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## Ijtema at Tongi

From Page 1  
large peaceful atmosphere in the country, the organisers said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message yesterday greeted the devotees from all over the Muslim world.

The Prime Minister extended her sincere greetings to tens of thousands of Muslim devotees who will be attending the three day congregation.

Although the government has taken some steps to keep the traffic system smooth on the roads along the Ijtema venue and provide emergency medicare services and water supply, those are very inadequate, according to some devotees.

The Gazipur district administration has set up three police control rooms and two medicare camps at the venue to maintain law and order and provide emergency medicare services.

This correspondent while visiting the area found that buses and mini-buses were being parked in a chaotic manner after off-loading the devotees, creating traffic jam on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, the main road passing along the Ijtema venue.

Although there are several medicare camps set up by different NGOs, none has adequate supply of medicine.

The government-run Tongi Modern Hospital, located very close to the Ijtema venue, has not opened any medicare camp.

When asked, a doctor of the

## Myanmar currency seized Nine including 2 Myanmar citizens held in Teknaf

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 27: BDR personnel today caught nine people, including two Myanmar nationals, along with huge amount of illegal Myanmar currency from Teknaf border, reports UNB.

They were caught at Badamkani on the bank of the river Naf while they were allegedly going to Myanmar.

The arrested Myanmar citizens are identified as Abdul Karim and Salmullah. The others are: Mohammed Nur, Mohammad Hakim, Abdullah and Rahmatulla of Teknaf thana and Nur Mohammad, Abdur Rashid and Mohammad Jalil of Ukhiya thana.

BDR jawans also recovered one lakh Myanmar currency from their possession.

The arrested were handed over to Teknaf thana and a case was filed with the police in this connection.

## DUTA iterates

From Page 1  
Nuban Ahmed, a teacher of the Department of Economics, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on December 26 last year, ten days after he sustained serious injuries by an unidentified gang on December 17 near the Sangsad Bhaban. His first death anniversary was observed on Thursday.

The conference was attended by DUTA president Prof A T M Zahurul Huq, general secretary Dr A M S Arefin Siddique, Dr Shahid Akter Hussain, Prof S M Imamul Huq and Prof Syed Giasuddin Ahmed.

## BM Abbas

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resources and the efforts he made for the wellbeing of the people.

Qul khwani of BM Abbas AT will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at his residence at Road 1, Dhanmendi.

## John Major

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The announcement said the forthcoming visit of John Major will mark a new chapter in the relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the two Prime Ministers will hold formal talks when they will review broad gamut of bilateral relations as well as international issues.

John Major will also call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

## MOU signed

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man of the Board of Investment (BOI) and Chung In-yung, chairman of the Hala Business Group, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective sides.

The power plant to be built on the basis of "built-own-operate" shall have a period of 20 years with effect from the day of formal commissioning of the station.

The Hala Business Group has shown keen interest in development of river banks. The company is interested to launch massive dredging of river bed for reclamation of land to develop industrial estates. Besides, the group is also interested to establish a deep sea port in Bangladesh. Discussions were held for development and upgradation of Chittagong and Mongla ports.

hospital said outdoor facilities have been kept open for 24 hours but there is no special room or bed for providing emergency services to the devotees. However, leave of doctors and employees of the hospital have been cancelled on this occasion.

Some patients at the outdoor of the hospital alleged that doctors gave only prescription but no medicine.

The temporary latrines and toilets were giving bad smell. Organisers said that at least 30 barrels of bleaching powder were needed to keep those free of bad smell but they got only two barrels from the local health department.

## Govt destroying democratic atmosphere: B Chy

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the government to change its attitude and behave like a democratic government, reports UNB.

"You cannot expect democracy from the Opposition when you are resorting to undemocratic behaviour and destroying the country's democratic atmosphere... BNP is ready to resist such undesirable attitude," he said.

The BNP leader was addressing a meeting, organised on the occasion of the 18th founding anniversary of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), in front of the party central office in the evening.

Presided over by JASAS president Rezabuddin Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, party leaders Matur Rahman and Kabir Murad, and JASAS general secretary Wasimul Bari Rajeb.

Prof B Chowdhury said parliament should be run according to the Rules of Procedure, not by the will of the Speaker. "Either the Speaker should be replaced or his attitude would have to be changed."

They were caught at Badamkani on the bank of the river Naf while they were allegedly going to Myanmar. The arrested Myanmar citizens are identified as Abdul Karim and Salmullah. The others are: Mohammed Nur, Mohammad Hakim, Abdullah and Rahmatulla of Teknaf thana and Nur Mohammad, Abdur Rashid and Mohammad Jalil of Ukhiya thana.

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## 20 houses at Barisal sweeper colony set ablaze: 30 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 27: At least 20 dwelling houses at the sweeper colony in the town were set on fire by some agitated people last night when a news spread that human bones, collected from grave yard by a sweeper and a dom were being boiled at the autopsy room of the hospital.

At least 30 people including six policemen were injured in clashes when police went into action, police and witnesses said. The injured policemen included the ASP.

The agitated people gathered the colony and torched it. They also put up barricades on the road to prevent the police and the fire brigade from coming to the spot.

Police fired 36 blank shots, lobbed 22 rounds of tear gas shells and resorted to lath-charge to disperse the people.

The deputy commissioner held a meeting with the leaders of different political parties and the elite of the town to defuse tension and restore peace. A committee has been formed with an ADC, ASP and a representative of the pourashava for this purpose.

## Advice to deposit Hajj expenditure by Dec 30

The Hajj pilgrims under government management who have deposited advance house rent of Tk 16,000 for hiring houses at Makkah have been advised to deposit rest of the Hajj expenditure by December 30, reports UNB.

An official handout said on Thursday, the Hajj pilgrims have been asked to deposit the rest amount of Tk 62,815 to the bank where advance house rent money was deposited and to take full receipt of Tk 78,815 after filling up Hajj form.

The Hajj forms duly filled in should also be deposited to the offices of their respective deputy commissioner by December 30 positively.

## 'No possibility of fertiliser crisis' Delivery from CUFL ready stock for 24 dists begins

A meeting of the advisory committee on fertiliser distribution Thursday reviewed the production, stock position, distribution and price of fertiliser across the country, reports UNB.

The meeting noted that the present price of urea in the open market was lower than that in the same period of the last year and expressed satisfaction over the overall situation.

It was told that the delivery from Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory for 24 districts of Barisal, Khulna, and a part of Chittagong division is going on from a ready stock of 33,000 metric tons.

There is no possibility of fertiliser shortage in those districts although the factory ceased its production due to shortage of gas supply on December 9, the meeting was told.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs advisor to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta, Tajul Islam Chowdhury MP, Industry Secretary M Akhter Ali, Agriculture Secretary Dr A M M Showkat Ali and other members of the committee attended the meeting.

Convener of the committee presided over the meeting at the Commerce Ministry conference room.

The government has taken measures to import fertiliser to meet the production shortage and imported fertiliser is also on the way to these districts.

The meeting called upon the district committees to complete the whole process of appointing dealers for those thanas where sufficient members of dealers were not appointed previously.

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## Shab-e-Barat observed

By Staff Correspondent

Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, was observed all over the country on Thursday night with due solemnity and religious fervour. The religious festival was marked by night-long prayers, seeking divine blessings for the emancipation of the mankind in this world and the world hereafter.

Qurankhwani, Milad Mahfil, Zikir, Waz Mahfil, offering of feteah at the graveyards and feeding of the destitute were held in different places of the city.

Special prayers were offered at all mosques including Baitul Mukarram national mosque seeking peace and prosperity of the country.

## AL-Jamaat clash in Jessore: 1 killed

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 27: One person was killed and five others injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami at Uttar Bagan in Sharsaha Thana of the district yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Fakir Ali, 55, reportedly a Jamaat activist. He died on the way to general hospital.

## Indian power

From Page 1

chase of power from India was conducted by experts and officials of the Energy Ministry a couple of months ago. It was sent to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last month for consideration.

According to sources in the Energy Ministry, the feasibility study suggested that for purchasing power from India, a 40 km transmission line would have to be set up from Jessore to the border where it could be connected with the Indian power transmission network.

Installation of the line would cost Tk 1.5 crore per kilometre and take nine months, the study said.

"But the problem is, India is not interested in selling power in peak hours, when we want the power most," an expert said. "It wants to supply power excluding the peak hours. This is contrary to our objective."

India generates 80,000 MW power while Bangladesh generates around 2100 MW.

According to a study of the World Bank, the lowest price of power in Bangladesh is 4.23 US cents per kilowatt hour for Tk 1.80 approximately while in eastern India, it is 2.59 cents (or Tk 1.10 approximately).

## Five killed, 30 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons were killed and 30 injured in road accidents in Jessore and Dhaka yesterday and the day before.

Our Jessore correspondent writes: Three persons were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident on Jessore-Khulna highway at Dulanghata near Basundia of Kotwali thana in Jessore early yesterday morning.

Army Subedar Abdul Halim, 50, Abu Saleh, 32, and Sibul Banik, 35, were killed on the spot.

According to police, the accident occurred as the driver of a Khulna-bound night coach of Hanif Enterprise suddenly lost control over the vehicle and took upside down after hitting a road side tree.

BSS adds: The bus was totally damaged and its roof went off the main body.

Twenty of the injured persons were admitted to Jessore Sadar Hospital. Four of the injured including supervisor and the driver of the bus were in critical condition, hospital sources said.

Another BSS report adds: Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents in Mirpur area of Dhaka city Thursday.

Mirpur police said an unidentified person, aged about 55, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Darus Salam Road at 1 pm. Police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

They seized the truck, but its driver managed to escape.

In the other accident, an unidentified young man, aged about 30, was injured seriously at Kazipara at 12:30 pm when a speedy auto rickshaw knocked him from behind. He was immediately taken to the Orthopaedic Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries after sometime. His body was also sent to the morgue of DMCH for autopsy.

Two cases were registered with Mirpur police station.

comprising reputed and neutral persons in relevant fields.

Among the other members of the committee are Prof ATM Zahurul Haque, Chairman of Economics Department, Dhaka University and retired Secretary, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Mirza Asaduzzaman Al-Farooq. The names of a reputed chartered accountant and a representative from the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be announced soon. The committee may co-opt any other member, if needed, the announcement said.

Meanwhile, in another press release, the SEC dispelled what it said misgivings created in the minds of the investors following its request for certain information from the brokers/dealers in Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges.

To dispel any misgivings, SEC would like to state that it has sought certain information from the stock-brokers/dealers in Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges as part of its routine market monitoring, it said. These information are kept by the stock-dealers/brokers as a normal requirement of trade, and are for SEC's own use. It has nothing to do with income-tax matters or divulging source of income, it added.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Fifth SAARC LAW Conference at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

## Schoolgirl kidnapped

A school girl was kidnapped from Maghbarar in the city on Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

A group of young men took Ruma, 14, from in front of her residence at 593/A Peererbagh at Maghbarar at about 1 pm on the