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### Guest birds arriving in N-region

From M A Ali

NATORE, Dec 14: Migratory birds have started crowding the beels, canals and char areas in the northern region of the country with the advent of winter.

The number of the guest birds is, however, less this year compared to that in previous years.

Different types of birds like dighari, baghari, kalighari, sarails, balihars, pankouri and samuk bhanga are coming in flocks to escape the biting cold in Siberia, their home.

According to zoologists at Rajshahi University, more than 250 species of such winter birds usually throng the marshy lands and waterbodies in the 16 northern districts. They live mainly on small fish and stay in this region up to February.

Security of fish, hunting of these birds by amateur hunters violating the ban, deforestation and indiscriminate cutting of trees have contributed to the decrease in the number of guest birds, experts say.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday. — Star photo



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and other party leaders placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### One killed in Barisal gunfight

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 14: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a gunfight between two rival youth groups at West Kaunia in the town this afternoon.

Zahirul Islam Zahir, 22, succumbed to his bullet wound on way to the hospital.

The groups — one led by Milton and the other by Sentu — were locked in the clash at about 12:30 am for establishing their supremacy in the area, witnesses said.

Both the groups exploded bombs and fired some 10 shots during the clash, which continued for about two hours.

Later, police brought the situation under control.

## Vow to uphold spirit of '71

From page 1

confrontation. He conveyed his warm greetings to the people on this occasion.

In her message, the Prime Minister said the emergence of an independent and sovereign Bangladesh in the world map is the greatest achievement of the ever-struggling Bangladeshis.

She felicitated the people on the occasion of Victory Day.

Sheikh Hasina recalled the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs of Liberation War, the Language Movement, anti-autocracy movements, education movement, movements for the historic 6-point and 11-point and against Agartala conspiracy case, the mass upsurge in 1969 and the non-cooperation movement after the general election in 1970.

In celebration of Victory Day, various political parties and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes.

Bangladesh Awami League will hoist the National Flag and party flags at the party central office in the city. Bangabandhu Bhawan and offices of party units across the country at 5:30 am tomorrow. AL leaders and workers will lay wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar at 6 am and garland the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhawan at 7 am.

Besides, AL will hold a cultural function at Paltan Maidan in the city at 5:30 pm tomorrow and bring out a victory procession from Paltan Maidan at 2 pm on December 17.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hoist the National Flag and party flags at its central office in the city at dawn and party leaders and activists will leave for the Memorial at 8 am. Leader of the Op-

position and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will place wreaths at the Memorial and offer *fateha* at 9 am.

Victory Day programmes of BNP also include laying of wreaths and offering *ziyarat* at president Ziaur Rahman's grave at 10 am, bringing out a victory procession from Ramna Park at 3 pm and holding of a cultural function at the same venue in the evening.

A discussion on 'Spirit of Liberation War and Future Bangladesh' will be held today at the National Museum auditorium at 3:30 pm under the aegis of Mukti Juddher Chetana Mancha.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote on the second day of its four-day Bijo Utsab organised programmes at seven different venues of the city.

On the Victory Day, Jote will organise a victory procession from the Central Shaheed Minar at 10 am.

Liberation War Museum will organize a poetry recitation session at 5 pm today. On the Victory Day, a musical soiree will be held at its open munc at 10 in morning.

Bangladesh Railway has made arrangements for blowing of whistles of all train engines at midnight tonight.

Members of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) will assemble at its office at Segunbagicha at 6:30 am tomorrow and place wreaths at National Mausoleum at Savar at 7 in the morning.

Biman Officers' Association (BOA) will lay wreaths at National Mausoleum at 6 am tomorrow, hold discussion at Jatiya Press Club auditorium at 5:30 pm and musical programme at 7 pm.

Victory Day programmes of Bangladesh National Museum include placing of wreaths at 7 am, screening of films based on

## Intellectuals

From page 1

to the mass graveyard at Rayerbazar and laid wreaths, offered *fateha* for eternal peace of the martyrs. Ministers, city mayor of Dhaka and central leaders of AL also placed wreaths.

In the afternoon, Hasina addressed a rally of freedom fighters at the city's Paltan Maidan.

Earlier, she released a set of 16 commemorative postage stamps for the martyred intellectuals at her official residence in the morning.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia along with central leaders of her party placed wreaths at the Memorial at around nine in the morning.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury placed wreaths at 10:30 am.

The organisations that laid wreaths at the memorial include: Prajonna-71, city unit of Awami League, Jatiyatabadi Mukti Juddha Dal, Jatiya Samik League, Dhaka Ramporters Unity (DRU), Krishibid Institution, Dhaka University Teachers Association, BUET Officers Association, Biman Officers Association, vice chancellors of the Open University and the National University, Bangabandhu College, Banga Academy, Jatiya Samannal Committee, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Bangabandhu Parishad and various halls of the Dhaka University.

Political parties including Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party observed the Day through separate programmes.

The organisations and institutions which observed the Day include Bangla Academy, Shishu Academy, BFUJ, DUJ, Shaka University, National University and Islamic Foundation.

Jamaat-e-Islami, Gano Forum and Jatiya Party (Z-M) also observed the Day.

## PM: Conspiracy

From page 1

peace in the troubled Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The only objective of this government is the welfare of the people, she said. "I have nothing to gain. I have come to power only to serve the people."

In an emotion-choked voice, Hasina said, "My father gave his life for the people. I am also ready to sacrifice my life for the cause of the nation."

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, and Mukti Juddha Central Command Council leaders Kabir Ahmed Khan, Maj (ret'd) Shah Alam Talukdar, ABM Zafarullah and Mahmud Hasan also addressed the rally.

The rally was presided over by Central Command Council chairman Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury.

### Habiganj

From page 1

The meeting was addressed by Enamul Huq Mostofa Shad MP, Abu Lais Mobin Chowdhury MP and Dewan Farid Gazi MP.

They assured the local people of providing Tk one lakh compensation for each family of the victims and formation of an enquiry committee headed by a judge.

### Naogaon

From page 1

Rajshahi remained snapped till filing of this report.

BSS adds: Bangladesh Rifles has formed a three-member inquiry committee headed by Col Anis, Sector Commander, BDR, Dinajpur, to investigate the BDR firing.

### Abortive flight

From page 1

ing to the report, was a "serious negligence" to duty. A copy of the NOTAM message was attached with the 'flight plan'.

Besides, one of the accused crew gave a false time of his reporting in the aircraft log book.

The report said the operations assistants and the Biman's operations manager in Delhi were found "reluctant" about the NOTAM message which had reached them more than 24 hours before the flight.

"Any NOTAM message is very important for the people involved in aviation," said a senior civil aviation official.

Some others expressed the same view adding that the NOTAM which affected the October 14 flight was much more important as an airliner near Delhi was closed for few hours for the Air Force exercise.

The probe report recommended departmental action against the 11 staff members of Biman and two of the CAAB. It also suggested the authorities concerned to introduce a guideline on responsibilities of the operations staff.

The probe committee headed by a Joint Secretary submitted its report to the Minister and the Secretary of the Ministry on December 8.

The accused Biman staff were three captains, one first officer, an operations manager, a duty controller, a flight engineer and four assistants at the operations control. The two CAAB employees were one deputy director and an aerodrom assistant.

The probe committee which also included one official each from the Biman and the CAAB strongly recommended effective steps so that the Biman crew report to the airport in time and take pre-flight briefing.



Students of Jahangirnagar University demonstrating on the Dhaka-Aricha highway near the campus to press their demands yesterday. — Star photo

## JU students call strike

From page 1

spot of barricade and talked to students.

Meanwhile, the JU Syndicate at an emergency meeting yesterday strongly condemned the attack on the JU bus and urged the government to take stern action against the persons responsible.

The VC later told The Daily Star correspondent that Home Minister Rafiqul Islam assured the university authorities that he would come to the campus immediately to resolve the crisis peacefully.

A huge contingent of police has been kept ready in front of the Public Administration Training Centre near the JU campus.

UNB adds: The barricade snapped direct road link between the capital and the northern and south-western part of the country.

Vice Chancellor of JU Prof

## 25 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at Sirajganj College

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 14: Some 25 people were injured in a clash between Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal activists at Sirajganj University College and its adjoining areas on Saturday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, Chhatra Dal leaders including district unit president Najmul Hasan Rana, Abul Nasir and Chhatra League leaders Najmul Huq and Babu were admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital and Ibne Sina Hospital in a critical condition.

Police said the clash erupted at 11 am while two processions of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League were passing by each other on the college campus.

## Rebels kill 4 soldiers in Assam

GUAHATI, Dec 14: Tribal militants in eastern India triggered a remote control landmine under a passing security force vehicle today, killing four soldiers and injuring nine others, officials said, reports AP.

The explosion took place in Assam state's western Kokrajhar district.

## 84 pc candidates

From page 1

These were revealed in a Chairman Candidate Profile Survey conducted by the Power and Participation Research Centre.

The survey conducted under the guidance of economist Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman covered 826 candidates in 244 unions under 83 thanas in 31 districts.

The survey noted that party affiliation was a significant factor for most of the candidates. Only 16 per cent of them had no definite party affiliation.

A considerable section of the candidates had links with the administration and other centres of power and 10 per cent with NGOs.

On an average, election expenditure of a chairman candidate is Tk 2,76,834, the survey said.

## BNP to stage

From page 1

nounced the programmes yesterday evening at a discussion meeting at Ramna Park in the city in observance of the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

Mannan Bhuiyan claimed that nine persons were killed and 40 bullet-hit when BDR fired on opposition demonstrators protesting the CHT accord at Matiranga in Khagrachhari. Fifty people were arrested in this connection, he added. Officials, however, confirmed two deaths.

The BNP leader declared that agitation would continue till the 'unconstitutional' accord was cancelled. A greater agitation programme would be announced to compel the government to scrap the accord, he warned.

Condemning the killings, he said repressive measures would not succeed in stopping the agitation, rather, such a practice would expedite fall of the government.

Chaired by Rezabuddin Choudhury, president of BNP's cultural wing Jasas, the meeting was also addressed by BNP leaders KM Obaidur Rahman, MP, Maj (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman, MP, Khurshid Jahan Haq, MP, Amanullah Aman, MP and Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, ex-VC of the Dhaka University.

Bhuiyan recalled the contribution and sacrifice of the intellectuals, murdered by the occupation forces and their local agents at the fog end of the Liberation War.

## Shab-e-Barat

From page 1

Bangladesh Television will air special programmes during the night while newspapers will publish special supplements highlighting its significance.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has imposed ban on exploding crackers during the night to maintain the sanctity of the holy occasion.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif has urged the city dwellers not to explode crackers during the holy night of Shab-e-Barat.

In a statement last night, the Mayor urged the guardians and law enforcement agencies to take necessary measures in this regard, said a corporation press release.

## Cabinet reviews summary of Aid Group meet today

The summary of the Bangladesh Aid Group meeting, held on November 4-5 in Dhaka, will be placed before the cabinet for discussion today, officials sources said, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Aid Group, which has been renamed as 'Bangladesh Development Forum', will hold its next meeting at Paris in the spring of 1999.

To fill the time gap of the two meetings, usually held every year, a special review meeting of the development partners will be held next April in Dhaka.

The 24th Aid Group Meeting, held for the first time in Bangladesh, announced that new commitments could reach 1.9 billion US dollars, which is additional to 4.71 billion US dollars now in the pipeline for fiscal 1998-99.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, who approved the summary for the cabinet, emphasised in the meeting on the utilisation of the additional amount by preparing, reviewing and processing the projects timely.

He also informed that the additional amount pledged in the meeting could be utilised if the government takes steps for the signing, negotiation and implementation of the agreements in time.

Referring to the last Aid Group meeting, the summary laid emphasis on adopting a flexible exchange rate to strengthen the balance of payment in the context of current situation of the regional currencies and survive in the international competition.

It also stressed the need for taking up a detailed policy for implementing the reforms in the local government and other sectors, setting up of a task force to remove the weaknesses in project implementation and taking steps to simplify the system of selling, transfer and fixing price of units for privatisation.

## Withheld HSC results Showcase on RB

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 14: The court has issued a showcase notice on the Rajshahi Education Board Authorities for not publishing the results of some HSC examinees of 1997.

The board withheld the results on various charges.

Senior Assistant District Judge, Rajshahi, yesterday issued the notice following a case filed by an examinee, Fahim Ismail on Nov 30.

Earlier, the board authorities had published the withheld results of a few thousands examinees following an order by the court.

## Sarbahara men kill one in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 14: Armed activists of outlawed Purba Banglar Sarbahara Party a farmer at Aitakula village in Sadar thana early today killed, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Suja Sardar, son of late Taher Uddin Sardar.

## Rice price up

From page 1

ing sold at Tk 13.30 to Tk 14. Palsam is being sold at Tk 14.50 to Tk 15.

Retailers at Kawan Bazar said rice price increased in last two weeks following an official announcement for food procurement.

Prices of tomato and other vegetables have come down slightly. One kg of tomato is now being sold at Tk 20 to 24, bean at Tk 14 to Tk 16, Brinjal at Tk 12 to Tk 14 and Patal at Tk 16 to Tk 18.

Prices of onion and garlic, however, did not decline. City consumers are paying Tk 24 Tk 26 for one kg of onion and Tk 55 to Tk 60 for garlic. Retailers, however, could not explain the reason of their high prices despite huge supply in the market.

A medium-sized cabbage is available at Tk 8 to 10 and a cauliflower at Tk 12 to Tk 15. Potato is being sold at Tk 12 to Tk 14 per kg. Price of egg is stable at Tk 13 to 16 for each four.

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