



এটি সাধারণ পানীয় নয়
এটি পাকা জ্বারের রস তৈরী

VOL. VI NO. 336 REGD. NO. DA 781

POUSH 16 1403 BS.

DHAKA MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1996

SHABAN 18 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

The Daily Star

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Inside Today

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The Ganges Water Treaty and Our Future

by Amjad Hossain Khan
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20 more hostages freed in Lima following govt-rebel talks

Syria unwilling to backtrack on peace talks with Israel

Business

National plan to improve nutritional status ready: Matia

DSE rebounds after eight-day fall

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	226.47
Market capital Tk	14025.01 cr
Transactions in volume	74180
Transactions in value Tk	2.69 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1150.43
Market capital Tk	14181.42 cr
Transactions in volume	8130
Transactions in value Tk	2416765

NEWS BRIEFS

BNP public meet in city Jan 7

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting in the city's Manik Mia Avenue on January 7. The party will organise the meeting as part of its three-day agitation programme announced on Saturday after two rounds of discussion at the party's standing committee meeting, reports UNB.

RUTA polls Jan 7

RAJSHAHI, Dec 29: Election to the Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) will be held on January 7. Campus sources said 30 candidates from two panels will contest the election for 15 posts of the association. Prof Shahidul Islam is leading the Yellow panel, backed by ruling Awami League, while the pro-Jamaat Green panel is being led by Prof Sohrab Uddin Ahmed, reports UNB.

Fake police officer held in Barisal

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, Dec 29: CID police today arrested one Saiful Islam from a hotel for impersonating a police officer. According to police Saiful collected money from many persons identifying him as Assistant Superintendent of Police. His original name is Zahed Rahim Rana. He hails from Dilu Road, Eskaton, Dhaka. A case was filed with Kotwali thana.

Hunger Project confce today

By Staff Correspondent
The Hunger Project, a New York based non-government organisation will open its Asia Regional Youth Conference in Dhaka today, said a press release. The two-day conference will be attended by Hunger Project activists from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan and India. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader are expected to be the chief and the special guests at the inaugural function.

Cold wave claims 18 in northern region

PABNA, Dec 29: At least 17 people died in the cold wave which is at present sweeping the northern region of the country. Quoting a report of a local news agency, UNB Pabna correspondent said, of the total, eight people died in greater Rangpur, five in Dinajpur, two in Rajshahi and two in Pabna. The death figure was updated until December 28.

Reorganisation underway

2 SEC members to be removed

By Staff Correspondent
The government has decided to remove two members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the watchdog of the capital market, authoritative sources said last night.
The members were earlier appointed by the government on contract basis.
Removal of the members will be part of the reorganisation work of the SEC, the sources said.
The SEC will be restructured in a couple of days to enable it to act with more efficiency and transparency.
Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria announced the government decision yesterday in the wake of share-traders' agitation against alleged bungling in the stockmarket and downside of share prices after a recent bull run, according to UNB.
Also, the Finance Minister said, legal steps would be taken against the persons responsible for the recent manipulation of the share market after speedy completion of investigation of the allegation.
Kerb-market traders, angered by the slump after a spell of boom in share business in the Motijheel street, staged sit-in outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday to protest the manipulation.
After taking stock of the overall situation of the stockmarket in a meeting with a business delegation, Kibria referred to a committee already formed for a review of the circuitbreaker imposed on the unruly market to avert a greater crisis.
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Kerb marketmen stage sit-in in front of DSE

A group of kerb-market traders staged a six-hour sit-in demonstration in front of the DSE building yesterday protesting the fall in share prices and demanding stability in the stock market, reports UNB.
The outmarket traders, who threatened to disrupt trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to press the authorities for action against irregularities in the capital market, staged the demonstration as part of a "continuous strike."
However, the protestors will abstain from their programme today for the akheri munajat, the concluding prayer of the three-day Biswa Ijtema at Tongi.
At a rally in front of the DSE building, the small share investors said they were forced to go for "continuous strike" to protest what they alleged manipulations by DSE members that left thousands of small investors pauper.
The rally, under the banner of Out-Market Share Traders Association, was addressed by its president Emdad Hossain, M
See Page 12 Col 4



Kerb market share traders staged a sit-in in front of the Dhaka Stock Exchange building yesterday. — Star photo

Fifth SAARCLAW confce concludes Regional varsity for higher studies on law proposed

By Staff Correspondent
The three-day Fifth SAARCLAW Conference concluded here yesterday with a suggestion for establishment of a regional university for higher studies on law.
Presenting a brief report at the concluding session of the conference, President of SAARCLAW, KK Venugopal, said a task force has been formed to prepare a policy paper on legal education. He announced that the Sixth SAARCLAW Conference would be held in October, 1997 in Pakistan.
Chief Justice of Bangladesh ATM Afzal chaired the concluding session.
Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi, Chief Justice of Pakistan Sajjad Ali Shah, Judge of Nepal Supreme Court Trilok Prapat Rana, Vice-President of SAARCLAW Ranjit Abeyesuriya, its Secretary General Dhara Wijayantoke and Chairman of its Bangladesh chapter, Barrister M Anur Ull Islam spoke at the concluding session. MC Bhandare, another Vice President of SAARCLAW gave vote of thanks.
Dr NR Madhava Menon, Director, National Law School of India, who floated the concept of a regional university at an earlier session had said that such a university, having at least one campus in each SAARC country, would have a governing board of lawyers, judges and law academics, drawn equally from all countries of the region.
Addressing the concluding session, Justice AM Ahmadi said, "If we cherish to adhere to the path of democracy, we must have to take benefits of socio-economic and legal developments and, of course, that have to be for improving the lots of masses, a vast of whom reside in slums."
For improvement of the standard of judiciary, he strongly suggested floating of special cells under the Bar councils of respective countries with the job of examining any new law before being enacted.
In his lengthy speech he also came down heavily on corruption in the countries of the region, "in this era of guided missiles, we are perishing ourselves, as misguided people and that's all."
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Azad Siddiky shifted to Rajshahi jail

From Our Correspondent
TANGAIL, Dec 29: Azad Siddiky, brother of Awami League MP's Kader Siddiky and Latif Siddiky, sent to Tangail jail here yesterday was later shifted to Rajshahi Central Jail under one month's detention, according to police sources.
Azad is an accused in 19
See Page 12 Col 8

3 Sarbaharamen shot dead

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Dec 29: Three activists of the outlawed Sarbahara party were shot dead allegedly by their rivals at Humoder beel under Jhenidah thana last night.
Police said, Chhana, 30, Bakar, 35, and Bablu, 42, were abducted on November 25. Their bodies were recovered this morning.
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Ijtema turns into human sea Akheri Munajat today

By Staff Correspondent
The Biswa Ijtema at Tongi turned into a sea of humanity with tens of thousands more joining the congregation yesterday.
The Akheri Munajat will be offered at noon today.
Miazi Mehrab of India is likely to lead the Akheri Munajat, seeking divine blessings for overall progress and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.
President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and a number of ministers and leaders of both the ruling and opposition parties are expected to join the Munajat.
The congregation spread beyond the three square kilometre pandal on the eastern bank of river Turag. A large number of devotees have taken shelter under the open sky around the venue baring biting cold. Local people estimated that at least 30 per cent of the devotees were outside the pandal.
Recitation from the Holy Quran and Hadith and discussions on Islam by noted scholars from home and abroad continued after Fajr, Juhur, Asr and Magreb prayers.
Meanwhile, at least 29 devotees were admitted to the Tongi Hospital, most of them with intestinal disorder. Out of them, 13 were diarrhoea patients, doctors said.
Six persons died at the Ijtema till yesterday, sources in the Tablig Jamaat, the organiser of the congregation said. Their Janajaz were held at the Ijtema.
Traffic will remain stopped at ZIA in the south and Jovdevipur in the north since morning today, police sources said.

JS session summoned on Jan 15

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has summoned Parliament into session on January 15 at 11 am, reports UNB.
An official announcement said yesterday the President summoned the Jatiya Sangsad as per provisions of Section 1 of Clause 72 of the Constitution.
This will be the third and winter session of the seventh Parliament, elected in the June 12 general election this year.
Its last session began on November 19 and was prorogued on November 19 after the transaction of a brief but very significant business.
The Indemnity Repeal Bill was passed in this second session of the new Parliament, amidst boycott of the House by the main opposition BNP. The BNP lawmakers were on the boycott to press a 10-point demand when the last session ended.

BCL leader shot dead in Mirpur

By DMC Correspondent
A leader of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was shot dead and two others were injured in a gunfight near the Mirpur College in the city yesterday afternoon.
The deceased identified as Delwar Hossain, 28, son of one Toladdek Hossain of Mirpur-6, who sustained fatal injuries in his chest died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 2 pm, hospital sources said.
Delwar was the general secretary.
See Page 12 Col 1

Missing SSMC student found dead

Police yesterday recovered the body of a student of the Sir Salimullah Medical College who was missing since Tuesday night, reports UNB.
On the night, Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, a student of 1993-94 session, was watching television in the TV room of the
See Page 12 col 5

Nat'l Cub Camporee begins Govt to spend more for grooming children : PM

MOUCHAK (Gazipur), Dec 29: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today expressed her resolve to bring up the next generation as self-reliant and self-respecting citizens and announced greater spendings for that purpose, reports UNB.
"Government assistance and support will further be augmented for grooming the children as ideal citizens of the country," she said inaugurating the 4th National Cub Camporee at the Mouchak camp this afternoon.
"Grow up as golden boys and girls."
BNP calls hartal at Bogra today
BOGRA, Dec 29: Opposition BNP has called a half-day hartal in the district tomorrow demanding removal of ADC (revenue) Mushtaque Ahmed as he allegedly tore the picture of late President Ziaur Rahman, reports UNB.
The BNP workers brought out a protest procession in the town this evening to drum up support in favour of hartal and
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Bangabandhu Cup
Bangabandhu soccer : 3 teams arrive
Sports Reporter
The heat of the forthcoming Bangabandhu Cup Silver Jubilee of Independence Football Tournament touched the hearts of million of soccer fans as participating teams started arriving in the capital yesterday to feature in the 11-day spectacle.
The invitational club-level tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) in memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is scheduled to be kicked off tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 11 team meet. The teams are from India, Nepal, Iran, Russia, Malaysia, Thailand and
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All set for DUTA polls tomorrow

By DU Correspondent
All preparations have been completed for the election of 15-member executive committee of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) to be held tomorrow.
The candidates are busy in last minute campaign. Pro-BNP White Panel and pro-Awami League Blue Panel are contesting the election. Left leaning Pink Panel is not contesting. Blue Panel swept the last elections.
The candidates from Blue Panel are: Prof Mostafa Chowdhury of Political Science, department for the post of president, Prof Aminur Rashid of Physics — vice-president, Dr Hosen Monaur of Zoology — general secretary, Rafiqullah Khan of Bengali — joint secretary, and Prof Mahfuzur Rahman of Finance and Banking department — treasurer.
The candidates for the posts of member from this panel are: Dr A M S Arefin Siddique, Prof Abdul Mannan of Management department, Prof Abdul Hakim Sarkar of Social Welfare, Prof Shahadat Ali of Biology, Prof Shanti Narayan Ghosh of Accounting, Dr Mahtab Uddin Ahmed of Chem-
istry, Prof A B M Mahmood of History, Prof S M Enamul Haq of Soil Science, Kazi Afroz Jahanara of the Institute of Education and Research and Sayed Gias Uddin Ahmed of Public Administration department.
The White Panel candidates are: Prof Yusuf Haider of Physics department — for the post of president, Prof Abul Bashar of Biology — vice-president, Prof Nazrul Islam of Psychology — general secretary, Waresul Karim of Finance — joint secretary and Dr Sirajul Islam of Management department.
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'Make justice cheap, quicker and easily accessible'

The Daily Star Roundtable
on
How to create a People-friendly legal system
29 December, 1996

The Daily Star organised a Roundtable on 'How to create a People-friendly legal system' at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday. It was participated by judges and lawyers attending the SAARCLAW Conference in the city. The details will be published tomorrow. — Star photo

The Daily Star Roundtable

Eminent judges and lawyers of the Sub-continent at a discussion in Dhaka yesterday emphasised on making justice cheap, quicker and easily accessible for the common people, reports UNB.
"Delay in disposal of cases and the huge expenses of moving those are the greatest impediments in this regard," said the president of SAARCLAW KK Venugopal participating at the roundtable discussion, organised by The Daily Star.
The jurists, who came to Bangladesh to participate in the 3 day SAARCLAW conference which concluded yesterday, took part in the roundtable on 'How to Create a People-Friendly Legal System' at a local hotel.
Venugopal suggested Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, recently introduced in India, as a very effective, cheap and useful means of mediation, consideration and arbitration of cases before these are moved to a court.
Ranjit Abeyesuriya, an eminent Sri Lankan judge and expert on criminal law, advocated for massive legal aid by lawyers to the laymen who, he said, cannot defend themselves independently.
"It is the basic and constitutional right of every individual to counsel," he said adding "make lawyers and justice available to the people through legal aid."
Referring to his country's experience, the Sri Lankan jurist suggested Mediation Boards with retired judges that were found helpful to dispose of a large number of cases — civil and criminal and minor offences.
Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, who was the moderator of the roundtable discussion, made the hypothesis that the present structure of legal system is not people-friendly because of the complicated language and explanation of laws.
In reply, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed said language is not the real problem of legal system as it is a highly technical profession. "The problem is delay in disposal of cases and their high expenses."
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