DHAKA THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1997

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Cold spell likely to continue for a few more days

By Staff Correspondent A moderate cold spell now sweeping the country is likely to continue for some more days

before waning gradually when

the south-westerly winds from

the bay add moisture content to help the mercury rise again. Meteorological office sources last night said, the weather will continue to remain a bit cold for a few more days with the chilly winds lashing

the people. It's the cold wind from Siberia that is keeping the mercurv down for the past five days. a weather expert said. But he denied the official BSS news agency's report on Jan 21 that the mercury had gone below four degree Celsius.

He said, the lowest ever temperature during the current cold spell was recorded at Sriman-See Page 12 col 6

PAC scrutinises 5 reports of Works Ministry

By Nurul Kabir

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Jatiya Sangsad at its meeting yesterday detected that some construction materials of the Public Works Department were stolen from a PWD warehouse in 1987 due to negligence of two superintendent engineers of the department, PAC sources said.

The committee asked the authorities concerned to realise the value of the stolen materials from the engineers, the sources added. The PAC meeting held at the

Sangsad Bhaban with its chief S M Akram in the chair scrutinised five out of 28 reports of the Works Ministry covering the period between July 1987 and June 1988.

The first meeting of the JS body held last month decided that initially it would meet four times a month to 'untangle the backlog of works. The committee was formed during the last session of Parliament.

See Page 12 Col 5

☐ Inside Today —

Article The Promise of **Future** Parliamentary Cooperation s

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by MM Rezaul Karim

Page 4 Live from

Internet

The economic puzzle; Politics in Bangladesh; Bangladesh in 21st century; and Nongovernment organisations Page 5

International

Qatar pledges support for Sudanese govt

Serbs refuse to extradite leaders indicted for war crimes Page 8

Business

Apparel board soon:

DSE index posts another modest gain Pages 6, 7

Tofael

DSE MARKET DSE price index 1875.76 (+0.06%)

13642.36cr

174154 Transactions in volume Transactions in value Tk 4.42 cr

Market capital Tk

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 782.93(-1.76%) 10026.28 cr Market capital Tk 37430 Transactions in volume 7008630 Transactions in value Tk

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan Jan Sehri Iftar Managing Director of the com-5:42 the newly-formed KAFCO 5:19

11 constitutional changes, body headed by CJ suggested all time high load shedding for

Judicial Commission.

A draft bill on separation of

judiciary, prepared by a gov-

ernment-appointed expert co-

mmittee, was presented to the

Minister for Law and Justice

yesterday, suggesting 11 amend-

ments to the Constitution and

formation of a Judicial Co-

mmission for appointment of

the Fourteenth Amendment

cabinet and after necessary

changes it will be tabled in

Parliament, according to offi-

who headed the of nine-member

committee on Separation of

Judiciary submitted the draft

bill to Law Minister Abdul

Matin Khasru along with a re-

port of the committee. A copy of

the draft bill was available to

The Daily Star.

vesterday.

Knitwear export

Team leaves on

Sunday to join

meet on GSP

By Staff Correspondent

by Commerce Minister Tofael

Ahmed leaves for Brussels on

Sunday to attend a crucial

meeting on Generalised System

of Preference (GSP) for Bang-

ladeshi exports of knitwear to

The meeting, beginning at

the Belgian capital on Monday

will consider, among other is-

sues, alleged abuse of GSP facil-

See Page 12 Col 8

JRC team visits

Hardinge Bridge

point today

man of Indo-Bangladesh Joint

River Commission (JRC). S K

Das will visit the Hardinge

Bridge point of the River Ganges

(Padma) tomorrow, reports

Partha Nandy and M S Gupta —

Das will observe the flow of the

Padma at the Hardinge Bridge

point for two days — January

A conflict between the

KAFCO management and the

workers-employees union has

created a volatile situation in

the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Com-

pany (KAFCO), officials of the

joint-venture enterprise com-

plained to the government, re-

KAFCO has told the government

that it is apprehending com-

plete disruption in production

if the current situation contin-

rity of life in the plant. The

safety of the plant and the

safety and security of the offi-

cers, employees and their fami-

lies living in the housing

colony is in grave danger " said

pany Dr Manucher Towhidi in

KAFCO plant site started when

Sramik Karmachari Union

Sources said the crisis at the

"At present, there is no secu-

The management of the

ports UNB.

his petition.

ued.

24 and 25 (Friday-Saturday).

will accompany him.

Two other JRC members -

During the three-day visit

PABNA, Jan 22: The chair-

the European Union.

A six-member delegation led

Law Secretary Aminullah,

Act. 1997 of the Constitution.

The draft bill has been titled

It will be placed before the

Supreme Court Judges.

MAGH 10 1403 BS.

ses (1) and (2) of Article 95 be substituted.

The proposed amendments read: "(1) the Chief Justice shall be appointed by the President and other judges shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the

(2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a judge, unless he is a citizen of Bangladesh, and —

Supreme Court: or (b) has, for not less than ten years, held judicial office including the office of a district

The Commission will comprise the Chief Justice, the Minister for Law and Justice, a Judge of the Supreme Court to be nominated by the Chief Justice, the Attorney General and the chairman of the Public Service Commission, it says. The Chief Justice will be the chairman of the Commission.

Parliament shall, by law, prescribe the procedure for selection of and recommendation of qualified persons for appointment to the office of a

The draft bill suggests sub-

stitution of Article 96 of the Constitution which deals with the tenure of judges.

The suggestions are as follows: (1) A judge shall hold his office until he attains the age of sixty-live years.

(2) A judge shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed pursuant to a resolution of parliament supported by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of parliament, on the ground of proved misbehaviour or inca-

(3) Parliament shall, by law. make provisions to prescribe the procedure in relation to a resolution under Clause (2) and for investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge, and prescribe a Code of Conduct to be observed by the

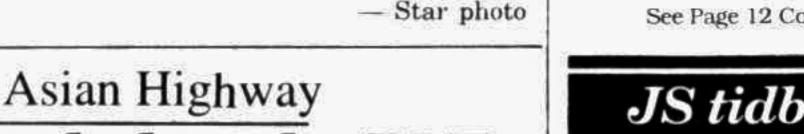
Speaker overrules BNP objection

decessor and BNP lawmaker Shaikh Razzak Ali on the legality of forming a committee to look after the security measures at Sangsad Bhaban. Razzak Ali challenged the authority of the Speaker in

constituting the 6-member committee headed by AL lawmaker Abdul Kader Siddiqui, without taking consent of the House on Monday when Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid was in the chair. Ali also questioned how Kader Siddiqui could ensure security of all the MPs when his (Siddiqui's) own security was at stake.

The Deputy Speaker then told Razzak Ali that the Speaker would give a ruling on the issue since he (the Speaker) himself formed the committee. In his ruling yesterday.

See Page 12 Col 4



80pc work done by BNP govt: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called upon the patriotic people. particularly the followers of Maulana Bhasani, to raise their voice against the 'plot to make Bangladesh a vassal state of

Local people and fire fighters trying to extinguish a fire at Nilkhet quilt market in the city

India', reports UNB. He was addressing a discussion meeting at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium, organised by Bhasani Sangsad marking the day Moulana Bhasani returned home from India in 1972 after

the nine-month Liberation Bhuiyan said Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was the first leader who demanded self-rule for the then East Pakistan and soon after achieving independence from Pakistani rule, he realised that

Bangladesh would find itself in the clutches of India. "India knew that Bhasani will protest any bid against the country's interest. He (Bhasani) wanted our liberation war to be conducted standing on own leet That's why he was kept confined in India during the war

and barred from leading the nation." he said.

The BNP leader said the

Farakka problem was created

as the post-independence

Violence, gherao by CBA leaders

KAFCO may be shut, says

management in complaint

(KASKU) confined the top man-

agement members on Sunday

demanding "5 per cent profit

participation for the 1995-96

with over 100 militant ac-

tivists, allegedly kept hostage

12 top management members.

including the Managing Direc-

tor for eight hours Sunday and

forced them to sign a written

promise for payment of 5 per

However, the KAFCO man-

agement said during the 95-96

period, the company had in-

curred a loss of Tk 427.423 mil

lion. The management said one

factor for the loss in 95-96 year

was the fact that interest was

payable on borrowings from the

and threats of personal injury.

extracted under duress, a writ-

ten undertaking that KAFCO

would pay each of the approxi-

mately 300-non-management

Through the use of violence

cent profit participation.

The KASKU leaders, along

financial year

financial year.

permission to India to commission the Farakka Barrage.

"Now another Awami League government has sold out the country's interest in the name of Ganges waters-sharing treaty," he alleged.

Awami League government gave

"We also want the Asian Highway, and we have completed 80 per cent work of our portion of the highway," said Bhuivan, a former minister of

the previous BNP government. He said the route is being changed in the interest of India and the present Bangladesh government has already agreed to this

He said the government is "shamelessly pursuing a subservient policy.

Referring to a four-nation sub-regional grouping within the SAARC. Bhuiyan said the present Prime Minister has agreed to join the group consulting only with India, not with the other two members. "It seems Nepal and Bhutan have nothing to say.

He expressed surprise at the inclusion of Nepal in the subregional grouping, when, despite its importance, the Himalayan kingdom was not See Page 12 Col 3

union employees the sum of Tk

10,000," said Dr Towhidi, in his

letter to the Industries Secre-

police by the KAFCO manage-

ment, the CBA leaders along

with the workers Sunday after-

noon entered the administra-

tive building and gheraoed the

ture and fixture of the building.

They aggressively proceeded to

the rooms of officials and in-

discriminately kicked at the

doors in which KAFCO's man-

agement members were de-

tion of law and order continued

about nine hours from 3.30 pm.

tor, in his petition to Foreign

and Industries secretaries.

Chairman of the Board of In-

vestment and Chairman of

BClC, has sought urgent inter-

See Page 12 Col 3

It was alleged that disrup-

The KAFCO Managing Direc-

The crowd damaged furni-

rooms of the officials.

According to FIR field with

tary Tuesday.

tained.

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf fell prey to continuous derision by the Opposition lawmakers in the House yesterday as he started attacking the former BNP government for alleged mismanagement in the health sector while responding to a notice by Joynal Abedin

Faruk of BNP. In his notice. Faruk alleged that only five 1 were now serving at the Senbagh health complex where nine doctors used to work during the past government. He also demanded of the health minister to take appropriate steps in this regard. Reacting angrily to the BNP lawmaker's statement, the minister said. "Have I eaten up the

rest of the doctors?" The health minister then hastened to add. "In writing there were nine doctors in each

thana health complex during your time and it's the same Continuing his charges against the previous go...n-

ment, an agitated minister said. "They should reply why this mismanagement went on unchecked Deputy Speaker Abdul

Hamid quipped, 'Mr minister, See Page 12 Col 4

DSE listing Applications of 6 cos rejected By Staff Correspondent

Six companies which had recently floated Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), did not submit the necessary documents in full to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to be listed despite repeated requests, said a press release of the DSE. On this ground, the applica-

tions of Alima Yarn Dyeing Ltd. Mark Bangladesh Shilpa and Engineering Ltd. HR Textile Mills Ltd. Exelsior Shoes Ltd. Meghna Vegetable Oil Indus-See Page 12 Col 7

Zobaida Rashid granted bail in arms case

By SC Correspondent Zobaida Rashid, wife of Col (rtd) Abdur Rashid Khandker. has been granted bail by the

High Court Division in the arms case. The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Choudhury and Justice See Page 12 Col 5

Stock market slide a

Kibria replies to BNP allegations

'large correction' He also denied that some Tk

Opposition MPs yesterday accused the government of damaging the capital market, but the finance minister claimed the current slide in the market is only a 'large correc tion', reports UNB. The lawmakers belonging to

RAMADAN 13 1417 HIJRI

The country experienced an

the last couple of days due to

mechanical failure in some

power stations coupled with

lesser power generation due to

Power Development Board

(BPDB), the level of load shed-

ding jumped to as high as 600

MW between 5.30 pm and 9.30

pm Tuesday. It was gradually

that engineers were working

round-the-clock at the affected

plant sites and the authorities

hope to reduce the load shed-

ding to a level of around 200

load shedding affected almost

all parts of the city including

Motijheel, Gulistan, Purana

Paltan, the old part of the city.

Dhanmondi, Eskaton, Moghba-

zar, Green Road, Mohamma

dpur, Mirpur, Nilkhet, Ele-

phant Road, Uttara and other

For the last two days, the

BPDB sources pointed out

reduced to 385 MW yesterday.

According to Bangladesh

gas crisis.

MW by tonight.

main opposition BNP blasted the government, blaming it for willfully allowing 'black marketeers and profiteers" to ma nipulate the stock market. Finance Minister Shah A M

S Kibria denied the allegations and claimed that provocation by a section of political parties was behind the recent volatile situation in the kerb market. "It's very unfortunate . .

they are trying to gain political advantage using the kerb market traders", he said, calling upon all not to use those investors for their own political interest. 'Let them do their own

500 crore was taken away from the Dhaka and Chittagong bourses and said he had no knowledge about any involvement of foreign traders with the recent ups and downs in the stock market.

By Staff Correspondent

ganj remained without elec-

tricity for the whole day yester-

day. Similar situation was

reported from Chittagong.

Rajshahi, Khulna and other

gan when three units of Ashu-

ganj power plant tripped one

after another Tuesday evening.

The trip was caused by a fault in

working round-the-clock to re-

store the power generation

while the government has

taken action to partially re-

start the 60 MW Sikalbaha

power unit and a 40 MW hydro

was undergoing maintenance

from August 1995. Now partial

operation of this plant would

allow a generation of 40 MW

power. The 40 MW unit at

Kaptai was also undergoing full

Bakhrabad gas field, which ex-

Due to depletion of gas in the

The 60 MW Sikalbaha plant

Engineers of the BPDB were

a boiler, the sources said.

electricity unit in Kaptai.

maintenance.

The heavy load shedding be-

districts.

The port town of Narayan-

The minister viewed that the current situation in the share market can be considered as a large correction instead of a crash. He attributed the recent ups in the market to ignorance of the investors about risk factor as well as their over enthu-

The noisy scene ensued as Mirza Azam of the ruling party asked the minister about the recent 'crash' in the share market.

As Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid went for the next question after three supplementaries on the question the BNP lawmakers sprang to their feet See Page 12 Col 1

'Artificial' fertiliser crisis

AL MPs criticise govt for poor handling

By Reaz Ahmad

ers yesterday criticised the government for the "dismal" situa tion in marketing and distribution of fertilizer throughout the

tiliser, meeting sources told The

meeting was held at the Sangsad Bhaban with ALPP leader and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Hasina invited criticism from party lawmakers and then asked the two ministers concerned. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chow dhury, to speak.

Shamsul Haq, Saidul Haq, M A

Bari, Anisul Haq and Sharif Khasruzzaman spoke at the meeting. Sheikh Hasina asked the party MPs to give reports to the ministers concerned if there is any "foul play" fertiliser distribution and assured them of stern action".

"We have to make sure that farmers get fertilizer in time. No irregularities in this regard will be tolerated," she said and stressed the need for further activating the monitoring com-

mittees at the district-level. Some legislators demanded cancellation of dealership of "pro-BNP traders," saying "they may sabotage the distribution

A suggestion for giving dealership at union-level also come up. Tofael argued that there should not be any fresh dealership now as the peak season of fertiliser use is round the cor-

Sheikh Hasina, however said a decision in this regard would be taken in March, the source said.

Some ALPP members said progress of development works

See Page 12 Col 8

MOUs on pvt sector investment in power, tourism & dev of port Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury

signed on Chinese investment in power transmission, tourism and berth container construction in the private sector of Bangladesh, reports UNB. Governor of the Chinese

province of Hainan Ruan Chongwu told newsmen before leaving for home yesterday that the MOUs were signed during his four-day visit to Bangla-

15 hurt as JCD,

BCL clash in Ctg From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 22: At least 15 persons were injured during a clash between the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Kamal Bazar under Patiya thana today, witnesses and po-

Shajahan, Safiul Alam, Jahir See Page 12 Col 2

saw him off at the airport. Chinese Ambassador to Bangla desh Zhang Xujiang was pre-Chongwu, who led a high

powered trade delegation here. referred to his meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other Bangladesh leaders. and said that a broad based understanding in the field of trade and economic cooperation had been developed between the two countries.

The Governor appreciated the measures undertaken by the government to attract foreign investors. "Policy and incentives for foreign investors are He hoped that structural fa-

here would be further improved. "We look forward to ex-

semifinals with an impressive straight sets victory over Romania's Irina Spirlea.

who is aiming to become the youngest winner of a Grand Slam title in the Open era, overcame a hesitant start to beat Spirlea 7-5, 6-2 in just 70 min-

Details on Page 10

Faults at Power plants, gas crisis causing load shedding

clusively feeds the Chittagong region, a number of gas-based power plants including the 210 MW Raujan power plant have remained shut for months.

"There had already been an on-going load shedding of 300 MW due to the gas crisis," a BPDB source said. "Under the current circumstances the authorities have decided to reduce gas supply to some other gasbased factories.

The Raujan power plant could not be re-started as the Bakhrabad gas filed is unable to supply the required 21 million cubic feet of gas everyday. "The grim power situation

will not improve overnight. But the BPDB is trying hard to bring down the level of load shedding to a maximum of 100 MW during this season," the source pointed out. Last year, an energy min-

istry study had predicted a power shortfall of 450 MW during peak hours from the winter and onwards.

Meeting with WB team Measures for

administrative, legal reforms discussed A high-level meeting with the visiting WB executive directors on governance and administrative reorganisation in Ba-

reports UNB. They discussed various measures undertaken by the government in the country for administrative reforms, including legal reform.

ngladesh was held at NEC

Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday,

are visiting Bangladesh to know about development prospect, assistance needs and effectiveness of the WB. The delegation includes Luo Hubloue, Jan Piercy, Pieter

The World Bank delegates

Stek, Maria Helana Cordeiro Juan Cariaga. Enzo Del Bufalo and Surendra Singh. The meeting was attended by the principal secretary to the

PM. ERD secretary, Establish-

See Page 12 Col 3 Duma resolution to force Yeltsin

out of office MOSCOW, Jan 22: The State Duma, lower house of the Russian parliament, today approved in principle a resolution

aimed at forcing President

Boris Yeltsin out of office on health grounds, reports Reuter. discuss possible amendments which could change the substance of the motion. Pro-government Deputy Speaker Ale-

the resolution was unclear Raphel due

today By Staff Correspondent

US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel arrives in Dhaka today on a six-day working visit. During her visit she will

preside over a two-day regional meeting of US chiefs of missions to five South Asian countries at the US embassy in Dhaka, Later, on January 27 and 28 she will hold bilateral meetings with Bangladesh officials. She is also likely to meet leaders of the ruling and opposition parties. Raphel's visit is considered

significant as it is taking place immediately after US President Bill Clinton begins his second term during which time his administration is expected to pay special attention to South Asian countries.



Pete survives a scare

MELBOURNE, Jan 22: Top seed American Pete Sampras survived a torrid time against Albert Costa of Spain during his quarterfinal match at the Australian Open here today, report agencies. Sampras had to dig deep into

his reserves before overcoming the plucky Spaniard 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 3-6 and 6-2. Earlier, Swiss teenager Martina Hingis moved into the

The 16-year-old fourth seed,

TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

Draft bill on separation of judiciary presented

By Mizan Ali

The draft bill suggests amendments to Articles 95, 96, 98, 99, 107, 109, 110, 111, 114, 115, 116 and the Fourth Schedule and insertion of a new Article, 95A, in the Constitution providing for formation of a

The bill suggests that Clau-

Judicial Commission.

(a) has, for not less than ten year, been an advocate of the judge for not less than three years in the territory of Bangladesh.' The proposed Article 95A

says: "There shall be a Judicial Commission for making recommendation for appointment to the office of Judge of the Supreme Court.

judges See Page 12 Col 7 Security committee

By Staff Correspondent Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday rejected an objection raised by his pre-

Speaker Humayun Rashid

business," he said

Some ruling party lawmak

They criticised the ministers concerned at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) and demanded cancellation of dealership of those responsible for price hike and artificial crisis of fer-

Daily Star. The 90-minute close-door

The sources said that Sheikh

Among others, party MPs. Prof Ali Ashraf, Alhaj Mokbul Hossain, Muhibur Rahman Manik, Hafiz Majumder.

Chinese team leaves for home

Three Memoranda of Under standing (MOUs) have been

State Minister for Foreign

lice said. Four of the victims -

nice and attractive," he said. cilities for foreign investment

changing views on expanding areas of cooperation in future, Chongwu said. The Chinese leader thanked Bangladesh government for the warm hospitality extended to him and members of his dele-

gation during the visit.

But deputies continued to xander Shokhin told the chamber that the legal status of