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BNP denies handing over any list to US envoy

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday denied press reports that they had handed over a list of cases against the BNP MPs and leaders to US Ambassador in Dhaka John C Holzman, reports UNB.

According to the reports, the list was handed over to the US Ambassador when he called on BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at her 29 Minto Road official residence on January 25.

"It's all bogus...no list of cases was handed over to the US ambassador," Bhuiyan told UNB.

Replies to a question, he said BNP did not seek mediation of Holzman in resolving the government-opposition dispute that refrained the BNP lawmakers from attending

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Police asked to take stern action against terrorists at DU

As violence again flared up on the Dhaka University Campus, the law enforcing agencies have been asked to take stern action against the troublemakers, reports UNB.

Highly placed police sources said the top level of the government expressed resentment after the recent acts of terrorism on the campus.

Law enforcers were specially asked not show mercy to the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, as some of them are tarnishing the image of the government.

The trouble erupted on the campus last week between the

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
28	28	5-19	5-45
29	29	5-19	5-46

Warrant for arrest of Prabhakaran LTTE outlawed

COLOMBO, Jan 27: The Sri Lankan government formally outlawed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group yesterday after it killed 13 people in a bomb attack at the country's holiest Buddhist shrine, reports Reuters.

Opposition leaders immediately condemned the move as closing the door to talks and making the military option the only one for the government in dealing with the rebels.

"The government has decided to ban LTTE with immediate effect," state radio and television said in a one-line announcement.

No further details were given and senior government officials, apparently taken by surprise, declined to comment.

There was also no immediate comment from LTTE.

But the main opposition United National Party (UNP) criticised the move and a moderate Tamil political party expressed dismay.

Meanwhile, restoration work at the 16th century Temple of the Tooth began on Monday when 3,000 builders were deployed assisted by soldiers tasked with clearing the rubble



V. Prabhakaran

left by Sunday's suicide bombing.

The LTTE guerrillas drove a truck packed with explosives to the site and detonated it in front of the temple, killing three of their own men and 10 pilgrims, reports Reuters.

AFP adds: A Sri Lankan court issued a warrant for the arrest of the country's top Tamil guerrilla leader to answer charges of bombing the central bank here and killing 91 people.

The elusive rebel leader has been charged under the tough Prevention of Terrorism Act before the Colombo High Court.

A Colombo High Court judge ordered the authorities to arrest Prabhakaran and produce him before court on March 27.

However, it is almost certain that Prabhakaran, who is believed to be hiding somewhere in the island's north-east and leading a protracted campaign for a separate state called Eelam, will not be arrested.

A spokesman for the attorney general's department said this was the first time that Prabhakaran had been named in a Sri Lankan court action under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.



Launches packed with home-bound people at the Sadarghat terminal in the city yesterday, two days ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.



Prices of rice, oil & other essentials up

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of different varieties of rice, edible oil and sugar have increased in the city markets in the last two weeks.

Prices of coarse IRRI rice rose to Tk 15 per kg from Tk 14. Prices of fine varieties like Pajam and Nazirshah, have also increased. Pajam was selling at Tk 17 against its previous price of Tk 15 and Nazirshah at Tk 18-19 against its previous price of Tk 17 a kg.

Rice sellers at the Kawran Bazar wholesale market told this correspondent that the prevailing high price may continue because of poor Aman harvest and the recent traffic congestion at the Aricha ferry ghat.

Fine varieties of polau rice like Chinigura and Kaligra were selling at Tk 34 to Tk 38 against the previous prices of Tk 24 to Tk 28.

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Gherao in 4 jute mills for advance against Wages Commission Award

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 27: Workers of four jute mills here today gheraoed the mill officials for advance against the Wages Commission Award to be announced by the government.

Officials of Sonali, Ajax and Mohsin jute mills and also Jute Spinners Ltd at Shironmoni have been kept confined in their office rooms and residences by the workers from this morning.

The workers are demanding advance of Tk 1000 for permanent workers and Tk 500 for casual workers as advance against Wages Commission Award.

The agitated workers of these four jute mills gheraoed offices of general managers and other officials stopping production from 10 am today.

When contacted, officials of the private jute mills termed

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One stabbed to death at Jurain

By Staff Correspondent

A middle-aged man was stabbed to death allegedly by a gang of hoodlums at Jurain under Demra thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said the victim identified as Selim, 35, sustained fatal injuries as the miscreants stabbed him indiscriminately at about 8.30 am. He succumbed to injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) about 10.30 pm.

Denra police suspected that Selim, a resident of West Jurain was murdered following a previous rivalry in the locality. Police said Selim was accused in at least two criminal cases.

A gang of about five armed young men attacked Selim, a motor mechanic, when he was passing Jurain graveyard road. They fled the scene as blood soaked Selim fell down on the ground.

Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy while Selim's wife Dulari Begum filed a murder case with Demra thana. However, police could not arrest anyone in connection with the killing till filing of this report last night.

Inter-bank call money rate shoots up

By Rafiq Hasan

is causing an 'artificial shortage' of funds in the commercial banks," said a top official of a private bank. He recalled that the call money rate had gone up to 35 per cent before last year's Eid-ul-Fitr.

Bankers, however, were reluctant to call it a "liquidity crisis" as the situation would ease very soon after recycling of funds from the business houses.

If the shortage continues even after the Eid then we can call it a liquidity crisis," said a senior Bangladesh Bank official.

But there was a sign of declining trend during cash closure on Monday evening as

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A desperate bid to realise bribe!

By Staff Correspondent

A traffic constable allegedly bit the hand of a cab driver after he refused to pay Tk 100 as bribe at a crossing on Airport Road in the city yesterday afternoon.

Constable Shahjahan, 45, was closed following the incident, police said.

Cantonment police said the incident occurred when Shahjahan stopped a city-bound taxi cab from the Zia International Airport at about 12:25 pm.

The driver of the cab identified as Milon, 22, had a quarrel after the traffic constable allegedly demanded Tk 100 from him. The constable refused to

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Frenzied Eid shopping

By Staff Correspondent

With Eid-ul-Fitr only a couple of days away, the city dwellers have started leaving for their village home to celebrate the greatest religious festival with their near and dear ones, reports UNB.

A heavy crowd was seen yesterday at all the exit points of the city, including Kamalpur Railway Station, Sadarghat launch terminal and all the bus terminals.

The home-bound people are in a mad rush. They are huddling inside buses, trucks, trains and launches and on their roofs to travel home.

As the people has started leaving the city, the traffic jam — a regular phenomenon in the city — was reduced to a great extent yesterday.

Around noon, the shopping areas in New Market, Gawsia, Elephant Road, New Elephant Road, Mirpur Road, Gulistan, Mouchak, Bangabazar, Sadarghat were in total chaos

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BUET Architecture Deptt Teachers oppose new admission rule

Star Report

A new admission rule for the Architecture Department of BUET has evoked strong protest from the teachers of the department. They threatened to

"pull themselves out of all activities of the varsity" after February 2 if it is not withdrawn.

The BUET authorities in a circular on Sunday made physics background "a must" for admission seekers in the Architecture Department. Talking to this correspondent, some teachers of the department said they will continue to oppose the new admission rule which will close the door for admission of students having humanities background.

The new admission rule also violates a 35-year old practice, they said.

Earlier, admission seekers in the Architecture Department

had to appear at written test on Mathematics, General Knowledge and Science, English, Bangla and Free-hand Drawing, they said.

The change in the admission rule was made at a recent meeting of the BUET Academic Council, with a note of dissent from eight teachers who represented the Architecture Department at the meeting.

Except the eight from the Architecture Department, all the 160 councillors in the Academic Council belong to the Engineering Faculty of the BUET.

"By sheer majority, this change was made without giving any consideration to the views expressed by teachers of the department concerned," Shamsul Wares, a Professor of Architecture Department said.

Nizamuddin Ahmed, another

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A right-wing political agenda: Hillary



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton being interviewed on the "Today" show by co-host Matt Lauer in New York yesterday. Hillary blamed the sex scandal surrounding her husband on a mean-spirited right-wing political agenda that has dogged them for years, saying, "We've been accused of everything, including murder."

—AP/UNB photo

Growing cases of women repression

PM urged to intervene

By Staff Correspondent

The Sammilto Nari Samaj, a forum of woman's organisations, has sought the Prime Minister's intervention in arresting the growing incidents of repression on women in the country.

"Today the happiness of Eid fades away with increasing reports of repression on women in the country," said Dr Naiila Khan while reading out the forum's appeal to the PM at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Nari Samaj, in its statement, expressed anger and concern over the way the cases of repression on women are conducted. "This has become a

farce". The statement said the government has taken initiative to remove discrimination in the Woman and Child Repression Act 1995. "But by adding terrorism related crime to the proposed amendment, the Act has been made complicated."

Nari Samaj submitted a 13-point recommendation to the Speaker on January 22 to ensure a proper trial for repression on women.

We thought the immense public opinion which was created following the Yasmin and Shima murder cases would ensure punishment for the offend-

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Punjab-type coalition, if voted to power: BJP

JAIPUR, Jan 27: BJP President LK Advani today hinted that his party, if voted to power in the coming Lok Sabha elections, would go for a coalition government on the pattern of Punjab.

"I would not be surprised if Punjab-type situation emerges after the elections, he told newspapers here.

Advani said "there is nothing basically wrong with a coalition government. Things go wrong only when the government is headed by a minority party with a bigger party supporting from outside."

Another report from Mum-

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Format

Report to Securities and Exchange Commission under section 11(2) of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 (XVII of 1969).
(ref. Order No. SEC/Section-7/98-135 dated 26.01.1998)

Dated 26th January 1998

In exercise of its power conferred by section 11(2), read with section 2CC, of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance 1969 (XVII of 1969), the Commission directs all companies listed in the stock exchange(s) to submit to the Commission a report on each director, officer and/or other shareholder of the company who is or has been the beneficial owner of any class of the company's listed equity securities of five per cent (5%) or above at any point of time within seventh day of every month of the English Calendar Year in the following format. Failure of which will attract penal provision(s) under the said Ordinance.

Report No.

1. Full name with address of the shareholder:
2. Official status of the shareholder, if any, in the Company:
(Chairman, Managing Director, Director, Company Secretary, Officer, etc)

3. Date on which subscriptions in the Company's equity attained five per cent holding or above: