



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia signing her voter identity card at her office yesterday. — PID photo



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Rugganj in Narayanganj yesterday. — Star photo

The Midnight File

Pak poet Naqvi killed

LAHORE, Jan 15: Unknown assailants gunned down a well-known Pakistani poet Mohsin Naqvi here today, police said. Naqvi, winner of a Presidential Award for Literature, was attacked by two men riding a motorbike, who fled after the shooting outside a shop in a city residential area. Allama Iqbal town, reports AFP.

Benazir urges Canada to help stop Indian nuclear test

ISLAMABAD, Jan 15: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has urged Canada to use its influence to stop India from carrying out a second nuclear test, reports AFP. At a dinner yesterday for visiting Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Benazir expressed Islamabad's concern about reports in the US press that India was preparing to carry out a second nuclear test. India carried out its first test in 1974. India denies it is planning a second test. Benazir, who had talks earlier with Chretien, also expressed concern about India's missile development programme. "Pakistan cannot remain immune to the relentless pursuit of missile development in our neighbourhood," she said. Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since independence in 1947, has repeatedly warned New Delhi against developing its Prithvi missile, which has a range of about 250 kilometres and is capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Islamabad believes it is being developed to target Pakistan. Benazir said Pakistan favoured non-proliferation in South Asia. "We will work with Canada to prevent the proliferation of such weapons of mass destruction in our region. But the regime of non-proliferation must be equitable and non-discriminatory," she said. Benazir said her country is willing to accept any mechanism to settle disputes with India over the Kashmir issue peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions. Chretien arrived here from India accompanied by a large delegation of officials and businessmen to explore business opportunities in Pakistan.

Resolve crisis in 24 hrs: Kamal

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hussain yesterday urged both the government and the main opposition to resolve the political stand-off within next 24 hours, if necessary through seeking the advice of the Supreme Court, reports BSS. Addressing a workers' meeting of the party, Dr Kamal said the current crisis in politics was the creation of the big parties which behaved irresponsibly and they should have to face the consequences. Presided over by Mostafa Mohsin Montu, the meeting was also addressed by party General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Dr Habibur Rahman and Nripen Ghosh. Dr Kamal also wanted to know the details of the reported talks with jailed former President Ershad and demanded an explanation from the Home Minister in this regard. He strongly criticised the writ petition in the High Court challenging the law which debarred the bank loan defaulters from participating in the election.

Former student leader 'tortured in custody'

Former student leader Mamun Sarwar Dipu was admitted to a city hospital yesterday with serious injuries from alleged torture after his arrest from his residence Saturday night, reports UNB. Dipu, former general secretary of Ganatantrik Chhatra Union and a leading organiser of the anti-Ershad movement, was picked up by army personnel late Saturday night from his Khligon Tilpa Para residence, said a press release of the Workers Party. He was released yesterday morning after his parents put signature on a white paper. Dipu, who has been inactive from politics for last two years and looking after his ailing mother, was admitted to "Dhaka Community Hospital" at Mallbagh yesterday morning with serious injuries, including a broken leg, said the release. The Workers Party alleged that he was given electric shock and beaten up with a roller while hot water mixed with chillies was poured on his face.

DCCI memo

From Page 1
ated the DCCI president's views and emphasised the role of private sector in the changed economic situation. He stressed the need for stock market development. The minister assured cost competitive support from government for dairy and poultry farming and also for the agro-based industries. He said that the government would take into considerations the realistic and fruitful recommendations of the DCCI. The delegation comprised DCCI Senior vice-president Fazle R M Hasan, vice-president Absar Karim Chowdhury and immediate past president R Maksud Khan.

**Poor monitoring, smuggling alleged
Fresh fertiliser crisis feared**

Despite the introduction of a government-controlled dealership system and enough production, crisis of fertiliser looms large again across the country posing a threat to IRRI-boro paddy farming, reports UNB. Some officials and traders found fault in the distribution channel and apprehended that a serious crisis might hit the farming community at the peak of current season unless the authorities put strict monitoring on movement of the soil nutrient. They suspected a large-scale smuggling out of urea fertiliser into neighbouring India and Myanmar because of a wide gap between the official price level in Bangladesh and a soaring price in the international market. According to informed sources, the international price of per ton urea is 230 US dollar, equivalent to about Tk 9300, against the government-fixed price for domestic markets of Tk 3725 per ton. "The new system was not desirable during this peak hour," said a top official of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), fearing that the system would not ensure proper supply of fertiliser as it lacks monitoring. "There was total absence of monitoring," the official said of the severe crisis of

Ctg (South) BNP splits

CHITTAGONG, Jan 15: Chittagong (south) district BNP plunged into crisis as section of the local leaders formed a new convening committee dissolving the previous one on Sunday night, reports UNB. The meeting formed a 9-member new committee with former MP Sirajul Islam as its convener. District BNP vice president Anwarul Haq Kadery presided over the meeting held at Dost Building in the city. Meanwhile, in a statement, Advocate Abu Saleh Chowdhury, President of the previous committee, tonight strongly protested the decision saying that "they have no right to dissolve the committee." "I fail to understand that how the committee was dissolved as no committee meeting was called or held Sunday night," said the angry BNP leader in support of his contention. Referring to the ruling party's constitution, Chowdhury said only the BNP Chairperson or the Standing Committee can take such a decision... no other person or quarter can do it. Abu Saleh Chowdhury, who did not get party nomination, stood for the forth coming parliament election as an independent candidate from the constituency of Chittagong-15 (Banshkhali). Zaful Islam Chowdhury, a newcomer in BNP and vice president of Chittagong Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has got the ruling party nomination for the constituency.

**BNP nominations
Hartal, fast, rally in dists continue**

RAJSHAHI, Jan 15: A half-day hartal, enforced by the local unit of ruling BNP to protest the nomination of a candidate, was observed at Mohonpur thana today, reports UNB. Mohonpur thana unit of BNP demanded that the nomination of Prof Abdul Gafur for the constituency of Rajshahi-3 (Mohonpur and Baghmara thanas) be changed in favour of Kamrul Moni, general secretary of the party city unit. Witnesses said the angry BNP activists during the hartal hours burnt down the effigy of State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq and City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu for their alleged conspiracy to nominate the party candidate for the constituency. The strikers also held a rally at Mohonpur bazar during the hartal and declared the State Minister and the City Mayor persona non grata in the area. Mohonpur BNP unit convener Abdul Hamid presided over the rally. In Meherpur, aggrieved leaders and workers of Gangni thana BNP went on a hunger-strike unto-death from this morning to protest the party nomination, but ended it with having fruit juice after few hours. Three unsuccessful nomination seekers, along with their supporters began the fast-unto-death at local Sha-

Hasina

From Page 1
will never allow any unilaterally held elections," said AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu. He said that the demand for polls under a neutral caretaker government was not only an Awami League demand. Rather, its a demand of all the opposition parties as well as the people of the country, he pointed out. Amu, a key figure in the opposition's behind-the-scene negotiation with the BNP, said the caretaker government was the first step to install an accountable government. The ruling party was engaged in a conspiracy to foil the opposition campaign in the name of the countrywide sweep against illegal weapons, he alleged. The meeting was also addressed by AL general secretary Zillur Rahman and leaders Akhteruzzaman, Major General (Retd.) KM Shafulah, Mostafiz Hossain and Abdul Motaleb.

Trishal BNP expels Khaleque

Trishal thana unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has expelled Abdul Khaleque, a former MP and member of the executive committee of the thana unit, for his anti-party activities, says a press release. The decision was taken at an executive committee meeting of the unit on January 11. The meeting urged the BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to expel Abdul Khaleque from primary membership of the party. The meeting also sought expulsion of Dr Malek from primary membership of the party for his involvement in conspiracy against the party. Dr. Malek sought BNP nomination for Mymensingh-7 constituency but the party's parliamentary board nominated Mahub Anam for contesting the forthcoming JS polls from the constituency. The meeting also congratulated the BNP Parliamentary Board for nominating Mahub Anam from the Mymensingh-7 constituency and expressed its commitment to work for the party nominee.

**Nuban Ahmed's treatment
DUTA demands probe into 'negligence'**

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) demanded probe into the alleged negligence regarding treatment of Nuban Ahmed, a teacher of DU who died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on December 26. At a press conference yesterday at the University Club, DUTA alleged that the negligence of the hospital authorities to take action quickly led Nuban's death. Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, the general secretary of DUTA, in a written statement said, "Nuban was not treated in the way he should have been treated as a critical patient after his admission in the hospital." He said that on December 23 they demanded special meet of the university syndicate for taking necessary steps to constitute medical board for Nuban and shift him to the Combined Military Hospital for better treatment or send him abroad, if necessary. "The Vice Chancellor, according to our demand, called a syndicate meeting on that very day but the Princi-

Resolve crisis, Hanif's appeal to 2 leaders

Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday appealed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to resolve the political crisis, reports UNB. He urged them find a solution through mutual understanding while addressing a meeting at Fulbaria, arranged to mark the reopening of Bangabazar hawkers' markets. The Mayor thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for taking prompt measures to help the fire victims. "You couldn't remain silent, when blazes were gutting hundreds of shops in the hawkers markets. Immediately you came forward with assistance to help the traders who turned paupers," Hanif told the Prime Minister who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Referring to the present volatile political situation of the country, Hanif observed, "The political unrest, though not visible, is also gutting the entire nation."

RSF protests harassment of newsmen

By Staff Correspondent
Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters without Frontiers), a Paris-based independent organisation, working to defend press freedom, has protested the harassment of five journalists in Bangladesh this month. In a fax message, addressed to the Prime Minister, Robert Menard, General Secretary of RSF, said that the organisation considered the harassment of journalists, a "serious abuse of power by the authorities and grave infringement on press freedom." A copy of the message was also sent to The Daily Star yesterday. The RSF also requested the PM "We ask you to do everything in your power to ensure that journalists are not harassed to expressing critical opinions of either government or personalities, especially during the coming parliament election campaign."

Yellow Panel sweeps RUTA polls

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Jan 15: The Yellow Panel backed by progressive and a faction of nationalist teachers swept the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association election today, bagging all the 15 posts. Prof Md Yunus of Economics Department was elected President bagging 262 votes while Prof M Rafige Islam of the same department elected general secretary with 264 votes. Other office-bearers are Prof Nurul Asfar — Vice President; Prof M Mukhlisur Rahman — Treasurer; M Faruq-uz-Zaman — joint secretary; and Prof Hasan Azizul Haq, Prof M Abdur Razzak, Prof M Khairul Alam Khan, Prof Abu Bakar Siddique, M Fayequzzaman, M Abdul Mazed, M Jahangir Kabir, Mir Wahedul Islam, M Abdul Mueyed and Prof Mizan Uddin — all members. Two other panels — one backed by Jamaat and BNP and the other comprising moderate teachers — contested the elections held at the Jubert Bhaban of the university from 9 am to 1 pm.

Parley

From Page 1
Interim government, he said the government side had already placed its proposal to the opposition leaders during the previous discussions. Besides, Shamsul Islam said, BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar had already spelt out the government proposal which appeared in the newspaper. He, however, did not say if he had communicated the government proposal to the opposition through the US Ambassador yesterday. Opposition negotiator Amir Hossain Amu had a meeting with ambassador Merrill at his residence last night.

71 arms recovered

Members of the law enforcing agencies in their countrywide drive against illegal arms recovered 71 fire arms, 468 bullets and 40 explosives on the 26th day ending yesterday morning.

Opposition

From Page 1
maat attended the meeting. Briefing newsmen on the meeting, Tofael Ahmed said non-acceptance of the national demand for election under a neutral caretaker government "proves the ruling party is scared of a debacle" in the election. He said that after the dissolution of parliament, the Prime Minister should have resigned to make way for election under a caretaker government. "The Prime Minister's clinging to power has deepened the political crisis."

Collection of memorabilia on at Muktijoddha Museum

By Staff Correspondent
The Muktijoddha Museum, which is due to open soon, has received another collection of memorabilia and documents on the War of Liberation and other freedom movements. Personal objects, papers and a variety of other items belonging to martyrs and freedom-fighters, particularly of the 1971 War, were donated by family members yesterday in a ceremony held on the museum premises at 5 Segun Bagicha. Members of the museum authentication committee, Prof Anisuzzaman and Air Vice-Marshal (rtd) A K Khundokar, received the items - lovingly cared for over the years - from sons, daughters and wives of the owners, who selflessly laid

2 children

From Page 1
They were rushed to Tongi Hospital where Soma was declared dead. Firoza Begum was shifted to Dhaka Pongu Hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested the driver and seized the bus. A case was filed. In another incident a minor boy was run over by a speeding truck on Comilla-Sylhet highway at Aliabad in Devidar. Police said Billal 9, of Aliabad died on the spot as he was hit by the Sylhet-bound truck at about 12:30 pm. Police seized the truck, but the driver fled the scene. A case was filed with Devidar police.

Question sets

From Page 1
recently decided to set uniform question papers from the country's five education boards after holding detailed discussions with the officials of the five education boards and question setters. The handout said that the decision was also arrived at different workshops held in the connection which was participated by the officials of the five education boards, board examiners and question paper setters.

Writs

From Page 1
an amendment of the Constitution. But the amendment of Article 12 of the Representatives of the People's Order, 1972 (Presidential Order no-155 of 1972) as contained in the Ordinance, 1995 is not an amendment of the Constitution and the same is illegal, unlawful and had been made without lawful authority, the petitions stated.

Mugger

From Page 1
turned, police said. However, one of them escaped. A case has been filed with the Tejjagon thana. Meanwhile, in another incident a staff of The Daily Star along with the help of local people caught two muggers near Ahmedbagh water tank and handed them over to the Shabujbagh police early yesterday. The muggers were identified as Billal and Firoz, police said. Another member of the gang escaped. The gang of three intercepted the motor bike of the staff near the water tank, when he was returning home from the office at about 11:45 pm Sunday, and tried to snatch the key of the bike. A case has been filed with Shabujbagh thana.

Bangladesh Bank Motijheel Office Dhaka Tender Notice

Tender for 90-day Govt, Treasury Bill

Tenders for the 90-day Govt, Treasury Bill will be received on 20.1.96. The intending tenderers should submit their tenders in the prescribed form which can be had from the General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel office, Dhaka.

The completed tender should be placed in a sealed cover superscribed "Tender for 90-day Govt, Treasury Bill" and should be deposited in the box exclusively kept for the purpose in the chamber of General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel office, Dhaka before 12-00 noon on 20.1.96. Successful bidders would be required to make payment of cost price latest by 12-00 noon on 22.1.96.

Individuals, business firms, companies & corporate bodies, banks and financial institutions residing/engaged in business in Bangladesh are eligible for participation in the auction.

A. H. Tawfique Ahmed
General Manager
Phone: 9553702

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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