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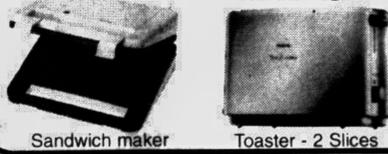
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Dhaka places its options for Trans-Asian Railway

To integrate with the proposed Trans-Asian Railway, Bangladesh has placed two options to ESCAP: Set up railway link with Myanmar directly through Cox's Bazar or via India's Assam state using the existing tracks in Sylhet, reports UNB.

Turkey/Europe going through Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Iran, said Rahmatullah, the director of the Bangkok-based Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division of ESCAP.

Atikul Husain Khan said. He said Bangladesh proposed for setting up railway link with Myanmar through Gundum of Cox's Bazar to facilitate the Trans-Asian Railway.

Hartal: 175 injured

Sporadic clashes also took place at Mir Hazaribag, Gopibag, Mouchak, Sghahab crossing, Nayabazar, Mirpur and Demra, police and witnesses said.

Police said pickets hurled eight to ten cocktails at a BDR patrol jeep near the Brothers Club at Motijheel at about 1 pm. Though the cocktails didn't hit the jeep, but a BDR man was injured in the blasts. Police rushed to the spot, charged batons and nabbed five pickets. At least 10 people were injured in the clash.

Two policemen -- Suja Mia and Jahangir -- were injured in a bomb explosion at Nawabpur at about 9 in the morning. They were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

Nazrul Islam, an employee of Text Book Board, was injured in the head when pickets threw a hand bomb on a minibus at Shewarpara in Mirpur at about 9:30 am. The victim was admitted to DMCH.

Two persons, Hannan (30) and Kamrul (35) were injured at Mirpur-1 when a cocktail was hurled on a tempo in the morning. They were admitted to DMCH.

Oni Raquul Islam (16) also was injured when a hand bomb exploded at Kazipara in Mirpur at about 12:30 am. He was taken to the DMCH.

Activists of pro-BNP Jatiyat-atabadi Chhatra Dal and Awami League-backed Chhatra League exchanged gunshots and exploded bombs at Shahbagh crossing at about 1:30 pm as a sequel to beating of three JCD leaders at Madhu's canteen at Dhaka University. The clashes took place there when Chhatra League activists were returning in a procession from the Bangabandhu Avenue, witnesses said.

Campus sources said Chhatra League activists beat up acting president of JCD Manjurul Elahi and its leaders Mozharul Islam Babu and Masum Billah at Madhu's canteen at 9 am and ousted them from DU campus.

BNP's march

From Page 1 of Abu Hena, Bhuiyan said they boycotted elections after by-polls to two Khaleda-vacated seats were rigged. His party contested the Manikganj by-polls following Hena's assurance to take action in case of violation of election code, he said, adding they were again demanding the CEC's departure as he did not take any action for this time for violation of election code in the Pabna by-polls.

Accusing the ministers of campaigning in the Pabna by-election, the BNP leader said they promised a lot of things to the voters.

Two of the ministers had full-time presence in the constituency to participate in the campaign. One of the ministers opened a post office and a telephone exchange and promised many other things including construction of a bridge in the area. These are clear violations of election code.

Bhuiyan termed the change of returning officer of the by-election as an eye-wash. "Replacement of the DC by the ADM was not an effective move. ADM is very much under the DC who remained in his position. In fact, the need was to bring changes in the police administration that harassed the BNP men," he maintained.

Reiterating the allegation of massive rigging in the Pabna by-polls, Mannan Bhuiyan said, "The Pabna polls have proved that no fair election is possible under the Awami League administration and with Abu Hena as CEC. We demand a mid-term election under the caretaker government and immediate resignation of Hena who proved himself to be a stooge of those in power."

The BNP secretary general also repeated the party demand for appointing a Supreme Court judge as the CEC, in consultation with all political parties.

Mannan Bhuiyan also brought allegations of repression against the leaders, workers and supporters of BNP by the local administration and the ruling party people.

He also narrated a number of incidents centring the Pabna by-polls in which the BNP men including MPs came under armed attacks and threats.

DUTA polls

Names of Blue Panel candidates announced. By DU Correspondent. Pro-Awami League Blue Panel has announced the names of its candidates for election to the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), scheduled to be held on December 30.

Prof Md Shahadat Ali of Biology Department and Prof A M S Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism Department will contest for the post of president and general secretary respectively from the panel.

The other candidates of the panel are: Vice president - Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed of Physics Department, Treasurer - Dr Md Habibur Rahman of Marketing, and Joint Secretary - Dr Meezanur Rahman of Marketing. The member candidates are: Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman (Bangla), Prof Iftekar Gani Chowdhury (IBA), Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (Management), Prof R I M Aminur Rashid (Physics), Prof Sekander Hyat Khan (ISRT), Prof Anwar Hossain (Bio-chemistry), Prof Nilufar Nahar (Chemistry), Hasibur Rashid (Management), Prof Hossain Mansur (Geology) and Zinat Huda (Sociology).

He regretted the absence of the local BNP lawmaker at the function and said "Ask your parliament member what was the benefit of calling a hartal on the day of the opening of this bridge."

The Prime Minister said the objective of independent Bangladesh is to attain economic emancipation of the people.

"Our government is working towards achieving that goal," she said. She called upon all to put in their best efforts to build up an exploitation, hunger and poverty-free society.

The function was also addressed by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofiq Ahmed and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain.

Land routes. From Page 1. melamine products, garments, leather goods, cosmetics and some pharmaceutical products.

Lest we forget



Dr Muqtadir, Faizul Mohi, Dr Sadeque, Dr Aminuddin, Saidul Hasan, Zahir Raihan, Rashidul Hasan, Sirajul Huq, Khan, Dr Rabbi, Nazmul Haque, Abul Bashir, Kh Abu Taleb, Abul Khair, Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr Moniruzzaman, Anwar Pasha, Nizamuddin, Golam Mostafa, Ladu Bhai, Munir Chowdhury, GC Dev, Mofazzal Haider, J Guhathakurta, Santosh Bhattacharya, Shahidullah Kaiser, Sirajuddin Hossain

Indonesia's army chief backs raising of civilian militia

JAKARTA, Dec 13: Indonesia's armed forces chief today defended a controversial plan to establish a civilian militia, saying it was needed to safeguard law and order while the Southeast Asian nation struggles with political change, reports AP.

Military commander Gen. Wiranto said about 40,000 young people would be recruited beginning January. They would receive three-month basic military training and would be equipped with sticks, riot shields and handcuffs.

Like police, they would have the power of arrest, he said.

Other officials said as many 200,000 might eventually be recruited for the group to be known as "Rakyat Terlatih," or "trained people."

In recent weeks thousands of students demanding greater democracy have staged a series of anti-government protests in the capital, Jakarta, and elsewhere.

Most of the protests have been peaceful, but several have ended in violence and bloodshed. Thousands of troops have been deployed throughout the capital and many roads have been blocked by armoured vehicles to stop street marches.

On Nov. 13 nine people were killed when security personnel opened fire on students who tried to march on Parliament.

Land dispute

From Page 1. overcome the minor problems regarding the implementation of the accord.

Mosharrar said he would inform the Prime Minister of the progress of his meeting with Shantu Larma.

Replying to a question, the State Minister said the Land Commission would formally start functioning after resolving the problem relating to the representation to the Regional Council and appointment of the chiefs of the Mong Circle and Bomang Circle.

In his reaction, Shantu Larma said the Land Commission would be effective after proper functioning of the Regional Council.

Larma alleged that many conditions of the peace accord would have been implemented by this time if the Prime Minister took the charge of the CHT Affairs Ministry.

Meanwhile, Bangalee Krishak Samik Kallayan Parishad submitted a memorandum to the State Minister hailing the initiatives of the government to solve land disputes in the CHT. They demanded rehabilitation of the Bangladeshes in the undisputed land through Land Commission.

Hasina

From Page 1. we accepted the verdict of the people in good grace," she added.

She said that her party did not bag a single seat in the last parliament election from Munshiganj. "But we did not stop development activities in the area," she said adding "I can assure you that all development activities in the district will continue as usual whether you vote for us or not."

She, however, said the people of Munshiganj will change their mind in future and will cast their votes for AL.

She regretted the absence of the local BNP lawmaker at the function and said "Ask your parliament member what was the benefit of calling a hartal on the day of the opening of this bridge."

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Land routes

From Page 1. melamine products, garments, leather goods, cosmetics and some pharmaceutical products.

"I exported to Bangladesh several types of fruits including orange and apple, wood products and marble."

"We could also export boulders as Bhutan has plenty of those. There is enormous potential of trade between Bhutan and Bangladesh. We have several exportable items of world class including marble, wood, wood pulp products, timber products, ferro-silicon, limestone and coal," said the Bhutanese ambassador.

Ctg BNP

From Page 1. The rivalry in the party started after Nasir was made president of the committee, according to party insiders.

Dostagir Chowdhury, who joined BNP from Jatiya Party, was made General Secretary of the city committee. This also annoyed the group which staged demonstration in front of the party office. They had even attacked the residence of Nasir and demanded cancellation of the committee.

Later, at the intervention of the high command, the agitation was stopped, but internal trouble remained. The trouble resurfaced two months ago over possession of party's city office at Nasimon Building here.

Intellectuals

From Page 1. fairs will arrange a milad mahfil at the Secretariat Mosque after Zohr prayers seeking peace of souls of the martyred intellectuals. Similar mahfils will also be arranged in mosques all over the country.

Special prayers will also be arranged in temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship.

People from all walks of life will place wreaths at the memorial and offer fataha for eternal peace of the departed souls.

In observance of the day, the government, political parties, teachers, students and professional bodies and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes. This include hoisting of the National Flag at half mast, hoisting of black flag, placing of wreath, Qurankhwan, milad mahfil and discussion meeting.

The ruling Awami League has taken up programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner. The AL will hoist black flag at party central office, Bangabandhu Bhaban and party offices across the country at 5:30 am and the national flag and party flag at half mast. Leaders and workers will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 6:40 am, then proceeding to Mirpur to place wreath at the memorial. They will place wreath at Rayerbazar killing ground at 7:35 am.

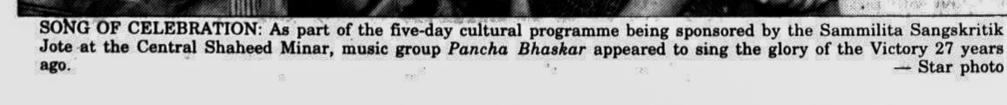
Opposition BNP's programme will begin with the hoisting of National Flag and party flag at half mast and black flag in the morning at its offices across the country.

Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations will assemble in front of the party central office at Nayapalton in the morning and then go to the memorial to place wreath.

Jatiya Party, Workers Party, JSD, BSD and Jagpa have also taken up programmes to mark the day.

One million tonnes of foodgrains get through Ctg Port in three months. From Staff Correspondent. CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: About one million tonnes of imported foodgrains and other food items were handled by the Chittagong port in the past three months thanks to a food-cell set up to ensure quick discharge and delivery, official sources said.

The food cell was formed with deployment of army and navy personnel at Chittagong port on September 17 to play supervisory role in the discharge of foodgrains and other essential items.



SONG OF CELEBRATION: As part of the five-day cultural programme being sponsored by the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar, music group Pancha Bhaskar appeared to sing the glory of the Victory 27 years ago. - Star photo

TECHNOMART A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR. টেকনোমার্ট '৯৮ (বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মেলা) স্থান: বি সি এস আই আর (সোয়েস ল্যাবরেটরি) প্রাঙ্গন. তারিখ: ১৭, ১৮ ও ১৯ শে ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৮. সময়: সকাল ১০ টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৭ টা. অংশ গ্রহণে: বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ. বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি কমিশন. বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কাউন্সিল. জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি যাদুঘর. ব্যাসডক. আলাউদ্দিন সুইচমিট লি: প্রজেক্ট বিল্ডার্স লি: এক্সপোর্টেড ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ সয়া প্রোটিন প্রকল্প. ম্যাক ইনকরপোরেটেড. বাংলাদেশ ফুড ডেভেলপমেন্ট ইনস্টিটিউট. রিভাইব কেমিক্যালস. চন্দনা ট্রেডিং কো: নিপু কেমিক্যালস. নাহার গার্ডেন. বিজনেস স্ট্রাকচার লি: সবাই আমন্ত্রিত

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