests hurling of bombs at PM's motorcade Leaders of the Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD), the ruling BNP's student wing, said yesterday none could succeed in capturing power through politics of killing, conspiracy and evil design, reports UNB. The JCD leaders were ad-

dressing a protest rally yesterday morning in front of the DUCSU Bhaban as part of their country-wide action programme for the arrest and punishment of those responsible for hurling bombs towards the motorcade of the Prime Minister on January 25.

They had earlier announced a two-day action programme in all educational institutions of the country, which ends today. The protesters accused the Awami League and its student

front, the Chhatra League, of conspiring against the hardearned democracy and development drive introduced by the BNP government. The rally was addressed, among others, by JCD

President Fazlul Haq Milon, Organising Secretary Abul Khayer Bhuyan, JCD UN unit General Secretary Monir Hossain and DU unit Organising Secretary Jakir Ahmed

"A vested quarter is opposing everything just for the sake of opposition, hindering ongoing development of the country." Milon said.

Monir Hossain urged all JCD men and student community to safeguard the peace-loving people as well as democracy. He urged all to make the protest rally, to be held in front of the Jatiya Press Club, tomorrow a success.

Earlier, the protesters pa-

raded through the Arts Faculty

premises of the Dhaka Uni-

versity shouting slogans against

### terrorisin.

ID cards · From Page 1 Col 2 'arrangement for putting voters' photographs in the voters' lists and voters would also be provided with a provisional ID

card each.

Mozammel Haque, however, said they would also register thumb impressions of all voters to ensure fairness. "In our system, every voter will be required to fill up a

three-part form for basic in-

formation and has to come to voters' registration centres for being snapped" he said. Earlier, Executive Director of IBCS-PRIMAX Abdul Towhid made a brief introductory speech. Managing Director of the company Abu Y M Ahmed

## Tax holiday

was also present at the brief-

From Page 1 Col said the industries prefer tax holidays and showed little or no interest to the alternative.

Tax holidays are allowed to

industries for 5.7.9 and 12 years depending on economic values of the areas where they are set up. The cities of Dhaka. Chittagong and Khulna and the adjoining areas are considered developed areas, and indus-

tries, if set up in these areas, are provided five years tax holiday. Chittagong Hill Tracts considered as a special economic zone has the most at tractive offer with a relief for 12 years The period of tax holiday is

calculated from the month of commencement of commercial production

Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No:

cuted so far this year in the Economics College, Prof Saudi Kingdom, the Interior Nilufar Chowdhury and her medical student-daughter The ministry, quoted by the Mahjabeen Chowdhury Shoma official news agency SPA, said a 20, were slaughtered in their Pakistani was beheaded in the house at Block-A 5/5 Lalmatia eastern town of Dammam, an Afghan in Riyadh, and a Police arrested Romena

## for drug trafficking, raising to 15 the number of people exe-

They had been found guilty

JS debate on discussing HC rule favour of discussion in the na-

> tional interest. He said the newspaper reports on the issue had already created interest in the public mind. He said the discussion could proceed in keeping with

the dignity of the Jativa Sangsad. At this stage 22 members from the treasury bench including Environment and Forest Minister Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain, Labour and Manpower Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain and Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara rose

to dismiss the objection raised by Abdur Rob Chowdhury. The Speaker then asked Khalilur Rahman to initiate discussion but he wanted that no member should make any derogatory comment against

any judge. Initiating discussion Khalilur Rahman said, the rule nisi of the High Court upon the Speaker had breached the privilege of all the members of Parliament. He argued that it was the

exclusive jurisdiction of the

Speaker under the Constitu-

tion to deal with the resignation letters of the MPs. He referred to Article 67 (2) of the Constitution and said under it, the Speaker must scrutinise the resignation letters to ascertain whether those were properly given.

resignation letters and thus the Speaker must examine the signatures. He said the High Court had given two rulings which, he added, were contradictory.

Rahman said that two lead-

ers of three political parties

had submitted the en masse

days from giving any decision on the resignation letters while in the another, the court asked the Speaker to explain why a constitutional provision would not be in force with regard to the resignation letters. Mirza Golam Hafiz read out Article 148 of the Rules of

could not be discussed in the House, and as the Law Minister "I am strongly opposing the He read out the privilege motion submitted by treasury bench member Nurul Islam Moni and said since the matter was pending before the court

Procedure and said the matter

the House because it would be sub-judice. The Law Minister pleaded that the privilege motion be rejected under Rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Speaker said that he

would take a decision on the

privilege motion or Moni later

it could not be discussed in

and gave the floor to Khalilur Rahman Khalilur Rahman proposed that his motion be sent to the standing committee of privileges. Since there was no objection, the Speaker sent it to the privilege committee.

At this stage Moni advocated for allowing a discussion on the matter saying that the court had no jurisdiction to interfere on the proceedings of the House He pointed out that the Speaker had already indicated that he was going to take a de-

cision on the resignation let-

ters submitted by 147 opposi-

division had obstructed him in not be cited. discharging the Speaker's constitutional responsibilities Mont also asserted that by issuing rule nishi, the matter

and not to the court.

the matter as "very sensitive and peculiar" and said the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction to interfere with it at this stage when the matter was under consideration of the

At this stage rising on a point of order, Abdur Rob Chowdhury said the entire resignation of the 147 opposition members was 'illegal'. He said the Speaker was to see whether the resignation of the 147 members was an outcome of a conspiracy by the three

Rule 148(8) of the Rules of Procedure and said there was no scope to allow discussion He also referred to a relevant rule and provision of the Indian Constitution and forwarded a book to the Speaker

tion members, but the rule dictary. As lawmakers, we nishi issued by the High Court should talk rationally and must

said he would study the rele vant point and give his deci-