

**SW**

FRUIT COCKTAIL

Direct from USA



VOL. VIII NO. 8 REGD. NO. DA 781

MAGH 8 1404 BS.

# The Daily Star

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1998

RAMADAN 21, 1418 HIJRI

**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF  
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,  
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,  
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE  
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.**NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.  
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

## BNP urged again to join JS

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday began discussion on the Presidential address in the House with most of the Treasury bench members urging the BNP lawmakers to join the session.

The Treasury bench members were critical of BNP for boycotting the session while discussion on the speech of a 'neutral and non-controversial personality like Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed' was going on. They reiterated their call to the Opposition MPs to end their boycott for greater national interest.

Jatiya Party legislators were, however, critical of the President for his 'unequivocal' steps taken so far.

Participating in the discussion, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said he hoped that the BNP would return to the House if it wanted well-being of the people and to make parliament the centre of all national activities.

He alleged that BNP was conspiring to disrupt development activities and foil the congenial atmosphere. People will try

See Page 12 Col 2

## Fitra fixed at Tk 25 per head

The Fitra for this year for Dhaka and its adjoining areas has been fixed at Tk 25 per head which is equivalent to the price of 1.65 kg wheat or flour, respectively.

Elsewhere in the country the Fitra will be the local market price of the same quantity of wheat or flour, said a meeting of the Islamic Foundation in the city yesterday.

Director General of the Foundation, Moshed Hossain presided over the meeting. Khatib of Baitul Mukarram Mosque Maolana Mdul Huq was also present, among others.

The meeting was informed that the amount for Dhaka and its adjoining areas has been fixed after surveying the price of best quality of flour in the open market.

## Singapore Airlines proposes to lease 2 F-28 aircraft to Biman

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman has started weighing a proposal from the Singapore Airlines to dry-lease at least two F-28 4000 series aircraft to replace the similar aeroplane that was badly damaged during the crash landing in Sylhet last month.

It is considering a proposal from the Australian National Airlines to dry-lease a F-28 to jumpstart its limping domestic service, now run by one ATP.

But the Australian proposal ran aground on terms and conditions, which made the Biman authorities look for alternative sources to procure F-28 aircraft.

The management of the airline was busy yesterday trying to dry-lease at least one aircraft, preferably a DC-10 to carry the extra load of passengers during the Hajj pilgrimage, beginning from March.

The management received four proposals from different companies. It discussed three proposals earlier and will take up the fourth today to reach a final decision, Biman sources said yesterday.

Inside Today

### Article

#### Situating the CHT Accord within a Moral Paradigm

by Dr Shahdeen Malik  
Page 4

### Focus

Industrial  
development: The key  
issues facing the  
process of transition  
Page 5

### Business

DSE slaps suspension  
on ACI sharesFund constraint  
hampers BWDB  
projects' work  
Page 6

## Gram Parishad polls thru' adult franchise from March likely

By Mizan Ali and Reaz Ahmed

Election of Gram Parishads is likely to begin from March on the basis of adult franchise, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has said.

The election will be held in a staggered schedule like that of the recently held union parishad election, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Sources in the ministry said the government plans to involve the Election Commission in the Gram Parishad election.

"It is likely that the Deputy Nirbahi Officers will be entrusted with the responsibility," one source said. But the composition of the election conducting body is yet to be finalised, he said.

LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry has already prepared rules for holding the election of 40212 Gram Parishad under 4,468 unions, the sources said.

A copy of the draft rules prepared by the ministry was obtained by The Daily Star.

As per the draft rules, Returning Officers (ROs) will be appointed by the election conducting body from among government employees and assistant teachers of schools. Sufficient polling officers will be appointed to assist the presiding officers.

One or more than one polling centres will be opened depending on the area of the Gram Parishad and each center will have separate rooms for private schools.

The ROs will conduct the

elections according to the Gram Parishad Act and the provisions of the rules to be finalised.

As per the draft rules, the presiding officers and polling officers will be appointed by the election conducting body from among government employees and assistant teachers of schools. Sufficient polling officers will be appointed to assist the presiding officers.

One or more than one polling centres will be opened depending on the area of the Gram Parishad and each center will have separate rooms for private schools.

See Page 12 Col 6

### PM's question-answer session

## 'Rights of Bangalees in CHT not curtailed'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday categorically rejected the notion that the peace accord has curtailed the Bangalees' right to possess or protect their property and civil rights in the CHT, reports UNB.

Responding to a question from Panchanan Biswas (AL-Khulna) during the PM's question hour, she said it is also not correct that the DC's authority relating to lands in the hill districts has been curbed by the name of the government.

Hasina also said that after signing of the peace agreement, foreign donors and aid giving agencies have pledged financial assistance for the development of the CHT.

In reply to a question from Mir Sakhawat Ali Daru (AL-Bagerhat) she said heads of government, politicians of different countries of the world and

See Page 12 Col 7

Education Minister A S H K

See Page 12 Col 4

Referring to Clause 64 of the

### Three bills placed in JS

Three bills titled Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Bill 1998, Private University (Amendment) Bill 1997 and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Amendment) Bill 1998 were introduced in the House yesterday, reports UNB.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf placed the first bill for establishing the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University with all the assets and liabilities of the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR), Dhaka.

The bill contains detailed description of the proposed university including its power and authority, teaching method and rules of appointing its VC, pro-VC, treasurer, registrar, controller of examination, teachers, officials and employees, their duties and responsibilities.

The delegation members will also pay a courtesy call on Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria on January 26 and will visit several project sites on

See Page 12 Col 3

### Consultation meet on Japanese grant from Jan 24

A two-day annual consultation meeting on Japanese grant and technical assistance to Bangladesh will begin in the city on January 24, reports UNB.

A Japanese delegation comprising representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will arrive in Dhaka today to participate in the meeting.

The consultation will cover the existing economic cooperation as well as the future areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries, said an official handout yesterday.

The annual consultation forms the basis for Japan's future assistance to Bangladesh, particularly for the next financial year.

The delegation members will also pay a courtesy call on Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria on January 26 and will visit several project sites on

See Page 12 Col 3

## Alleged assault on GM Eight BB employees suspended, 2 held

Bangladesh Bank has suspended its eight employees allegedly for assaulting a top official, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Md Shamsuddin, General Manager (Administration), was roughed up and his room ransacked by a group of employees on Monday.

Authorities set up a three-member probe committee, headed by Executive Director of the Bank Harinarayan Majumder. Two other members of the committee are General Manager Farid Ahmed Chowdhury and DGM Shamsul Huq.

The suspended employees are: Kamal Mia, president of Bangladesh Bank Employees Association, Ahsanul Habib and Ilyas Sheikh of Dhaka branch office and Manjurul Huq, general secretary of the Association, Md Ferdous Alam.

Rakhal Chandra Kar, Md Aminul Islam and Md Nur Mia of the head office.

Police also arrested two officers of the central bank for their alleged involvement in the incident. The arrested are M Ashfaq Ali and M Hashim Iqbal.

Meanwhile, a protest procession of the employees association came under attack yesterday at noon. Witnesses said the CBA supporters hurled chairs on the procession from the fourth floor of the building.

Police later recovered an axe and some hockey sticks from the CBA office.

The general secretary of the employees association said they were not involved in the attack on General Manager Shamsuddin and termed the incident as an "arranged game".

See Page 12 Col 7

## No massive denationalisation of mills Accord signed to form wages commission within a month

Government will announce the national minimum wages for industrial workers within next six months that will be effective from July 1, 1997, reports UNB.

A high-level committee will be constituted to recommend the wages and relevant laws formulated to implement the wages, according to a 12-point agreement signed between the government and the Sramik Karmachari Okya Parishad (SKOP) in the city yesterday.

The government and the SKOP signed the agreement which also said that a wages commission, also comprising the workers representatives, would be formed within a month.

As per the agreement, all

regular workers will get a lumpsum of Tk 1,000 in advance while 'badli' (temporary) workers of Tk 500 pending implementation of the wages commission award. The advance will be deducted from the total payable amount, decided by the wages commission.

Labour and Manpower Minister for Jute AK Faezul Haque, State Minister for Textiles KM Jahangir were present at the signing ceremony of the agreement, where it was hoped that owners of private sector mills and factories will also provide similar facilities.

Labour and Manpower Secretary Muhammad Ahsan Ali Sarker signed the agreement on behalf of the government while

27 workers leaders for the SKOP.

According to the agreement, the government has agreed not to undertake any massive denationalisation of the public sector mills and factories.

About the industrial units for which tender has already been floated for privatisation, necessary steps will be taken after consultation with the SKOP and the workers leaders of the units concerned.

The agreement mentioned that a high-level committee will be formed to make suggestions for amending the labour law to make it pragmatic and more democratic.

The committee will submit its report within next six

See Page 12 Col 1

## Sonia addresses polls rally in Hindi

NEW DELHI, Jan 20: Eager to establish that she is of India, the Italian-born widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi addressed voters today in India's national language — Hindi — as she campaigned for the Congress Party, reports AP.

"I consider myself to be a daughter of India and have come here in that capacity," Indian news agencies quoted Sonia Gandhi as telling a cheering crowd of several thousand people in the eastern state of Bihar, India's Hindi heartland.

Gandhi, 51, became an Indian citizen soon after her marriage to Rajiv Gandhi in 1968, but has been criticised by political rivals as an outsider.

She learned Hindi from a tutor at home and has occasionally made speeches in the language. Today was the first election rally she has addressed in Hindi.

Opinion polls show the cen-

trist Congress Party once led by Rajiv Gandhi is trailing the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party in the run-up to elections next month. Sonia Gandhi had shunned politics, but agreed to help Congress and began campaigning last week. She is not running for office herself.

See Page 12 Col 4

The FIR states that the accused bank officials helped the MD of the fish processing company to take loan by forged means in the name of exporting frozen shrimps.

3 arrested with  
rice stolen from  
foreign vessel

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Jan 20: The District Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against six people for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of about Tk 7.7 crore from the local branch of Sonali Bank.

The case was filed with Khulna thana against six persons including the Managing Director of Star Food Industries Limited, Muhammad Muslim, and the former General Manager of Khulna region of Sonali Bank Mahmudul Haque.

The other four accused are former AGM of the corporate branch of Sonali Bank Malik Abdul Ahad, former senior officer Mollah Ekram Hossain, former store clerk Matiur Rahman and former senior godown keeper Shawkatul Rahman.

The FIR states that the arrested persons are Islam, 30, Belal and Aziz Fakir, 35, police said.

The vessel, now stranded at Herbaria, about 20 km from Mongla port, was coming to the port on October 20, 1996 to load raw jute for Brazil. It was carrying 5,000 tonnes of rice from Vietnam to Mozambique. But it got stranded following a fire in its engine-room in which five crew died.

The local agent of the owner of rice earlier managed to unload over 2,000 tonnes of rice from the vessel. But the rest quantity could not be unloaded as the port authority filed a case for realising demurrage charges

See Page 12 Col 1

## BMTF, Khulna Shipyard to be handed over to Army, Navy

By Rafiq Hasan

The government has finally decided to handover the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory and Khulna Shipyard to the Armed Forces.

The state-owned enterprises had been awaiting privatisation for long.

Privatisation Board sources said that the decision has been finalised to handover the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF) in Gazipur and Khulna Shipyard in Khulna to the Army and Navy respectively. Terms and conditions of the transfer will be decided later.

Senior officials of the Armed Forces, Defence Ministry and Privatisation Board will sit in a joint meeting on Thursday to discuss what could be the terms and conditions of handing over those projects, a

was later dropped and shifted the EPZ site to the nearby Mauna area in the district.

Another proposal which was being considered was to annex the BMTF with the nearby Ordnance Factory under the army. This proposal also remained shelved for more than a year. Since then the Privatisation Board included the factory in the list of 56 state-owned enterprises to be denationalised during the current fiscal year.

This was the second jolt suffered by Janata Dal in the past six months. The first came when leader Laloo Prasad Yadav led a faction away after being charged with corruption.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee has asked the government to seek special permission of the Swiss authorities to make Bofors documents public since this was an important national issue.

See Page 12 Col 5

### Three Karnataka ministers join rival party

NEW DELHI, Jan 20: A day after India's governing United Front coalition launched its re-election campaign, a key partner split today in its southern stronghold, reports AP.

Three ministers and three other state lawmakers resigned from the ruling Janata Dal Party in Karnataka state and joined a rival group that has aligned with the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in the campaign for next month's general elections.

This was the second jolt suffered by Janata Dal in the past six months. The first came when leader Laloo Prasad Yadav led a faction away after being charged with corruption.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee has asked the government to seek special permission of the Swiss authorities to make Bofors documents public since this was an important national issue.