



## JU students of '95-96 session to lose two academic yrs

By Gobinda Bar  
First year (Hons) students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) of 1995-96 session, whose classes are scheduled to begin on February 18, are losing two academic years.  
Lengthy admission procedure and incompleteness of Masters courses in some of the departments caused the delay in enrolling first-year students in the lone residential university in the country, sources concerned said.  
Students passing HSC examinations in mid 1995 sat for admission test at the JU in the latter half of 1996. Written test for admission began on August 5 while the viva voce ended on October 27 last. Other official formalities including admission under the 'tribal and ward quotas' have not been completed yet, they pointed out.  
Students of the same session in some other universities have already completed at least six months of their classes.  
Meanwhile, another batch of students passed the HSC examinations in mid-1996 and are waiting to be enrolled in higher educational institutions. Some of the universities have already invited applications for admission.  
As a residential university, JU enrolls students keeping in view the vacant seats in the dormitories. The freshers in 1995-96 session are to face accommodation problem as some of the 21 departments are yet to complete Masters examinations. Some other departments could not complete their respective courses yet.

## 5 sub-committees to formulate draft health policy

The committee for formulating the national health policy in its first meeting yesterday formed five sub-committees as part of its ground works to formulate a draft health policy. The 'National Health Policy Committee', formed recently, is expected to submit a draft health policy by next three months for consideration of the government.  
Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf and State Minister for the Ministry Prof M Amanullah expressed government's firm commitment for the development of health care facilities and ensure health for all.  
Secretary of health and family welfare Mohammad Ali explained the background and necessity of forming the committee at the meeting.  
The five sub-committees are: Sub-committee for information See Page 12 Col 5

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### Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
12	22	—	5:41
13	23	5:20	5:42
14	24	5:19	5:43

## Mercury dips below 4°C at Rangpur

Mercury dropped below four degree Celsius at Rangpur last night, reports BSS.

The temperature in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat may fall 1 to 2 more degrees, the Met office further said.

The lowest temperature recorded in the country was 3.6 degree Celsius in Iswardi on January 27, 1964.  
The Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon told the agency over telephone that cold wind and cloudy weather persisted in the region while biting cold added to the sufferings of the distressed forcing most of them indoors.

Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: Normal life across the region has been almost paralysed due to severe cold wave persisting since past one week. Mercury is varying between three degrees and ten degrees Celsius. Sky remained overcast by deep cloud and fogs. After sun set, situation turns even worse as deep fog covers sky and chilly wind begins to blow. Rangpur and its adjoining areas also experienced one-inch rain in the last 24 hours.

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi adds: At least five persons died and 35 others became sick in the cold wave in the district in the last two days.

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital sources said six people were admitted, of them three died. Thirty-five others were admitted with complaints of lung troubles due to cold.

An unidentified man was found dead near the Rajshahi Railway Station while and a dead child at the Railway slum. Meanwhile severe cold wave See Page 12 Col 8



A family in a city slum trying to keep warm in the biting cold last night. — Star photo

## Bangabandhu murder case Complainant says he could identify 4 of the accused

The accused chargesheeted in the Bangabandhu murder case were found involved in a conspiracy in collusion with each other for personal benefits.

During the investigation, the Investigating Officer (IO) visited the place of occurrence, prepared maps along with separate indexes, and seized articles that provided substantial evidence of the incident, the chargesheet added.

A copy of the seven-page FIR was obtained by The Daily Star. Having received the written FIR from the complainant, the Officer-in-Charge of the Dharmadham thana lodged the case and under instruction from the authorities, the Investigating Officer (IO) took up the case, it mentioned.

The complainant in the FIR

also mentioned that due to unavoidable circumstances and security reasons, the complainant was late in filing the case. The complainant in the FIR also claimed that he could identify some of the accused — Maj Farooq, Maj Bazul Huda, Maj Noor and Maj Shariful Islam (Daimin) — during the incident.

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The chargesheet mentioned that during the investigation it was revealed from various statements recorded by the CID that the accused "had briefed and provoked" their subordinates against Bangabandhu. It also mentioned that the accused "instigated their sub-

ordinates through fabricated motivation against Bangabandhu as per their pre-planned blue-print."

As per their plan, they split into three groups. One group attacked the residence of Bangabandhu between 4:30 am and 5 am.

Later the killers admitted their plans through radio broadcasts and declared Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed President of the country.

They also destroyed the 'alamat' of the incident and did not allow autopsy of the body of Bangabandhu.

After this, the then military government rewarded most of those involved in the killing by providing with employment abroad.

During the investigation it See Page 12 Col 8

## Commentary Use Parliament for Consensus on Economic Issues

By Mahfuz Anam

In a meeting with the leaders of the FBCCI, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, once again called for political consensus on economic issues. We could not agree with her more about the need for it. If we look through the statements of Khaleda Zia when she was prime minister, we will find similar statements calling for political consensus on economic issues.

So the question is, when both sides want it, why does it not happen? The answer is simple. Each side wants the consensus in their own terms. When Khaleda Zia called for consensus when she was in power, she had her own concept of it to which the opposition Awami League found nothing in common. Similarly today when Sheikh Hasina is calling for consensus, she has her own notion of it, to which the opposition BNP has nothing in common.

The truth of the matter is

that neither side believe the other when a call for consensus is made. What sounds eminently sensible on the surface, does not take root simply because neither side has any confidence about the other's sincerity in this matter.

During Khaleda Zia's time she spared no chance to call the opposition Awami League all sorts of names and termed it to be party that wanted to destroy the country, and even make it the vessel state of another. With that sort of name calling how could one expect the AL to be part of any consensus. Similarly today, when the ruling Awami League employs its full energy in telling us how bad the BNP rule has been, and that the former government was filled with nothing but corrupt and self-serving leaders, then is it any wonder that BNP stays away from joining any consensus proposed by the AL.

The purpose of this piece is not to recount the history, or

analyse the causes of the great gulf between BNP and AL. Here we want to suggest a way out from the political impasse that is preventing a 'national consensus on economic issues.'

It is impossible to over emphasise the need for, and the importance of, a national consensus on economic policies. There is also no substantive reason why such a consensus cannot come about because there is practically no fundamental difference in the economic policies that the two parties are pursuing. Both parties are committed to market economy, private sector growth and foreign investment. Both parties want to liberalise the economy and open our industry to foreign competition. What differences that still exist are more cosmetic than substantive.

Given the above circumstances we believe that if we can devise a proper platform to bring the consensus debate into

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## 912 deportees arrive Ctg port 'Saudi police just picked me up from a street'

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: The Saudi police had no time to heed to my explanation. They just picked me up on the van from a street. They are simply merciless," Abdul Kader, 45, a deportee told newsmen on his arrival at Chittagong Port today.

Kader is among the 912 Bangladeshi workers deported from Saudi Arabia, who reached the port at 11:30 am today on board passenger ship Mecca-1. The ship sailed from Saudi Arabia on December 31, 1996 carrying the deported

workers, officials said. On its journey to Chittagong, the ship dropped some 1,000 deportees in Pakistan.

Kader, who hails from Laxmipur, said in a voice choked with emotion, "Saudi police refused to hear me when I tried to explain my position. They picked me up and took me in their van when I was going to my place of work at Sanaia of Jeddah on December 12".

Kader said he had gone to Saudi Arabia five years ago with a service visa as driver af-

## Aspects of BTW second channel discussed

A high-level meeting, held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, at Ganabhaban yesterday morning, discussed various aspects of the second channel of Bangladesh Television (BTW), reports BSS.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Works Advocate Asfaruddin Ahmed and State Minister of Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir attended the meeting.

Besides, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad, secretaries of the ministries concerned and high officials were also present.

## Discussion on President's address in JS Suranjit hails water treaty: Akbar says, 'Let water come first'

By Staff Correspondent

Discussion on the presidential address in the Jatiya Sangsad began in the House yesterday with Treasury Bench member Suranjit Sengupta and BNP lawmaker Akbar Hossain, expressing opposing views on certain issues relating to the country's history and programmes of the present government.

Suranjit, who was all praise for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, listed the success of her government that included realization of the demand for a constitutional provision for non-party caretaker government and signing of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed delivered his address in the Sangsad on January 16 last. Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah moved a motion of vote of thanks on the Presidential address on January 20. According to a decision of the JS, Business Advisory Committee the members of Parliament will have a 20-hour discussion on the President's address.

Suranjit said Hasina's decision to stick to the demand for elections under a non-party

caretaker government was a milestone in establishing democracy in the country. "It can only be compared with the decision of Sheikh Mujib who had demanded general elections in 1970 under the LFO (Legal Framework Order)," Suranjit said adding "the 1970 elections had eventually led the nation towards independence in 1971."

He was, however, critical of a certain aspect of the constitutional amendment providing for elections under a caretaker administration. "The power vested in the chief of the caretaker administration is consistent with a presidential system of governance. Had we been in Parliament while the amendment was proposed, we would have thrown it out."

"Credit goes to Hasina. She was broad enough to accept the legislation made by the BNP. What is more important, the Prime Minister has chosen a person like Justice Shahabuddin as President, because she really wants to see a fair election after five years," Suranjit said.

Referring to the recently signed Ganges water sharing agreement, Suranjit said the government of Sheikh Hasina

has proved its capability and love for the people by securing Ganges water for the country.

He also observed that the BNP should oppose neither the concept of 'sub-regional grouping', nor the proposed bus service between India and Bangladesh. In this regard, he quoted BNP leader Saifur Rahman who had reportedly said that if people could go to India by plane, there was nothing wrong in going to that country by bus.

Criticising BNP's pre-political claim that AL would never come to power, Suranjit said, "The time of distortion of history is now over with the daughter of Father of Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman coming to power through the last general elections."

Protesting Suranjit's remarks, Akbar Hossain said Mujib could never be called Father of the Nation. "The nation of Bengal was born much before its emergence as an independent state in 1971," Akbar said.

"Besides, Mujib did not fight. He did not even see the nine months' armed struggle of the See Page 12 Col 1

## JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid and Jatiya Party lawmaker Rabeya Bhuiyan exchanged some banter in the House yesterday.

Getting the floor, Rabeya Bhuiyan told the Chair, "After much efforts, I've been able to attract your attention."

"I've been attracted to...," Abdul Hamid replied to Rabeya Bhuiyan, making all the members burst into a laughter.

Rabeya told the Deputy Speaker, "I see, you always look at the left and the right but never straight. I don't understand your problem in looking straight."

"A delayed look lasts longer," was the reply from the Chair.

As Rabeya Bhuiyan was blasting some BNP lawmakers shouting at her during her deliberations, the Deputy Speaker advised the JP legislator, "Don't look at them, look at me, please."

See Page 12 Col 3

## Salda gas field to be developed urgently

By Sharier Khan

Petrobangla has chalked out a plan to develop the recently discovered gas field in Salda area under Kasha thana on an emergency basis and under a "tight budget," according to official sources.

Discovered by the hydrocarbon exploration unit of the Petrobangla, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company Ltd (BAPEX), in the first week of November last, the Salda gas field has a comparatively smaller gas reserve.

The gas field has an approximate reserve of 200 Billion Cubic Feet (BCF) to 250 BCF which can be consumed for two to three years, the sources said.

Although the reserve is small, experts expect that it could be easily developed under a tight budget soon. The gas field is very close to the border and an Indian gas field. Both the gas fields of Bangladesh and India are located in closer sub-soil layers. Therefore, if

Bangladesh does not utilise this reserve, extraction of gas in the Indian gas field could affect its quantity, said an expert.

According to Petrobangla's plan, a 35 km long 10-inch pipeline would be set up to connect the Salda gas field with the Bakhrabad gas distribution system. A used processing plant of Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL), a Petrobangla's affiliate, would be mobilised and installed at the Salda gas field for processing the extracted gas.

"Since the reserve is small, a brand new gas processing plant is unnecessary. Since this well would be exhausted by two to three years, it's a good idea to mobilise a plant for temporary use," said an official source quoting the Petrobangla plan.

It would take around two years to complete implementation of the plan.

BAPEX started drilling at See Page 12 Col 8



PIA custodian Ahmed Alam clearing an Abahani offensive during the final of the invitational international tournament at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday. PIA won 2-1. — Star photo

## Hockey: PIA left trophy

Sports Reporter

Favourites Pakistan International Airlines emerged unbeaten champions in the invitational international tournament defeating Abahani Krira Chakra 2-1 in the final held at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan national forward Kamran Ashraf scored both goals to enable the visitors to lift the trophy after Abahani forward Alamgir put his side ahead with the fastest goal of the meet early in the first half.

Although the locals made a bright start with a goal in the very first minute, they went down fighting against the experienced Pakistanis.

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## Ershad at party presidium meet Jatiya Party firm believer in Bangladeshi nationalism

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad yesterday said Jatiya Party is firm believer in Bangladeshi nationalism while others pay lip-service to it with ulterior motive, reports UNB.

"Others who claim their belief in the ideal merely pay lip-service to Bangladeshi nationalism," he said in an oblique reference to the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Ershad was presiding over the first meeting with his party presidium since 1990 mass upsurge.

The Chairman of Jatiya Party, which supported present government of national con-

sensus, said the motive of the claimants to Bangladeshi nationalism is only to oppose Awami League and India.

"But we are genuine Bangladeshi nationalists. We are flag-bearers of our predecessors who created Pakistan in 1947 and finally earned independence through Liberation War in 1971," said the deposed President.

Elaborating the difference between pseudo and perfect Bangladeshi nationalism, Ershad said: Their foundation is only to oppose Awami League and India but our foundation is legacy of 1947 and 1971. See Page 12 Col 8

## City to have twenty more foot-bridges

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is planning to build another 20 steel framed foot-bridges over busy intersections in the city at an estimated cost of Tk 17.65 crore, DCC sources said.

Work on five of the foot-bridges will start as soon as relevant paper work is finalised, they said.

A good percentage of the city road users are pedestrians so we need to build foot-bridges in the city in view of the congestion on roads," a DCC official said.

When asked about reports that some of the recently built bridges are hardly used by the pedestrians because of their wrong placements, a top DCC engineer said that a motivational programme would be taken up soon in this regard. Railings will be built along the main roads to deter pedestrians See Page 12 Col 7

## Robin Raphel due tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel arrives in Dhaka tomorrow on a six-day working visit.

She will preside over a two-day regional meeting of the chiefs of US missions based in live South Asian countries. The meeting will be held at the US embassy on January 25 and 26. A team of senior officials will also arrive from Washington to participate in the meeting, described by a US official as 'an annual periodic review of US policies relating to region.'

The US ambassadors posted to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will attend the meeting.

Two other countries, Maldives and Bhutan who are also included in the US territorial grouping composing the South Asian region on similar lines as the seven countries comprising SAARC, will also come under the purview of the regional meeting.

The South Asian regional See Page 12 Col 1

Tk 1.88 cr defalcated

## 13 City Bank staff suspended in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 21: Thirteen officials and employees of the City Bank Ltd. Bankabazar branch have been put under suspension on a charge of defalcating Tk one crore eighty-eight lakh.

The misappropriation of money was detected by a number of audit teams.

The officials and employees are: Mainuddin Ahmed, Vice-president and Manager, Nuruzzaman, Mujibur Rahman, Rafique Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, Ebadul Kabir, Rashid Ahmed, Md Nasim, Joindul Huda, Matir Rahman, and Saiful Islam — all officers — Jakir Hossain, and Anwar Hossain — cashiers.

When contacted, the Managing Director of the Bank said they had already lodged a complaint with the Bureau of Anti-corruption.

## 3 of a family die in Ctg fire

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: Three persons of a family died in a fire at village Sadaha under Satkania thana last night, police said.

The victims were identified as Babita Rani Dhar, 23, her daughter Priya Rani Dhar, 2, and Rupesh Kanti Dhar, 12. Newton Dhar who sustained burn injuries was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Police said the fire originated from an oven. The fire at the kutchha house broke out when the three were asleep, police added.

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For the record

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: The year's first Grand Slam saw quite a sedate session for the quarterfinals yesterday following the nightmarish previous rounds where heavyweights were unusually upended by under-heralded challengers. As the dust settled down a bit at the

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Melbourne Park some of the lighter, nevertheless equally interesting facts and figures came to the fore:

1978 and 1979 were the back-to-back years for unlikely champions at the Australian Open. In 1978, unseeded and See Page 12 Col 2