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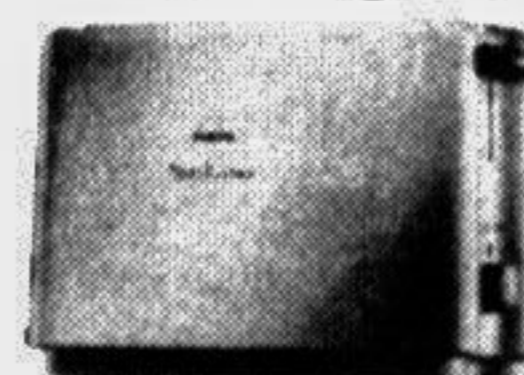
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PHILIPS



Ramadan

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would maintain the sanctity of the holy Ramadan
BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to maintain the sanctity of Ramadan.

In a message on the eve of Ramadan, Begum Zia expressed her concern at the price-hike of essentials and urged all to keep the price level within the purchasing capacity of the ordinary people.

LC chairman

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When contacted over telephone yesterday evening, Munim said that he resigned "voluntarily and on personal grounds."

He was appointed chairman of the LC on December 6, 1996 for a period of three years.

But his sudden resignation, only one year after his appointment, raised speculations that the government had asked him to resign on health ground. He, however, denied this.

Born on January 24, 1924, Munim was the longest serving Chief Justice and the first chairman of the LC.

Designers of Tower of Lights awarded

"Tower of Lights", the independence monument, which will be set up at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan, will help the future generation know about the true history of Liberation War, the Prime Minister said yesterday, reports UNB.

"This light will guide the nation towards the path of beauty and illumination," Sheikh Hasina said while distributing awards among the winners of Independence Monument design competition at her Secretariat office in the morning.

The design, "Alok Stambha" (Tower of Lights), has been selected as a model for the proposed independence monument.

The monument will be built at the site where "Shikha Chirantan" (the eternal flame) is placed at the lush green Udyan. This was the venue where Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic 7th March speech and the Pakistani occupation army surrendered on December 16, 1971.

This is the Udyan where Bangabandhu also delivered his speech on January 10, 1972 after returning home from the Pakistan jail.

"The Tower of Lights, an exceptional sculpture, will be the symbol of expression of our independence, victory and independent Bangladesh," architect Mazharul Islam, who was the chairman of the selection committee, told the function.

He said this tower has been designed keeping balance with the natural environment of Suhrawardy Udyan, where many important historic events took place.

"Urbana", the architectural firm which designed the Tower of Lights, got the first prize of Tk one lakh. The model of the tower was jointly designed by Marina Tabassum, Mahbub-e-Sobhan and AKM Sirajuddin.

Another design, by Satatya, secured the second prize of Tk 60,000 while Ingrid Architect and Multiplan jointly bagged the third prize of Tk 40,000.

Lloyds team

From page 1
the undertaker completes the formalities.

Meanwhile, Biman, which had ordered an investigation into the hijack alert of its Calcutta-Dhaka flight by an Airbus on Monday, described it as an attempt to harass the airlines on a baseless information.

The Biman management board is meeting today to decide the destination of its other F-28, grounded a day before its twin crash-landed for D check.

There have been push and pulls from powerful quarters trying to gain the contract to send the aircraft for the check-up and overhaul to the respective companies they represent.

The airline is also likely to finalise its decision to dry lease a F-28 from the Australian National Airlines to reinforce the domestic service.

A reply from the Australian airline is expected soon, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Biman officials said their Jessore flight for today has been rescheduled. Instead of departure at 7:30 pm it will leave at 30:50 pm and return at 4:55 pm.

Tarar elected

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, the nominee of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was elected President of Pakistan today by an overwhelming majority, AFP quoting Election Commission officials said.

Tarar secured 245 out of 298 votes polled by members of the federal parliament in Islamabad, Chief Election Commissioner Abdul Qadeer Chaudhry said.

Dialogue

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dialogue was made ahead of the Sangsad's winter session, due to begin on January 14.

When contacted last night, Mannan Bhuiyan admitted receipt of the invitation for a dialogue and said he had suggested the ruling party negotiator to contact Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip of the Opposition.

Replying to a question, the BNP Secretary General said he did not call back Nasim till late last night.

Khandakar Delwar was not available for comment. Nasim, however, did not contact Delwar.

Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away Tk 3.47 lakh in gold ornaments, cash and valuables from a house beside the busy Satmasjid Road at Dhanmondi in the city at about 10 am yesterday.

Police said a gang of five unidentified persons aged between 20 and 25 rang the calling bell of the residence of one Yakub Abdullah Harun. They stormed into the house as soon as the maid opened the door.

The gang, armed with pistols, daggers, machetes and home-made cocktails, locked the door from inside and tied up the maid and all other inmates.

They forced the inmates at gunpoint to open several cupboards and almirahs and took away gold ornaments, camera, wrist watch, electronic goods and cash. Dhanmondi police said quoting the FIR filed by Yakub.

They got out of the house after about 40 minutes and left the spot walking. None came for help as the robbers threatened the inmates not to shout after their departure.

Acid attack

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Shahidul used to stay at Asma's house occasionally. Their two-year-old son, Bulbul, was looked after by his grandmother in Kapasia.

Asma filed a case with Tejgaon thana.

However, none was arrested in connection with the incident till last night.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam visited the victims at the DMCH yesterday afternoon.

Rahima Bibi was injured when acid was thrown on her allegedly by her husband Shahjahan and son-in-law Nazrul.

Police arrested both the persons immediately after the incident.

Police said, Rahima, first wife of Shahjahan, had started living separately at a thatched house at Nayamati, Pagla under Fatulla thana after he went for a second marriage about two months back.

The acid was thrown when she was asleep at her house.

Mostafa, a son of Rahima, lodged a case with Fatulla thana yesterday in connection with the incident.

10 houses gutted in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Dec 31: At least 10 houses were gutted in a fire at DC Road, Bakalia here this afternoon, reports BSS.

The fire that originated from a house of one Sattar at 3.15 pm was extinguished at around 3:30 pm, police said.

Memo submitted

From page 1

Ahmed Siddiki and Nurul Huda, DIG Nurul Alam, DC of DB Syed Bazlul Karim, ADC of DB M H Nuruzzaman and ADC (south) Sarwar Alam Sarker.

Meanwhile, BCS Foreign Affairs Association has requested the government to review the decision of upgrading 329 posts of BCS Administration cadre.

Describing the decision as unreasonable, the association in a statement yesterday said it would have a demoralising effect on the officers of all cadres for smooth functioning.

The statement said till the late 70s the post of Deputy Commissioners were below the rank and status of the Directors/Councillors.

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