

**Foundation of NICD laid
PM urges doctors
to improve service**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the physicians to improve their mentality to render better service to the suffering people, reports UNB.

"It's not a job only. Your profession involves selfless services... Everybody expects a serving mentality from the Physicians," she said while laying the foundation stone of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICD) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the afternoon.

The 400-bed hospital will be set up at an estimated cost of Tk 75.90 crore of which Tk 62.90 crore will be provided from domestic resources and the rest will come from project assistance.

The hospital will have four air conditioned operation theatres, four X-Ray rooms and a 30-bed emergency unit.

Begum Zia said her government has undertaken

necessary steps to ensure health for all by the year 2000 to face the challenge of the next century. A nation needs a skilled working force of healthy people to ensure her overall development, she added.

The Prime Minister said coordinated immunisation programmes for the children have been introduced to free the future generation from all kinds of diseases.

She said over 92 per cent of the people now drink safe water and health awareness among them have increased resulting in decrease of the rate of child mortality and population boom.

Begum Zia underscored the need for skilled physicians for ensuring health for all. This is why, she said, the government has allowed establishment of private medical college alongside state-run medical colleges.

"Heart patients are increasing in the country. It is urgent to create treatment facilities for them and huge physicians are needed to ensure their treatment," she said and hoped the NICD would help produce more specialised physicians.

The function was addressed, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Health Minister Sirajul Huq and Director of NICD Prof M Akhtaruzzaman.

**Hartal observed
in Banskhal**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 30: A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the major opposition was observed at Banskhal today to resist the election tour of Communications Minister Oli Ahmed.

Police said no untoward incident was reported during hartal hours.

Movement of most of the vehicles was stopped today at Banskhal due to hartal while shops and markets also were closed.

The hartal was called separately by Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Supporters of hartal groups held rallies and processions vowing to resist the election campaign.

On the other hand, the minister also addressed election rallies at Banskhal, party sources said.

A tight security was maintained there to avert any outbreak of violence.

Oli Ahmed went there to campaign for his party candidate Hafizul Islam Chowdhury who is contesting for the Chittagong-15 parliamentary constituency.

US repeats call

From Page 1

Bangladesh itself."

He was replying to the question, already there are clashes and confrontation between the government and the opposition parties on this election. And unfortunately, Ambassador Merrill's office's very good efforts are now being questioned by the Opposition. So it is not fair to adjust to what you have just stated, just to avoid any further clashes that may occur before the elections."

"Excuse me? What has it done?" the spokesman said replying to the question, "Nick, your recent statement on Bangladesh has evoked an uproar in Dhaka."

The State Department spokesman asked the question, "What I said on Friday..."

"We never try to create an uproar in anything we say. Sometimes we do that unwillingly or sometimes it's misinterpreted," said the State Department spokesman replying to the question whether he would comment on the reactions of the leader of the combined opposition, Sheikh Hasina, and the position of the United States that has been melted down through his good offices.

The questioner suggested that the Opposition in Bangladesh described the State Department spokesman's statement last Friday as one-sided which means helping the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to go ahead with an election, already declared by the combined opposition, led by Sheikh Hasina, as a total farce.

The State Department spokesman said in reply, "Let me try - let me see if we do better today, and, perhaps, try to calm down the uproar."

Donors disappointed

From Page 1

Then, the Finance Minister said that a programme would be taken to improve data estimation procedure for the BBS. The Unicef Resident Representative said although good quality data are available in the social sector, they are not being used in fixing priorities of the projects both by the donors and the government.

The Finance Minister conceded the government's inability to push forward the reform agenda in many fronts, particularly accelerating privatisation of state-owned enterprises and a stalled restructuring programme in the ailing jute sector, recipient of largest IDA credit.

The donors pin-pointed that the reform agenda is totally stalled and the government has failed to undertake public sector administrative reform and legal reform.

In response, the Finance Minister told the meeting that the financial sector is being carried out, but he admitted that the administrative reform process is moving at a slow pace.

He informed the meeting that a Legal Reform Commission has been set up, but has not taken off yet. He added that it would be made functional in the near future.

When the envoy of a western country raised the point that the government could not muster the needed political consensus for reforms, the Finance Minister shot back by saying that even some western countries themselves like France is faltering in their privatisation programme as they also lacked political backing.

The minister blamed the country's political situation as a drag on the reform programme and said that he had discussed with the Prime Minister yesterday, who ensured that her party would seek mandate for reform in the ensuing parliamentary elections.

US repeats call

From Page 1

Bangladesh itself."

He was replying to the question, already there are clashes and confrontation between the government and the opposition parties on this election. And unfortunately, Ambassador Merrill's office's very good efforts are now being questioned by the Opposition. So it is not fair to adjust to what you have just stated, just to avoid any further clashes that may occur before the elections."

"Excuse me? What has it done?" the spokesman said replying to the question, "Nick, your recent statement on Bangladesh has evoked an uproar in Dhaka."

The State Department spokesman asked the question, "What I said on Friday..."

"We never try to create an uproar in anything we say. Sometimes we do that unwillingly or sometimes it's misinterpreted," said the State Department spokesman replying to the question whether he would comment on the reactions of the leader of the combined opposition, Sheikh Hasina, and the position of the United States that has been melted down through his good offices.

The questioner suggested that the Opposition in Bangladesh described the State Department spokesman's statement last Friday as one-sided which means helping the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to go ahead with an election, already declared by the combined opposition, led by Sheikh Hasina, as a total farce.

The State Department spokesman said in reply, "Let me try - let me see if we do better today, and, perhaps, try to calm down the uproar."

Donors disappointed

From Page 1

Then, the Finance Minister said that a programme would be taken to improve data estimation procedure for the BBS. The Unicef Resident Representative said although good quality data are available in the social sector, they are not being used in fixing priorities of the projects both by the donors and the government.

The Finance Minister conceded the government's inability to push forward the reform agenda in many fronts, particularly accelerating privatisation of state-owned enterprises and a stalled restructuring programme in the ailing jute sector, recipient of largest IDA credit.

The donors pin-pointed that the reform agenda is totally stalled and the government has failed to undertake public sector administrative reform and legal reform.

In response, the Finance Minister told the meeting that the financial sector is being carried out, but he admitted that the administrative reform process is moving at a slow pace.

He informed the meeting that a Legal Reform Commission has been set up, but has not taken off yet. He added that it would be made functional in the near future.

When the envoy of a western country raised the point that the government could not muster the needed political consensus for reforms, the Finance Minister shot back by saying that even some western countries themselves like France is faltering in their privatisation programme as they also lacked political backing.

The minister blamed the country's political situation as a drag on the reform programme and said that he had discussed with the Prime Minister yesterday, who ensured that her party would seek mandate for reform in the ensuing parliamentary elections.



Asian Mia, a shoe shop owner at Bangabazar market is now left with only some smuggly and burnt bank notes (Left), and Morshed Mia, another affected shop owner wailing (Right).

**Bomb hurled
at Jubodal's
iftar party**

By Staff Correspondent

Three activists of Jatiyatabadi Jubodal were injured when some cocktails were blasted in an iftar party in front of the Jubodal office at Sheorapara Mirpur in the city yesterday, police said.

At least six cocktails were blasted in the iftar party organised by the Jubodal, the youth front of the ruling BNP.

One Jashim, one of those who allegedly blasted the cocktails, was also injured when a cocktail exploded in his hand. All the injured persons were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Two separate cases have been registered with Mirpur Police in this connection. Goyeshwar Roy, general secretary of Jubodal and Minister of State for Environment and Forest, when contacted, acknowledged the incident and said it was being investigated.

**Sirajganj hospital
ransacked,
doc assaulted**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 30: A group of youngsters attacked the Sirajganj General Hospital and assaulted an on-duty physician today, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the youngsters led by one Panna ransacked the hospital doors, window panes and its equipment after assaulting the doctor, Afizur Rahman.

Local people said the attack followed the death of a patient, Anwar Hossain Pasha, 55, at about 6:30 am.

Panna, son of the patient, alleged that his father died due to negligence of the on-duty physicians. But the attending doctors denied the charge saying that he died of old age ailment.

Soon after the attack, the hospital doctors and staff held a press conference and called a two-hour token strike from 10 am everyday till January 31.



Twelve T-37 jet trainers provided by the US government to the BAF arrived Chittagong yesterday.

**US jet trainers
for BAF**

A consignment of 12 T-37B jet trainers arrived in the Chittagong Port yesterday provided by the United States to the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), says a US press release.

The T-37 "Tweet" is a twin-engine jet used for training pilot and navigator students in fundamentals of aircraft handling and instrument, formation, and night flying.

The twin engines and flying characteristics of the T-37 give student pilots a feel for handling larger, faster jets. The instructor and student sit side by side for more effective training. The cockpit has dual controls, ejection seats, and a clamshell-type canopy that can be jettisoned.

Built by the Cessna Aircraft Company, T-37B jet trainers are 29 feet, 3 inches long; 9 feet, 2 inches tall; and have a wingspan of 33 feet, 8 inches. They can attain a speed of 315 miles per hour and fly to 35,000 feet. They have a range of 736 kilometers without refueling.

Bangabazar fire

From Page 1

nearby fire brigade and informed them, he said.

"When I returned (to the market), everything was burning. I have nothing left," Afzal said. He had resumed business with loans from relatives and friends.

The fire might have destroyed only a part of the market but the hoodlums pounced on every shop and looted," said Newaz, another shopowner.

Inside the burnt section of the Bangabazar market, the shopowners were seen searching through the debris yesterday. Burnt corrugated tin sheets and other articles were seen strewn in soaked ashes.

Evidences of looting were apparent. Broken cash boxes were seen in the debris. Shutters and locks of some unburnt shops were also seen broken.

The armed young men, breaking the main gates entered not only the Bangabazar, but also three other markets," said another shopowner adding, "the attackers were looting one side of the market while the other side was burning."

Fire fighters from all the stations in the city and from Tongi, Demra and Narayanganj rushed to the spot. They used a total of 13 water units, ten towing vehicles, 12 pumps and three ambulances to control the fire.

Thousands of onlookers gathered around the market all day yesterday while police cordoned off the area till the evening.

Unlike in the last fire incident at Bangabazar, fire fighters' performance Monday night was praised by both the shopowners and local people.

Fire Service officials could not tell how the fire originated.

Meanwhile, senior officials of the Fire Service and Civil Defence held an emergency meeting at its headquarters in the afternoon to determine the cause of the fire and extent of the damage. Fire Service sources said. Home Ministry has



Three stalls set afire

3 stalls set afire

From Page 1

tion and some quarters are hell-bent to destroy the sanctity of the occasion, the owners said and urged the authorities to ensure the full security of the stalls and the investments made.

When contacted, Ramna police confirmed the act of arson in some stalls in the book fair and said the police went to the site of occurrence for investigations.

Academy officials, however, could not be contacted for comment.

UNB adds: A section of intellectuals, including Dhaka University students and teachers, called for cancellation of the Prime Minister's schedule for opening the Bangla Academy book fair tomorrow to avert a possible clash.

**Bomb hurled
at Jubodal's
iftar party**

By Staff Correspondent

Three activists of Jatiyatabadi Jubodal were injured when some cocktails were blasted in an iftar party in front of the Jubodal office at Sheorapara Mirpur in the city yesterday, police said.

At least six cocktails were blasted in the iftar party organised by the Jubodal, the youth front of the ruling BNP.

One Jashim, one of those who allegedly blasted the cocktails, was also injured when a cocktail exploded in his hand. All the injured persons were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Two separate cases have been registered with Mirpur Police in this connection. Goyeshwar Roy, general secretary of Jubodal and Minister of State for Environment and Forest, when contacted, acknowledged the incident and said it was being investigated.

**Sirajganj hospital
ransacked,
doc assaulted**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 30: A group of youngsters attacked the Sirajganj General Hospital and assaulted an on-duty physician today, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the youngsters led by one Panna ransacked the hospital doors, window panes and its equipment after assaulting the doctor, Afizur Rahman.

Local people said the attack followed the death of a patient, Anwar Hossain Pasha, 55, at about 6:30 am.

Panna, son of the patient, alleged that his father died due to negligence of the on-duty physicians. But the attending doctors denied the charge saying that he died of old age ailment.

Soon after the attack, the hospital doctors and staff held a press conference and called a two-hour token strike from 10 am everyday till January 31.



Twelve T-37 jet trainers provided by the US government to the BAF arrived Chittagong yesterday.

**US jet trainers
for BAF**

A consignment of 12 T-37B jet trainers arrived in the Chittagong Port yesterday provided by the United States to the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), says a US press release.

The T-37 "Tweet" is a twin-engine jet used for training pilot and navigator students in fundamentals of aircraft handling and instrument, formation, and night flying.

The twin engines and flying characteristics of the T-37 give student pilots a feel for handling larger, faster jets. The instructor and student sit side by side for more effective training. The cockpit has dual controls, ejection seats, and a clamshell-type canopy that can be jettisoned.

Built by the Cessna Aircraft Company, T-37B jet trainers are 29 feet, 3 inches long; 9 feet, 2 inches tall; and have a wingspan of 33 feet, 8 inches. They can attain a speed of 315 miles per hour and fly to 35,000 feet. They have a range of 736 kilometers without refueling.

**Prokrichi urges
CEC not to give
election duty**

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council yesterday requested the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) not to give any election duty to their estimated 17,000 members.

In a memorandum to the CEC, the Council leaders said they would not accept election duties if the members of the BCS administration cadre were given the responsibilities of returning officers and assistant returning officers.

The leaders reminded the CEC of their December 15 meeting with him in which, they claimed they were assured that their grievances would be looked into.

"But since no step has yet been taken, it has become difficult for the Council members to carry out election duties properly and safely," pointed out the memorandum, jointly signed by Prokrichi President Dr M A Majed and Secretary General M A Hena.

**Polls results
preset: Hasina**

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday renewed her call for all to resist the "farical elections" under the BNP government, saying that the results of the polls are preset, reports UNB.

"The election results are already known to all, so there is no need of a mock vote for an eyewitness," the opposition leader said while talking to the lawyers of Dhaka Bar at the Dhaka Bar Association auditorium.

"Power belongs to the people and they are the only source of power and the Prime Minister is violating Article 7 of the Constitution by refusing to return their power to them," Hasina told the lawyers.

She said the Awami League is struggling for establishing people's voting right and it will continue the movement until their rights can be guaranteed.

People's franchise could be ensured by realising the demand for elections under a neutral, non-party caretaker government, Hasina said calling upon the people to intensify the current movement for a caretaker government.

Dhaka Ainjibi Samity President Advocate Abu Sayeed Sagar presided over the meeting which was also addressed by former Dhaka Bar Association president Advocate Ramjan Ali.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Momen, Zillur Rahman and Advocate Shahrana Khatoon also spoke on the occasion.

BNP expels

From Page 1

mad Abdul Latif, president, Sujanagar thana committee, Mohammad Abdul Bari Sardar, vice president, Ishwardi thana committee, Anwarul Islam Ratan, member, Nagarpur thana committee, Mohammad Abdus Samad Panna, member, Bahadanga thana committee, Sheikh Habib, member, Tangail district committee, Mohammad Reaz Uddin, President, Mizapur thana committee and Raihan Nabi Badshah, ex-general secretary, Bogra district committee.

Gunshots

From Page 1

Police also found six used cartridges and an unexploded home-made device in the front garden of the residence.

A spokesman for the British High Commission confirmed the incident and said there were gun shots outside the Deputy High Commissioner's residence at 6:15 am. A police sentry was injured in the incident.

He said the British High Commission regrets injury to the policeman. The Deputy High Commissioner has asked the chief of police to convey wishes for his early recovery.

The spokesman said police did not associate the incident with any specific targetting. "No reason to suspect one."

Meanwhile, security was tightened in and around the diplomatic enclaves of Gulshan and Baridhara following the incident.

The injured policeman has filed a case with the Gulshan Police Station and police was investigating the case.

BSS adds: Security has been tightened to ensure safety of foreign diplomats based in Dhaka, police said last night.

Steps have been taken following several gunshots were fired at the residence of the British Deputy High Commissioner at Gulshan yesterday morning. Police constable Alamgir Hossain, who was on duty at the gate of the diplomat's residence was injured when unidentified gunmen fired several shots at the residence.

The Midnight File

**Silajdzic expelled from
Bosnian ruling party**

SARAJEVO, Jan 30: Outgoing Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, due to be replaced today by Hasan Muratovic in a major government reshuffle, has been expelled from the country's ruling party. Silajdzic, 50, had served the Bosnian government throughout the country's 43-month war, first as foreign minister and later as prime minister, reports Reuter.

**Poetry festival from
tomorrow**

By Staff Correspondent

The 10th Jatiya Kabita (National poetry festival) begins tomorrow on the Dhaka University campus.

Scores of established and budding poets from across the country and a few from abroad are expected to participate in the two-day event, which will include recitation sessions, a seminar and an exhibition, the organisers told a press conference yesterday at the National Press Club.

Organised by the Jatiya Kabita Parishad, the festival will be inaugurated by poet Begum Sufia Kamal at the TSC island in the afternoon.

The first day's programmes will begin at 2 pm with the laying of wreaths at the Central Shahid Minar and the mazar of Kazi Nazrul Islam. It will be followed by the inaugural ceremony at 2:30 pm. Two recitation sessions will be held at 4 pm and 8 pm on the day.

A seminar on "poetry and humanity" will be held on the

Jubo League

From Page 1

They said Ashraf, 30, was picked up from his Barakara village home at about 8 am in a combined drive and taken to the army camp at the Nalchiti thana headquarters.

Witnesses said Ashraf was taken to the thana health complex at about 1 pm in unconscious state. The attending physicians there declared him dead.

When contacted, police failed to cite any reason for the arrest of Ashraf.

An unnatural death case was filed with Nalchiti police station.

The supporters of the BNP and the opposition parties locked in a clash when the protest procession was passing by the office of the ruling party in the town's Kamarpatti area. The clash left seven people injured.

Both the groups blamed each other for the clash.

Sonargaon Hotel

From Page 1

vement of outsiders and the beating up of officials. The employees, chanting slogans against the management, took position in the lounge and demonstrated while the baffled occupants of the hotel looked on from a distance with fear, witnesses said.

One truck-load of riot police rushed to the spot and took position at the entrance, lounge and the first floor.

The Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, being informed of the situation, sent the Managing Director of the Hotel International Limited (HIL), the owning company of the hotel, M Mosharrif Ullah to the spot.

After a long discussion with the employees union, Mosharrif came out and announced that "the termination letter issued to Ahsan Khan, executive housekeeper is hereby withdrawn."

He also assured the employees that no departmental and punitive actions will be taken against any employees of the hotel because of the day's incident.

"I praise your conduct today... please go back to your work. All your demands will be taken up in due course," said the MD over loudspeaker set up in the lounge.

But when approached for his comments, the MD said, "I will not talk to the press. Write whatever rubbish you want."

None of the management including the GM and the Public Relations Manager were available for official comments on the incident. The Public Relations Manager, when contacted, refused to make any official statement.

Meanwhile, sources said there has been serious pro and anti-management groupings among the employees which has seriously affected the functioning of the hotel. Allegations of corruption also exist, they added.

Book fair

From Page 1

cultural function except on the opening day because of the Ramadan, academy sources said.

The programmes of the academy include discussions, painting competition for the children, Amr Ekushey lecture series and distribution of Bangla Academy Award for Literature '95.

There will be 474 stalls, of which, 270 have been set up inside the academy premises while the rest 204 would be along the road from the TSC to Doel Chattar, Mahfuzur Rahman, the convener of the fair told The Daily Star.

Some 450 organisations are participating in the book fair this year, he added. There will be some 10 food stalls in the fair which would be set up outside the academy premises.

The rent for a single unit stall inside the academy has been fixed at Taka 3,000 while Taka 5,000 would be charged for double unit stalls. Taka 2000 has been fixed as rentals for the stalls outside the academy premises.

**Villagers gherao
navy**