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Holiday
 The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Saturday) on the occasion of Holy Shab-e-Barat.
 Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Sunday).

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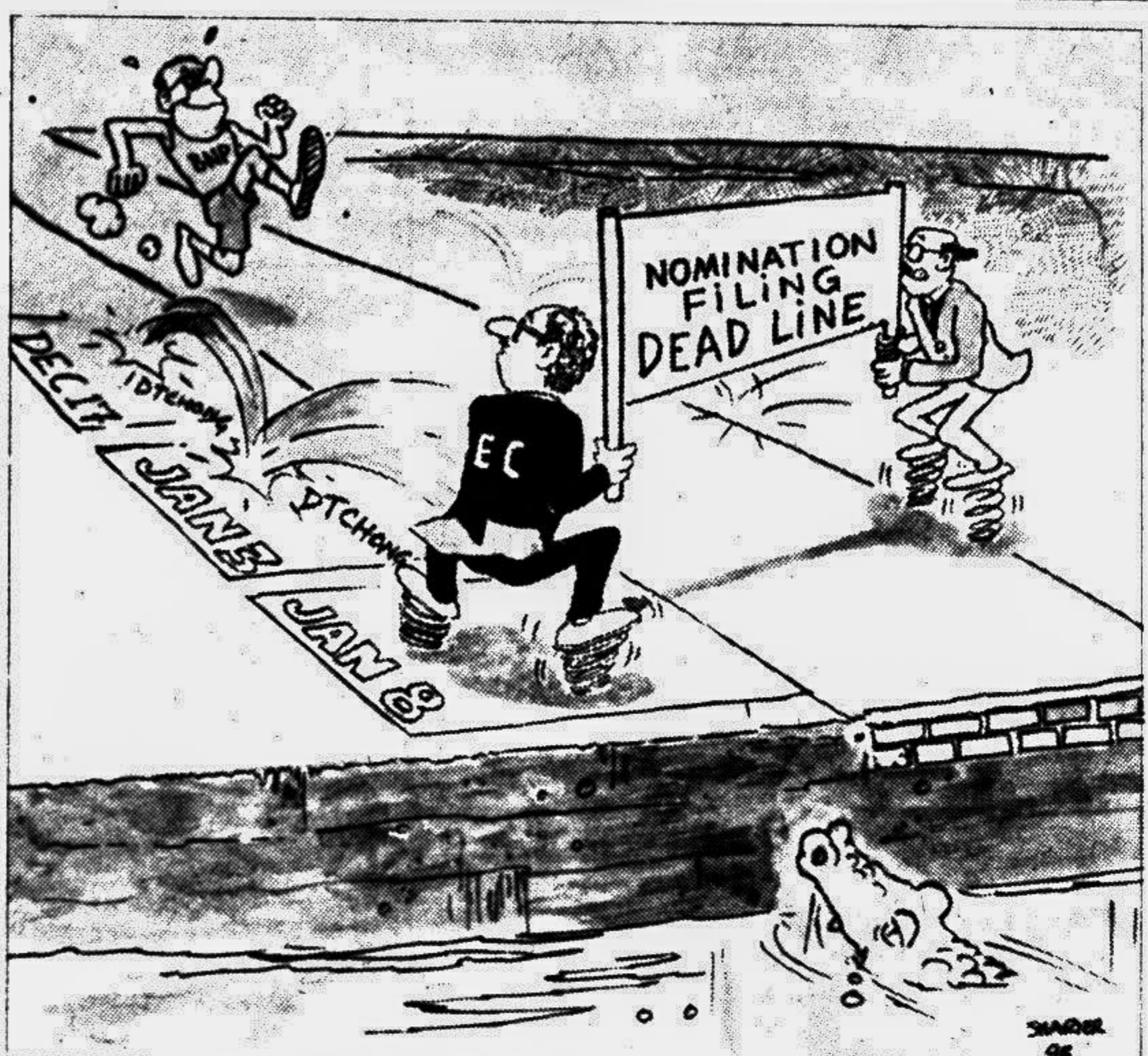
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NEWS BRIEFS
Hasina visits Seba Ashram
 TUNGIPARA, Jan 5: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina here today visited Bashuria Rai Rashraj Seba Ashram which was reportedly ransacked by miscreants recently. Hasina was received by Chief Caretaker of the Ashram, reports UNB.

AL team urges President Ask PM to step down

Star Report
 The Awami League yesterday requested President Abdur Rahman Biswas to advise Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down immediately to facilitate holding of the next general elections under a caretaker government.
 The request was made by AL stalwarts Amir Hossain Anu, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim who called on the President yesterday evening at the Bangabhaban.
 At the hour-long meeting, the AL leaders apprised the President of the latest political situation in the country and requested him to exercise his 'constitutional powers.'
 "We told the President to exercise his authorities and request the PM to step down," said Mohammad Nasim, Organising Secretary of the AL.
 Talking to The Daily Star last night, he said that they reminded the President of his powers under which he asked the PM to continue in office for the interim period after dissolution of the JS.
 "We requested the President to exercise that power again," he added.
 Meanwhile, the backstage negotiation between the ruling party and the Opposition has now brought the rival groups closer than ever before, sources close to the negotiators yesterday said.
 They indicated that the negotiations, brokered by the diplomats from two influential countries, focused more on the possibility of deferring



ID cards: EC to seek changes in law

By Morshed Ali Khan
 The Election Commission (EC) will shortly seek amendments to the existing law enabling it to issue identity cards (ID) to voters only in selected areas before the ensuing general elections, according to EC sources.
 Issuance of ID cards to all voters is not possible before the upcoming general elections scheduled for February 7, the sources noted.
 Under the EC Bill passed by Parliament, every eligible voter must be provided with an ID card before holding of any general elections.
 The formal request for the amendments to the Bill will be made to the Prime Minister within a day or two, the sources said.
 "Once the proposed amendments are cleared by the Prime Minister, those will then go to the President for promulgation of an Ordinance to this effect," an official source said.
 In June last year, the EC had said that it would seek amendments to the EC Bill so it could issue ID cards only in selected areas before the next general elections. But all eligible voters would receive ID cards in phases, it had pointed out.
 In all, 64 firms in the country were given the job of preparing ID cards for an estimated 51 million voters. An EC source said that although those firms were now working 'round the clock' to prepare the ID cards, it would still not be possible to give everyone an ID card before the polls.
 It could not be ascertained how many ID cards could be made available before the next general elections.
 "Since we had already informed the government earlier about the inability to issue ID cards to all voters before the ensuing elections,"

Shab-e-Barat tonight

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, will be observed throughout the country to night, reports BSS.
 Quran khwani, milad mahfil, waz-mahfil, zikir and discussions will be held at all mosques on the holy occasion. Night-long prayers will be offered seeking divine blessings from Almighty Allah.
 Special prayers will also be offered for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh as well as stronger unity and fraternity of Muslim ummah.
 Many people will visit the graveyards of their near and dear ones on the night and will offer *fateha* for the peace of the departed souls.
 Distribution of *halua* and *ruti* and sweets among the relatives, neighbours and poor will mark the holy festival.
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

Replace cabinet by advisory council: GF

By Staff Correspondent
 Gano Forum President Dr. Kamal Hossain demanded dissolution of the Cabinet and its replacement by an impartial and non-partisan advisory council under the President.

Bangladeshi boys back on camel backs

ABU DHABI, Jan 5: Teenage boys from Bangladesh and other Asian countries kicked and caned camel backs to spur the animals into winning position in the richest desert race in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), reports AFP.
 Hundreds of boys, aged between 10 and 15, were competing this week in the 'Grand Zayed Race' for the camel owners, who included top Sheikhs and desert bedouins from the UAE and neighbouring Gulf Arab states.
 The week-long race, launched on Sunday, was named after UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, who donated 10 million dirhams (2.7 million dollars) and luxury cars for the top winners.
 "The prize is the biggest in a camel race in the UAE. It shows the president's commitment to the revival of traditions," a UAE official said.
 Slim boys, tanned from the desert sun, appeared on state-run television waving canes and kicking camels as they attempted to win the race, which includes several rounds with a distance of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) each.
 Most of the camel jockeys in the UAE and other oil-rich Gulf nations are brought from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which together form one of the largest foreign communities in the emirates. Camel owners prefer slim and small boys because their light weight allows the camel to run faster. Away from the race track, the boys work in remote desert farms, looking after the camels and preparing them for the races.
 Several Asian boys have been reported to have fled their homes to work as camel jockeys after seeing their fellow citizens on television.
 Boys below 10 years had been allowed to work as jockeys but later they were banned by Sheikh Zayed after a series of accidents during races.
 The current race is held at the desert Oasis of Al-Wathba. Andis screened live on television. The results are

Hartals protesting BNP nominations

By Staff Correspondent
 Resentment among a section of activists of the BNP and its front organisations, protesting nomination of party candidates for the upcoming polls, continued yesterday in different areas of the country and hartals were observed in some places.
 Factions of BNP, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jubo Dal enforced hartals and announced party nominees as 'persona non grata' in different constituencies yesterday.
 Our Staff Correspondent reports from Chittagong: Normal life was disrupted at Rangunia thana yesterday as supporters of a faction of BNP enforced a dawn to dusk hartal in protest against the nomination of Adil Hossain as party candidate for Chittagong-7 constituency. They barricaded Chittagong-Kaptal road and demanded giving nomination to Nurul Alam, president of Rangunia thana BNP, instead of Adil Hossain, who is the son of erstwhile East Pakistan Governor Zakir Hossain.
 Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman could not attend the scheduled closing ceremony of a



Guardians anxiously waiting outside a city school as their wards sat for admission test yesterday. - Star photo

Purulia arms-dropping Hunt on for Kim, Sam & others

WELLINGTON, Jan 5: A suspected gunman sought by police in India over a mystery arms drop in the east of the country is using a passport in the name of a baby who died 34 years ago, a report here said today, reports AFP.
 The New Zealand Press Association said police had confirmed that a passport in the child's name, Kim Palgrave Davy, was issued in Wellington in the 1992.
 Indian police are hunting for the alleged arms smuggler — named as Kim Davy — in connection with a drop of arms near the eastern town of Purulia on December 17.
 The man eluded them at Bombay airport just before Christmas after his Russian-built transport aircraft was forced to land there by Indian Air Force planes.
 Indian police have named the man as Kim Palgrave Davy.
 The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported today that police national headquarters in Wellington had confirmed that the man was travelling on a false passport.
 The baby Kim Palgrave Davy died in the central north island town of Rotorua on April 3, 1962, five and a half weeks after being born to Judd and Jean Davy.
 It was Judd Davy who noticed that the hunted man was using the name of his dead child.
 Another report says, a businessman from Singapore is suspected of involvement in the air-drop of weapons, state-run television in Delhi said.
 Police are also looking for a London-based Danish national — named only as 'sam' — in connection with the incident, TV said.
 State-run station Doordarshan identified the Singapore-based suspect as Deepak Misra and said federal police agencies were trying to track him down.
 It also accused one of the six arrested crew members of the AN 26 transport plane — Briton Peter Bleach — of being one of the main masterminds in the case.

Teenaged boy murdered in city

By DMCH Correspondent
 A teenaged boy was murdered at Maniknagar under Demra thana in the city yesterday.
 Enamul Islam alias Rubel, 17, received fatal stab and bullet injuries when an unidentified gang of youths of the locality attacked him on the road near the Hotel Sea Queen in the area at about 12:30 pm, police said. He died on the spot.
 The murder was a sequel to past enmity, sources said. However, local people alleged that Rubel was killed as he and some of his friends resisted a local influential gang involved in trading of banned seductive drugs and other anti-social activities.
 Rubel, son of Abdul Latif Molla of Gopibagh, was supposed to leave for Malaysia this month, said his relatives who took him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Rubel passed his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations from Kishoreganj.
 A case has been filed with Demra thana in this connection. None was arrested.

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জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ২৫ বছর পূর্তি উৎসব

অনুষ্ঠানের দিন : ১২-১-৯৬ তারিখ শুক্রবার।
 রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সময় : ১১-১-৯৬ তারিখ সকাল ৯টা পর্যন্ত। (নির্ধারিত ফর্ম পূরণ করতে হবে)।

অনুষ্ঠান সূচী :
 সকাল ৮-৪৫ থেকে : বিপোর্টিং, উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান, বাগী, চা-চক্র, স্কটিচারামূলক অনুষ্ঠান।
 সকাল ১২-৪৫ পর্যন্ত : দুপুর ১২-৪৫ থেকে : জুম্মার নামাজ ও মধ্যাহ্ন ভোজ।
 বিকেল ২-৩০ পর্যন্ত : বিকেল ২-৩০ থেকে : প্রাক্তন বণাম বর্তমান ছাত্রদের মধ্যে প্ৰীতি ফুটবল এবং ফান গেম।
 বিকেল ৫-০০ পর্যন্ত : বিকেল ৫-৩০ থেকে : প্রাক্তন ও বর্তমান ছাত্রছাত্রী সমন্বয়ে সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান।

রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি : ক। শিক্ষক, কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারী, প্রাক্তন ছাত্রছাত্রী জনপ্রতি ১০০/- টাকা।
 খ। ঐ পরিবারের সদস্য ১২ বছরের উপরে জনপ্রতি ১০০/- টাকা।
 গ। ঐ পরিবারের সদস্য ১২ বছরের নিচে জনপ্রতি ৫০/- টাকা।
 ঘ। বর্তমান ছাত্রছাত্রী জনপ্রতি ৭৫/-।

রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি : অগ্নী ব্যাংক, জাবি শাখায় স্বাস্থ্যসি জমা দিতে হবে। অথবা অগ্নী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা থেকে অগ্নী ব্যাংক জাবি শাখায় উপর ইস্যুকৃত ডিডি-এর মাধ্যমে জমা দেয়া যাবে। শিক্ষক, কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারীগণ মাসিক বেতন থেকে কর্তনের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে পারবেন।

বাস ছাড়ার সময় : ১২-১-৯৬ তারিখ সকাল ৮টায়ে ওসমানী উদ্যানের দক্ষিণ গেট থেকে ছেড়ে -
 ক। ১ম কটে মালীবাগ, মহাশালী, বেলগেট মোড়, বিজয়শালী, মিরপুর ১০ নং পোশচকর, মিরপুর ১ নং, টেকনিক্যাল হলে ক্যাম্পাসের কলাভবন।
 খ। ২য় কটে শাহবাগ, নীলক্ষেত, সালেখ লাবাব, কালাবাগান, আসাদগেট, টেকনিক্যাল হয়ে ক্যাম্পাসের কলাভবন।

ডি-৩৫ রেজিস্ট্রার