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54-member body to formulate edn policy

The government constituted a 54-member committee to formulate a realistic national education policy reinforcing the Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission report, reports UNB.

An official release yesterday said the National Education Committee would make recommendations on the basis of reports submitted by the Khuda Commission in 1974.

The committee, led by noted scientist Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda, was formed as per direction by father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The national committee will review the reports and also examine all aspects of education problems prevailing in the country to update different proposals of the commission.

See Page 12 Col 7

Bangabandhu murder case Farooq, Shahriar, 4 others produced in court

By Staff Correspondent

Six persons accused in the Bangabandhu murder case were produced before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday.

The next date for hearing of the case has been fixed on February 20.

The Central Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge-sheet in the Bangabandhu murder case in the CMM's Court on January 17, accusing 24 persons.

The six accused, who were arrested by the CID earlier and are being held in the Dhaka Central Jail as under trial prisoners, are: Col (retd) Syed Farooq Rahman, Col (retd) Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (retd) Mohiuddin, Capt (retd) Wahab, Taheruddin Thakur, a former minister of state in the cabinet of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Begum Zobaidda Rashid, wife of absconding accused Col (retd) Abdur Rashid Khandaker.

As the accused were brought before the court yesterday some people started chanting slogans against them, demanding their immediate trial. Some relatives of the accused also alleged that the agitating crowd turned unruly and even made attempts to spit on them. Police had to encircle them to provide security.

The accused were produced before the court at around noon and were kept under tight security during their less than half an hour stay at the court premises.

UNB adds: None moved any bail petition on behalf of the arrested accused of the Bangabandhu murder case.

Before the court, Zobaidda Rashid said: "I am ill. I'm a housewife, I have no connection with the murder."

Taheruddin Thakur said, "I want to retract the statement made on October 26 under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)." But he didn't file any petition in this regard.

Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Mahbubul Alam Chashee, Captain (retd) Mostafa and Risalder (retd) Sarwar have been shown as accused although See Page 12 Col 7



Col (retd) Farooq Rahman (C) and five others accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case were produced in the CMM court yesterday. —Star photo

Yasmin murder Warrant for arrest of 25 witnesses

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Jan 20: The Special Court Judge, Rangpur, today adjourned the hearing of the sensational Yasmin rape and murder case and fixed January 27 and 29 as the next dates for hearing.

Today's hearing was adjourned as 14 witnesses supposed to appear before the court to submit their depositions did not turn up. The judge ordered issuance of warrants of arrest against them.

Yesterday also, the special court issued warrants against eleven other witnesses for their failure to attend the court for submitting their depositions.

The 25 witnesses are: Four physicians, four police personnel, twelve persons belonging to various professions and four prostitutes.

HC stay order on removal of two SEC members

By SC Correspondent

The High Court ordered stay of the government order relieving Alamgir Kabir and Dr AKM Shahabuddin Alam from the posts of member of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Acting on separate writ petitions, the division bench of the HC, comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice See Page 12 Col 7

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
11	21	—	5:40
12	22	5:20	5:41
13	23	5:20	5:42

Call attention notice accepted JMB to be renamed after Bangabandhu

By Staff Correspondent

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju accepted a call attention notice proposing renaming of the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge as "Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge" during yesterday's sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Several BNP lawmakers, however, registered their objections to the proposal made by ruling party legislator Abdul Latif Mirza.

Thanking Mirza for the proposal, the Communications Minister, who is also the secretary general of Jatiya Party, told the House that several past governments, including that of JP Chief H M Ershad's, and the donors were involved with the huge project for constructing the bridge.

On renaming of the bridge, he said that there were instances in many countries of the world of naming airports and bridges after the names of their great sons. "Even in our country, the international airport had been dedicated to late President Ziaur Rahman," he pointed out.

Accepting the ruling party MP's proposal, the minister told the House, amid applause and thumping of desks by the Treasury bench members, that necessary steps would be taken soon in this regard.

Earlier, placing his proposal, Latif Mirza said that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Communications Minister in his postliberation government, Capt. (Retd) Mansur Ali. See Page 12 Col 1

FM replies to question in JS Zia govt handed over S Talpatti to Delhi

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in a counter-offensive against BNP lawmakers yesterday accused the former government of President Ziaur Rahman of handing over the South Talpatti island to New Delhi, reports UNB.

He, however, hoped that the present government would be able to reach a just solution of the issue of determining the ownership of the Bay Island with the resolution of other bilateral problems with India.

A brief debate ensued over South Talpatti and the Indo-Bangladesh Ganges water-sharing treaty when Haji Mohammad Selim of Awami League, in his written question, wanted to know whether any initiative has been taken to settle the disputed issues including South Talpatti, Angorpotia and Dahgram.

Foreign Minister Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Salauddin Qader Chowdhury of BNP joined the debate during the question-answer hour.

Taking the floor Salauddin Qader Chowdhury asked whether the government has taken any specific step regarding South Talpatti. He also expressed his ignorance about the Ganges water treaty with India and asked the Foreign Minister to let the House know about it.

In his sharp reply, Azad said the entire world knows about the Ganges water sharing treaty and he had received felicitations from different See Page 12 col 6

Govt employees call off strike in Tangail

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL, Jan 20: The 60-hour long impasses in the district administration office ended today when employees of the District Collector's office announced suspension of their indefinite strike till Eid-ul-Fitr following an assurance given by the Deputy Commissioner to address their complaints.

The announcement to call off the strike was made from the rally of the Liaison Committee of Bangladesh Government Employees' Coordination See Page 12 Col 7

Ganges water sharing treaty tabled Three bills in JS to extend tenure of CHT bodies

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday placed three bills in the Jatiya Sangsad seeking a 360-day extension of the tenure of the local government parishes of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed had earlier promulgated three ordinances extending the time limit for holding fresh elections in the three hill districts to 2000 days from 1640 days.

The original tenure of the elected local government parishes expired on July 11, 1992, and the tenure was extended, in phases, by 1640 days until January 5, 1997.

Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman MP of the BNP opposed introduction of the bills and said that extension of the tenure of the parishes proved incompetence of the government in holding elections there.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Noor Uddin Khan, who is also in charge of Special Affairs Division in Parliament, argued that the extension was necessary to hold "meaningful" elections in the hill districts. The minister also said that the government of Khaleida Zia had also extended the tenure.

The identical bills also said that immediate holding of elections to the parishes would affect the on-going negotiations between the Chittagong Hill Tracts Gano Sanghati Parishad and the 'National Committee', formed to resolve the crisis in the region.

However, the BNP legislator's objection was rejected by the House by voice votes.

The Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak placed in the House the recently signed Ganges water sharing treaty with India. The House is scheduled to have a threadbare discussion on the content of the treaty soon.

Immediately after placing of the treaty in Bangla version, Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain requested the Treasury Bench to provide the MPs with the English version of the agreement, which is the standard in case of any dispute on the treaty. The Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid See Page 12 Col 1

50 houses gutted in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan 20: At least 50 houses, including five shops, were gutted in three fire incidents in the port city today, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said some 16 tin-shed dwelling houses, including three rickshaw garages, were burnt into ashes in the fire at a slum at Chawkbazar Badurtala in Panchlaish thana.

The fire, which broke out at about 3.15 am, was brought under control at about 3.50 am.

Some 25 kutcha houses were gutted at the Bara Quarter slum at south Pahartali in another blaze at about 11 pm Sunday night.

The fire originated from an oven and soon engulfed the surrounding houses in the slum.

In another fire incident at 3.30 pm today, a small grocery and a tea stall were gutted near Khan Saheb's school in Doublomoring thana.

Water flow at Hardinge Bridge up

BHERAMARA (Kushtia), Jan 20: The water flow of the River Padma increased by 423 cusecs at the Hardinge Bridge point during the last 36 hours. Hydrology Department sources said today, reports BSS.

The water flow was recorded 56 thousand and 206 cusecs today against 55 thousand and 793 cusecs on Saturday.

Bangladesh-India joint team started to measure and monitor water flow at Hardinge Bridge point on Saturday. See Page 12 Col 8

5 fire incidents in a day in city: 20 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least 20 people were injured and more than 250 thatched houses, shops, shoe factories and godowns gutted in five fire incidents the city yesterday.

The injured were taken to different city clinics. The causes of the blazes in most of the incidents that took place in Mirpur, Sadarghat, Moham-madpur, Khilgaon and Siddiqbazar, could not be known immediately.

Firefighters from different city stations extinguished the blazes.

At least 10 people were injured and about 50 makeshift See Page 12 Col 3

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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ডি-২৩৭



THE HELPLESS ARMY AFTER THE MARAUDER: Indian player Reaz, who was the architect of Abahani's massive 5-1 victory over arch-rivals Mohammedan in yesterday's billing of the invitational international tournament at the Hockey Stadium, is seen here in full cry with five of his opponents watching in helpless admiration. Abahani play PIA in the final today. (Story on Page 11) —Star photo

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