JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
SHERBET
প্রাণ
SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-WATER
ROSE-WATER
PRAN for Health প্রাণ

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Announcement

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NEWS BRIEFS

Liaison committee meets Monday

A meeting of the liaison committee of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami will be held on Monday at 9:30 pm at the residence of Abdus Samad Azad. Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

3 killed in Kushtia road accident

KUSHTIA, Dec 29: Three people including two brothers were killed on the spot when a motorcycle collided head-on with a bus on Kushtia-Bheramara road this afternoon. The dead were identified as Moon, 28, his younger brother Mebin, 22, and their relative Sharif Ahmed, 18. They were going to Bheramara from Kushtia town riding a motorcycle. The ill-fated brothers were the sons of one Tauhidul Islam, an Engineer of G-K Project in Bheramara, UNB.

BAU reopens Jan 14

The Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will be re-opened on January 14, after extended winter vacation, a BAU press release said yesterday. A High-level meeting held on Thursday with Vice Chancellor Dr Shah Mohammad Farooq in the chair reviewed the situation on the campus and decided to extend the winter vacation which expires on December 31 till January 13, reports BSS.

Snowstorms kill 107 in Kazakhstan

MOSCOW, Dec 29: Snowstorms have left 107 people dead in northern and western Kazakhstan, the state committee for emergencies announced today, reports AFP.

WB condition on WASA reorganisation

Govt seeks cancellation of privatisation component

By Sharier Khan

The government has requested the World Bank to either cancel or defer its condition to privatise metre reading, billing and collection of revenue in some zones of the Dhaka WASA for financing the Syedabad Water Treatment Plant, a well placed source in the LGRD Ministry has said.

Resistance from the employees unions is preventing the Dhaka WASA authorities from privatising those works as a pilot project, the source said.

"As the election is drawing nearer, the government does not want to lose popularity among the unions. Therefore, it is not pressing hard the reform measures," the source noted.

The World Bank had offered to finance 76.2 million US dollars of the 167.6 million dollar cost of the Syedabad project but set five conditions. The government is unable to fulfil most of those due to the employees unions' resistance besides other reasons, another source in the Dhaka WASA said requesting anonymity.

The Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) had invited tenders two months ago for contracting out the works to private firms in zone four and five covering Lalmatia-Mohammadpur and Gulshan-Banani areas with about 28,000 and 20,000 consumers respectively. The DWASA has six operating zones providing about 1.40 lakh connections.

The prime objective of engaging private firms for this job is to increase DWASA's revenue by reducing its huge system loss of 47 to 52 per cent of the 77 million litres of water supplied daily. Prior to signing contracts with the private firms, targets will be fixed for both billing and collection which would form the basis of measuring their performance.

The system loss is depriving the DWASA of Tk 50 crore revenue annually.

"There is a strong resistance from an unscrupulous section of the union workers who are involved in pilferage of water. Honest union workers do not have any say in this resistance, the source pointed out.

After a series of talks the

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Some day labourers setting out for work in the foggy winter morning yesterday. — Star photo

Mugger shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

An alleged mugger was shot dead by an unidentified person on Malibagh DIT road near Mouchak market in the city early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jalal, 28, son of Abdul Gafur of Khilgaon area.

The incident occurred when Jalal and his three accomplices attacked a rickshaw passenger who fired a pistol on them at about 2:30am, police and hospital sources said.

Jalal sustained bullet injuries in his chest and died on the spot.

Ramna police arrested one of the accomplices, Nobi Hossain, from the area.

BNP meet discusses nominations

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the highest decision-making body of the party, was held last night at its election office at Kakrail in the city.

With party Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, the meeting discussed nomination of party candidates for the next general elections. The meeting was going on till the filing of this report late last night.

Russian expert at Ghorashal Power Plant dies

By Staff Correspondent

A Russian expert, Doroj kine Victor, died in his flat at the Ghorashal Power Plant early hours Thursday.

Victor, 45, an engineer, fell sick Wednesday night and a physician from the medical centre of the plant visited him, Ghorashal police said. Later, he died at about 1:30 am Thursday, police added.

The cause of death could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, the dead body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy, hospital sources said.

Chun's condition worsens

SEOUL, Dec 29: Jailed former South Korean president Chun Doo-Hwan was put on oxygen today as he drifted into unconsciousness after going on hunger strike for 27 days, hospital authorities said, reports AFP.

"Mr Chun is not responding to questions and is on the verge of losing consciousness," Lee Known-Jun, a senior doctor at the police hospital told journalists.

"He'll be fed with thin rice gruel in two to three days," Lee said, adding that Chun would recover in time.

Yonhap television news quoted other hospital officials as saying that Chun was put on oxygen and was being fed intravenously after developing breathing problems.

Chun's lawyer Lee Yang-Woo, who briefly visited Chun at the hospital, told journalists: "He is unconscious and does not open his eyes."

Govt borrowings rise, revenue collection falls

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

The government's borrowings have increased, mismatched by a decrease in revenue collection.

Government borrowings including that of state owned enterprises (SOEs) showed a continued upward trend, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics.

The government borrowings excluding those of SOEs increased by Tk 278.31 crore or 6.3 per cent till October 19 of this fiscal year. In contrast with this government borrowing dropped by Tk 769.92 crore or 16.23 per cent during the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

SOEs' borrowings from banks rose by Tk 394.58 crore or 7.11 per cent till October 19 this year while borrowings fell by 0.65 per cent or Tk 32.88 crore during the corresponding period of last year.

Thus the total public borrowings increased by 6.62 per cent or Tk 678.89 crore till October 19 this year as against a decrease of 8.15 per cent last year.

On the other hand, revenue collection in September this year dropped by Tk 875.16 crore or 5.85 per cent from the previous month's collection.

As a result of the expansionary monetary trends money supply shows an in-

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JP, 8 other parties to resist polls

The Jatiya Party and eight other parties at a meeting yesterday expressed their determination to resist any election unless the demand for a neutral caretaker government is met, reports UNB.

The meeting, presided over by JP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed at his residence, discussed the latest political situation of the country. It resolved that any attempt to push the country to a civil war would be resisted.

JP presidium member Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju, Janata Dal president KM Obaidur Rahman, Muslim

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People to resist polls under BNP: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that the people would not allow holding of elections unless this government stepped down and a neutral caretaker one was formed.

The BNP government wants to go for elections taking the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu and letterhead parties with it and keeping the Opposition out of the race. People will resist this anti-people, autocratic and whimsical step of the government, Hasina said while addressing an extended meeting of the city AL at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Hasina said elections without the participation of the Opposition would be a farce and people would resist this at any cost.

"We want a meaningful election. Without a neutral and non-partisan caretaker government there can be no such election," she said.

The Prime Minister's greed for power and obstinacy are pushing the country towards a situation of confrontation, she said. This government has to bear the responsibility of such a consequence, she added.

Hasina brought allegations of terrorism and corruption

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Opposition's road-rail barricade today

By Staff Correspondent

The three main opposition political parties will observe a countrywide rail-road-water ways barricade programme today as part of their fresh shell of agitations demanding resignation of the Prime Minister and holding of the ensuing general election under a neutral caretaker administration.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami on December 18 had announced their similar 10-day programmes which also include a 48-hour countrywide hartal

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A 'dress as you like' competition at the Abahani field at Dhanmondi in the city organised yesterday by the Parjatan Corporation to mark the Tourism Month. — Star photo

Tk 39.78 cr earned from tourism in six months

By Reaz Ahmad

The country earned Taka 39.78 crore from tourism during the first half of this year according to Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC). The earnings were Taka 75.94 crore last year when a record number of 1,40,122 tourists visited Bangladesh.

Bangladesh earned Taka 59.44 crore in 1993 and Taka 30.29 crore in 1990. Foreign tourists in the country were 1,26,785 in 1993 and 1,15,369 in 1990.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, an official of the BPC regretted that the country's potential in tourism is not being projected due to world wide media coverage focusing on floods, political impasse etc.

The official said Bangladesh is far behind other countries in the region in developing modern facilities to attract tourists. There is tremendous scope for the private sector to come in the sector because it is an industry now, declared by the government in 1991. The few private tour operators in the country largely depend on facilities provided by the BPC, the official said.

Some private tour operators talked to however said the authorities should develop more travel spots and other facilities particularly a good communication system.

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Major warns Charles

LONDON, Dec 29: Prime Minister John Major has warned Prince Charles that the British public would not tolerate a marriage to his long time love Camilla Parker Bowles if he divorces Princess Diana, a newspaper reported on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Daily Mirror, quoting senior members of the ruling Conservative Party, said Major told the heir to the throne that Britons would not accept Parker Bowles as his consort.

"Major is believed by top Tory sources to have made that clear to Charles and the queen," the newspaper said.

"It would be very unpopular if there was a divorce and remarriage," it quoted a member of the party's influential 1922 committee as saying.

Major was reported to have informed Charles, who has been separated from Diana since 1992, of the perceived public disapproval during private meetings after Queen Elizabeth wrote to the battling couple last week urging them to seek a divorce.

Charles has agreed to his mother's request, but Diana, who was said to be furious and devastated by the letter, has not replied yet.

DUTA polls today

By DU Correspondent

Election of the executive committee of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) for 1996 will be held today at the Dhaka University Club.

Some 30 candidates from the pro-Awami League 'Blue' panel and pro-BNP 'White' panel are contesting for 15 posts in DUTA executive committee.

The left leaning 'Pink' group will not participate in the polls this year. It may throw its weight behind the 'Blue' panel, according to sources.

A total of 1050 teachers of the university are expected to cast votes from 10 am to 2 pm.

The 'Blue' panel has nominated A K M Zahurul Haq incumbent president of DUTA for re-election and Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique (Journalism), a former general secretary of DUTA to run for the post of general secretary.

The 'White' panel nominated Prof Zinntunessa Tahmida Begum (Botany) for the post of president and Prof Sayed Rashidul Hasan (Marketing) for general secretary.

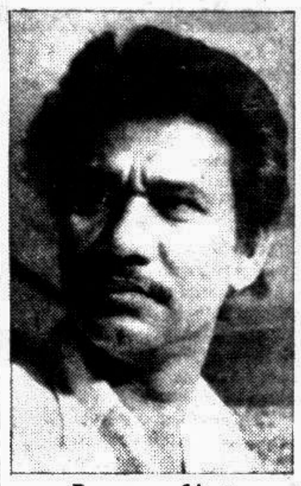
The other candidates of the 'Blue' panel are Vice President — prof Mohibur Rahman (Chemistry), Treasurer — Prof Iftekhar Gani Chowdhury (IBA) and Joint Secretary — Dr Shahid Akter Hossain (Soil Science).

Its member candidates are A K Azad Chowdhury (Pharmacy), Dr Shahadat Ali (Zoology), Dr Khandkar Bazlul Haq (Management), Dr Amal Krishna Halder (Mathematics), Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (Management), Kazi Afroz Jahan Ara (IER), Dr Rafiqul Islam Sharif (Applied Physics and Electronics), Dr Immamul Haq (Soil Science), Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan (History) and Dr Sayed Gias Uddin (Public Administration).

The other contestants of 'White' Panel are Vice-President — Dr Ziauj Shams (Geography), Joint Secretary — Golam Mohammad Chowdhury (IBA) and Treasurer — Dr Jamal Uddin Ahmed (Finance and Banking).

Its member candidates are Dr Anwar Hossain (IBA), Dr A F M Yusuf Haider (Physics), Dr A K M Sirajul Islam Khan (Bio Chemistry), Dr M A Wadud Bhuiyan (Political Science), M Shajan Mia (Finance & Banking), Dr Tazmary Selima Akter (Chemistry), Abdus Sattar (Fine Arts), Dr Khalilur Rahman (Bio Chemistry), Dr Sayeed-Ur-Rahman (Bengali) and Dr Habiba Khatun (Islamic History and Culture).

Meanwhile, a group of teachers belonging to the 'White' panel has appealed to the DUTA to rescheduled the poll as the opposition has called a barricade programme today. But the appeal was rejected.



Journalist Monajatuddin drowns

Journalist Monajatuddin, who rose to the peak of popularity by depicting rural Bangladesh, drowned in the Teesta yesterday. He was 52, reports UNB.

He drowned in the Kala-Sona turning point of the Teesta river in Gaibandha district falling from the roof of a railway ferry "Sher-e-Bangla" at about 12.30 pm.

Monajat, a Senior Staff Correspondent of the Daily Janakantha and a laborious newsman who travelled to the remote areas of the country's northern region, met the tragic end of his life while working on a story on the ferry problem.

He was taking photographs of the emerging

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DUTA to go for token strike demanding arrest of Nuban's killers

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) has decided to go on two days token abstention from work on January 1 and 2 demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Nuban Ahmed, a teacher of the University and threaten toughen action programmes if the authorities failed.

At a press conference at the Dhaka University teachers club yesterday, the DUTA leaders also demanded resignation of the Home Minister for his alleged failure to ensure security to people and said they will submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister for arrest and trial of the killers of Nuban.

The DUTA leaders also

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Int'l alliance against fundamentalism

NEW DELHI, Dec 29: Humanist groups from 22 countries announced here today the founding of an international group against fundamentalism, saying it would try to influence governments and shape public opinion, reports AFP.

The setting up of an "international alliance against fundamentalism" was made at the international rationalist conference, which started here Wednesday, the organisers said.

Sanal Edamaruku, secretary general of the Indian Rationalist Association, said the new body would be a non government pressure group and it would monitor and campaign against fundamentalist forces worldwide.

It would also give annual status reports about the state of secularism in different countries, he said.

"Our major aim is to influence governments and shape global public opinion, Edamaruku said, it will bring together organisations and individuals to launch aggressive but non violent campaign against fundamentalism.

"The alliance is coming through at a time when countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America have been targets of violence by fundamentalists," he added.

Lorenz Stavrum, president of the Norwegian Humanist Association formally inaugurated the new alliance.

Purulia airdropping

Indira Congress demands Rao's resignation

NEW DELHI, Dec 29: All India Indira Congress on Thursday demanded the resignation of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister over the Purulia airdropping incident claiming that intelligence agencies had forewarned them about the plot, reports PTI.

The chief spokesman of the breakaway Congress, K N Singh, told newsmen quoting unnamed intelligence sources that P V Narasimha Rao as the defence minister and S B Chavan were informed on November 29 that such an attempt of airdropping of arms would be made.

Singh said that Rao and

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