

JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
SHERBET

PRAN for Health

SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-
WATER
ROSE-
WATER

The Daily Star

Moneylink
ATM's
Standard Chartered

VOL. VI NO. 12 REGD. NO. DA 781 MAGH 12, 1402 BS, DHAKA THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1996 RAMADAN 4, 1416 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index: 751.41 (-2.48%)
Market capital Tk: 4896.29 cr
Transactions in volume: 411531
Transactions in value Tk: 534 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



CEC's warning to Radio, TV

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) yesterday warned the Television and Radio authorities in view of their performances over the last few days which he said was breach of the rules set by the EC to cover the election period, according to a top level source at the EC.

The warning was issued by the CEC at a meeting with the Directors General of Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh at the EC secretariat. The two DGs were summoned to the EC secretariat.

The Television and Radio authorities were asked to strictly follow the guidelines for broadcasting, set by the EC, the source said. When asked what prompted the holding of such a meeting, he said it was "in view of some of the programmes aired during the last few days."

The EC had given directive to the Information Ministry and the official media in a meeting on December 4 last, to give balanced coverage of all political parties during the election period.

The state-owned media and other election related departments automatically come under the authority of the EC with the announcement of the election schedule.

But it was observed on different occasions that the official media gave "extensive" coverage to one party.

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Polls schedule EC's reply to Opposition today

The Election Commission will today send reply to the letters of major opposition political parties which had requested the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to cancel the coming parliamentary polls, scheduled for February 15, reports BSS.

Talking to a group of newsmen at his chamber at the Election Commission yesterday, Justice AKM Sadek, the Chief Election Commissioner, said the letters have already been prepared. He, however, did not divulge the contents of the letters.

Regarding the issue of voters' identity cards, Justice Sadek said the Election Commission would amend the law accordingly. He said all voters either having cards or no card would be able to cast their votes in the coming elections.

Asked to comment on his feelings about the coming polls being boycotted by major opposition parties, the CEC said he is very "unhappy". "I would have

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BNP action against rebels begins

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP has started taking disciplinary action against the rebels who are challenging the party nominees in the February 15 parliament elections, according to sources in the party.

The action began yesterday with expulsion from the party of two dissident leaders of Jessore district - Advocate Ishaq, the BNP organising secretary of the district and Abdul Mannan Miah, a BNP leader of Sharsa thana under the district.

Advocate Ishaq is contesting against the BNP nominee and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam for the Jessore-3 constituency and Minnu against the BNP nominee and assistant office secretary of the party Mofijul

Hossain Tripti at Jessore-1 constituency.

An instruction regarding the expulsion of the two BNP rebels were communicated to the local committee of the party yesterday, said Nazrul Islam Khan, the BNP office secretary, last night.

He, however, added that the decision to this effect would be endorsed by the party chief, who would go for similar action against others, who defied the party directive to withdraw their candidature against the party nominees by January 23, the last day for withdrawing nomination papers, from today.

Until late last night, the names of all the dissident BNP leaders did not reach to

Don't help hold so-called polls, Hasina urges professionals

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Presiding, Polling and Returning officers not to assist in holding of 'so-called, farcical' election under a blueprint, reports UNB.

"It is the moral obligation of all to free the country from this people-hated regime of Khaleda Zia and safeguard democracy," she said exchanging views with doctors, engineers and agriculturists on the country's political situation at her party office in the afternoon.

Hasina said the Prime Minister had been blinded by power and was making a "mockery" of election ignoring the opinion of the people and opposition parties.

"People will retaliate the wastage of several hundred crore taka from the public coffer in the name of one-party farcical election."

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Probe into bank loan status of 15 bigwigs

By RM Titumir and Inam Ahmed

The government is inquiring about the bank loan status of 15 eminent personalities of the country including a top secretary, former minister, bureaucrats, politicians, chamber leaders and university teachers, according to officials of different banks.

The Finance Ministry on Saturday last asked the banks to report on an emergency basis whether these persons have any defaulting loans with their respective banks.

The move of the Banking Division of the ministry has created a ripple in the banking circle who are yet to detect the intention behind this move.

The Secretary of the Banking Division, Dr Shamsul Huda, could not be reached over telephone for comments till filing of this report.

However, a Managing Director of a commercial bank said the government may be thinking about appointing them to higher positions in the banking system.

The persons about whom the ministry has inquired include: Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Yusuf, former Planning Minister Dr Fasiuddin Mahatab, former Secretary Hedayet Ahmed, former State Minister Ataulddin Khan, Professor of BUET Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, former Secretary

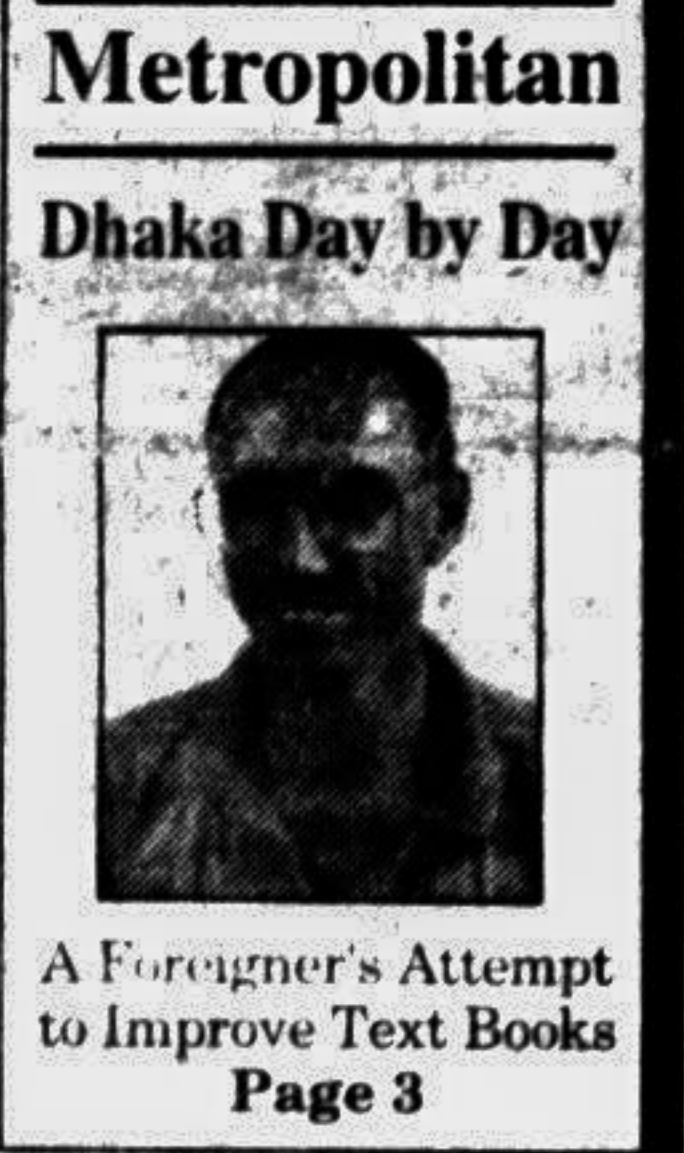
PM visits Sylhet at own expense

SYLHET, Jan 24: BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who formally began her party's election campaign, came here today by a commercial plane at her own expense in accordance with the code of conduct, reports BSS.

From the Osmani Airport Begum Zia along with her party colleagues went to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and Hazrat Shah Paran (R), driving in a motorcade arranged by the party.

As per the Election Commission code of conduct, the ministers of the government are restrained from using any government vehicles or any government facilities for election purposes after the announcement of the election schedule.

The Election Commission sources said the government ministers are also following, the code of conduct set by it.



A Foreigner's Attempt to Improve Text Books
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4000 quit BNP in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 24: About 4000 leaders and workers of the district BNP and its front organisations resigned today to protest the expulsion of three BNP and JCD leaders by the central committee for their alleged violation of party discipline.

They termed the party decision a 'blunder' and demanded its withdrawal.

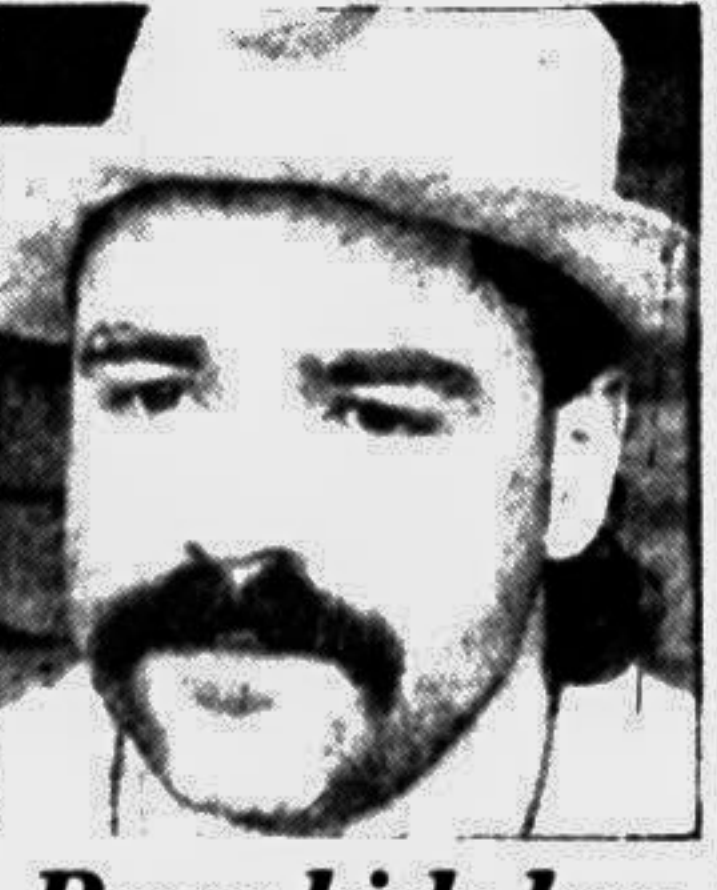
A press release issued tonight said that the decision of the mass resignations was taken in a joint emergency meeting of the district units of BNP, Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal and JASAS held at the Rajshahi Govt College premises this evening.

District unit president of BNP Abdul Hye presided over the meeting. Among others, who resigned are senior vice president Maqbul Hossain Ranju, general secretary

Qamrul Munir, district convener of Jatiyabadi Krishak Dal Moksed Ali, city unit organising secretary of BNP Ershad Ali Ishaq, district unit president of Jubo Dal Tapaz Hussain Tapu, acting general secretary of Chhatra Dal district unit Sanwar Kabir Khokan, district unit general secretary of Jatiyabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha Sajju Ahmed and two vice presidents of Chhatra Dal city unit Hasibul Islam Hasib and Razez Ali.

The central committee of BNP on January 22 last expelled the district unit organising secretary of the party Salehuddin Baby, vice president of city unit BNP AK Kalachand and the district unit president of JCD Nadim Mustafa for their alleged anti-party activities.

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Boon bids bye to cricket

ADELAIDE, Jan 24: Veteran Australian batsman David Boon will retire from international cricket after the third Test against Sri Lanka, he announced today, report agencies.

Boon, 35, called a media conference at Adelaide Oval to announce his decision. The third Test begins Thursday.

Boon was dropped from Australia's limited-overs team earlier this year and was not

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PM's tour: Hartal called in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 24: Opposition political parties will enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city on Saturday with a design to resist Begum Khaleda Zia's electioneering tour, reports UNB.

The local chapters of three major opposition parties - the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami - called for the shutdown to prevent the Prime Minister's planned visit 'at any cost'.

They took the decision at a joint meeting here today as part of their 'mass resistance' against the 'one-party' election, boycotted by all the major opposition parties.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to go on a two-day visit to Bagerhat and Khulna districts on Saturday.

Presided over by AL city President Manjur Imam, the meeting was attended by former AL leaders Abdul Khaleque Talukder and Enayet Hossain, JP leaders S M A Rab and Abul Kashem Engineer and Jamaat leaders Golam Farwar and Advocate

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40 injured in clashes PM visits Sylhet amid hartal

From Our Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 24: At least 40 people were injured, one with bullet, as Opposition activists clashed with law enforcing agency personnel during protests against the Prime Minister's visit to the city today.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami had earlier called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city for the day and their activists raised road barricades and brought out processions to protest the PM's visit to launch her party's polls campaign with jharat of the mazar of Shah Jalal.

Police fired shots and tear gas shells and used batons to quell the demonstrations.

Witnesses and hospital sources said Jubo League activist Juned suffered bullet injury when police opened

fire in the Mirza Zangal area at about 11 am to disperse a militant procession of Awami League, before Begum Khaleda Zia landed in the city of Muslim saints.

Several others, including local Chhatra League leaders Shahed Ahmed and Zahir Chowdhury Sufian, were injured in police action in the area. Sporadic police-picket clashes also occurred in Zinda Bazar, Court Point, Darshan Deuri and Rikabi Bazar areas as police chased the opposition activists.

Huge police, BDR and also some army personnel were deployed from the morning.

Police chased the processionists and charged batons at different points while the activists, carrying black flags were trying to advance to

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City JCD leader stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A JCD leader was stabbed to death at Kayettuli in the city early yesterday.

Monabbar Hossain Ripon, 24, a student of Sheikh Borhanuddin College and Organising Secretary of Kotwali Thana Unit of JCD, received fatal injuries in his chest and forehead when a gang of unidentified youths attacked him at around 11:45 pm, police said.

Son of one Forman Ali of Armanitola, Ripon succumbed to his injuries on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police and medical sources said.

The motive behind the murder could not be known immediately. However, Ripon's relatives alleged that he was murdered following an altercation with a youth.

JCD activist abducted, killed in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: One Chhatra Dal activist was allegedly abducted by a group of unidentified gunmen last evening from MES College road and later shot dead, police and party sources said.

Panchlaish police recovered the body of Md Farid, 27, early this morning from behind the Nasirabad Textile Mills.

Farid was kidnapped by the assailants while he was passing through the MES College road, police and party sources said.

Chhatra Dal leaders blamed the activists of Chhatra League for killing Farid.

JCD also held a rally protesting the killing of Farid and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Jessore BCL leader killed, hartal today

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Jan 24: All opposition political parties called a half-day hartal here tomorrow to protest the killing of a local BCL leader, Mukti Mohammed Mukta, Assistant General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jessore district, was killed in a bomb attack by miscreants this morning.

Mukta, 27, was attacked while he was going to say his prayers. The motive behind attack could not be known immediately.

DMCH doctors call off strike Minister assures removal of illegal pharmacies

By DMCH Correspondent

The doctors of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) called off their indefinite strike yesterday after the Minister for Health and Family Welfare assured them of removing the unauthorised pharmacies from the hospital premises.

The Minister, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, and senior officials of the ministry, during more than an hour long meeting with the striking doctors, also assured that necessary steps would be taken immediately to ensure the security of the doctors at the DMCH and bring the culprits involved in the recent attack on doctors to book.

The DMCH doctors went on strike for an indefinite period Saturday following an alleged attack on doctors on duty by one Dipu, who runs an unauthorised pharmacy in the hospital premises. The doctors came under attack

when they were attending a patient identified as Nasrin who was injured in a road accident.

The meeting was held at the conference hall of the hospital yesterday noon. Later, in the evening the Chikitsahak Sangram Parishad, the platform of the striking doctors, in its meeting at the office of the deputy director of the DMCH called off the strike.

The Health Minister during the meeting with the doctors instructed the director of the hospital to take immediate measure to evict all the unauthorised pharmacies at the DMCH premises.

Besides, it was also decided in the discussion that Ansars would be deployed at the DMCH campus to ensure security of the doctors.

Meanwhile, the protesting doctors criticising the au-

thorities said that effective step was not yet taken after the attack incident on doctors Saturday.

Dipu, who attacked on the doctors, was not yet arrested although the Home Minister assured the day after the attack that the culprits would be rounded up within 24 hours while the unauthorised pharmacies would be evicted within a week, doctors said.

"Still the government remains silent on this matter," said Dr Qazi Shahidul Alam, the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

Meanwhile, the fourth class employees of the hospital in a protest rally alleged that the striking doctors were trying to establish that the fourth class employees were harbouring the terrorists in the DMCH.

Radioactive milk Rule nisi on 6 persons for failure to take proper measures

A Bench of the High Court Division issued rule nisi upon six persons for their failure to take effective measures in dealing with a consignment of 125 tons of imported powdered milk with high concentration of radioactive substance, reports UNB.

The division bench comprising Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury and Justice Md Abul Mannan issued the rule nisi upon the Commerce Secretary, the Science and Technology Secretary, the Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, the Collector of Chittagong Customs, the Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority and the chief of Danish Condensed Milk Bangladesh.

The rule was issued upon a writ petition filed by Dr Mohiuddin Farooque, Secretary General of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), said a press

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Govt reviews JSAP today New implementation schedule likely

The government is scheduled to review the 'highly unsatisfactory' progress of the Jute Sector Adjustment Programme (JSAP) today to chart out new implementation schedule after it failed to meet the floating tranche conditions.

The privatisation of Hafiz Textile Mills, the tender bidding of the only one of the scheduled 18 mills to be divested under the JSAP, is pending for over a year.

After completion of all formalities for off-loading HTM, the final approval has been lying with the Prime Minister's Secretariat for five months, according to official sources.

The Privatisation Board could not confirm this.

The tender for HTM was opened in February last year and subsequently it was recommended for sale by the Cabinet Committee for Eco-

nomics and Financial Affairs headed by the Finance Minister.

Of the 250 million US dollars World Bank (WB) funded restructuring programme, only 50 million dollars have so far been disbursed due to delayed implementation and failure to meet the conditions.

The credit is scheduled to expire by December this year.

The major tasks remains to be completed are closure of five public sector jute mills; divestiture of another 18 state-owned jute mills; rationalisation of workforce; and establishing credit discipline without any government intervention.

Today's meeting will be chaired by Jute Secretary Shafiqur Rahman and will be attended by Banking Division Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda, Bangladesh Bank Governor

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Shri, Iftar timings

Ram	Jan	Shri	Iftar
4	25	-	5:43 pm
5	26	5:19 am	5:44 pm
6	27	5:19 am	5:45 pm