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NEWS BRIEFS

Proposed strike in jute mills called off

The proposed strike in the jute and spinning mills on December 29 has been postponed after a meeting of the labour leaders of the mills with Minister of State for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan and on the basis of the minister's assurance for fair disposal of their demands, an official handout said on Thursday, reports BSS.

Prisoner dies in Sylhet jail

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 27: An undertrial prisoner died in the Sylhet District Jail yesterday morning, official sources said.

The prisoner was identified as Abdus Shahid, 45, of Baniabazar thana. He fell sick on the previous day, sources added.

Body to probe 'manipulations'

35 brokers in DSE, CSE shortlisted

By Shehab Ahmed and Inam Ahmed

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has shortlisted at least 35 brokers in Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges whose volume of trading had been unusually high during the recent upheavals in the capital market, highly placed sources in the SEC said.

"We are investigating those on the basis of certain information as part of routine monitoring of the capital market," one source said.

Meanwhile, the SEC constituted a five-member committee, headed by Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam, on Thursday to probe the alleged irregularities and manipulations in the market.

The investigation by the SEC and formation of the committee came in the wake of a probe by Special Branch police who had

reportedly found underhand dealings involving certain foreign traders eager to make a 'quick kill' in the booming market.

The SEC recently sent a notification asking brokers to submit detailed statements.

Ordn amending 'Artha Rin Adalat Ain' promulgated

The President has promulgated an ordinance amending the Artha Rin Adalat Ain, 1990 for bringing dynamism in loan recovery and ensuring proper enforcement of the law, reports BSS.

The ordinance promulgated on December 17 would incorporate a new Section '6 Ka' followed by the Section 6 of the Act of 1990.

The murky situation was attributed to manipulations by certain unscrupulous traders by the kerb market dealers who staged demonstrations and

concerning their trading between July and November 15, it is considered to be the most volatile period when prices rose sharply and slumped.

It had been looking for irregularities in the trading that might have led to the feverish trend in the market, even pushing prices of moribund company shares to their peak.

Shares of certain companies rose steeply, whose fundamentals were not strong enough to justify the dizzying heights reached.

Some companies also saw a quantum jump in their prices even though they were out of production, without any assets and future, the sources added.

The murky situation was attributed to manipulations by certain unscrupulous traders by the kerb market dealers who staged demonstrations and

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Ijtema begins at Tongi Lakhs gather on the bank of Turag

By Staff Correspondent

Biswa Ijtema, the second biggest congregation of Muslims after the Hajj begins today on the eastern bank of river Turag at Tongi, about 25 KMs from the capital.

Although the Ijtema will be formally inaugurated today recitation from the Quran and Hadith and discussion on Islam began yesterday. Akheri Munajat will be held on Monday.

According to leaders of Tablig Jamaat, organiser of the Ijtema, about 60 per cent of the expected attendants have already arrived at the venue and thousands of devotees are on way. More than a million people usually gather on the occasion.

The congregation will be bigger this year because of a by and

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MOU with ROK co for 120 mw power station

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Bangladesh and a Korean company for construction of a 120 mw power station in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

The MOU was signed when

chairman of Halla Business Group of the Republic of Korea and the leader of a visiting Korean business delegation called on the Prime Minister the morning.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, BID Bikrami, executive chair
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John Major due Jan 10

British Prime Minister John Major will pay a three-day official visit to Bangladesh from January 10 at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

He will be accompanied by Mrs. Norma Major, an official announcement said Thursday.

The visit has a special significance since this will be the first meeting between the two leaders and it takes place at a time when Bangladesh is celebrating its 25 years of independence.

The government and the people of Britain extended strong support to Bangladesh during the liberation war in 1971.

This will be the first visit to Bangladesh by a British Prime Minister in 18 years. Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan visited Bangladesh in 1978.

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India doesn't have enough power to sell, experts say

Star Report

Power purchase from India might not be feasible for Bangladesh since India does not have adequate power to sell, according to experts.

It is forecast that in March 1997, India will face a power shortage of 12 per cent, or expert said. "In peak hours, this shortfall will increase to 19 per cent," the expert added.

The ruling Awami League claimed that the idea of purchase of power from India as a quick solution to the country's increasing power shortage was conceived during BNP rule. But BNP denied it.

After Awami League came to power in June, it said it will go ahead with the 'same idea' as energy experts predicted a shortfall of 450 MW power shortfalls in 1997.

A feasibility study on power purchase from India is

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DUTA iterates demand for trial of Nuban's killers

By Staff Correspondent

The killers of Nuban Ahmed, a young teacher of the Dhaka University, could not be identified even after one year of the murder, said the university teachers yesterday expressing deep concern.

Addressing a press conference in the city, the leaders of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) reiterated their demand for the trial and exemplary punishment of the killers of Nuban and also demanded probe into the alleged negligence in his treatment.

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CRICKET ON A STICKY WICKET: National vice captain Aminul Islam Bulbul having an unprecedented batting practice on the street in front of Jatiya Press Club while fellow cricketers look on during their demonstration (Detail on page 11).

—Star photo

3-day fifth SAARCLAW confce opens Legal system must take care of social objectives: PM

By Staff Correspondent

SAARCLAW Conference at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday morning. Bangladesh chapter of SAARCLAW, a forum formed in October, 1991 in Colombo, organised the conference with the core theme "Development Through Law".

The three-day conference's working programme includes two plenary sessions, four working sessions and valedictory session. Besides, the second conference of chief justices of SAARC countries will also be held tomorrow at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla.

Sheikh Hasina was inaugurating the three-day Fifth

The Prime Minister said legal system in this part of the world would have to take increasing care of social objectives like 'equalising opportunities for all to bloom themselves as law abiding productive citizens.'

The system needs to ensure resolution of conflicts among individuals and organisations in such a way that the poor are not neglected or deprived to the benefit of the affluent, Hasina said.

In our societies, if millions of poor do not receive due protection of law, a few hundred

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BM Abbas A T dead

Internationally reputed water expert BM Abbas A T died on Thursday at BIRDEM Hospital in the city. He was 85, reports UNB.

He was suffering from old-age ailments.

His namaz-e-Janaza was held at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers.

Abbas served different governments as adviser or minister on water management after independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

He tried relentlessly to resolve the Farakka problem till he retired from service in 1979. He also wrote a number of books on water management.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the death of BM Abbas AT.

In a message of condolence, the Prime Minister recalled his contribution to the better management of the country's water

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3-week exhibition begins Nat'l art gallery to be set up at Shilpakala

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for ensuring a creative future for the country through united efforts by the government and the artist community, reports UNB.

She was inaugurating the three-week long 12th National Art Exhibition 1996, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in observance of the Silver Jubilee of Independence and the War of Liberation.

Government can only create favourable atmosphere for nurturing arts and help remove the obstacles in its practice, the Prime Minister said, pledging the government's commitment to be "always active in flourishing arts."

A national art gallery will be established at the Shilpakala Academy premises, the Prime Minister said, responding to the demand voiced

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Hundreds pay last respect to Subinoy Chakma

RANGAMATI, Dec 27: The mortal remains of late Subinoy Chakma, secretary general of the Chittagong Hill Tracts National Coordination and Peace Council (CHTNCPC) was cremated at Rajbari here yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Hundreds of tribal and non-tribal leaders from three hill districts including Chairman of Local Government Council Rabindra Lal Chakma, local MP Dipankar Talukdar, Chakma King Devashish Roy, President of CHTNCPC Saiful Islam Dildar, Chairman of Rangamati Pourashava Mani Swapna Devan, Region Commander Brigadier A T M Zahirul Haq

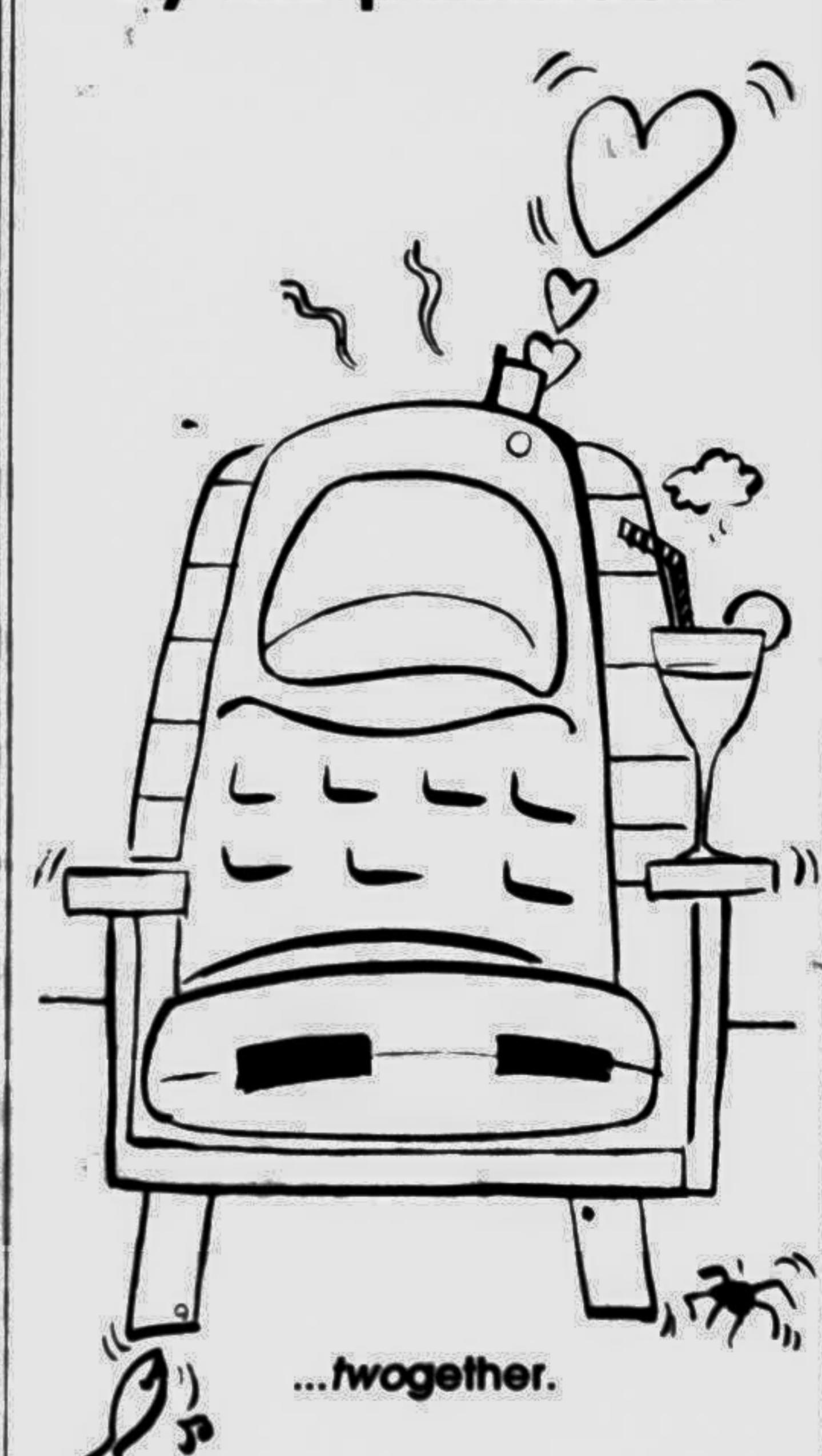
deputy commissioner and police super attended the cremation ceremony and paid their last respect to late human rights activist Subinoy Chakma.

Chakma was assassinated by armed miscreants at Champaiknagar, Rangamati here Wednesday evening.

Meanwhile, a press release of CHTNCPC said as part of a four-day long mourning programme black flag was hoisted at all thana headquarters of the districts, special prayers were also held in all places of worship seeking salvation of the departed soul of late Subinoy.

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By the poolside...



...together.



I'll be there.

We expand our Banking horizon to green landscape of the tea gardens
Our
Moulvi BAZAR
Branch in greater Sylhet opens today

Southeast Bank Limited
A Bank with Vision
Head office: 1, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka
Tel: 9551411, PABX: 9550081-5, Fax: 880-2-9550093

ICD expansion work still stalled: Talks with protesters today

Work for the expansion of inland Container Depot (ICD) of Bangladesh Railway (BR) at Kamalapur station in the city remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day yesterday as a scheduled meeting between BR officials and representatives of the people of nearby localities was not held on Thursday.

According to BR sources, if the ICD expansion work continued to remain suspended, congestion at Chittagong Port

closure of Mouda-Kamalapur Road told The Daily Star yesterday that they did not join a meeting on the issue with BR officials as BR had not invited them formally.

BR sources said, an invitation letter was now sent to convenor of the resistance committee Advocate Shahjuddin Sarker giving a fresh date. The meeting between Divisional Railway Manager Saleh Ahmed and representatives of local

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