



Inside Today

Article

Self-accountability

The Decontamination Process

Column: As I See It
by Ikram Sehgal
Page 4

International

Myanmar junta closes
secondary schools to
quash more protests

Naga tribals kill 30 bus
passengers
Page 5

Business

WTO conference: Many
delegates not willing to
discuss labour standard

Trading resumes
at DSE
Pages 8, 9

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2619.47
Market capital Tk 18708.61 cr
Transactions in volume 112307
Transactions in value Tk 4.58 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1320.48
Market capital Tk 15393.48 cr
Transactions in volume 4215
Transactions in value Tk 1515867

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily
Star contains a two-page
supplement on IDLC
Pages 6 & 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Commemorative stamps

Bangladesh Post Office will
release a set of two commemorative
postage stamps valued at
Tk 4 and 10, and a first day
cover valued at Tk 6 on the
occasion of the 50th anniversary
of UNICEF. A special canceller
will be used on the occasion,
said a press release yesterday,
reports UNB.

AL city bodies meet today

A joint meeting of city and
district committee presidents
and secretaries of Awami
League and its front organisations
will be held at its central
office in the city at 5 pm today,
said a press release, reports
UNB.

Japanese envoy hosts reception

The Ambassador of Japan to
Bangladesh held a reception in
the city yesterday evening in
celebration of the birthday of
the Emperor of Japan. The
reception was attended by ministers,
politicians, diplomats,
journalists, high officials and
elite of the city, reports BSS.

Norwegian grant

Bangladesh will receive 14.8
million Norwegian kroner,
equivalent to Tk 10.00 crore,
from Norway as grant under an
agreement signed in the city
yesterday. The fund will be
utilised for development of rural
electrification programme in
Bangladesh by way of supplying
wooden poles to the Rural
Electrification Board (REB).
Joint Secretary of Economic
Relations Division AB Chowdhury
and Norwegian Ambassador in
Dhaka Fredrik Lehmo signed the agreement
on behalf of their respective
governments, reports UNB.

Cold wave claims 25 in Pakistan

KARACHI, Dec 10: At least 25
people have died during the past
two days as a severe cold wave
gripped southern Pakistan's
Sindh province, officials and
residents said today. Seven
people, including five heroin
addicts, died in Karachi while
another five died in Hyderabad,
160 kilometres northeast of
here, social welfare officials
said. Another 13 people, including
gypsies and drug addicts,
were reported dead in various
towns and villages in Sindh
province, reports AFP.

6 arrested for hunting deer

KHULNA, Dec 10: Police on
Dec 1 arrested six persons,
seized five live deer, fifteen
kilograms of deer meat and
four guns, at Kolkhali under
Shyamnagar thana of Satkhira
district, about 100 kms
from here, according to a report
received here, reports BSS.

Draft accord ready: Guaranteed quantum during dry season 25-yr water accord likely

From M Anwarul Haq

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Dhaka is optimistic about clinching a long-term Ganges water-sharing agreement with Delhi for at least 25 years that would ensure a guaranteed quantum during the dry season, according to highly placed Bangladesh official sources.

The draft of the agreement is now ready to be signed by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Deve Gowda on Thursday.

Sheikh Hasina, on arrival at the Delhi airport this morning was received by Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral and Jyoti Basu and Dr Ashim Dasgupta Chief Minister and Finance Minister respectively of the Indian state of West Bengal. They briefed her on the draft agreement at a close-door meeting at the airport, the sources added.

She later left for Ajmer in a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

Indian premier Deve Gowda and Jyoti Basu had earlier held one round of discussion yesterday, in which I K Gujral was also present.

The draft has been finalised after hectic rounds of parleys and telephonic conversations in Delhi, Dhaka and Calcutta, the sources said.

Gujral, talking to this correspondent this afternoon, sounded optimistic and said, "Yes, the water agreement is going to be signed." Asked for details, the seasoned politician replied, "I will not tell in now."

The proposed "breakthrough water accord" is being possible due to the vision and efforts of the leaders of the two countries, the sources said adding, it will usher in a new horizon of good neighbourliness between Bangladesh and India.

Although the contents of the proposed agreement are being kept secret at the moment, like many landmark treaties, the sources said that Bangladesh's expectations for a long-term accord of at least 25 years is going to be met and that a 'sufficient quantum' would be ensured during the dry season from January-May.

According to the sources, the quantum of water would be decided on a percentage basis based on the availability of water at Farakka point during the dry season and the lean period.

The draft envisages that Bangladesh would receive much more water than 'what is actually received under the minimum guarantee clause signed in 1977 Water Agreement,' the sources said.

The Ganges water flow is going to be charted out in 15 cycles of 10-day periods for a total of 150 days that comprise the dry season. The 10-day cycle of the leanest period, during the month of April will receive special mention in the proposed agreement so that Bangladesh can be ensured of a stable flow every year during the tenure of the proposed agreement.

See Page 12 Col 8



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was received by Indian Minister for External Affairs Inder Kumar Gujral (R) and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu (L) yesterday on her arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport near New Delhi. — AFP/UNB photo

Hasina-Gujral talks at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here this morning on a three-day visit at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, reports BSS.

She was received by Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu and Finance Minister of West Bengal Dr Ashim Das Gupta, were also present at the airport to greet the Bangladesh leader.

Shortly after arrival, Hasina and Gujral held talks on bilateral issues.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources and Flood Control Minister Abdur Razzak were present during the meeting.

Jyoti Basu and Dr Ashim Das Gupta were also present. A Bangladesh official described the hour-long meeting held at the VIP lounge at the airport as 'friendly and cordial'. — See Page 12 Col 1

Gorai now a virtual sand bed

From Our Correspondent

KHUSTIA, Dec 10: Ferry service between Kushtia and Rajbari has been suspended as the Gorai river, a tributary of the Padma, has dried up.

The ferry service came to a halt following a notification issued by the Roads and Highways Department. It said that a barge bridge would be installed soon to resume traffic movement.

With the advent of the dry season and the falling water level of the Padma, the Gorai has turned into a virtual sand bed.

The Padma and its tribu-

aries dried up during the dry season because of the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water by India at Farakka Barrage in the absence of any agreement to share its water with Bangladesh, the lower riparian country, since 1988.

Gorai plays a vital part in maintaining the eco-system in the south-west as well as sustaining farming under Ganges-Kobadak project, irrigating thousands of hectares of land.

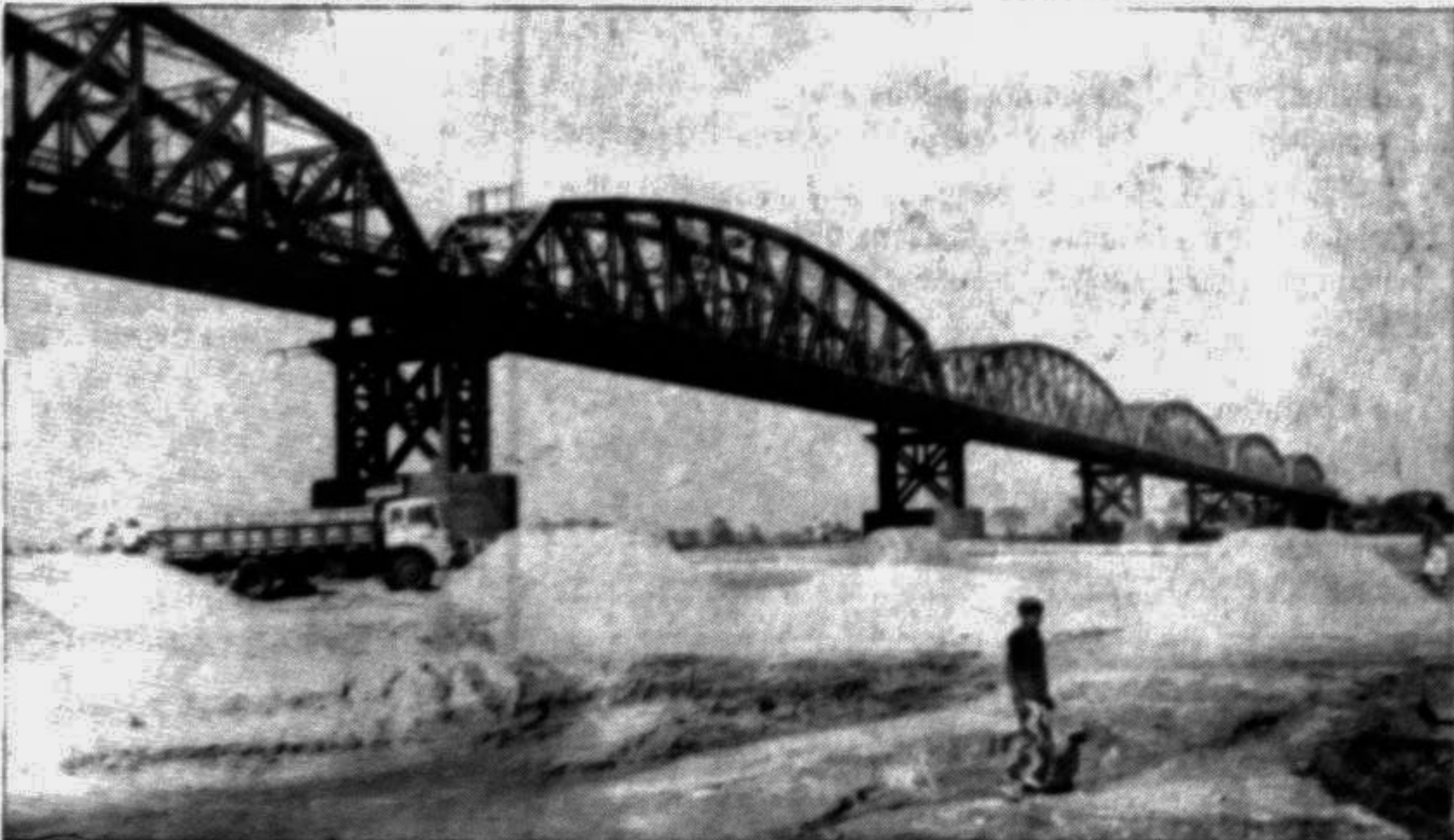
For the past few years the problem compounded with the GK project unable to provide enough water for farmers dur-

ing the dry season.

Even the ground water level declined in the area forcing farmers to burrow deeper into the aquifer to irrigate their lands.

Salinity in river waters in the Khulna and Jessore region increased with the drying up of the Gorai.

Besides the Gorai, the Mahananda, Boral, Korotoa, Atrai, Punarbhava, Pagla and Nagar rivers, which depend on the Padma for their flow, also dried up forming shoals on their beds.



Padma at Hardinge Bridge during dry season. — Star photo

Jai Jai Din

HC asks Editor not to repeat such comments

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday admonished the weekly Jai Jai Din and asked it not to repeat such editorial comments and to publish the entire judgement within 15 days after receiving it.

The High Court discharged the rule issued against the editor of the weekly Shafik Rahman in the contempt case.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Hossain and Justice Md Abdul Matin by their judgement also gave importance on separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The court observed that since Shafik Rahman was harassed several times in the past, ousted from the country, his weekly was banned and he expressed remorse and sorrows for publishing the editorial and

See Page 12 Col 2

Crackdown on illegal immigrants begins in Malaysia Jan 1

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 10:

The government has proposed canings and stiffer fines and jail sentences for smugglers of illegal immigrants, news reports said today, reports AP.

The move is part of a national crackdown on the growing number of illegal immigrants, most of them from Indonesia, the Philippines and Bangladesh. The government fears the immigrants could bring social problems and disease.

On Monday, the deputy minister of home affairs, Megat Juid Megat Ayub, said about 30,000 Bangladeshis were at the Thai-Malaysia border waiting to cross over into the country. He said security forces would try to stop them.

He also said that a national crackdown on illegal immi-

grants would begin on January 1.

The Immigration Act will be amended in the current sitting of parliament to require smugglers to pay for the immigrants' maintenance and deportation, the New Straits Times reported.

Smugglers will face a maximum fine of 50,000 ringgit (20,000 dollars), imprisonment between two to five years as well as six strokes of the cane, the New Straits Times says.

Those found guilty of forging or altering a visa, permit, pass or certificate will face a minimum five-year jail term, a fine of 30,000-100,000 ringgit (12,000-40,000 dollars) and six strokes of the cane.

There are about 2,000,000 immigrants in the country, most of them illegal.

Suranjit asked to maintain 'low profile'

From Staff Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Comments by Suranjit Sengupta, MP and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, has raised controversy in political circles here.

Suranjit, who had earlier led a six-member parliamentary delegation to Canada and the United Kingdom arrived here Saturday night. Suranjit has been asked by the government to maintain a 'low profile' here.

See Page 12 Col 7

25,000 tonnes of urea to be imported this month

The government will import 25,000 tonnes of urea in the current month through international tender, reports BSS.

Another 1,80,000 tonnes of urea will arrive in the country during January and February next, a BCIC press release said yesterday.

The government will get 1,55,000 tonnes of urea from Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (KAPCO) under two contracts signed recently to meet the requirement in the coming peak season.

The import decision has been taken to meet the peak season demands as government-owned Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory Ltd (CUFL) has suspended its production due to severe gas shortage at Bakhrabad gas field, the press release said.

Radar Purchase Case

HC upholds rejection of Ershad's bail

A High Court division bench yesterday upheld the order of rejection of bail by a special tribunal in a criminal case against deposed President HM Ershad, reports UNB.

The special tribunal had rejected accused-prisoner Ershad's bail petition apprehending that if the former chief executive of the republic was enlarged in bail he might temper evidences in the instant criminal case known as the Radar Purchase Case.

Ershad, now the leader of JP parliamentary party, was accused in the case of ordering the purchase of three radars for the air force from an American company at exorbitant price during his regime causing loss of Tk 34 crore to the national exchequer.

The High Court bench comprising Justice Badrul Islam

See Page 12 col 5

Rise above partisan interests



President Shahabuddin Ahmed placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. — Star photo

25th V-Day

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday regretted that no healthy political culture had been developed in the country.

"With great regret, we see that no healthy political culture has grown in the country," he said adding that the political leaders and their supporters are wasting their energy bickering over each others pasts.

"They can't rise above partisan interests to concentrate on the future of the country all the time," the President said. "If they cannot reach a consensus on major problems of the country, it would hamper the progress of the nation."

The President was addressing the inaugural session of the week-long "Bijoy Utsab" (Victory festival), organised by Sammito Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar in celebration of the Silver Jubilee

See Page 12 Col 1

Restructure JS Task Force, demands BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has demanded restructuring of the Jatiya Sangsad Task Force (JSTF) to ensure "proper representation" in it and enable the main opposition party to play its due role in its functioning.

The demand was made at a press conference addressed by some top leaders of the party yesterday. It was held at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition.

The speaker constituted it (JSTF) in consultation with the leader of the House and the ruling party," Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain said at the press conference which was also addressed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition

in the Houses Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

"Neither the opposition leader nor her deputy or myself or any lawmaker of our party was aware of the formation of the JSTF. By doing so, the JSTF has been made partisan and people of their choice are being sent abroad on study tour. Besides, people are also being recruited for the project without holding any meeting of the JSTF," Delwar said.

The JSTF was formed earlier to study functioning of parliaments of some countries and suggest measures for better functioning of the Jatiya

See Page 12 Col 7

Body to prepare draft bill for introducing Grameen Court

Star Report

The government has set up a nine-member committee headed by Law Secretary Amin-ullah to prepare a draft bill for introducing Grameen Court at the union and village levels, according to official sources.

The other members of the committee are: Khandaker Muhammad Abu Bakr, solicitor, Abul Bashir Bhuiyan, Md Sohail Hossain, both joint secretaries in the law ministry, Justice Kazi Habibur Awal, secretary of the Law Commission, Iktidar Ahmed, director of the Judicial Training Institute and Anwarul Haq, NI Khan and Mu-

See Page 12 Col 8

DMP starts removing stages blocking city roads

By Staff Correspondent

The Metropolitan Police have started removing all types of erected arches and stages blocking roads in different parts of the city.

Police sources said that all the OCs in the thanas and officials concerned of the police have been asked to remove those temporary structures.

A senior police official said last night the decision of removing the arches and stages was taken as those structures were creating traffic jams in the city.

A police officer said they had asked the people in their area not to erect any structure which might hinder smooth movement of traffic.

Brief trading at DSE

By Staff Correspondent

Trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) resumed yesterday after a two-day forced closure due to a sit-in staged by a group of kurb market traders.

As the kurb market traders earlier withdrew their agitation programme following the announcement of some government measures to restore normalcy in the share market, trading at the DSE floor started at 10:30 am and continued for about two hours.

During the brief trading more than 1.12 lakh shares and debentures valued at about Tk 4.59 crore changed hands, with the DSE All Share Price Index gaining 1.12 points on the day.

The DSE index reached 2619.47 points yesterday from the 2618.35 points at closing on Saturday.

The market capitalisation of the bourse also advanced by Tk 42.27 crore reaching Tk

See Page 12 Col 6

We Extend our Banking Horizon a Little More

NORTH SOUTH ROAD BRANCH AT BANGSHAL
IN THE CAPITAL CITY DHAKA
WILL BE OPENED ON 12th DECEMBER 1996.

ONE MORE BRANCH IN JUBILEE ROAD
AT PORT CITY OF CHITTAGONG
WILL START FUNCTIONING FROM
21st DECEMBER 1996.

MAULVI BAZAR BRANCH AT CENTRAL ROAD,
WILL GO INTO OPERATION
FROM 28th DECEMBER 1996.



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