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DUTA polls

Blue bags 8 posts, White 7

By DU Correspondent

Pro-Awami League Blue panel and Pro-BNP White panel shared the 15 posts in the executive committee of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) in the elections, held yesterday.

Blue panel bagged eight posts including that of General Secretary and White panel secured seven posts including that of president of DUTA.

The election of DUTA was held at the Dhaka University Club from 10 am to 2 pm. Prof. Hadiuzzaman conducted the election in which 908 teachers cast their votes. Member candidate from the Blue panel Prof. Shahadat Ali got the highest number of votes—521.

White panel candidate Prof. Dr. AFM Yusuf Haider of Physical department and provost of Surya Sen hall was elected President. He bagged 444 votes as against his rival incumbent president and Blue panel candidate Prof. Mostafa Chowdhury.

Prof. Dr. RIM Aminur Rashid of Blue panel was elected Vice President. He got 473 votes and his rival White panel candidate

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5 shot as JCD, BCL clash at Dhaka College

By Staff Correspondent

At least five people received bullet wounds in a clash between the activists of BCL and JCD at Dhaka College yesterday.

The clash began following an altercation between some activists of the two rival student organisations near the college canteen at about 11:30 am.

The feuding groups chased each other. At least ten gunshots were fired during the clash. The clash took place during a meeting of the Dhaka College Union of JCD.

Witnesses said three of the injured were identified as Shahidul Hossain alias Masum and Oasin alias both students of Dhaka College, and Shahidul Islam alias Kamal, reportedly a student of Dhaka University.

Police said they took Oasin to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment while details about others could not be known immediately.

None was arrested and no case was lodged in this connection till filing of this report last night.

3 held on charge of killing 3 Ctg BCL activists

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Police in a pre-dawn swoop on a house at Chaildoli under Panchlathana in the city today arrested three persons in connection with the killing of three Chhatra League activists on Friday.

They are Nazimuddin, Mon-sur Alam and Nazimuddin, known as members of Nasir Bahini and associates of one Jasin, accused in the case file in connection with the killing.

Nasir Bahini is backed by Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Police also recovered two foreign-made guns during the raid, made following a tip-off. Police said the house was Jasin's hideout.

Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Asraf Huda said three teams of policemen have been engaged to continue the drive for arresting the killers.

Raids were made at different places in the city last night to arrest the killers, he said.

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Change outlook, recognise talents of youths

Daily Star conference of 'Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs'

By Staff Correspondent

Over 400 young professionals and entrepreneurs at a conference convened by The Daily Star yesterday expressed the view that young people had been ignored in policy making process over the last 26 years since Independence.

This has deprived the nation from making greater strides in growth sectors like software, biotechnology, information technology, power and telecommunication, they opined. This has also prevented expansion of backward linkages in the readymade garments sector.

The conference was participated by young people between the ages 25 and 35. The cross-section of men and women were from several professions and included doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, bankers, bureaucrats, NGO executives, architects and businessmen.

The four-hour programme vibrated with life as at least 50 young men and women eagerly sought the floor to put forward ideas and suggestions portraying their vision of Bangladesh in the 21st century.

The conference of "Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs" was organised in

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Participants in The Daily Star Conference of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs held at the British Council auditorium in the city yesterday.

Work abstention on Jan 8 threatened Meet demand for parity by Jan 7: Prokrichi

By Special Correspondent

The Central Coordination Council of Engineers, Agriculturists and Physicians, belonging to different cadres of Bangladesh Civil Service, have called a full day 'abstention from work' on January 8 if their demand for parity among all BCS cadres is not met by January 7.

This was announced by MAK Azad, Chairman of the Council, at a press conference yesterday. Further programme will be announced after January 8 if the demand remains unheeded, he said in a written statement read out at the press conference. Other leaders of the three professional groups were also present.

The recent upgradation of certain posts benefiting the BCS (Administration) cadres, has triggered sharp reaction among other cadres of the civil service, he said.

After the press conference, the Prokrichi leaders met Finance Minister SAMS Kibria in the afternoon in a pre-scheduled appointment. They discussed their problems with the

minister and informed him their action programme, sources in the Council said.

But the meeting failed to resolve the issue. The finance minister advised them to meet the Prime Minister to explain their demands. He also assured them of conveying their reaction to the PM, the sources added.

The sudden decision to up-grade certain posts of the BCS (Administration) Cadre, benefiting mainly the field level

administrators, also drew flaks from the Police Officers' Welfare Association whose leaders have already lobbied with the political adviser to the Prime Minister to air their grievances.

Azad told newsmen that the upgradation had created disparity among officials of other cadres and was likely to stir unrest in the administration.

He said that some unidentified officials belonging to the Administration cadres were responsible for creating the disparity. "Some conspiratorial quarters have always put the government in embarrassing situations at the expense of their personal benefits."

Azad said the Prime Minister had assured them when they called on her earlier that the Pay Commission would remove the anomalies.

Akhter Hossain, a leader of the Coordination Council, blamed certain junior officials in the Prime Minister's Office for creating the problem to get their scales changed.

Secretary General of the BCS

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BR losing Rs 5 lakh a month at 3 border points

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Railway is losing about five lakh Indian Rupees every month due to absence of custom clearance facilities at some entry points with India during the two weekly holidays, according to official sources.

The BR is paying a demurrage of about Rs 119,000 to the Indian Railway every week for delay in custom clearance due to lack of such facilities during the two days.

Railway wagons are used for importing items like cement, fertilizer and stone chips from India through Darshana, Rohanpur and Btoli customs points, where the facilities are now available five working days of the week.

"Absence of custom facilities in the two weekly holidays also creates operational problems at those stations," said a source in the BR which receives two or three trains from India every day. Round the week customs clearance facilities are available at Indian entry points, the sources said. Such facilities are now available only at the Kamalapur station, they added.

The BR has requested the National Board of Revenue to ensure round the week customs checking facilities at Darshana, Rohanpur and Btoli railway stations, the sources said.

The health ministry earlier gave a proposal in this regard and it is now awaiting final approval from the Board of Investment, the sources said. Any foreign investment has to be approved by the BOI.

"We have been considering foreign investment in the health sector to provide improved healthcare services and transfer of technology," said Health Secretary Mohammad

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Foreign doctors to be allowed in pvt hospitals

By Naimul Haq

The government has decided to allow foreign doctors to work in private hospitals and foreign investors to set up hospitals in the country under joint venture, according to official sources.

Foreign doctors will be given registration with the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) for a 'limited period' to work in hospitals but they will not be allowed to do private practice. The ratio of foreign and local doctors will be decided by the authorities of the health ministry said it may be 1:3. Any such hospital under joint venture would be of at least 250 beds.

The health ministry earlier gave a proposal in this regard and it is now awaiting final approval from the Board of Investment, the sources said. Any foreign investment has to be approved by the BOI.

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Crash-landing Cabin crew interviewed: Sound of voice recorder poor

Star Report

The investigators probing the recent crash-landing of Biman's F-28 aircraft interviewed its cabin crew yesterday.

The six-member committee headed by Group Captain Iqbal of the Civil Aviation Authority also replayed the cockpit voice recorder.

But the sound was too poor, making it difficult to decipher anything out of it.

The black box and the voice recorder were yet to be sent abroad for decoding, Civil Aviation sources said.

The recorder contains the conversation between the crew and the air traffic controllers before it lost contact.

The plane had crash-landed on a wet land, eight km off the runway of Sylhet airport on Monday.

The management board of the Biman yesterday held a meeting to assess, among other things, the situation following the