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The Daily Star

Body to resolve dispute over incentive scheme for dock workers

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: A special committee has been formed to resolve the dispute over implementation of incentive scheme for dock workers at Chittagong port, port sources said.

The committee was formed at the directive of the state minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya today after holding a series of meetings with the leaders of dock workers union and port users, port officials said.

The committee headed by the joint secretary of Shipping Ministry consists of representatives from port users, dock workers unions, stevedores and Chittagong chamber.

The committee was asked to hammer out a negotiated solution to the row over incentive scheme by holding discussion with the leaders of dock workers and port users by January 15.

Meanwhile, the matter was sent to the Law Ministry to review the legal side for gazette notification before implementation of the incentive scheme, sources concerned said.

As a result, the implementation of incentive scheme may be delayed further. It was earlier postponed till January 15 in the face of opposition from port users.

On December 25, an agreement was signed between the government and the leaders of dock workers on introduction of an incentive scheme.

As per the deal, the dock workers will get maximum 25 per cent of their wages as incentive based on their performance.

JCD to submit memo to Home Ministry today

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the main opposition BNP, will submit a memorandum to the Home Ministry today demanding release of their arrested leaders, reports UNB.

Many central and local level leaders of the organisation including its president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu have been arrested on various charges.

JCD will also bring out a protest procession from DU campus, at 10 am today, said a press release.

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Prayer Timings

January 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:19	5:24
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrab	5:32	5:35
Esha	7:00	7:15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Sehri, Iftar timings	Jan	Sehri Iftar
21	10	5:33
22	11	5:19 5:33
23	12	5:20 5:34



Dreams don't die

Shefali had dreams as any of her age has. Husband and a sweet home did not suit her. The baby came but the father took the flight, to far-away Chittagong. But she still finds flowers wonderful, now her only means to survive. Our A K M Mohsin spotted the flower girl - Shefali, the white fragrant autumnal flower in Bangladesh - in front of Sheraton Hotel in the city. She still has dreams, doesn't she?

-Star Photo

Terrorist' Absar sent to Dhaka from Ctg for questioning

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: The alleged international terrorist, arrested here by police yesterday, was sent to Dhaka early this morning under a heavy police escort, police sources said.

Police said Syed Md Nurul Absar, arrested as a member of a secret terrorist organisation named 'Freedom in Bangladesh' would be interrogated jointly by different intelligence agencies in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, relatives of the arrested terrorist claimed that the whole matter was sequel to a feud with his wife who left for London recently. Nurul Absar's mother is scheduled hold a press conference in this connection at the Chittagong Press Club tomorrow afternoon.

SB continues interrogating Aziz Bhai

By Staff Correspondent
Special Branch (SB) of police continued interrogating Aziz Mohammad Bhai for the second day yesterday.

He has been under a four-day police remand since Friday. The interrogation was going on till filing of this report at 11pm last night.

Meanwhile, Detective Branch (DB) of police is likely to take him to court today to seek a two-day remand for his alleged involvement in the killing of film star Sohel Chowdhury.

Aziz Bhai was arrested from the city's Gulshan Ladies Park Wednesday evening.

During interrogation he, however, denied involvement in the killing of Sohel Chowdhury and the allegation of tax evasion, police said.

Aziz Bhai also denied having link with any opposition leader. Besides, he said he did not use his television channel, ATV for spreading propaganda against the government.

He was charged with in-

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DSE slaps high penalty as broker gets caught

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday fined a brokerage firm Tk 20 lakh and handed it a one-month suspension from trading for market manipulation sources said.

The DSE Council penalised SPM Ltd for manipulating the market using Quasem Silk shares on November 3, 1997, sources said. The firm is represented by its managing director M Lutfur Rahman.

The Council, after almost two hours of deliberations, took the decision unanimously.

Market watchers and coun-

cillors saw the DSE move as a deliberate attempt to restore investors' confidence in the market.

It was not easy for the Council to reach the decision as councillors were initially divided on what should be the amount, the sources said.

DSE chairman Md Rakibur Rahman later sought individual opinions from his council colleagues as he was in a hurry.

"I want the issue resolved today," one councillor quoted the chairman as telling the meeting.

Kazi Feroz Rashid suggested a Tk 5 lakh fine with a month's suspension, Ahsanul Islam. Tito supported him.

Two others, Anu Jaigirdar and AKM Shamsuddoha, suggested the fine be Tk 79 lakh with a one-month suspension.

Other councillors recommended Tk 50 lakh and a month suspension from trading, sources said.

Jaigirdar and Shamsuddoha, argued that 'he (broker) made Tk 79 lakh from the deals through manipulation'.

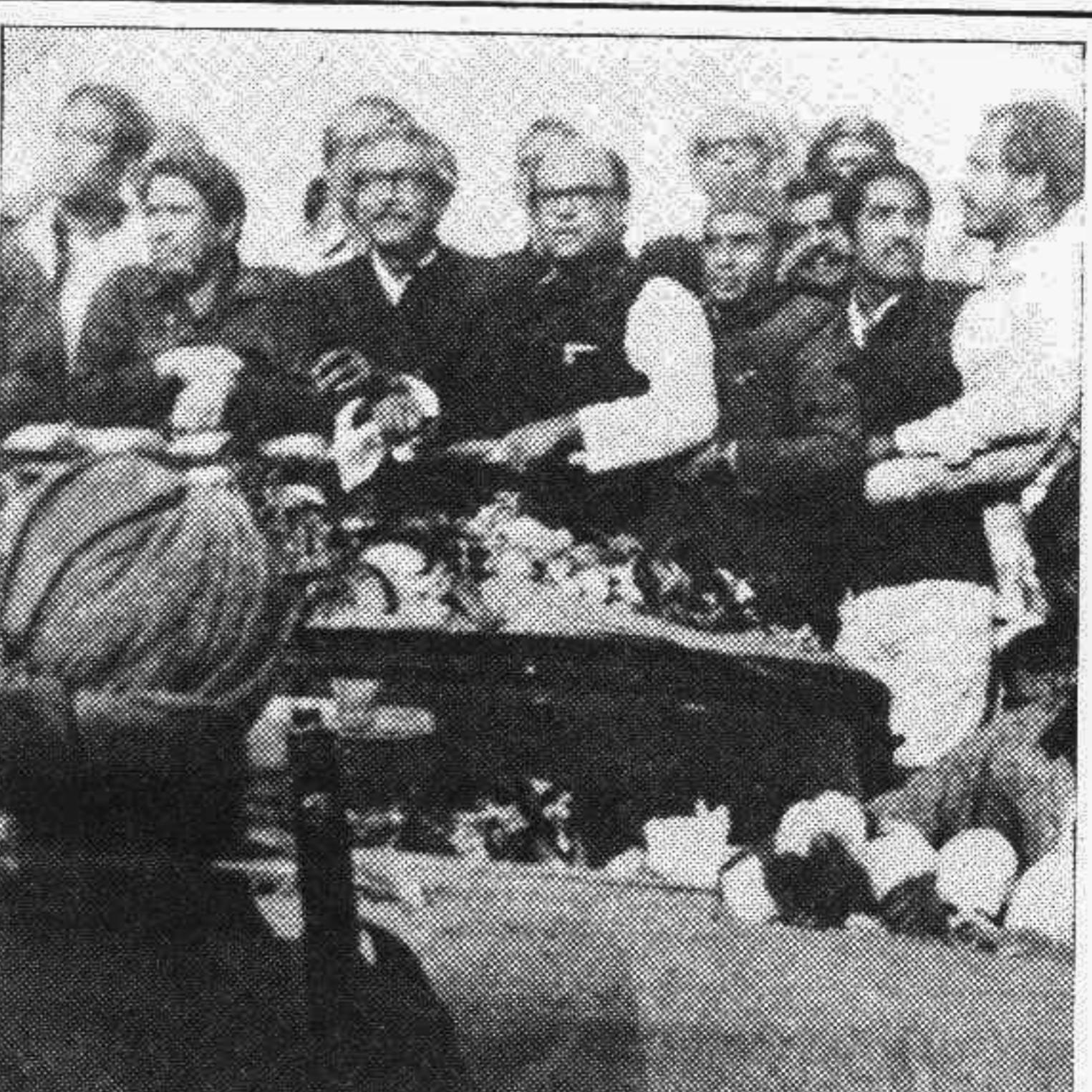
The meeting, however, fi-

nally agreed on Tk 20 lakh as fine with a one-month suspension from trading.

"Such punishments were very much necessary to rebuild the lost image of the bourse and its council. The continuous erosion of investors' confidence caused the depression in the market. And we hope it would rebuild investors' confidence," another council member said.

The investors would come if they feel confident that their investments would not be taken

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Home they greet the great warrior victorious

This day 27 years ago, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman landed in liberated Bangladesh. The photo shows the leader, on arrival at Dhaka airport, is being driven to Suhrawardy Udyan, flanked by old comrades.

—Courtesy: Prof Mostafa Kamal

Reform EC before municipal, city corp polls: BNP

BNP yesterday threatened to resist the forthcoming municipal and mayoral elections if the government failed to create a congenial atmosphere, reports UNB.

Speaking at an *Iftaar* party BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the verdict of the people will not be truly reflected in the polls unless and until the Election Commission is reorganised.

He said the government should accept the demands placed by the opposition political parties. "If you have the courage and sincerity, reform the controversial Election Commission before the polls," Bhuiyan told the government. Otherwise elections will be resisted, he added.

BNP led opposition alliance, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote on Wednesday gave a 30-day ultimatum to accept their 4-point demand including removal of CEC.

He accused the ruling party of plotting to rig the polls. They (ruling party leaders) are dreaming of conducting the polls smoothly without participation of the opposition. We shall not allow them to hold the polls in such a way."

"CEC has lost neutrality. Except and confidence of the people. Except the ruling party, all the parties in Parliament have expressed no confidence in the Chief Election Commissioner," Bhuiyan said.

Sexual abuse at DU Students demand immediate release of probe body report

By DU Correspondent
Students agitating against the alleged sexual harassment of some female students of the Dhaka University by their teachers brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of Aparajeo Bangla yesterday demanding immediate release of the probe body report.

The students under the banner of 'students protesting sexual harassment' (SPSH) condemned the DU authorities for their failure to publish the report in time.

SPSH leaders Banhi, Sul-tana Rahman and Rupa addressed the rally.

UNB adds: The probe body, headed by Prof Shahadat Ali, is expected to publish its report today on the allegation of sexual harassment of some female students.

'Indo-US talks may yield understanding'

JAIPUR, Jan 9: Diplomatic talks to narrow differences between Washington and New Delhi after India's nuclear tests last year are likely to yield an understanding between the two nations, the US ambassador to India said today, reports Reuters.

US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi's special envoy, Jaswant Singh, have held several rounds of talks since India's stunning series of nuclear explosions last May.

My hope and expectation is that it will lead to what Mr Jaswant Singh calls a harmonisation of views ... (and) I hope in my view in the not so distant future," ambassador Richard Celeste told a seminar on Indo-US relations.

Singh, who is also foreign minister, and Talbott are scheduled to hold another round of arms control talks later this month.

The United States imposed economic sanctions on India and Pakistan after the two nations staged nuclear tests in the same month. The sanctions have been partially lifted.

"I would hope that down the line the sanctions are completely lifted," Celeste said.

The sensitive negotiations have been stalled over the de-

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Jubo League leader shot dead in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Jan 9: Unidentified assailants gunned down a local Jubo League leader at Muriadia, Kaliganj, today, reports UNB.

The gunmen fired at Shahidul Islam 28, vice-president of Borobazar Union Jubo League when he was returning home from Borobazar at about 6pm. He died on the spot.

Local Awami League in a statement condemned the killing and demanded arrest of the killers.

8-yr-old girl raped in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Jan 9: A school girl was violated allegedly by a neighbour at Toroa village in Sadar thana while she was returning home from the school this morning, reports UNB.

Police said Baset Ali, 18, son of one Sukur Ali of the village violated his neighbour's 8-year-old girl at about 11 am while she was returning home from Basail Government Primary School after collecting books free of cost.

Hearing the hue and cry of the victim, people rescued her and caught Baset red-handed.

AL's KCC mayor candidate says I will try to root out corruption, terrorism

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Jan 9: Awami League candidate in the mayor election S M A Rob says he is "hundred per cent confident" about his victory.

"By all calculation I am sanguine about winning the upcoming election," he said in an interview with The Daily Star on Wednesday.

Rob left Jatiya Party and joined the ruling party in September last year.

"I do politics for the common man and they love me from the core of their heart because they get me in their need. If elected, I will try heart and soul to fulfil my commitments," Rob said.

Asked about his election commitments he said, "My first duty will be to remove corruption to build the city into a modern one at any cost." Rob said he will remove terrorism from the city and not politicise the KCC administration.

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