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Newly elected DUTA president Prof Mostafa Chowdhury (L) and general secretary Dr Hosen Mansur. — Star photo

Blue Panel sweeps DUTA election

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Blue Panel swept the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) election yesterday securing 13 of the 15 posts of the Executive Committee, including the posts of the president and the general secretary.

Prof Mostafa Chowdhury of the Blue Panel was elected president. He got 427 votes against 385 votes scored by the pro-BNP White Panel candidate Dr AFM Yusuf Haider. Dr Hosen Mansur of the department of Geology was elected general secretary. He got 417 votes against

394 received by his White panel contestant Dr Nazrul Islam of the department of Psychology.

The other office bearers elected from the Blue panel are — Vice President Dr RIM Aminur Rashid (Physics) with 448 votes and Treasurer Dr SM Mahfuzur Rahman (Finance and Banking) with 445 votes. Dr AKM Waresul Karim (Bulbul) of the department of Finance and Banking was elected joint secretary from the White Panel scoring 402 votes.

The new DUTA executive committee has been elected for 1997.

The members elected from the Blue Panel are — Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique (Journalism), Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (Management), Dr Abdul Hakim Sarkar (Social Welfare), Dr ABM Mahmud (History), Dr SM Emanul Haq (Soil Science), Kazi Afroz Jahan Ara (IER), DR Mahtab Uddin Ahmed (Chemistry), Dr Mohammad Shahadat Ali (Zoology) and Dr Sayed Gasuddin (Public Administration).

Farmers

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the Speaker's one-sided role in running Parliament. "If the atmosphere is created, we must sit for discussion."

The BNP leader, who is also president of the Krishak Dal, criticised the government for the sufferings of peasants who he said, are not getting fair prices of their produce. "They have to buy fertiliser at high price."

He said the Awami League, before its assumption of power, uttered a lot of tall talks about improving the condition of the farmers. "But it has already broken the backbone of the farmers," he added.

Bhuiyan said the government had failed to provide fertiliser to farmers at fair price which is selling between Tk 300 and 500. He claimed that despite hartal and blockade, the price of fertiliser did not exceed Tk 250 during the BNP period.

AL-BNP stance

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Mannan Bhuiya MP, when contacted said his party is ready to join the forthcoming session of the Parliament if the government assures "neutrality" of the Speaker and fair coverage of the proceedings by the BTV.

"We're ready to go back to the parliament as soon as the government accepts our demands", Mannan Bhuiyan told the correspondent.

Asked to comment on Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina's recent call to the BNP to return to the Parliament, the BNP leader said, "Let her assure us that the Parliament would be run neutrally and the TV cover the sittings fairly."

He said 'no' to another question if his party received any fresh offer for dialogue. But he hastened to add, "I don't find it worthy to open a fresh bargaining on our demands. Our demands are already there for the government to accept."

Commenting on Mannan Bhuiyan's demand for assurance of neutrality of the Speaker and the BTV, Suranjit said, "Why not? We're ready to make such an announcement. We're ready to ensure that the deliberations by the opposition lawmakers will be covered fairly by the electronic media including the television."

The ruling party leader thought that the Opposition should be given more time in the House and for this the length of the working hours should also be extended.

But as regards the Speaker's role, he said, "How can I say that the Speaker is not neutral? He is definitely neutral. They are always welcome to raise any question about the Chair's role. For this, they must come to dialogue since dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition is a must in a parliamentary democracy to allow the parliament function effectively."

Political observers say, the coming session of the Parliament will be very crucial since the historic Bangladesh-India water treaty and several important bills are expected to be placed in the House.

7 woman FF's honoured

Bangladesh Mahila Samity honoured seven woman freedom fighters of the country at a reception in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

They are Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Mahila AL President IV Rahman, Begum Badrunnesa Ahmed (post-humous), Begum Nurjahan Murshid, Prof Momataj Begum and Momataj Begum (post-humous).

Samson Chy, Laila Kabir elected MCCI President, VP

By Staff Correspondent

Samson H Chowdhury has been re-elected President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, for another term. He was re-elected at the Chamber's 92nd Annual General Meeting, held in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Chowdhury is the Chairman of Square Pharmaceuticals Limited and owns a number of other major enterprises like Square Textiles Limited, Square Toiletries Limited and Dhaka Refractories Limited.



Samson H Chowdhury

Laila Rahman Kabir has been elected MCCI's new Vice-President for 1997. Laila Kabir was earlier President of Bangladesh Employers Association and Chairperson of Bangladesh Tea Association. She has been actively involved in the Chamber's activities and represents the Chamber in the MCCI-CII joint Task Force, which has now finalised its report on the areas of economic



Laila Rahman Kabir

co-operation between India and Bangladesh.

Other elected members of the committee are: Zafar Ahmed, Iftekharul Alam, M Shamsul Alam, Syed Tareque Md Ali, M Anis Ud Dowla, Abdul Hafiz Choudhury, Frank Gamble, Mahub Jamil, Asghar Karim, Golam Mustafa and Afroz Rahim.

The 92nd AGM reviewed different features of the Chamber's activities during 1996, particularly its contribution towards finalisation of the government's comments on several aspects of the Uruguay Round Agreement.

Police yet to rescue Jharna

By Staff Correspondent

Police were yet to rescue a teenage girl who was allegedly kidnapped from Shyamoli in the city on December 18.

Jharna Akhter, 13, was kidnapped when she was going to school, her relatives said. Daughter of one Md Momtaz, Jharna was staying with her relatives. said police as her parents are now abroad.

Tangail

From Page 1

feuding groups were arrested in the last few months and 16 fire arms including a stengun and five pistols recovered from their possession.

All the top ranking leaders of the groups have criminal cases against them, said police. The lowest number of cases against an individual leader is six while the highest is 24.

Local people alleged that the conflict is over gaining political control and dominance in business and trade in the district.

Khaleda

From Page 1

Chittagong port and Bangladesh's corridor to combat insurgents in seven north-eastern states and importing India's culture.

Although the whole nation had celebrated 1996 as the Silver Jubilee of Liberation, the people were still bearing the brunt of economic debacle created by AL-waged hartal, strike, blockade and so on for long three years to oust an elected BNP government, she said.

Begum Zia once again alleged that the caretaker government of Justice Habibur Rahman and the Chief Election Commissioner appointed by it had a tilt towards AL, resulting in the snatching of BNP victory in June 12 polls.

Jessore Jail incident

Probe body to hear statements from Jan 6 to 12

Persons willing to give statements either in writing or verbally on Jessore Jail incident have been requested to submit their names and addresses to the Judicial Inquiry Commission offices at Jessore Circuit House by January 5, reports BSS.

The inquiry commission will hear or receive statements from January 6 to 12 at the Circuit House, said an official handout.

The time for hearing or receiving written statements has been fixed from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm and from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm every day.

1 killed, 20 hurt as bus carrying Ijtima devotees falls into ditch

JAMALPUR, Dec 31: A bus carrying home-bound devotees from Biswa Ijtima skidded off Jamalpur-Mymensingh highway and overturned on Monday midnight, killing one person and injuring 20 others, reports UNB.

Police said the Jamalpur-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch at Lahirkanda in Sadar thana at 1:30 am when the driver lost control of the steering.

One Rafiqul Islam Thandu, 35, died on the spot.

Three critically wounded were sent to Dhaka Medical College and the rest were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Water treaty

From Page 1

a share of 67,516 cusec of water at Farakka point in the first ten-day cycle of the dry season beginning today. The five months dry season will continue till May 30. It is divided into fifteen ten-day cycles. However, the crucial lean season will begin in March and continue till the end of April.

According to the provisions of the treaty, Bangladesh will get a maximum of 67,516 cusec in the first cycle from January 1 to 10 and a minimum of 27,633 cusec from April 11 to 20. However, during the most crucial lean period of April 21 to 30, it is due to receive 35,000 cusec.

Welcome '97

From Page 1

with much fanfare and gaiety.

A decades old problem was solved with signing of a historic 30-year accord on sharing of Ganges water with India. On the last day of 1996, an international football fiesta, the Bangabandhu Cup Football Tournament was kicked off at the national stadium.



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PHILIPS



ASM Quasem new DCCI President

ASM Quasem, a noted entrepreneur, has been elected President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) for the year of 1997, replacing Ali Hossain, reports UNB.

Ashraf Ibn Noor has been elected senior vice-president and Manzur Hossain vice-president, said a DCCI press release yesterday.

The election was held at the DCCI annual general meeting (AGM) in the city.

Quasem is the Chairman and Managing Director of Newage Group of Companies which are engaged in manufacturing and exporting of apparels, property development and information technology.

Noor is the Chairman of RR Group of Companies while Hossain is the director of Cock Brand Mosquito Coils Ltd, New Cotton Industry Ltd, and proprietor of Tanveer Enterprise.

Opening tie

From Page 1

one goal back 14 minutes into the second-half converting a penalty.

In the 13-team invitational tourney, Abahani, who have been placed in group A, with this victory held out hopes for a semifinal berth. Top finishers from four groups will qualify for the last four.

Today's matches

East Bengal Club (India) will take on Friends Club (Nepal) today at 4 p.m. at the National Stadium while Bargh Shiraj (Iran) will face Eastern All Star (Thailand) at 6 pm at the same venue.

Bangabandhu Cup

From Page 1

over the gallery as the opening declaration was made.

"I formally declare the Bangabandhu Cup Silver Jubilee of Independence Football Tournament open," said the Prime Minister amidst clapping and cheers.

State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) telecast the opening ceremony live while Bangladesh Beter broadcast running commentary about the ceremony from the stadium.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the supreme body of the country's football, organised the international soccer tournament with 10 foreign and three local club teams.

Earlier, the opening ceremony of the tournament began at 3:30 pm at the stadium soon after arrival of the Prime Minister.

Post and Telecommunications Minister and chairman of the organising committee Mohammad Nasim, Dhaka city mayor and a BFF president Mohammad Hanif, and State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader received the Prime Minister at the stadium gate.

On her way to the dais inside the ground, the Prime Minister was introduced to the officials of the participating teams and the tournament committee, and members of the Swadhin Bangla Football Team.

The day's programme began with the playing of national anthem by women Ansars band, followed by commentary on the Liberation War.

One-minute silence was observed in honour of the martyrs of the Liberation War, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders assassinated in jail.

Mohammad Nasim delivered the welcome speech while Obaidul Quader presented the tournament crest to the prime minister. Mohammad Hanif gave a short vote of thanks and invited the Prime Minister to open the meet.

After the opening announcement, the cultural programme of the ceremony started at 3:55 pm with about 600 girls from Azimpur School performing an 8-minute dance with excellent choreography.

Nine hundred smart jawans of Bangladesh Rifles, attired in seven different colours, offered attractive calisthenics for 17

minutes that included displaying the tournament logo with the portrait of Bangabandhu.

A group of artists of Swadhin Bangla Beter Kendra — Rathindra Nath Roy, Bipul Bhattacharya, Kalyani Ghosh, Shaheen Samad, Ajit Roy, MA Mannan, Rupa Farhad and Milia Ali — rendered two patriotic songs of Liberation War from atop a decorated mobile vehicle.

Renowned vocalists Sabina Yasmin and Andrew Kishore with eight co-artists presented the tournament song 'Mahamilaner Mahamelat Jaitir Janak Bangabandhu' composed by Kawser Ahmed Chowdhury and set to tune by Samar Das.

Eight foreign teams — Bargh Shiraz FC of Iran, Friends Club of Nepal, Indonesia's Ujang Pandang FC, Eastern All Star of Thailand, Calcutta East Bengal Club, Moscow Cosmos Club of Russia and Malaysia A&B teams — have already arrived in the city to take part in the meet.

Of the remaining two foreign teams, Calcutta Mohammedan SC was due here later last night while Calcutta Mohunbagan Club will be the last team to arrive today.

In the day's opening match, Abahani Limited beat Malaysia B team by 2-1 goals at the Dhaka National Stadium.

Premium bus service from Jan 12

The air-conditioned premium bus service between Uttara-Motijheel will be introduced from January 12, under Dhaka Urban Transport Project, an official handout said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

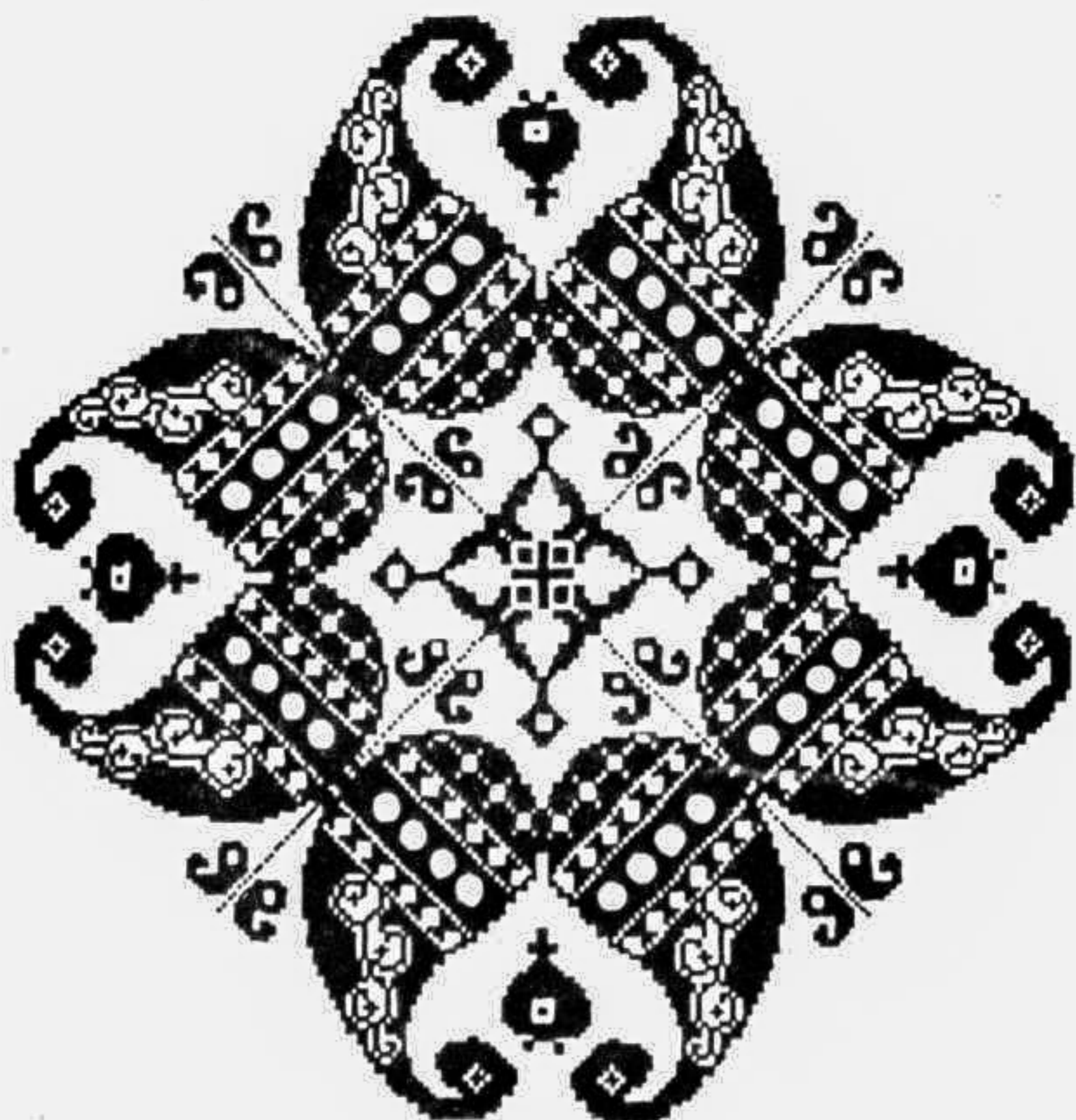
The decision was taken at a meeting of the Communications Ministry which was presided over by Joint Secretary Karar Mahmud.

Body of baby boy found in dustbin

By Staff Correspondent

The body of a baby boy aged around seven months was found in a dustbin on Noorjahan Road at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday afternoon, police said.

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Sonali Bank

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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