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Day labourers going to their work place in a truck braving biting cold in the morning in the city yesterday. —Star photo

**Outgoing envoy calls on PM  
Continued Chinese help for  
development assured**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that Bangladesh would seek assistance and cooperation from its neighbours and the Asian nations for the advancement of the country, reports UNB.

"The principle of our government is to maintain friendly relations with all its neighbours and work for the betterment of the society through mutual cooperation," she said.

Sheikh Hasina was talking with the Chinese ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Xu Jiang when he made a farewell call on her at Cano Bhaban here yesterday.

She said the Asian countries could attain quick economic progress and alleviate poverty if they work together through proper utilisation of existing resources.

Describing China as a good friend of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina said that her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had visited China. The bonds of friendship between the two countries has been increasing since then.

The Prime Minister conveyed her best wishes to the Chinese President, Prime Minister, Government and the people of that country and recalled the warm hospitality extended to her during her recent visit to China.

She hoped that China would continue its assistance and cooperation to Bangladesh in its development efforts.

In reply, Zhang Xu Jiang said Bangladesh is considered as a close friend of China. China always wanted progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

He assured that China would continue its help and support to Bangladesh in its development endeavours and welfare of people.

The Chinese envoy, who stayed here for four years, said China wants to maintain good relations with all countries, particularly with the South Asian nations.

He said China wanted to see that SAARC would be more dynamic.

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**RU goes on  
vacation  
today**

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Jan 23: The Ramadan vacation of Rajshahi University begins tomorrow.

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) and the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) enforced a strike on the campus during the last 16 days demanding the removal of the Vice Chancellor Prof M Yousuf Ali and protesting the alleged attack on teachers by the activists of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir.

The university will reopen on February 17.

**Body of young  
man found**

By Staff Correspondent  
The body of an unidentified young man was recovered from near the Jahanara Garden under Tejaoga thana in the city yesterday evening.

Police said the man aged about 26, had marks of bullet injuries in his head and chest.

Tejaoga police found the body lying near the road at Jahanara Garden, near the Green Super Market, at about 7:30 PM.

**Sangsad tidbits**

From Page 1  
At that time, a BNP legislator was seen displaying the spectacles and papers left by the Jamaat MP on his desk.

BNP whip A Y M Khalilur Rahman rose on a point of order to tell Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, "My chair is broken. All its screws are open."

Citing the formation of the ruling party MP Kader Siddiqi-led committee for security of the Sangsad Bhaban, the BNP lawmakers, in lighter vein, commented, "... I don't know if it's an act of sabotage."

"It may be because of your excessive movement (on the chair)," a prompt Deputy Speaker responded.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Tasmima Hossain drew the attention of the Health Minister while reading her notice on treatment of diabetic patients. Interrupting her, the Deputy Speaker remarked, "I see, you are not drawing the attention of the Communications Minister (the husband of Tasmima Hossain)."

Tasmima replied "You know it better whether the issue of diabetic patients comes under the purview of the Communications Minister."

In reply, Tasmima retorted,

"The information minister can give the information on the matter."

Responding to the noises in the House, the JP lawmaker said, "Please, listen to my notice, you may also be affected by diabetes."

The Deputy Speaker concluded by saying, "We're yet to be attacked by this disease ... but it may happen."

Asked if there was any government plan to build flyovers, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman was issuing a lengthy statement on the construction of over-bridges in the city.

As the minister was going on with his reply despite the questioner's objections, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid interrupted him saying, "The honourable member has wanted to know about flyovers, over which buses can ply."

Taken a back by the correction, the minister then said the government also had plans to build flyovers.

As soon as Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury replaced his deputy in the chair, Maj (Retd) Akhteruzzaman sought the floor on a point of order.

Before giving the floor to the BNP lawmaker, the Speaker said, "I came to know that the Deputy Speaker entertained all the points of order. What prompted you to wait for me?"

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**Voters ID cards  
not possible  
before UP polls**

By Staff Correspondent  
Voters' identity cards can not be provided to all voters of the country before the coming Union Parishad elections.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Abdul Matin Khasru, said this while replying to a question of a Treasury Bench MP, Md Rafiqul Anwar, in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The minister said that the process of preparation and distribution of ID cards had been kept pending as the Voters ID Card Project of the Election Commission was undergoing a revision as per the decision of the ECNEC.

The field-level work of the project would resume after the revision, but it would not be possible to provide all the cards before the upcoming Union Parishad election, he said.

Abdul Matin Khasru informed the House that ID cards for 1,88,22,253 (32 per cent) out of a total 5,68,00,000 voters had already been prepared, of which, cards were distributed among 1,38,33,152 voters (24 per cent of the total).

Replying to a question from Abul Kalam Azad (AL-Jamalpur), he said that a total of 2,574 candidates participated in the last parliamentary elections. Of them, only 182 candidates representing 7 per cent of the total, had not submitted their return of election expenditures.

He said cases are being filed against the defaulters under Section 74 of the People's Representation Order, 1972.

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**Kibria**

From Page 1  
Khan, Habibur Rahman Mollah and A K M Shamim Osman and secretaries of the ministries concerned were present.

The meeting, held at the state guest house Padma with Kibria in the chair, was addressed, among others, by labour leader Abul Bashir, Abdus Salam Khan, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Rehannuddin, Lutfar Rahman, Z A Kamrul Alam, Badrul Alam and Serajul Haq.

Preliminary discussions were held on the prevailing situation in the jute and textiles sector. The reasons for the present state of affairs in the sector and future course of action were also discussed in the meeting.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on February 1.

**JCD: Gunshots**

From Page 1  
Police then conducted raids in the JCD-dominated Zia hall, Bangabandhu hall, Jasimuddin hall and Suryans halls but failed to recover arms.

Meanwhile, according to sources in the JCD, an urgent meeting of the JCD central committee was being held last night to discuss the situation.

**GSP certificates**

From Page 1  
Haq, BGMEA president Anisur Rahman Sinha, BTMA President ASF Rahman, BKMEA President Monzurul Haq, other members of the garments and textile sectors and government officials attended the meeting.

**Historic mosque**

From Page 1  
At least 1,000 yards away to save the historic site.

When contacted, an official of the Roads and Highways Department told The Daily Star that his office had just instructed the relevant personnel to take immediate measures to protect the historical site. "We have received several communication from the local people as well as the Department of Archeology," the official said.

The highway is being built under the Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project which handle cross-border trades involving heavy vehicles.

Meanwhile, several officials of the Department of Archeology and Roads and Highways expressed their concern over the lack of coordination between government departments while preparing a development project.

Calling upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to play

**Killers of Bangabandhu  
must be tried: PM**

KOTALIPARA (Gopalganj), Jan 23: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman must be tried and the process of trial has started, reports UNB.

Addressing a big public meeting at Kotalipara Lutfar Rahman College ground, she said that the black indemnity ordinance was scrapped by the present parliament clearing the way for trial of the killers and a case of murder has been filed with the court of law.

"The law which indemnified the killers cannot be law in a civilized society," the Prime Minister said, adding those who have protected the killers so long have virtually violated human rights.

Hasina said her government has launched a new war against poverty and hunger which she identified as the main enemy of the country.

Explaining her government's programme to eradicate poverty and hunger, the Prime Minister said spread of education is the first step to remove poverty from society.

She said the government has already initiated programmes to eradicate illiteracy within next 10 years.

The Prime Minister said a committee has been constituted to formulate a realistic and people-oriented national education policy by updating the Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission report.

Besides, she said various self-employment programmes have been undertaken for the benefit of unemployed youths and women in the rural areas.

She also distributed another interest-free loan, a project of the Social Welfare Department, among 10 youths.

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**Rehana receives  
Netaji Award  
for Bangabandhu**

CALCUTTA, Jan 23: Sheikh Rehana received Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Award which was conferred posthumously to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by the Netaji Birth Day Celebration Central Committee at a colourful function at Red Road here today, reports BSS.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu handed over the award to Sheikh Rehana, daughter of the Bangabandhu, at the inaugural function of the year-long celebration marking the birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

West Bengal Governor K B Raghunathan and Col. G S Dhilon, who was a member of Netaji's Indian National Army (INA), were present on the occasion.

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**Audit objections**

From Page 1  
ising the audit reports of 1987-88 fiscal year.

The committee yesterday found that two executive engineers had failed to follow certain rules in dealing with some contractors. The PAC has asked the authorities concerned to draw departmental proceedings against the said engineers, an MP attending the meeting said.

The PAC examined five reports the day before and suggested some punitive measures against two superintending engineers of the PWD for negligence of duties.

PAC chief S M Akram chaired yesterday's meeting attended by Colonel (retd) Showkat Ali, Abul Kalam Azad, Mustafizur Rahman, A H M Mustafa Kamal, Khondaker Akhteruzzaman, Abus Shahid and Engineer Mosharrif Hossain of the Awami League, M K Anwar, Abdul Mannan and Hafizuddin Ahmed of the BNP and H M Ershad of the Jatiya Party.

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**AL, BNP  
accuse each other**

From Page 1  
floor to say: "With the Jatiya party voting for BNP today, the latter would not have any contention about the former's status as an opposition party." He also contested a claim of Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury that the Jamaat MP had voted for BNP.

At this point, Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed said: "We did not release Ershad. He was rather released through judicial procedure." He also observed that Prof Chowdhury's remark amounted to a clear contempt of court.

In a counter-attack against the BNP, Tofael Ahmed accused the party of trying to forge an unholy alliance with Ershad against the Awami League.

While in power, the BNP had illegally opened the jail gate in the darkness of night and met Ershad with a proposal for taking part in forming a government with BNP.

Sengupta took the floor for the second time to say that Prof Chowdhury's remarks were "contemptuous against the judiciary."

Calling upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to play

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**Gold bars worth  
Tk 8 lakh  
seized at ZIA**

By Staff Correspondent  
A customs surveillance team at Zia International Airport (ZIA) seized gold bars worth about Tk 8.3 lakh from a passenger early yesterday.

The passenger who arrived in Dhaka from Singapore by a Biman flight late Wednesday was intercepted by the customs men when he tried to pass 17 gold bars that weighed 10 tolas each, showing a tax payment receipt which he had earlier used for the same quantity of gold bars, airport sources said.

Verifying the serial number of the receipt, the customs officials confirmed that the passenger after arrival had paid tax for 170 tolas of gold bars. He later showed the same receipt for passing another 170 tolas.

A departmental case was filed.

**40-member SAARC  
non-governmental  
team to monitor  
Pak elections**

By Staff Correspondent  
A 40-member SAARC non-governmental observation mission will monitor the 'electoral process' of the general elections in Pakistan scheduled to be held on February 3.

The mission will include ten leading citizens from Bangladesh and ten each from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Former head of the caretaker government in Bangladesh and retired Chief Justice Habibur Rahman will lead the SAARC observation team.

Besides Justice Habibur Rahman, the group from Bangladesh will consist of former Chief Justice, Kemaluddin Hossain, former Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, former VC and Education adviser, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Editor of Bhorer Kagoj Matuur Rahman, Secretary General of FEMA Firoz M Hasan, Dhaka University teacher Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, social worker Dr Zobia Hannan and Advocate of High Court Ms Sarah Hossain.

The Bangladesh team is due to leave for Pakistan on January 29.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Chairman of FEMA and a member of the SAARC observation group, Fakhruddin Ahmed said, "The SAARC team will be divided into different groups for observing the general election in Pakistan."

The SAARC non-governmental teams had gone on similar missions to Pakistan in 1988, 1990 and 1993. A SAARC non-governmental group also observed the national elections in Bangladesh in 1991 and 1996.

The SAARC mission is being sponsored by the Colombo based International Centre for Ethnic Studies.

**Woman mugged  
in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Muggers snatched a gold chain from a woman at 2 pm today from in front of Mimi Super Market in the city, police said.

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**Mass Killing day**

From Page 1  
Different political parties, socio-cultural and professional organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programme includes placing of wreaths at the memorial erected in front of the court building.

Special prayers will also be held at all places of worship.

UNB adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tribute to the heroic pro-democracy activists who laid down their lives at Laldighi Maidan for establishing democracy.

**JC reviews**

From Page 1  
House: The members of the Joint Committee (JC) will later hold a meeting in Dhaka, it was learnt.

A Technical Inspection Meeting (TIM) of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Committee to review monitoring at the three Indian points — Farakka, the Navigation Lock and the Feeder Canal — is due to be held in the Indian state of West Bengal next month, it was learnt.

**KAFCO**

From Page 1  
housing colony and deployed 40 policemen to safeguard the fertilizer plant and personnel.

For the last two months, the company has not been exporting any urea and diverting its entire production of 1,800 tons per day to BCIC for distribution within Bangladesh to assist the government in overcoming the current fertilizer shortages, the press release said.

**PCJSS**

From Page 1  
cial talks was made by Hansdah Chakma, a tribal leader who maintained liaison between the authorities and the PCJSS since truce was declared in the troubled hills in August 1992.

Two rounds of talks between the PCJSS and the newly-appointed National Committee, consisting of parliament members and led by Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah was held on November 21 and November 24 at Khagrachhari last year.

Earlier, since a ceasefire went into effect, the then BNP government held seven rounds of talks with the PCJSS at Khagrachhari.

Saturday's talks are likely to be held at a state guest house in Dhaka, preferably at Padma, the sources said over telephone.

The peace talks were accelerated when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent a personal letter inviting the PCJSS leaders to come to Dhaka for talks with the government. The letter, dated January 7 reached the PCJSS high command via Hansdah Chakma.

The PCJSS replay reached Hansdah Chakma on January 18 which was sent to Dhaka by a courier on January 19. Accordingly the date and venue was fixed. The talks are likely to continue for several days.

Shantu Larma is expected to avail medical facilities in Dhaka to treat a number of ailments including peptic ulcer, the sources said.

Among others, Rupayan Dewar, the second-in-command of the PCJSS, Gautam Kumar Chakma, Sudha Sindhu Khisa and Rakta Utpal Tripura are accompanying their leader to Dhaka.

But Hansdah Chakma may not be able to attend the meeting because of indisposition.

Instead, a four-member team of his assistants in the Liaison Committee that maintained communications between the government and the PCJSS is likely to participate in the talks. The team is likely to include Biswajit Chakma, Kechang Marmah, Shaktipada Tripura and Ashish Chakma.

The Opposition leader also claimed that the AL had been maintaining an unholy alliance with Ershad from the time President Ziaur Rahman was killed.

Apparently unwilling to enter into another, sensitive debate, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury switched off Delwar Hossain's microphone.

Earlier, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury of BNP introduced a bill seeking amendment to the Special Powers Act, 1974 with a view to, what he said, stop abuse of certain provisions of the law.

Ready to oppose the introduction of the bill, the Law Minister could not get the floor as the Speaker, apparently by mistake, did not call 'anyone willing to oppose the introduction.'

Later, the Speaker told the Law Minister that he would get plenty of opportunity to oppose the bill. The minister accepted the Chair's argument.

Another bill, seeking an amendment to the Administrative Tribunal Act, was introduced unopposed by M K Anwar of the BNP.

A bill seeking ban on gambling and consuming wine could not be introduced as Delwar Hossain succeeded of Jamaat, the proposed mover of the bill, was absent from the House. The Speaker deferred the introduction of the bill to the next private members' day.

The House was adjourned at 4:00 pm to resume again at 11 am on Sunday.

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**Mugger killed**

From Page 1  
reached the road in front of Shahid Industries at Luxmi-bazar witnesses said.

The muggers at this stage started throwing bombs at the police who then opened fire in which one mugger was killed.

Two of the muggers fled the scene leaving behind the autrickshaw Police caught one of the muggers, Mosharrif Hossain.

Later, the angry people set fire to the autrickshaw. The body of the alleged mugger was sent to the Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. Four cases were lodged with the Sutrapur thana.

**Match notes**

From Page 1  
Wimbledon in 1887 when she was 15 years, 10 months.

\* If Pierce wins the final, she will become the second unseeded Grand Slam singles champion in the Open era. The only other unseeded Grand Slam singles champion in the open era was Chris O'Neil, who won the Australian Open in 1978. There have been no unseeded champions at the French Open, Wimbledon or US Open.

\* Pierce is one of only three women to win the Ford Australian Open title in the 1990's, winning the crown in 1995. Steffi Graf won in 1990 and '94, and Monica Seles won in 1991-93 and 1996.

\* It has been 10 years since a woman other than Pierce, Graf or Seles has won this tournament. In 1987, Hana Mandlikova defeated Martina Navratilova for the title.

**Ranking Projections**

Whether she wins or loses the final, Martina Hingis will rise to a career-high world No. 2 in the COREL WTA TOUR rankings to be released on Monday, January 27. Mary Pierce will move up to No. 12 if she wins the final. No. 14 if she loses.

No matter the outcome of the final, Steffi Graf will stay at No. 1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario moves down to No. 3, Conchita Martinez will be No. 4, Jana Novotna is No. 5, Monica Seles moves to No. 6, Iva Majoli No. 7, Anke Huber No. 8, Lindsay Davenport is No. 9 and Irina Spirlea remains at No. 10.

Karina Habsudova will be No. 11. If Pierce loses the final, Amanda Coetzer will be No. 12, Mary Joe Fernandez will be No. 13 and Pierce will be 14. If Pierce wins, she will be 12. Coetzer will be 13 and Fernandez 14.

**Judiciary**