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Fresh probe into Zia murder case ordered

CHITTAGONG, Dec 10: The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate here today ordered fresh investigation into the Zia Murder Case, reports UNB.

The CMM, AKM Kamaluddin, gave the order when the case was put up before him. Earlier, following a show-cause issued by the CMM court last month on the IGP, CMM Commissioner and OC Kotwali police informed the court that they have handed over the case to the CID and investigation was going on.

Assistant Commissioner (Prosecution) represented the IGP and Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner before the court today and submitted a return answer on the progress of investigation.

ASP MA Kader Khan of CID has been appointed the new investigation officer (IO) of the case.

The new IO sought reasonable time from the court for conducting the fresh investigation into the case informing that the FIR and necessary documents are not available.

The court fixed January 11 for the next hearing.

3 envoys may be recalled

By Staff Correspondent
 At least four senior diplomats, three of them ambassadors, are likely to be recalled to the headquarters shortly for negligence in discharge of duties, ill conduct or other reasons, according to diplomatic sources.

An enquiry is learnt to have been ordered against Ambassador to Bhutan Mahmuda Huq Chowdhury following receipt of complaints from officers and staff of the mission.

Badrizzaman, Consul General in Hong Kong, is likely to be recalled immediately. Complaints from the mission about his ill conduct have reached the Foreign Ministry.

Khairul Anam, Ambassador to Belgium and Tofael Haider Chowdhury, Ambassador to France are also likely to be recalled shortly, the sources said.

PM's call to implement OIC action plan

Dhaka's 7-pt proposal for a strong Islamic Ummah

TEHRAN, Dec 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today presented a seven-point suggestion at the OIC summit to ensure free flow of fund, manpower and technology for development of the resource-rich member states, reports UNB.

She also made a strong plea to form a regime of trade preferences among the OIC countries to establish a common market and called for implementing the OIC action plans to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among its members.

"Devise practical ways and means of coordinating actions and harmonise positions on relevant political issues affecting the Ummah at international level," Hasina told the Summit which opened yesterday.

In her speech, Prime Minister Hasina who touched on various issues facing the Islamic Ummah called for setting up of appropriate permanent mediation mechanism to reduce tensions and resolve disputes among the member countries.

Hasina said the post-Cold War period has witnessed pro-

found and far-reaching changes on the world economic front.

While there has been a surge of economic prosperity in most countries of the world, she said, the Islamic countries continue to "suffer from high inflation, unemployment, chronic depressions in prices of primary products, and encounter protectionist policies against their exports."

Within the OIC family, there are resourceful countries who can extend support to the less fortunate ones in their efforts to improve the quality of lives of their people, she said.

Hasina said all Muslim countries must cooperate in utilising the natural, human, and financial resources available in the Islamic World for the maximum benefits of their people.

Hasina, the lone woman Prime Minister attending the Summit, called for concerted Islamic action in enhancing the role and status of all Muslim women and their induction into the mainstream of life.

The Prime Minister noted that resources support to micro-credit for small enterprises and

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First day of BNP-called hartal

Ctg peaceful, 30 hurt in sporadic clashes in CHT

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 10: At least 30 people including five police men were injured in sporadic incidents of violence in Rangamati and Khagrachhari during today's hartal that paralysed life in the three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts and in Chittagong, police and witnesses said.

BNP and its six allies called the hartal in Chittagong and the three hill districts today and tomorrow demanding cancellation of the peace accord on CHT, signed recently.

Twenty persons were injured in Rangamati and 10 in Khagrachhari. Of the injured, ten were ad-

mitted to Rangamati hospital. No untoward incident was reported from any place in Chittagong district.

Violence broke out at Tabalchhari Bazar, Reserve Bazar and Bonarupa in Rangamati hill district at about noon when supporters and opponents of hartal clashed. Police lobbed teargas shells and resorted to lathicharge. Later the authorities called out Army and BDR to quell the violence. Five policemen were injured in the incidents.

Official source said Army and BDR patrol was intensified at Rangamati in the afternoon as tension prevailed there.

Clash ensued at Tabalchhari Bazar when JCD activists resisted Chhatra League activists who were trying to remove black flags. When police intervened, the clashing activists pelted brick-bats and at one stage police lobbed tear gas shells and resorted to lathicharge to disperse them.

At Bonarupa, JCD and BCL activists clashed while at Reserve Bazar there was chase and counter chase between pro-Jaamata activists and BCL.

Supporters of Awami League and the All Party Alliance led by BNP clashed at Maturanga in Khagrachhari hill district in 11

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The memorial at Mirpur being spruced up as the Martyred Intellectuals Day is only three days away. — Star photo

BNP's torch procession at dist, thana HQs today

Opposition BNP will bring out torch processions at district and thana headquarters across the country today protesting the peace agreement on CHT.

The party leaders will also exchange views with various professional groups at district-level on Friday and Saturday, said a BNP press release yesterday.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will hold talks with lawyers at her 29 Minto Road official residence at 4 pm on Friday and exchange views with other professional groups at the same venue on Saturday.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan along with other party leaders will be present on the occasion. Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday demanded of the government to repeal the recently signed peace agreement

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2 killed, 20 hurt in UP polls violence

By Staff Correspondent

At least two persons were killed and 20 people injured in electoral violence yesterday, the eighth day of the on-going union parishad elections.

Abdul Hue, 40, and Abul Hossain, 28, were killed as police opened fire when some people tried to snatch ballot boxes from two polling centres under Shibpur thana in Narsingdi district.

Our correspondent from Narsingdi says, the trouble began at Ghashidia Madrasa centre and Noadia Primary School centre at around noon when supporters of a former chairman entered the centres and attempted to snatch ballot boxes.

At one stage of the trouble, police opened fire that left two persons dead.

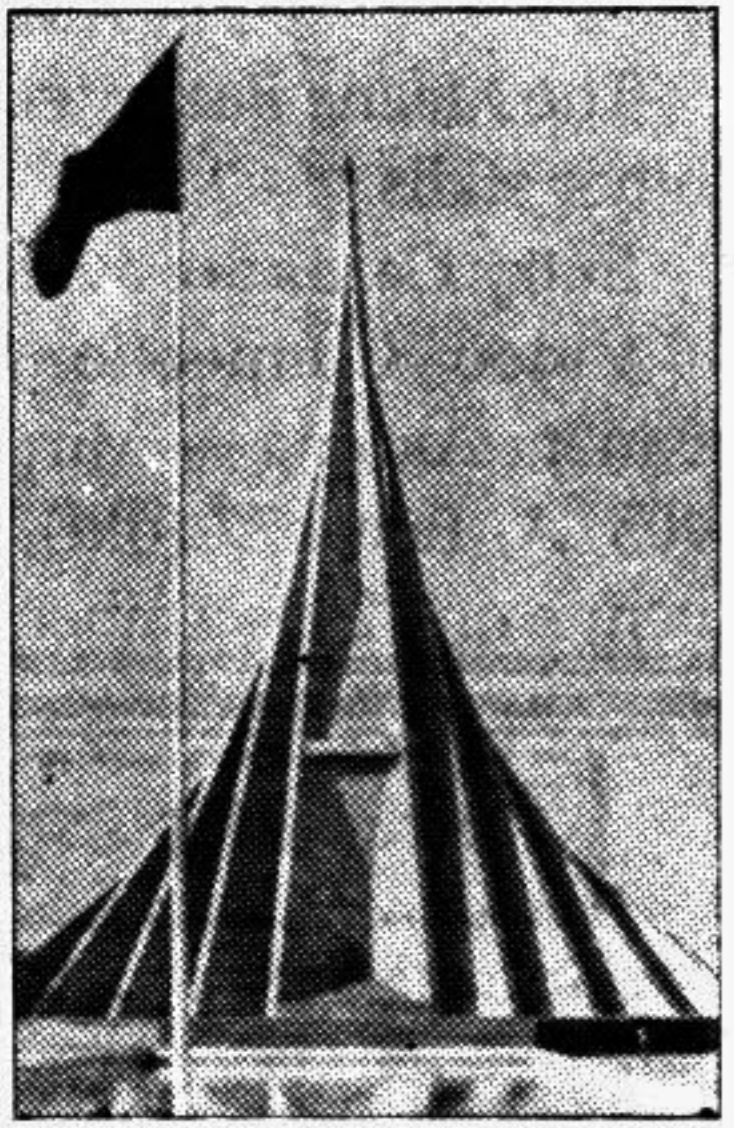
After the incident angry people at the spot swooped on the police and Ansars when they were escorting out the pre-

siding officer with the ballot boxes. The clash left more than 20 people including four policemen injured.

Polling in the centres was then cancelled by officials concerned.

Of the injured, three persons — Liton, 18, Sumon, 18, and Hanif, 12 — were admitted to Shibpur Thana Health Complex. Later they were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Polling was cancelled in 11 other centres yesterday due to incidents of violence. The centres are two more under Shibpur thana of Narshindi district, five in Sirajdikhan thana under Munshiganj district, three in Ramchandrapur union under Sadar thana of Gaibandha and one in Gopalkhali union under Kachua thana of Bagerhat district.



DU's V-Day programmes

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities have drawn up programmes to observe the Victory Day in a befitting manner.

The programmes include hoisting of the National Flag

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Prisoners lead sub-human life in N'ganj District Jail

By Nazmul Ashraf and Ehsanul Haque

"I spoiled my trouser on several occasions while queuing for long in front of the toilet. Many times I had to sleep without even changing. It's terrible and gives the feeling of being in hell," lamented Mustafa (not his real name), serving life-term at the Narayanganj District Jail.

Mustafa, now in his early forties, has been in the jail for the last three years. He was convicted in a murder case.

It takes hours for one to get into a toilet, especially in the morning when most of the 779 inmates rush to the eight toilets in extreme dilapidated condition. At night, the number of toilets available for use comes down to only three.

The Daily Star correspondents managed to talk to Mustafa and two other prison-

ers at the jail yesterday. All the three prisoners pleaded not to be named. So fake names have been used for quoting them.

"We wait round the year for the winter to come as the season enables us to sleep at night. In the hot summer days, it becomes impossible for us to pass the nights on the congested hygienic floors of the tiny cells."

Babla, serving a seven-year RI after being sentenced in a robbery case, only corroborated Mustafa.

"Three prisoners sleep in a space where only one can lie. It is impossible to sleep at all. Consider the summer heat coupled with the intolerable body odours. Winter nights are better," Babla, 35, said.

"There is no electric fan, nor is there any proper system for ventilation," he called the cells

hens' cages. "At times, we're treated worse than animals."

According to the jail sources, sub-human living condition often causes sickness to the inmates. Furthermore, inadequate medical facilities, laden with bureaucratic system, makes it difficult for the prisoners to get emergency medicare. As a result, condition of a patient in the jail deteriorates before he is taken to the hospital.

Death of two under-trial prisoners — Mazharul Islam Tuhin and Joyanal Abedin Jonu — at the Narayanganj jail in a span of 48 hours earlier this week have put the medicare system in the prison on questions. Both the deaths triggered widespread violence.

When contacted, Acting Jail

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Ferry service in sorry state

By Naimul Haq

Ferry service at the country's biggest ferry ghat — Aricha — faces severe disruption this time every year but the authorities concerned have failed to resolve the long-standing problem.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), which is responsible for ensuring smooth ferry service at the ghat and dredging of the ferry channel, is blamed for the problem.

In recent years, Aricha experienced the worst traffic con-

gestions due to abnormal fall in water level of the Padma-Jamuna. In October this year, more than 1200 vehicles were stranded at the ghat for two days, causing immense sufferings to inter-district bus passengers. Similar traffic jams also occurred the year before.

BIWTA has been bitterly criticised for insufficient dredging of the ferry channels which, according to widespread allegations, caused severe obstruction to ferry movement. This badly affected road communication

between 36 south-western and north-western districts and the rest of the country.

Within a span of hardly eight days in October last, ferry movement between Aricha and Natakholia and Aricha and Daulatdia was seriously disrupted at least three times.

Following media criticisms then, the BIWTA, after holding a series of meetings with the ministry concerned decided to gear up dredging of the ferry channels, by engaging all its six

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Trucks often remain stranded at Aricha ghat waiting to be ferried across the Padma-Jamuna. — Star photo

TOMORROW



Whoever comes to Shahbagh Boi Para behaves as if he is haunted by the Muse—he can't help but be a frequenter such is the charm of the place. Read this week's cover story entitled Shahbagh Boi Para: Redrawing the Country's Intellectual Landscape.

Inside Today Article

Accord on CHT: A New Era of Peace or Beginning of a New Conflict?

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim Page 4

Business

US investors' conference in Calcutta: Tofael points to Bangladesh's location
 DSE index experiences 11-point fall
 Pages 18, 19

Supplements

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains three supplements: (I) 2-page supplement on 'BOC' on pages 6&7 (II) 2-page supplement on Meghna PET Industries Ltd on pages 8, 9 (III) 4-page supplement on BCS computer show '97 on pages 13-16

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