

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia signing her voter identity card at her office yester-- PID photo

fertiliser last year that

sparked a nationwide violent

protest in which some farm-

ers were reportedly killed in

stock of 213,463 tons

There is now a ready

121,448 tons in the godowns

of the factories and 92,015

tons in the buffer stocks in

15 godowns across the coun-

"reasonably satisfactory" and

enough to meet the require-

ments upto mid-February,

the BCIC officials claimed

Moreover, the factories pro-

duced another 94,657 tons

and despatched 97,503 tons

in distribution channel as

most of the dealers sold their

fertiliser at the mills gate at

prices upto Tk 210 a 50-

kilogram bag against the offi-

BCIC officials admitted

cial price of Tk 186.25, bag-

such sales, but said they had

nothing to do as such deals

take place outside the mills.

Dealers do such dealings be-

cause their security money of

Tk 2 lakh will be seized if

they fail to lift in time the

numbers of dealers in the

districts where the factories

are located are unusually

high, and the dealers with

small capital sell their quotas

to the big ones, said an offi-

RSF protests

harassment

of newsmen

By Staff Correspondent

(Reporters without Fron-

tiers), a Paris-based inde-

pendent organisation, work-

ing to defend press freedom,

has protested the harassment

of five journalists in Bangla-

dressed to the Prime Minis-

ter, 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 in-

fringement on press free-

dom." A copy of the message

Members of the law en-

forcing agencies in their

countrywide drive against il-

legal arms recovered 71 fire

arms, 468 bullets and 40 ex-

plosives on the 26th day

ending yesterday morning.

In a fax message, ad-

desh this month.

Star yesterday.

Reporters Sans Frontieres

It is also because the

fertiliser allotted to them.

ging some windfall profits.

But the problems remain

till January 14.

And, this stock is

police firing.

### 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 ofprice 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 monitor-

There was total absence of monitoring," the official said of the severe crisis of

Resolve crisis,

Hanif's appeal

to 2 leaders

hammad Hanif yesterday ap-

pealed to Prime Minister Be-

gum Khaleda Zia and Awami

League chief Sheikh Hasina

to resolve the political crisis.

lution through mutual under-

standing while addressing a

meeting at Fulbaria, arranged

to mark the reopening of

Bangabazar hawkers' markets.

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

for taking prompt measures

lent, when blazes were gut-

ting hundreds of shops in the

hawkers markets. Immedi-

ately you came forward with

assistance to help the traders

who turned paupers," Hanif

told the Prime Minister who

graced the occasion as the

volatile political situation of

the country, Hanif observed,

"The political unrest, though

not visible, is also gutting the

Parley

Interim government, he said

the government side had al-

ready placed its proposal to

the opposition leaders

during the previous

Besides. Shamsul Islam

said, BNP Secretary General

Barrister Abdus Salam Taluk

dar had already spelt out the

government proposal which

if he had communicated the

government proposal to the

opposition through the US

Opposition

From Page 1

Briefing newsmen on the

meeting, Tofael Ahmed said

non-acceptance of the na-

tional demand for election

under a neutral caretaker

government "proves the rul-

ing party is scared of a deba-

He said that after the dis-

solution 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

cle" in the election.

Ambassador yesterday.

He, however, did not say

appeared in the newspaper.

From Page 1

Referring to the present

to help the fire victims.

The Mayor thanked Prime

"You couldn't remain si-

He urged them find a so-

reports UNB.

chief guest.

entire nation.

discussions.

night.

Dhaka city Mayor Mo-

# Ctg (South) BNP

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 9member new committee with former MP Sirajul Islam as its convenor. 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 commit-

"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).

Zafrul 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.

### 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 Rafique Islam of the same department elected general secretary with 264 votes.

Other office-bearers are was also sent to The Daily Prof Nurul Afsar — Vice President: Prof M Mukhlesur The RSF also requested Rahman — Treasurer: M the PM "We ask you to do ev-Faruq-uz-Zaman -- joint secerything in your power to enretary; and Prof Hasan Azizul sure that journalists are not Haq, Prof M Abdur Razzak, harassed to expressing criti-Prof M Khairul Alam Khan. cal opinions of either gov-Prof Abu Bakar Siddique, M ernment or personalities, Fayequzzaman, M Abdul especially during the coming Mazeed, M Jahangir Kabir, parliament election cam-Mir Wahedul Islam, M Abdul Muyeed and Prof Mizan Uddin — all members. 71 arms recovered

Two other panels — one backed by Jamaat and BNP and the other comprising moderate teachers - contested the elections held at the Juberi Bhaban of the university from 9 am to 1 pm.

Collection of memorabilia on

## **BNP** nominations

# Splits CHITTAGONG. Jan 15: Hartal, fast, rally in dists continue

RAJSHAHI, Jan 15: A halfday hartal, enforced by the local unit of ruling BNP to protest the nomination of a candidate, was observed at Mohonpur thana today, reports UNB.

Narayanganj yesterday.

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 Bstablishment 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 convenor 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-

The Dhaka University

Teachers' Association (DUTA)

demanded probe into the al-

leged negligence regarding

treatment of Nuban Ahmed, a

teacher of DU who died at

the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH) on Decem-

terday at the University Club.

DUTA alleged that the negli-

gence of the hospital authori-

ties to take action quickly led

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 pa-

tient after his admission in

23 they demanded special

meet of the university syndi-

cate 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 neces-

cording to our demand,

called a syndicate meeting on

that very day but the Princi-

"The Vice Chancellor, ac-

He said that on December

Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique.

At a press conference yes-

ber 26.

Nuban's death.

the hospital."

heed Minar premises at 10 am in protest against the nomination of Abdul Gani for Meherpur-2 constituency.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Rupganj in

Abdul Gani, who was elected from the seat in the last election, has again been selected from among three party nomination seekers to contest next poll.

The unsuccessful nomination seekers were Vice-President of district BNP Mohammad Abdullah, Vice-President of thana BNP Nazrul Islam and Organising Secretary of thana BNP Amjad Hossain.

All three have submitted their nomination papers as independent candidates after having failed to obtain party ticket.

Ahmed Ali, the district unit president of the BNP who got the party nomination for Meherpur-1 constituency. went to the fasting venue and offered juice to persons fasting at 6 pm.

Meanwhile, thana BNP observed a half-day hartal yesterday in support of their demand for a review of the nomination.

Grumbling over ruling party nomination is also brewing on the district's other seat. Meherpur-1 where two party colleagues of BNP nominee Ahmad Ali have stood independently against him. The two dissidents are Alamgir Hossain and Advocate Shahabuddin.

pal of DMCH, Dr MA Hadi,

who is also a syndicate mem-

ber, ignored our demands for

constituting a medical board

and shifting him to CMH

saying Nuban was totally out

of danger." Dr Arefin Sid-

dique informed the journal-

the syndicate that the doc-

tors had taken proper care of

Nuban and thanked the hos-

pital authorities for their

prompt action regarding

tion Nuban was shifted to a

cabin from the intensive care

unit on the same day, the

DUTA general secretary said.

gan to deteriorate gradually

after he was shifted to the

cabin from the ICU and died

three days later on December

want safety on the streets,

minimum treatment at the

hospitals and an end to all

teacher of the department of

Economics, received severe

injuries in his eye and head

when he was attacked by

some unidentified miscreants

on December 17 near the

attended, among others, by

DUTA president ATM Zahu-

rul Haq, former DUTA secre-

The press conference was

Police arrested the driver

In another incident a mi-

speeding truck on Comilla-

Sylhet highway at Aliabad in

abad died on the spot as he

was hit by the Sylhet-bound

but the driver fled the scene.

A case was filed with Devid-

truck at about 12:30 pm.

Police said Billal 9, of Ali-

Police seized the truck,

Deviddar thana.

dar police.

Jativa Sangsad bhaban.

kinds of irresponsibilities."

Dr Siddique said, "we

Nuban Ahmed, a young

Nuban's condition had be-

As per Dr Hadi's sugges-

Nuban's case.

26, he said.

He said Dr Hadi informed

Nuban Ahmed's treatment

DUTA demands probe

into 'negligence'

By DU Correspondent

#### Hasina From Page 1

- Star photo

will never allow any unilat-erally 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

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 ad

dressed by AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, and lead ers Akhteruzzaman, Major General (Retd.) KM Shafful lah, Momtaz 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 Jan-The meeting urged the

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to expel Abdul Khaleque from primary membership of the

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 Mahbub Anam for contesting the forthcoming JS polls from the constituency.

The meeting also congratulated the BNP Parliamentary Board for nominating Mahbub Anam from the Mymensingh-7 constituency and expressed its commit ment to work for the party nominee.

### 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

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 ques-

#### Writs

an amendment of the Constitution. But the amendment of Article 12 of the Representations 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.

Shabujbagh thana.

#### Pak poet Naqvi killed

The Midnight Rile

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 Min-ister Jean Chretien, Benazir expressed Islamabad's concern about reports in the US press that India was prepar-ing to carry out a second nuclear test. India carried out its first test in 1974.

India denies it is planning 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

### First space walk

HOUSTON (Texas), Jan 15: Astronauts on the US Space Shuttle Endeavour began their mission's first space walk today to test equipment and technology that could be used to build a future space station, NASA announced here. Leroy Chiao and Daniel Barry began the space walk at 0540 GMT. Another walk is planned later on the nine-day Endeavour mission, which started Thursday, reports AFP.

#### 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 Khilgaon 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 Malibagh 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.

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-discrimi-

natory," 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 Ka-

mal 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.

#### 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.

DCCI Senior vice-president Fazle R M Hasan, vice-president Absar Karim Chowdhury and immediate past president R Maksud Khan.

The delegation comprised

and question setters.

tion paper setters.

#### From Page 1

#### Mugger From Page 1

turned, police said. However, one of them escaped. A case has been filed with the Teigaon 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

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#### 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 90day 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. The results of the auction would be announced on 21.1.96. 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 PR & PB 48/96-68

No-02 (15/1)

General Manager Phone: 9553702

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

#### Opposition negotiator seum, which is due to open Amir Hossain Amu had a The items will be presoon, has received another meeting with ambassador collection of memorabilia and served and displayed at the Merrill at his residence lastdocuments on the War of Libmuseum, a project of the eration and other freedom Muktijoddha Smriti Trust, an organisation committed to movements. upholding the true history Personal objects, papers and spirit of our struggles for maat attended the meeting.

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

The Muktijoddha Mu-

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

By Staff Correspondent down their lives for the na-

freedom.

A gun case and a cap owned by A H Nurul Alam, an employee of the Khulna Paper Mills, who was killed by the Pakistan Army. "My husband died in a

battle with the Pak Army. He had already killed four or five of them, when he ran out of bullets. They then killed him," Shaheed Alam's wife, Rashida Alam recalled. A name plague, a pair of spectacles and some clothes used by Shaheed A SM Habibullah. The items, presented by his

include the shirt he was wearing when he was killed. A pen, a seal and some clothes belonging to Shaheed Rashidul Hasan, were contributed by his daughter, Rokeya Hasina.

Pongu Hospital in a critical

Some clothes worn by

at Muktijoddha Museum tary Imamul Haq, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Mohibur Rahman and Shahid Akter Hossain. daughter Shahinur Ahmed, 2 children

> A book and some photographs of Shaheed Aeizuddin Mollah, were given by his condition.

were donated by his daughter, Mini Rahman. An original flag of Bangladesh in batik and a set of records of the Concert for Bangladesh, held in New

From Page 1 They were rushed to Tongi Hospital where Soma was declared dead. Firoza Begum was shifted to Dhaka

son, Mostafizur Rahman. and seized the bus. A case Shaheed Atiqur Rahman, was filed. nor boy was run over by a

York were presented by Faruk and Susan Sarkar. The flag was hand-made in 1971 by Susan, in Canada. Faruk's brother was a member of the Mukti Bahini at that time.