



VOL. VIII NO. 340. REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

POUSH 21 1405 BS

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 4, 1999

RAMADAN 15, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

ADP may be trimmed today

The current ADP may be trimmed today as an alternative measure to manage a deficit in post-flood rehabilitation funds, reports UNB.

Official sources said the Cabinet in its weekly meeting today will take up the task of restructuring and reallocating funds for projects under the Annual Development Programme.

However, according to Finance Ministry sources, the size of the ADP will not be changed while reallocating the funds. Priority will be given to projects for post-flood rehabilitation.

"We are hopeful about mobilising the deficit without imposing any tax or cuts in the size of the ADP," State Minister for Planning Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told the agency last night. "It will be done reprimising the projects."

The sources said important projects involved in the post-flood rehabilitation programme will be given priority in readjusting the ADP funds.

The shortfall in funds for post-flood rehabilitation projects is US\$ 27.66 crore, after emergency foreign aid and contributions from the exchequer.

The total post-flood rehabilitation needs were fixed at US\$ 94.14 crore. Donors made commitments for US\$ 62.02 crore, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) pledging US\$ 33.00 crore. The government will provide US\$ 4.45 crore for the programme.

Earlier, the ECNEC in a meeting had diverted Tk 419 crore of the ADP funds for post-flood rehabilitation work.

The government recently imposed taxes and surcharges amounting to Tk 300 crore to raise funds for rehabilitation work.

Dhanmondi to be declared 'silent zone'

As part of a drive to free the residential areas from sound and air pollution, the Dhanmondi residential area will be declared a 'silent zone' in the first phase, reports UNB.

This was stated at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forest Ministry in the city yesterday.

The meeting was informed that to check pollution, the polythene production in the country will be stopped in phases by the year 2002 and no further permission will be given for setting up new polythene factory.

It also discussed the activities of the Environment Directorate and its role in freeing the country from pollution.

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Prayer Timings

January 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-17	5-22
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-29
Esha	7-00	7-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan Jan Sehri Iftar

15 — — 5-28

16 5 5-18 5-29

17 6 5-18 5-30

We shall announce the elec-

The Daily Star

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Blast kills 4 in Lahore : 3 MQM men held

Sharif escapes attempt on life



Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE, Dec 3: Four people died when a time bomb exploded on a bridge in central Pakistan today shortly before Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was to pass over it, said police, who described the attack as an assassination attempt, reports AP.

The bridge, 3 kilometres from Sharif's private residence in Raiwind, was destroyed in the explosion, which occurred at around 0500 GMT. Sharif and his family were to have passed the bridge at that time on their way to Raiwind from Lahore.

Their departure was delayed and they were at home in Lahore at the time of the blast. The family later flew to

Raiwind by helicopter. Three civilians and a police officer died in the explosion, and three policemen have been wounded, doctors and police officers in Lahore said.

Earlier Assistant Superintendent of Police Munir Sheikh had said three policemen and one police officer died in the blast.

"We have sent special bomb disposal squad experts for investigations," he said.

Witnesses said police stopped traffic on the Lahore-Raiwind Road after the blast, which was heard for miles around. Raiwind is a small town 22 kilometres from Lahore.

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Manju leads Mizan, 12 JP MPs to PM's house

By Special Correspondent

The feud between Jatiya Party chief General HM Ershad and Anwar Hossain Manju took a new turn as the latter led a dozen JP MPs and party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury to an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban yesterday.

Sources close to the communication minister told the Star that the MPs mainly discussed post-flood rehabilitation programmes in their constituencies.

Asked, Mizan Chowdhury however denied having visited the Prime Minister's official residence though the sources confirmed his presence in the

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Indian N-test a real political mistake : Sen

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Nobel Economics Laureate Amartya Sen today described as "real political mistake" India's decision to explode nuclear weapons in May, reports AFP.

"I don't think I ever thought that it (the tests) was worth it," he told a private television channel here.

The 64-year-old Sen, however, said he understood the frustrations of successive Indian governments because their views on nuclear weapons were ignored by the West.

"All these frustrations understand," he said.

"But I think the response was morally wrong and more importantly in the political level it is a real political mistake."

City corporation polls No atmosphere to participate: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said his party wants to participate in the pauroshava and the city corporation elections but a favourable situation for holding polls does not exist in the country.

"Presently, there is not even the minimum congenial atmosphere for holding any election in the country. Neither there is any democratic atmosphere in some districts," he told newsmen after the BNP national standing committee's meeting yesterday.

Chaired by party chief and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia at her official residence, the two-and-a-quarter-hour meeting was also attended by 12 out of 14 members of the committee.

Bhuiyan said, "In the prevailing situation, no one can expect fair polls."

Besides, he said, no election held under this government and the present Election Commission was at all free and fair. All elections were rigged with direct or indirect support of the EC.

Moreover, the ruling Awami League used government officials in the past elections as activists of the party, he added.

The BNP secretary general alleged, the government has already started luring opposition leaders and activists, elite and influential people. In case of

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Cold spell may sweep country this month

By Special Correspondent

A medium to severe cold spell is likely to blow over the north-eastern and north-western region of the country in two phases this month, Meteorological Department said yesterday.

Mercury may come down to 5-8 degree Celsius during the cold wave.

Elsewhere in the country, there will be a mild to medium cold spell, with minimum temperature ranging between 8 to 10 degree Celsius, the Met Office said in its long-range forecast for this month.

A western disturbance in upper atmosphere currently hanging over Pakistan would make the temperature a bit warm for couple days. The cold spell will sweep the country, director of the Meteorological Department Ershad Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

The cold spell will continue for the whole month and temperature will start getting warm next month.

He said temperature has already started falling with the arrival of northern wind from the Himalayas.

Srimangal had the coldest day so far with 8.5 degree Celsius minimum temperature recorded by the met office yesterday.

Sitakundu was the warmest place yesterday with a maximum temperature of 30.2C.

In Dhaka, the minimum temperature was 12.1 degree Celsius. Chittagong 14.7 C. Khulna 14.6 C. Barisal 12 C. Rajshahi 12.8 C. Sylhet 14.4 C.

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Municipal elections likely on Feb 23-25

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission has decided to hold municipal elections "tentatively" in the last week of next month and will announce the schedules in the middle of this month.

The division was taken yesterday at a meeting of the three-member Commission headed by Mohammad Abu Hena.

The Commission also decided that the mayor elections in the four city corporations in the country would be held at the end of March or early in April. It, however, did not fix any specific date for the polls.

The EC is legally obliged to hold elections in 139 municipalities out of the 182 by March 19 and major polls in Khulna City Corporation by April 3 this year.

"We have decided to hold elections in the country's 139 municipalities tentatively on February 23, 24 and 25," said the CEC. "So, we are now planning to hold elections in all the four city corporations at the end of March or early in April."

We shall announce the elec-

Varsity teachers should have code of conduct

By DU Correspondent

Some eminent citizens, teachers and professionals at an open discussion here yesterday expressed solidarity with the six-point demand of Dhaka University students protesting alleged sexual harassment of some female students by their teachers at the university.

They also stressed the need for a code of conduct for regulating the behaviour of teachers at the university. They also supported the view of DU students that a cell be set up for receiving complaints of sexual harassment at the university.

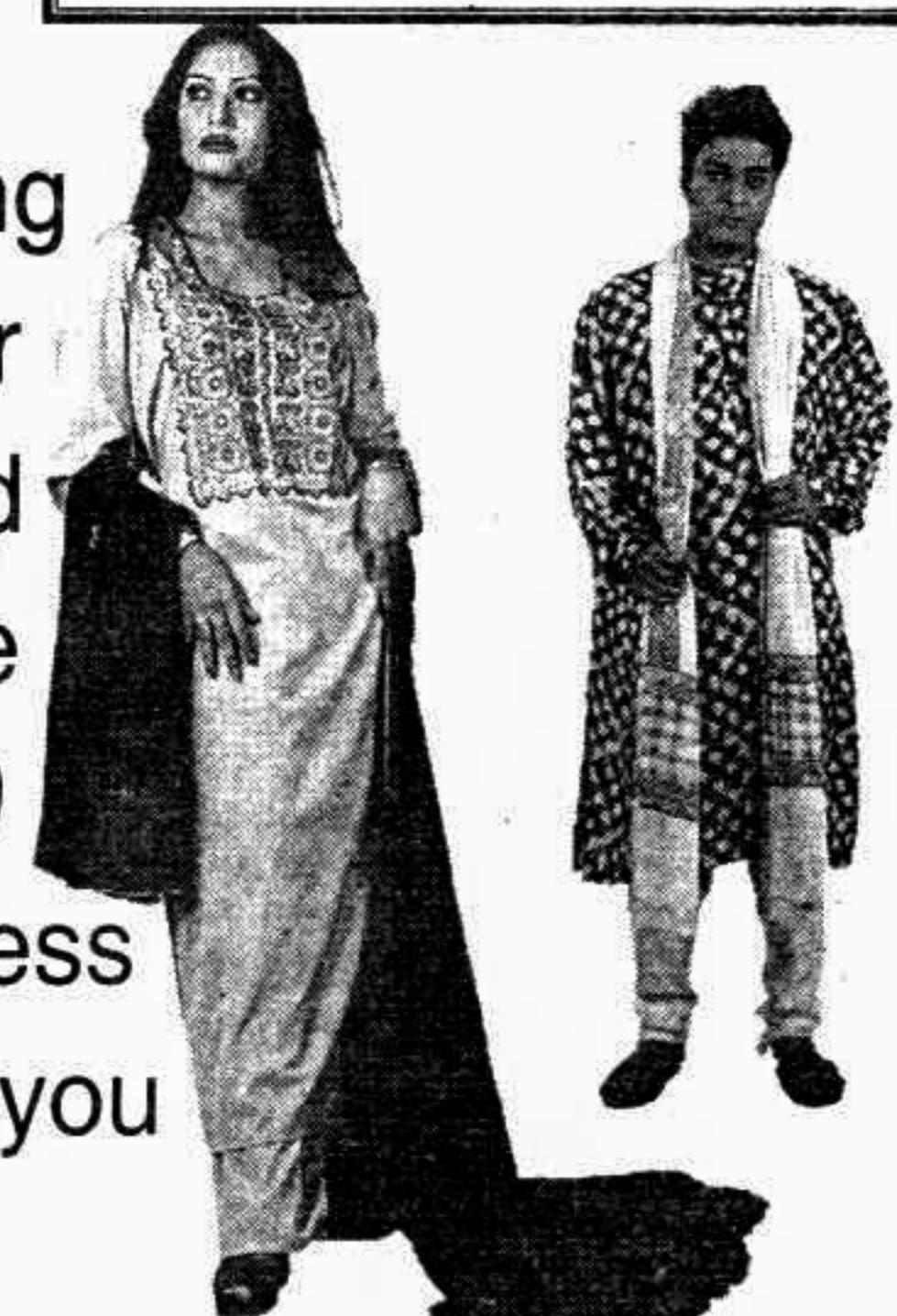
Students' Protesting Sexual Harassment (SPSH), a group of mostly non-political female students of DU, organised the discussion on "The Movement Against Sexual Harassment in Dhaka University and Our Six-Point Demand", held at the Teachers Students Centre of the university.

The SPSH and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presented separate suggestions regarding the proposed code of conduct

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Joint monitoring of Ganges water flow begins

PABNA, Jan 3: Officials of Bangladesh and India started joint monitoring of the Ganges flow at Hardinge Bridge point in Ilishwardi thana today, two days after the commencement of current lean period, reports APB.

The two sides, official sources said, would observe the flow of the Padma at six places near Hardinge Bridge point as stipulated in the 30-year Indo-Bangladesh Ganges Water-sharing Treaty signed in December, 1996.

Sources said on the first day of the joint monitoring, the water flow of Ganges (Padma) at the point was 129,211 cusecs compared to 157,517 cusecs (cubic foot per second) of water during the first 10-day cycle from January 1.

A two-member Indian team led by Deputy Director of Central Indian Water Commission K K Singh and a three-member home team headed by Sub-Divisional Engineer of Hydrology Department Mohammad Anisur Rahman are taking part in the joint monitoring.

Bangladeshi found dead in New Delhi airport

An unidentified Bangladeshi young man apparently flying in the wheel carriage of a British Airways flight was found dead in New Delhi airport, Civil Aviation sources said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

They said the body was found on the runway when the London-bound British Airways flight landed at the Indira Gandhi Airport after leaving Dhaka on Saturday afternoon.

Bangladesh Civil Aviation officials said according to information received in Dhaka, the body fell on the runway soon after the plane opened its wheel carriage during the landing.

"We have asked the British Airways authorities to give us the photograph of the man and details of the incident for identifying the victim," Air Commodore Mohammad Zearat Ali, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority said.

A four-member committee was formed yesterday to investigate the incident.