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7-party Alliance calls day-long hartal in Ctg division Feb 10

By Staff Correspondent
The Seven-party Liaison Committee has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong division on February 10.
The decision was taken at a meeting of the Liaison Committee held yesterday evening at Minto Road residence of the Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP chief Begum Khaleida Zia, says a press release.
It said, the hartal was called to press the demand for repealing the 'black accord' (CHT-See Page 12 Col 8)

Indonesian FM arrives today

By Staff Correspondent
Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas arrives in Dhaka today on a four-day visit to Bangladesh in a bid to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.
Ali Alatas' visit follows Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to Indonesia last September.
Dhaka and Jakarta are expected to sign an agreement on promotion and protection of investment during the foreign minister's visit, according to official sources.
See Page 12 Col 7

Justice Kemaluddin Hossain may be made LC chairman

By Staff Correspondent
Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is likely to be appointed the next chairman of the Law Commission, law ministry sources said yesterday.
A Law Ministry proposal in this regard has already been processed. The appointment is expected to be announced shortly, the sources added.
Kemaluddin Hossain was retired from the post of chief justice in 1982, through a Martial Law proclamation which said none could hold the post for more than three years.
See Page 12 Col 4

Gen Harun to be made first envoy to Maldives

By Staff Correspondent
Major General Harun Ahmed Chowdhury is tipped to be country's first High Commissioner to the Maldives.
Chowdhury earlier served as the envoy to Zimbabwe.
Dhaka is making preparations to open a resident mission in Male shortly. After the opening of an embassy, Bangladesh will have resident missions in all the SAARC countries.
Meanwhile, the government has still not named a High Commissioner to Canada.
The absence of a High Commissioner to Canada for long six months, following the recall of M R Osmany, a former foreign secretary, is sending a 'confusing signal' to Ottawa, sources concerned said. Dhaka is one of the major recipients of Canadian assistance through CIDA.
Meanwhile, M Ziauddin, who was serving as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has taken over as the new Chief of Protocol.

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Over 4000 killed as quake jolts Afghanistan

KABUL, Feb 6: A powerful earthquake jolted Afghanistan's remote northeast this week, killing as many as 4,000 people, an Afghan official said today in the first casualty reports to emerge, says AP.
The quake hit the city of Rustaq, 280 kilometers (150 miles) north of the Afghan capital, Kabul, destroying 15,000 homes, said Sher Mohammed, a spokesman for the military alliance that controls the area.
Tremors of varying intensity rocked the mountainous area for hours afterwards, he said, speaking to The Associated Press by satellite telephone.

The US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, put the magnitude of Wednesday's quake at 6.1 on the Richter Scale.
Mohammed said landslides at the quake's epicenter caused much of the destruction.
"The hills collapsed into each other, making a huge crater in the earth," he said.
News of the devastation in the isolated northern province of Takhar, which borders Tajikistan, reached Kabul only Friday, and details remained difficult to confirm.
Ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who

leads the anti-Taliban alliance that controls part of northern Afghanistan, including Takhar, has appealed for urgent help from the United Nations and the Red Cross, Mohammed said.
"President Rabbani also called for a one-day mourning period and asked people across the Afghan nation to pray," Mohammed said.
UN and Red Cross officials in neighbouring Pakistan said they were trying to arrange relief teams to travel to the area, but could not confirm the casualty figures.
Taliban officials in Islam-

abad said they were unaware of the quake. The Taliban, which controls the remaining 85 per cent of Afghanistan, is locked in battles with the northern opposition alliance on at least three different fronts north of Kabul and in western Afghanistan.
Compounding the destruction, Mohammed said, Taliban jets dropped cluster bombs on Takhar's provincial capital of Taloqan today, injuring 12 people. The provincial capital is 40 kilometers (24 miles) south of Rustaq.
In 1991, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 killed an es-

timated 900 people in the remote mountainous regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.
Reuters adds from the United Nations: More than 4,000 bodies have so far been recovered following a severe earthquake in northeast Afghanistan, the Afghan UN mission said today.
Ambassador Ravan Farhadi told the news agency he received the information in telephone calls from the authorities in the town of Taloqan, in the province of Takhar.
Farhadi represents the government of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani which fled from Kabul, the capital,

when it was seized in September 1996 by the forces of the militant Islamic Taliban Movement.
He said the earthquake was centered on the city of Rustaq and had destroyed more than 20 villages, including six large ones.
Farhadi said more than 2,000 homes had been destroyed and that the region was snow-covered and extremely cold at night.
He said an airport west of Rustaq, called Khujah-Ghar, was operating and could handle relief supplies.



Stalls at the Bangla Academy premises are being readied for the Ekushey Book Fair beginning today.

— Star photo

General amnesty for Shantibahinimen

The government yesterday declared general amnesty for the armed members of Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghat Samity (PCJSS) and others who will surrender all the arms and ammunition in their possession, control or supervision, reports BSS.
The general amnesty will be effective from the date of surrendering arms to the government, said an official announcement.
Under the amnesty, criminal cases and arrest warrants and 'hulia' against the members of PCJSS would be withdrawn.
There will also be exemption

of punishment against the members who had been convicted in absentia following trial. And legal steps would be taken for the release of those members who are still in prison.
The amnesty will also be applicable to all those permanent residents of CHT involved in PCJSS activities in the past. The announcement said under the amnesty, no cases would be filed, no arrest warrant would be issued or no punishment would be given to any member only on charges of his/her involvement with PCJSS activities after his or

her surrender of weapons and return to normal life.
The government expressed the hope that members of the PCJSS on their return to normal life would live as worthy citizens of the country and play due role in the overall national development.
According to the schedule, first group will surrender arms on February 10 at Khagrachhari Stadium, second group on February 16 at Baghaichhari High School ground, third group on February 22 at Bardam High School and fourth group on February 28 at Dudukchhari.

PM opens Ekushey Book Fair today

By DU Correspondent
The Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela begins today on the Bangla Academy premises.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the book fair at 10:30 am. The PM is also expected to lay the foundation of Ekushey Bhaban at the Academy premises.
Organised by Bangla Academy in association with Bangladesh Book Publishers' and Distributors' Association, the fair will continue till February 28.
The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of opposition BNP, has threatened to prevent the PM from inaugurating the book fair saying "she has lost all rights to come to the DU".
See Page 12 Col 2

25 lakh MT food deficit likely this year

By Reaz Ahmad
Government's Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice over the last nine days has not created any impact on the price situation in the market.
Market sources said rice price is unlikely to fall immediately unless the OMS programme is expanded up to 25 lakh MT, unless the upcoming IRRI-Boro harvest is 'extraordinarily good'.
The strain of meeting the food import bill will be on the country's hard-earned foreign exchange reserves. Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, when asked to comment said, "Our government will not take any risk on food. To us, lives of the people

Occidental gets DOE clearance for drilling exploratory well at Jalalabad

By Staff Correspondent
The Department of Environment (DOE) has given clearance to US company Occidental to begin drilling an exploratory well in Jalalabad under blocks 13 and 14, although its production sharing contract (PSC) is currently suspended, official sources said.
Occidental's PSC for these blocks was supposed to be terminated naturally on January 11 last as the US company failed to fulfil any of the work obligations in its three-year

Chhatra Moitree leader shot dead in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Feb 6: Former president of the district unit of Chhatra Moitree was shot dead by unidentified assailants yesterday.
The victim Alok Kumar Dey, 28, was killed near his residence at Banikpara under Daulatpur thana at about 11:30 pm. A passer-by, identified as Moni, 35, also received bullet wounds during the attack.
The gunmen fired at the Chhatra Moitree leader when he was washing hands with water from a tubewell near his residence.
See Page 12 Col 5

10 hurt as Indian nationals launch fresh attack on villagers

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Feb 6: At least 10 people of the frontier village of Diar-Khidirpur under Moti-har thana of the district were injured, three of them seriously, in a fresh attack by Indian nationals allegedly backed by BSF personnel yesterday afternoon.
One of the seriously injured, Bhutua Mia, 27, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. His condition is stated to be critical.
BDR sources said when some villagers of Diar-Khidirpur

Anup Chetia to be produced in court Mar 12

By Staff Correspondent
The court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, has fixed March 12 for producing Anup Chetia alias Golap Barua in the court, said Anila Khan a lawyer of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights yesterday.
Producing Chetia in the court, however, will be subject to the report to be submitted by the jail authorities regarding his physical condition and recovery from blood dysentery, she added.
See page 12 col 1

Plan to set up spl CID squad to tackle child, woman trafficking

By Staff Correspondent
The government is planning to set up a Special Squad with personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department to tackle the increasing problem of woman and child trafficking from the country.
A proposal in this regard is now under scrutiny in the Home Ministry. The Special Squad which will comprise 22 personnel, will be headed by a Special Police Superintendent.
According to the proposal, the squad will include four police inspectors, four sub-inspectors, eight constables and a data entry operator besides other assistants.
The squad will be equipped with mobile telephones, fax machines, wireless sets and two vehicles. The team will actively assist the police units wherever there is a report of missing of any woman or child.
The moment the squad will get such a report, it will alert all possible exit points including railway stations and bus and launch terminals. It will also involve the electronic and print media to spread the news.
The special team of the squad will have access to another country and, if necessary, seek assistance from local police.
See Page 12 Col 3

Firing at PMO Persons present in Malek's office yet to be interrogated

By Staff Correspondent
Investigators are yet to interrogate the persons who were present inside the office room of the Prime Minister's Political Advisor during a shooting on January 28.
About eight persons, including a member of the PM's family, Sheikh Helal were present in the advisor's room at the PM's office during the firing. The others were Union Parishad chairmen, police sources said.
The investigation team was preparing a list with addresses of the persons. Police officials hoped that they would be able to

Arrest of BCL leader sparks violence in Ctg; 10 hurt

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: At least 10 persons including three police personnel were injured in incidents of violence that broke out in different parts of the city after the arrest of a Chhatra League leader this evening, police and witnesses said.
A large number of passing vehicles were damaged by the BCL activists protesting the arrest of Didarul Alam Masum, BCL president of Government City College, police said.
The injured persons were admitted to police hospital and Chittagong Medical College Hospital.
Police said incidents of violence erupted at Lalkhan Bazar, WASA crossing, Tiger Pass and New Market crossing, amid

NOTICE (Regarding Audit of Firms Registered under Value Added Tax)

“জাতীয় রাজস্ব সংরক্ষণ অংশ নিন”
“মুসক অভিতে সহযোগিতা করুন”

Value Added Tax (VAT) system has been introduced from 1st July, 1991. Under this system, a taxpayer himself calculates the payable tax at the time of delivering/providing the goods or service to the consumer and deposits in the government exchequer. That is a goods manufacturer/service provider realises this tax from the consumer at the time of selling goods/providing service and deposits in the government exchequer.

The responsibility of VAT management is to verify whether this tax is properly calculated and paid in due time & due amount and maintain the national revenue paid by the consumer.

To ensure realisation of the due amount of revenue in due time, the VAT management often undertakes audit of some activities of some selected tax-payer firms. For this, the firm selected for audit is earlier informed to keep ready such documents of account as may be required for audit. Therefore, it is not possible to complete the audit smoothly & effectively within the prescribed time without sincere cooperation of the authorities of registered firm.

Under Rule 34 of VAT Act 1991 any registered taxpayer firm is bound to produce any kind of document of accounts to the audit officers on demand; otherwise it is considered as punishable offence under Rule 37.

Under the circumstance, all the tax-payer firms registered under VAT Act are requested to actively cooperate to auditing, whether the audit officers are carrying proper ID Card & audit order issued by the Commissioner concerned.

DFP-2146-2/2
G-203

National Board of Revenue

Work on Gazipur EPZ suspended as land acquisition hindered

Significant difference between the land deed price and the market price hindered land acquisition, forcing the authority to suspend the proposed Gazipur EPZ temporarily, official sources said, reports UNB.
Officials and local people said land dispute among the inhabitants of the proposed EPZ area and evil designs of vested quarters also led to the discontinuation of the project.
Work on the Gazipur Export Processing Zone (GEPZ) will remain suspended "until positive changes in attitude of the local people towards national interest," Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) Moazzem Hossain

OMS fails to lower rice price in Sylhet

From Iqbal Siddique
SYLHET, Feb 6: The Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice, launched by the Food Department with a view to keeping the rice price under control, could not attain success in the Sylhet region.
Even 30 per cent of the allotted rice could not be sold during the last 10 days in Sylhet town.
When contacted, an official source informed that the Food Department took initiative to sell rice at the fixed rate of Tk 12.50 per kilogram in the Sylhet town. But the sale point at Ambarkhana area had to be closed due to space constraint, he said.
The Food Department employees had been asked to run