The Midnight File

Body to look into background of

Chakma, Hajong in Arunachal

AND GROWN RESERVED

SINTA STATE STATES

yesterday protesting party nomination for Md Abdullah in the seat.

8 killed in road

accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight persons, in-

cluding a minor boy were

killed and 20 others injured

in road accidents in and out-

adds: The driver and a helper

of a track were killed when

the vehicle crashed against

the road divider in Demra

The driver Abu Bakr, 40.

The Dhaka-bound truck

and its helper died on the

spot at about 6:30 pm, police

swerved towards the road di-

vider after brake failure near

Santo petrol pump at Rayer-

bazar in the evening. Police

later recovered the bodies

and sent these to the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital

Meanwhile, one Moshar-

rof, 20, who received fatal in-

juries in a road accident near

Kanchpur bridge Thursday

night died at the DMCH

early yesterday, hospital

Our Staff Correspondent

from Sylhet reports: Four

persons including a minor

boy were killed and 20

others injured in two sepa-

rate road accidents on

Sunamganj fell into a road-

side pond after colliding with

a truck at Kazirbazar near

Sylhet telephone

exchange made

digital

From Staff Correspondent

het telephone exchange has

been converted into a digital

one from 5 PM today. With

SYLHET, Jan 5: The Syl-

A Dhaka-bound bus from

Dhaka-Sylhet highway

(DMCH) for autopsy.

sources said.

area in the city yesterday.

and hospital sources said.

Our DMCH correspondent

side the capital yesterday.

A section of BNP activists in Chandpur-4 constituency brought out a procession in the city

Aftabuddin High School a

on the spot, are Rehan Ud-

din, 48, Manager, Thakur-

gaon Co-operative Cold Stor-

age, Md Shamsu Mia, 50, of

Narayangani and Mobarak

ted to the Moulvibazar Sadar

hed, 7, was crushed under

the wheels of a speeding bus

at Barhat near Moulvibazar

The injured were admit-

Meanwhile, the boy, Sha-

BSS adds: One rickshaw-

puller was killed when a bus

hit a rickshaw at Binglabari

on Comilla Sylhet road yes

Murayama

resigns

TOKYO, Jan 5: Japan's

Prime Minister Tomiichi Mu-

rayama announced his resig-

nation as premier today to

make way for a new govern-

ment under the current

three-party coalition, but

ruled out calling snap general

"I have decided to resign

elections, reports Reuter.

mind on January 1.

Hossain of Narsingdi.

town at around 4 pm.

terday evening.

Hospital.

Three persons, who died

around 12:10 pm.

Smoke & Noise Pollution in City

By A S M Nurunnabi

The degree of environ- pos are no less culpable. The practicable steps in mental degradation resulting from smoke and noise pollu- the present situation seem to tion in the city has been be the necessity for coordisteadily rising, so much so nated actions by the Departthat it is no uncommon sight ment of Environment. of some persons wearing Bangladesh Road Transport muff or face mask to protect Authority, police and magisthemselves from polluted air, tracy to launch sustained particularly when caught up drives to detect faulty vehiin horrendous traffic jams. It cles and impose deterrent is now doubtful whether the penalties to ensure operation air quality in the Dhaka city is of the vehicles without poiwithin the permissible levels sonous exhausts. The prime set by the World Heart Orga- need of the hour also seems nization (WHO). According to to be that everyone of us. as a World Bank report, the well the vehicle owners level of environmental degra- should be conscious of the dation in East and South Asia gravity of the problem and is rapidly approaching should be helpful and co-opthresholds of unacceptably erative in ensuring a better high social and economic environment for the present costs. This gloomy perspective applies in a large mea-Another aspect of envisure to the present state of

ronmental degradation is air quality degradation in the noise pollution. Among the factors considered responsi-The pollution caused by ble in this respect are lack of the city's vast number of moproper planning in urban tor vehicles is a cause of growth, existence of noisegreat concern to us at the creating industries and enmoment. Some of the factors terprises in residential and cited as responsible for recreational areas within city emission of poisonous exlimits and absence of awarehausts from motor vehicles ness among city dwellers of are poor maintenance and the consequences stemming servicing, import of old modfrom constant exposure to els of vehicles and their use noisy environment. A state of on roads, worn-out cylinder utter confusion seems to preand piston ring affecting vail in the field of environburning process of oil in mental acoustics. For lack of engine, etc. Moreover, it is proper zoning of growth acalleged lead is mixed with futivities into specific areas els which, without being like residential, commercial, completely burnt out in comindustrial, and recreational, bustion, are emitted as harm we find an intermingling of a ful substances such as carbon number of disparate entities monoxide, sulpher and lead in a given area. with black smoke exhausts which are highly injurious to There is a deplorable lack health. According to a survey of effective measures to conconducted by the Departtrol or reduce the level of urment of Environment, comban noise. In our legal sys-

GF: Dissolve cabinet

tem, there are provisions for

prevention of public nuisance

which term includes nui-

sance on account of excessive

noise in any locality. The De-

partment of Environment has

Dr Kamal said the Gano

Forum believes that the dis-

cussions centering around an

interim, non partisan and

impartial administration un-

der the president, has cre-

ated the expectation that if a

sincere effort is made on all

sides, some adjustments can

and should be made and an

Expressing grave concern

agreement can be reached.

over the long political crisis,

the Gano Forum president

said that politics of con-

frontation made the parlia-

ment non-functional for a pe-

riod of over one and a half

years and now it was ob-

structing the election of a

Election Commission to ex-

ercise effectively the powers

vested in it by the constitu-

tion to ensure its directives

on paper are truly imple-

Bhatcharya, Kamal Haider

and other leaders were pre-

Photo exhibition

on local birds

opens in city

By Staff Correspondent

graphic exhibition by

Monowar Ahmed, began yes-

terday at the National Mu-

its kind in this country, they

show brings together some

120 birds of 56 species.

captured by Monowar in

colour photographs over a

go out into the countryside

and photograph birds. Their

songs and flawless melodies

attract me, "the veteran

photojournalist said of his

sponsored by the National

Museum, was inaugurated by

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka

University Prof Emajuddin

was attended by Prof Kazi Z-

Husain of DU Ziaul Islam

Chowdhury, Director General

of the National Museum.

Nazrul Haque and scores of

more than 600 bird species,

and the exhibition aims at in-

troducing them and their en-

vironment to the people, the

and will be open daily from

The show runs till Jan 9

organisers observed.

11 am to 4 pm.

Bangladesh is home to

The opening ceremony

The five-day exhibition,

"Whenever I get bored, I

seum in Shahbag.

four-year period.

singular pleasure.

Ahmed.

bird lovers.

"Birds", a unique photo-

The first ever exhibition of

sent at the press conference.

Shamsuddoha, Pankaj

mented in practice.

Dr. Kamal also urged the

new parliament.

mercial vehicles are the

worst offenders in this re-

spect. But it has also been ob-

served that other categories

of vehicles such as buses,

jeeps, microbuses, auto tem-

From Page 1

Court."

in it."

can be held."

papers.

for arriving at a consensus

"followed by an appropriate

reference to the Supreme

dent added "In any event, the

Government should, take into

account the views expressed

in the current discussions"

and after consultations with

parties "announce a frame-

work for a free and impartial

election under an advisory

council under the President."

discussions centering around

an interim, non-partisan and

impartial administration un-

der the President, "has cre-

ated the expectation that

some adjustments can and

should be made and an

Dr. Kamal categorically said:

"Gano Forum will not partici-

pate in the next general

election if the major opposi-

tion parties did not take part

announcement of a frame-

work for impartial elections

he said, "The council should

ensure that the day-to-day

administration is carried out

in an impartial manner so

that a free and fair election

need for utilising the time

and opportunity which has

emerged by the postpone-

ment of the last date for

submission of the nomination

understanding on the issue

of the interim caretaker ad-

ministration for holding a

free and fair election has

deepened the crisis that now

threatens the electoral pro-

"The delay is reaching an

Dr Kamal stressed the

Demanding immediate

Responding to a question.

agreement can be reached.'

Dr. Kamal said that the

The Gano Forum Presi-

also made provisions for protection of environment against noise pollution. But the sad part of the situation is that there are obvious signs of indifference on the part of the authorities concerned to check the growing menace in this respect.

A fast growing city is generally plagued with many woes. If that city happens to be in the Third World, as we are, redress of the woes doesn't prove to be easy. Dhaka city presents a typical example of such a case. To ensure proper urban milieu and environmental care in a steady and effective manner requires a deep sense of commitment on the part of the authorities concerned as well as adequate civic awareness. These factors coupled with financial constraints seem to be standing in the way of our making significant progress in these fields.

Smoke and noise pollution are two of the other environmental perils besetting our city. Among such threats to our environmental scenario may be included the cruel denudation of trees in many areas of the city, the existing system of garbage disposal, the poor sanitary and drainage systems, the dumping of industrial wastes in the Buriganga river, and the proliferating slums and semi-slums.

We have a host of environmental problems which threaten to make the city look like a city in decay. Observers tend to feel that unfess remedial measures are taken on priority basis, we will be placing at great peril the health and wellbeing of the entire populace of the city, particularly those who are living in the old town and the older parts of the new, who suffer the most.

BCL, Shibir clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 5; At least 10 persons were injured during a clash between two rival groups this afternoon at Papadia union under Boalkhali thana.

According to witnesses five persons were admitted into hospital and clinics in the city with bullet wounds.

The clash erupted when a procession brought out by the supporters of Islami Chhatra Shibir was passing beside a meeting organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Papadia of Boalkhali thana at 5 pm today.

Both the groups used arms and blasted crackers during the clash, sources said.

When contacted, police acknowledged the incident but could not give details as police personnel sent to the spot were yet to return.

Shibir blamed each other for the clash.

However, both BCL and

this, all the 7500-lines of the today," a surprisingly confident Murayama told a news analogue system have been conference, I thought it was turned into digital. The newly-installed digital time to renew the people (in exchange will also facilitate government) and make a 7500 new lines which will be fresh start in the new year." allotted soon, an official He said, he made up his

source said.

Hartals From Page 1

gunia as pro-hartal activists raided the venue.

warned that they would boycalled a day-long hartal at thanas on January 8.

token hunger strike protest-

Our Staff Correspondent adds from Barisal: The supporters of Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, former BNP MP in the fifth Parliament, enforced a half-day hartal here yesterday protesting the nomination of Dr Ehteshamul Haq son of the President. They also announced a gherao programme and called a trans-

Supporters of Keramat Ali.

non grata. Thana units of BNP, JCD and Jubo Dal at Akhaura yesterday held a press conference to voice their demand for withdrawal of the nomination of Mia Abdullah Wazed for Brahmanbaria-4 (Akhaura-Kasba) and called a half-day

Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet reports: Many local leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations cott the elections if Abdul Haris Chowdhury was not nominated for Sylhet-5 constituency, replacing Abdul Kahar Chowdhury. They also Jakiganj and Kanaighat

In Kulaura thana of Moulvibazar, a number of BNP workers observed a two-hour ing the nomination of M M Shahin for Moulvibazar-2

port strike in Barisal today.

Minister without portfolio. called an indefinite hartal from today at Dhumki thana in Patuakhali, demanding nomination for Ali.

A half-day hartal was observed by a faction of JCD at Borhanuddin and Doulatkhan thanas (Bhola-2) demanding nomination of Hafiz Ibrahim. They also removed the signboard of BNP office at Borhanuddin.

Our Correspondent in Brahmanbaria reports: Nasirnagar thana unit of JCD and that of Jubo Dal brought out processions and declared party nominee for Brahmanbaria-2 constituency Sayed Morshed Kamal, a former MP from Jatiya Party, persona

hartal on January 8.

- Star photo

ports AFP.

also injured in fierce gunbat-

tles and by land mines in the

Kashmir valley which re-

mained crippled for the sec-

ond day running by a strike

Four army men and two

called by Muslim separatists.

militants, including one for-

eigner, were killed during a

20-hour gunbattle in the

Gandherbal hills overlooking

Srinagar, summer capital of

the northern Indian state of

Jamaat iterates

demand for

PM's resignation

general Matiur Rahman

Nizami yesterday reiterated

their demand for immediate

resignation of the Prime Min-

ister and general elections

under a caretaker govern-

of the thana and ward presi-

dents of Dhaka City Jamaat,

Nizami warned that the peo-

ple would not tolerate any

united to realise the demand

for a 91-model meaningful

elections under a neutral

non-party caretaker govern

British tip-off

From Page 1

to the Indian government the

value of which I believe

helped them to apprehend

the plane,' Home Secretary

Michael Howard told re-

Delhi on the first leg of a 13-

day visit to India, Pakistan

and Bangladesh, declined to

reveal the nature of the Bri-

tish tip-off to the Indian au-

have reported that one of

the arrested crewmen of the

plane. Peter Bleach, a Briton.

had been in touch with Bri-

tish intelligence agencies

prior to the parachuting of

the weapons over West Ben-

the arms were intended for

and how a plane which origi-

nated in the Pakistani city of

Karachi loaded with weapons

was allowed into Indian

AL team

From Page 1

the present election sched-

ule and holding the elections

ings of the opposition leaders

the Chief Election Commis-

sioner, an international pres-

sure to resolve the long-

drawn crisis within the

shortest possible time and

the role of the left-leaning

organisation in the dialogue

have also moved the parleys

organisations could take part

in an election under the advi-

sory body headed by the

President on assurances of

deferring the polls further,

correcting the existing

anomalies in the voter list.

and if necessary, re-

organising the Election

Commission (EC), opposition

Jatiya Party said that the dia-

logue's nature was more fo-

arrangements and settling a

suitable date for the elections

so that the opposition parties

An Awami League leader

could take part in it," he said.

said that there was a strong

possibility of a round-table

hosted by the President

where all the parties could

sit together to settle the out-

Meanwhile, the Prime

requesting anonymity.

standing problems.

A senior leader of the

"We are now working on

sources indicated.

cused than before.

The opposition political

faster, they pointed out.

with the president as well as

Besides, frequent meet-

sometimes in late March.

It remains unclear who

But Indian newspapers

Howard , who is in New

"The whole nation is now

Addressing a conference

ment, reports UNB.

farcical elections.

ment," he said.

porters.

thorities.

gal state.

airspace.

Jamaat-e-Islami secretary

football tournament at Ran-

constituency.

Muslim militants, seven of them foreigners, were killed

ended late Thursday, erupted when a group of Islamic in a sudden upsurge of viomercenaries ambushed an lence in strife-torn Kashmir, army convoy, police said. authorities said today, re-Seven soldiers were injured, three of them seriously. Fourteen soldiers were

An army major and six foreign mercenaries were also killed late Thursday in a separate 12-hour gunbattle on the outskirts of Srinagar after the troops launched a combing operation, the police sources said.

Muslim guerillas blew up an army truck in the southern Kashmir district of Phulwama overnight, killing two sol-

Hundreds of mercenaries from such Islamic countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan are fighting alongside Kashmiri militants in a bid to secede the state from the Indian Union.

Hotel owner stabbed to

From Our Correspondent

owner of a hotel succumbed to his injuries after being stabbed by an unidentified youngman this evening.

One unidentified man entered Ghosh Cabin hotel at Natun Pal Para under Narayanganj thana, at around 7:30 pm and stabbed Shudir Chandra Ghosh, 28, owner of the hotel, witnesses said.

He expired soon after being admitted to the Narayanganj General Hospital.

Family members of why he was attacked.

we would now seek promulgation of the Ordinance soon," said the EC source.

When reminded about the time taken for the promulgation of the ordinance regarding bank loan defaulters recently, the source said "the ID card issue is not as sensitive as the loan defaulters' one, so it would not pose any problem."

In July last year, bidders were asked by the EC to submit quotations for preparation of ID cards only. The EC then abandoned its earlier plan for preparing a computerised electoral database.

Meanwhile, firms involved in the process of ID card preparation were seen urging people in different parts of the city over loudspeakers to go to designated venues for being photographed for ID cards.

From Page 1

published in the local press every day. Senior Sheikhs and thou-

head.

fered prizes and other incentives to encourage bedouins to breed camels and participate in camel racing, the most popular sport in the Gulf. He and his elder son Sheikh Khalifa have also set up a medical centre to upgrade camel breeding with the help of western experts.

The UAE has more than 750,000 camels and encouragement by the president and other Sheikhs has given rise to races and sharply boosted the price of racing camels. One camel fetched more than 500,000 dollars

Camels were the main means of transport in the Arabian desert before oil was stuck some decades ago and turned it into one of the

Bare-footed Asian boys. wearing the traditional Arabian dishdasha (gown), are seen daily shepherding camels in the desert near highways, which have been fenced off to prevent the animals from crossing. The fences were erected after a



Film actress Kabari and her husband at the photo exhibition on birds by Monwar Ahmed at the Bangladesh National Museum yesterday. - Star photo

Russian FM, DPM resign

MOSCOW, Jan 5: Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev tendered his resignation to President Boris Yeltsin today, Interfax news agency said, quoting sources close to the minister, reports

The Foreign Ministry press office said it had no confirmation of the report.

AP adds: President Yeltsin has formally accepted the resignation of a deputy prime minister who was considered instrumental in Moscow's decision to launch the war against Chechnya.

Delhi confce to seek global sanctions against Myanmar

regime.

"There are no human rights in Myanmar," Indian politician George Fernandes, a leader of the Samta (Equality) Party told AFP here, "We are absolutely certain you do not have anything like this anywhere today."

Fernandes, the organiser

tion for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar which began here Thursday. said the delegates including MPs lawyers and policy-makers would unveil the "action plan" tomorrow.

"We will lobby around the world asking governments, rights groups and trade unions to get involved in direct boycott and other forms of pressure," he said. "This is the first meeting of its kind in the world.

western governments cannot go on. I believe that all those who stand for freedom and democracy anywhere in the world will never agree to any compromise with the military junta," Fernandes said.

The delegates from around the world demanded the restoration of full and equal rights to Myanmar pro-democracy

leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Bhuiyan, they said.

of the international conven-

NEW DELHI, Jan 5: An international conference aimed at mobilising global sanctions to restore democracy in Myanmar discussed measures today, which organisers said would spell the end of the country's military

with the military regime by

"The ongoing collaboration

Exiled Myanmar leader U Aung Ko who heads a group called Aung San Suu Kyi Liberte in Exile in France, said her struggle to end tyranny would eventually triumph.

Minister had a meeting with three important ministers at her Cantonment residence late last night. BNP sources The three were BNP Secretary General and LGRD minister Abdus Salam

Talukder, Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam and Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan

NEW DELHI, Jan 5: The central government today set up a sub-committee to look into the entire background of Chakma and Hajong tribals in Arunachal Pradesh in view of the prevailing situation in the north-eastern state, reports

15 more killed in Kashmir SRINAGAR, Jan 5: Seven Indian soldiers and eight

Kashmir, officials said. The firefight, which

A land mine planted by diers and injuring seven.

death in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 5: An

Shudir, son of Laxman Chandra Ghosh of Natun Pal Para, said that they had no idea

ID cards

From Page 1

Camel race

sands of people, including westerners, travel to Al-Wathba daily to watch the race, which was missed by Sheikh Zayed as he is on a private trip to Pakistan. Sheikh Zayed, a fervent camel race fan, is one of the biggest camel owners in the region, with more than 2,000

The president, 78, has of-

last year.

wealthiest regions.

surge in accidents involving camels.

cess itself," he said. Aliens married to Malayasian women will get jobs KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5:

Foreigners married Malaysian women may be allowed to take jobs in the country to ease its labour crunch and make their stay worthwhile, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said today, reports Reuter. "We have to consider this, as the men may just be bumping and living off their

Mahathir was quoted as saying by the national Bernama News Agency. Labour starved Malaysia relies on an army of foreign workers to keep its dynamic

wives which is not good,"

economy moving.

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.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam