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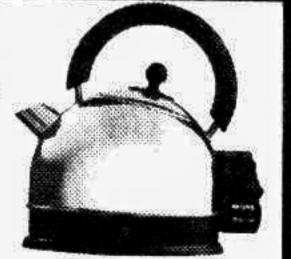
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ENP-led alliance still grapples with mutual mistrust

By Nazmul Ashraf

Mutual mistrust continues to cast a shadow over the BNPled opposition alliance that had agreed on a four-point charter of demand including a revamped Election Commission ahead of the local government ne parties that also include

Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote have given a 30-day ultimatum to the government to accept the demands or face a tough street agitation. The ultimatum expires on February 5.

Key negotiators in the coalition are learnt to have been trying to evolve an "effective mechanism" to sustain their just-forged unity, setting aside the delicate issues that may harm their relations.

To avert any rift or misunderstanding in the coalition, talks are on about the formulation of a "code of conduct" to prohibit speaking against each other and on disputed political matters. The idea of forming a liaison committee with representatives from each of the partners is also on the cards. None of the plans, however, is likely to come into effect before

Such proposals surfaced in the opposition camp as mistrust still marks the relation between long-time foes till recently — BNP and JP — and to some extent between BNP and

Scam cases

From Page 1

Sharif had earlier announced

that he would give his verdict

Securities, ASF Rahman,

Salman F Rahman and DH

Khan of Beximco Pharmaceuti-

cals and ASF Rahman, Salman

F Rahman and AB Siddiqur

Rahman of Shinepukur would

have their bail extended till the

next appearance date on Febru-

the court took up the cases yes-

terday after a four-day recess.

All the accused appeared as

The hearing of the cases be-

gan on January 3 and continued

for four days. The hearing on

Doha Securities and

Shinepukur concluded while

Beximco Pharma remained

universities," he said dispelling

would enable appointment of

one or more than one pro-VC

necessary for dealing with the

the 1973 University Order had

such provision of appointing

more than one, if necessary. It

was amended in 1977 making

University (Amendment) Bill

1998, The Jahangirnagar Uni-

versity (Amendment) Bill 1998,

The Chittagong University

(Amendment) Bill 1998, The Ra-

jshahi University (Amend-

ment) Bill 1998. The Agri-

cultural University (Amend-

ment) Bill 1998, Islamic Uni-

versity (Amendment) Bill 1998.

Shahjalal Science and Techno-

Bill 1998 and Khulna Univer-

discussed overall situation of

the universities, their auton-

omy, development of education

standard and activities of the

University Grants Commis-

ruling and opposition parlia-

mentarians expressed concern

over the university situation,

including that prevailing in

It decided to hold an elabo-

rate discussion on the campus

situation in future in a bid to

devise effective measures for

maintaining strict academic

atmosphere in the highest seats

shortly in presence of relevant

authorities and experts, will

also try to prescribe means for

improving standard of univer-

Cold spell

From Page 1 at Ishurdi. At Chuadanga, tem-

perature fell to 7.2 C, Dinajpur

7.8 C. Rajshahi 8.2 C. My-

mensingh 10.2 C, Dhaka 11 C,

Chittagong 14.2 C, Khulna

11.6C, Barisal 11 C, and at Syl-

Siberian high' reached the

north-western region of the

country yesterday. It may con-

tribute to lowering of the tem-

perature in some areas to five C.

This combined with the north-

eastern monsoon wind is likely

the north Western part of West

Bengal state of India on Sunday

from Madhya Pradesh and Bi-

cold wave would continue for

three or four days. "After that

temperature may rise gradually

before the bite of winter later

this month or early next

month", a senior meteorologist

The Siberian high reached

Met office under its spell, the

to make the weather chilly.

Met Office said the 'ride of a

The meeting, to be held

Dhaka University.

of learning.

sity education.

het 13 C.

added.

Meeting sources said both

sity (Amendment) Bill 1998.

niversity (Amendment)

The Standing meeting also

The Bills are The Dhaka

provision of one pro-VC.

Nahid also informed that

He said passage of the bills

"part heard".

the dissentions.

campus matters.

AKM Shamsuddoha of Doha

on the three together.

Jamaat. Besides, JP chief Ershad's reported remark against woman leadership in politics had also angered the BNP. The alleged government attempts to weaken the opposition unity and yet-to-resolve feuds in the IOJ over its being a partner in the coalition have all the more aggravated the situation, insid-

Their agreement on how the parties would behave with each other has not been formalised either. To date, designated leaders of the quartet are keeping contacts among themselves mainly at the iftar parties.

"But we agreed to continue our unity on the four-point demand and not to do anything detrimental to the unity," explained a top JP leader who ruled out the possibility of formulating any code of conduct for the coalition partners. "Definitely, we had understanding on some pre-conditions for the unity on the four demands."

Yesterday, top negotiators in the four-party coalition had nearly an hour-long discussion at the Leader of the Opposition's Minto Road official residence. A JP negotiator termed the discussion a "very informal" one and said they were supposed to meet again at the same venue tomorrow. However, sources said the meeting could not deliver anything significant as some top notches were absent.

They said the meeting was of the view that none of the coalition partners should do or speak anything that might cause misunderstanding among themselves. It also agreed that the opposition leaders should be careful in making statements to avoid any bitterness and embarrassment.

It also found "government attempts" to break the coalition and stressed the need for guard-

ing against such move.

M Shamsul Islam and Anwar Zahid of BNP, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Kazi Firoz Rashid of JP, Quamaruzzaman and ATM Azharul Islam of Jamaat and Fazlul Haq Amini of IOJ were among those who attended the meeting.

Asked on their talks, M Shamsul Islam said, "We just sat together. Nothing significant came up for discussion."

BNP standing committee member Abdus Salam Talukdar denied having any information on the reported liaison body. "In fact, the liaison committee of the BNP-led six-party alliance is still operative and that committee is keeping contacts with the three JP nominees."

On code of conduct, he said informal talks were on and some individuals might have thought about it. But no formal talks on the idea had yet started. "Such talks may take formal shape if need be."

All executions ordered by military courts in

ISLAMABAD, Jan 11: The Supreme Court today ordered all executions handed down by special military courts in southern Sindh province suspended until a hearing decides whether these courts are

continue.

In a three-page letter to his attorney general, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif argued in favour of the military courts explaining what he called the extraordinary circumstances under which they were estab-

The letter was read out before a seven-member bench of the Supreme Court Monday which in a terse two sentence order demanded the suspension of executions until after a hearing which will begin on February 1.

An ethnic party in southern

Plane crash 4 Indian defence

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: An Avro aircraft carrying four scientists of India's top defense research center crashed in a southern Indian state today. The scientists and all four crew members were killed, reports

United News of India said the wreckage of the aircraft was scattered near a village in Tamil Nadu state and rescuers were looking for possible sur-

Khulna: 15 held

From Page 1 absconding since the murders. Police said they foiled an attempt by supporters of Arkam to snatch the two bodies.

year. But the polls result was League, sources said. Votes were elected.

groups of ruling Awami League's labour front clashed on August 24 at Khalishpur in which Anwar Kamal, Joint Secretary of the thana unit of Chatra League was killed and 15 others were injured.

Akram was one of the 20 people accused in the case filed in connection with the killing. Since then .Akram and some of his supporters were absconding. He came out in public on

mill premises. But he went to the DGM's of-

legal, reports AP.

Two executions have been carried out in the past two weeks. Another four people are on death row awaiting execution by hanging. The executions were temporarily halted on Friday, but it wasn't clear whether the suspension would

Sindh province is challenging

scientists killed

The aircraft was owned by the Defense Research and Development Organization and had taken off from a Naval airbase in Arakonam, 1.725 kilometers south of New Delhi. It crashed within minutes later in Kandigai village 60 kilometers

The body of Siraj was buried at Goalkhali graveyard at noon today while that of Manik was sent to his village home in

Akram had defeated Siraj by 1200 votes in the workers union election held on August 10 last cancelled by election commissioner Alhaj Monir of Sramik recounted on August 19 in which Siraj was declared

After this, the two rival

December 9 after a 'settlement' that Siraj would never enter the

fice yesterday which angered supporters of Akram that led to the clashes and murders.

Sindh suspended the legality of the military courts. They say Sharif's gov-

ernment is using the military courts to hunt down, prosecute and execute its members in an attempt to destroy their party called the Muttaheda Qami Movement.

Politically powerful in Karachi, the capital of Sindh and the largest city of Pakistan, the MQM represents Urdu-speaking Indians who migrated to Pakistan when British rule ended in 1947. Feuding factions of the

MQM have been blamed for the relentless violence that has terrorised southern Karachi and left more than 1,000 people dead in the past one year. "We are facing the renewed

threat of terrorism and sectarian violence," Sharif wrote in his letter. "Waves of blood have been submerging our fair and tranquil land from time to

DU, Syndicate

teacher. At the meeting, DU Syndicate formed an enquiry committee to look into the matter and serve a show cause notice on Prof Shahiduzzaman as to why his services should not be terminated.

Headed by syndicate member Barrister Showkat Ali, the other members of the probe body are Advocate Syed Ahmad, Kazi Afroz Zahan Ara and Prof Mohabbat Ali. A representative of the accused teacher will also be in the body.

Another committee was also formed to suggest recasting of Proctorial Rules of the university. The rules would be reformed based on the report of the committee.

Prof Momin Chowdhury has been made the chairman of the committee. Other members are DU Proctor Dr AKM Noor-un-Nabi, Arts Faculty Dean Kazi Shahidullah, DUTA president Prof Yusuf Haider, Prof M Shahadat Ali and Mahmuda Islam. The proctor will act as the member-secretary.

Meanwhile, left-leaning Ganatantrik Chhatra Okiya yesterday staged a sit-in demonstration in front of VC's office demanding exemplary punishment to those teachers found guilty of sexual harassment of female students.

VGD programme

From Page 1 actually delivered from the LSD and that the quality of grain is good", the study said.

. The beneficiaries were concerned about both the quantity and quality of the grains, it said."If the quality of the grain is not good, then not only will the value of the subsidy be reduced, but it will be less likely that the women and their families will consume the grain. They will either sell the grain or use it for animal feed".

During the February-May period of 1998, the study said, it was observed that many women did not know exactly how much grains they were entitled to and on an average they received be-tween 25 and 26 kg of grains a month instead of 30 Kg.

The IFPRI study, carried out in 10 unions under five thanas of four districts, was aimed at having an idea about the actual situation and suggest possible monitoring mechanism to improve effectiveness of the pro-

gramme The districts are Jamalpur, Nilphamari, Barisal and Madaripur.

2 killed, 150 shanties gutted By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and about 150 shanties gutted in a fire at a slum in the city's Gandaria area in the early hours of Demra police confirmed the

death of two persons but could not identify the victims. Fire Brigade and Civil Defence sources said the fire broke out at the Guntighar slum in

Gandaria at about 1:55. Eight fire fighting units from fire brigade headquarters. Postagola and Saderghat stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours. But they could not ascertain the origin of the fire.

Interrogation of Nurul Absar continues

By Staff Correspondent Intelligence agencies continued interrogating 'international terrorist' Syed Nurul Absar for the third consecutive day yesterday.

Sources said Absar continued denying the allegation brought against him.

Police said, they are conducting a probe as regards the Interpol message which said Absar was a member of an international terrorist group.

Syed Nurul Absar was arrested by SB at Chawkbazar, Chittagong and brought to Dhaka on Saturday for ques-

DB continues interrogating Aziz Bhai

Detective Branch police continued interrogating Aziz Mohammad Bhai yesterday for his alleged involvement in the murder of film actor Sohel Chowdhury, reports APB.

The business tycoon, brought on a two-day remand for the second time since he was arrested on January 6, denied the charges terming those a "conspiracy" against him.

During interrogation yesterday Aziz again denied the charge that he had nexus with clandestine business operations.

Aziz is expected to be produced before the court on Wednesday

Meanwhile, Bunty Islam, uncle-in-law of Aziz Bhai and also an accused in the case, is being undergoing treatment in Dhaka Central Jail hospital. "Bunty will be interrogated later with the court granting a

three-day remand in connec-

tion with Sohel murder case," Assistant Commissioner of the DB Golam Kibria told Associated Press of Bangladesh. Sohel Chowdhury was shot dead in front of club Tramps, owned by the two businessmen. in Banani area of the city on

December 18.

Cold wave claims 3 in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 11: Cold wave claimed three people, including a child, in Sadar and Faridpur thanas today, reports APB. The victims of the cold wave,

now sweeping across the country's northern districts, were two old men - Shamsuddin of Banglabazar and Ziauddin of Radhanagar. A one-year-old baby, Nabin, of Faridpur thana. also died in the cold wave. Ishwardi experienced the

today with mercury dropping to 6.5 degree Celsius, said local and Dhaka Met offices. Weathermen forecast the current coldwave in the region might continue till Thursday.

country's lowest temperature

BNP will eventually take part in local body polls: PM NARSINGDI, Jan 11: Prime Bill to strengthen the local-government bodies.

Presided over by Narsingdi

district AL president Adv

Asaduzzaman, the meeting was

also addressed by LGRD Minis-

ter Zillur Rahman, Telecom-

munications Minister Moha-

mmad Nasim, Science and Te-

chnology Minister Noor Uddin

Khan, Rajiuddin Ahmed Raji

MP and Meher Afroz Chumki

Responding to various local

demands. Hasina said steps

would be taken to set up a 100-

bed hospital in Narsingdi and

ensure better communication

with the capital. She assured

that an academic building wou-

ld be constructed for Narsingdi

Cabinet reviews

post-flood steps

By Staff Correspondent

viewing progress of the gov-

ernment's post-flood rehabili-

tation programmes at its week-

ly meeting yesterday, an offi-

ces, the ministers for Local

Government and Rural Devel-

opment, Education and Water

Resources separately briefed

their colleagues about the

progress of rehabilitation pro-

grammes undertaken by their

Minister for Water Resources

told the meeting that they have

so far received adequate foreign

assistance to implement the

post-flood rehabilitation pro-

are already implementing some

projects under the rehabilita-

tion programmes and will start

implementing the rest very

echoed them. He, however, in-

formed the cabinet that a cer-

tain European donor organisa-

tion was interested in spending

its money through some local

NGOs, not through the govern-

Hasina who chaired the meet-

ing told her colleague that she

was aware of the development.

The PM also said she had al

ready suggested that the donor

agency spend 50 per cent of its

money through the government

and 50 per cent through the

NGOs, said a minister who at-

tended the meeting.

Regular Indo-Pak bus

Prime Minister Sheikh

ment, cabinet sources said.

The Education Minister

The ministers also said they

The LGRD Minister and the

According to cabinet sour-

The cabinet continued re-

Govt College

cial handout said.

respective ministries.

grammes.

Minister Sheikh Hasina today said opposition BNP would eventually participate in the upcoming local body elections whatever their preemptive demands are, reports UNB.

persons burnt alive at Gandaria in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

"Although BNP is threatening to boycott the polls, finally it would have to take part in the municipal, city corporation and upazila elections, they'll do it ", she told a huge public meeting at local stadium in the afternoon. Hasina made it clear that the

local government elections would be held strictly on time and would said that schedules of city corporation and upazila polls be announced shortly. She assured that all neces-

sary steps would be taken to ensure free and fair voting so that people could exercise their franchise freely in the local government elections. "We have fought a long-

drawn struggle for ensuring

people's right to ballot and we

want to see people exercise their Referring to the four-point declaration of the allied opposition, the prime minister questioned its merit and said since

it does not contain anything for people's welfare and interests. "there is no possibility of meeting those demands." She said her government believes in decentralisation of

power and passed the Upazila

Bomb blasts foil BNP's iftar party at N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 11: An iftar party of the opposition BNP was foiled today due to bomb blasts around the venue at the party office in the town. reports UNB

The blasts began just before the iftar. The local BNP leaders

blamed the ruling Awami League for the attack and criticised the role of police, who were reportedly stood in silence at the time.

Later, the BNP leaders and workers had their iftar on the road at Bangabandhu Avenue and brought out a protest pro-

BNP central leader Abdul Matin Chowdhury, who was invited to the iftar party, did not turn up.

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: Indian

officials returning from a trial

Pakistani officials Thursday

from the Pakistani border city

After that, the date for the first

commercial trip would be set.

probably in late January or

delegation, mostly officials

from transport and customs de-

partments, on an uneventful,

heavily guarded 10-hour Indian

trial from New Delhi to Lahore

last Friday. The Indian team

then proceeded to the Pakistani

capital for talks with Prime

Minister Nawaz Sharif and

about the bus service, Cheema

told reporters in the Indian

Sharif was enthusiastic

Cheema led a 30-member

early February, Cheema said.

of Lahore to the Indian capital.

reports AP.

others.

service by early Feb border city of Amritsar Monday before pressing on to New Delhi

run of bus service to Pakistan on the return trip. said today ordinary citizens The bus service is part of atfrom both countries will be tempts to improve relations bemaking the trip by February, tween two neighbours who have fought three wars since the United News of India quoted Asian subcontinent gained its DS Cheema, managing director independence from Britain in of New Delhi's transportation 1947 and tensions between commission, as saying another them remains high. trial run would be conducted by

The division of a former British colony into India and Pakistan divided families who now can visit only by train and plane. Round-trip air tickets of about 6,000 rupees are too ex-

pensive for many, and the train

trip is lengthened by extensive customs and security checks at the border for 800 passengers. Only 36 people will be able to travel by bus, which will mean shorter lines at the border check posts. Buses are also expected to make the trip more often than the trains, which

days and Thursdays. The bus fare has been set at 600 rupees, 200 rupees more than the train.

Meeting on to hammer out a solution

CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: The meeting of the special committee formed to resolve the dispute over incentive scheme for dock workers at Chittagong port, ended today without any head-

ber committee headed by the joint secretary of shipping ministry Abdul Huq, held today at the port rest house twice from 12 am to 4 pm with a break for sometime, meeting sources

The meeting will be held tomorrow at 11-30 am again at the same venue to hammer out a solution to the crisis, they said.

Oil mill godown gutted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: A godown of an oil mill was gutted in a fire at Mazirghat in the city at 3 pm today, police and fire brigade sources said.

over two hours to extinguish the The origin of fire could not

timated at about Tk 60 lakh.

The homeless people are picking through the rubbles after a devastating fire gutted more than 100 houses and left two

From Staff Correspondent

be ascertained till filing of this

Incentive scheme

way, meeting sources said. The meeting of the 22-mem-

Fire fighters struggled for

The loss of property was es-

of the former student activists were once very active in the

makers of BNP found these

chairperson got "confused" by

fresh conflicts in the organisa-As the BNP chief left for Saudi Arabia on January 7 without making the an-

বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড টেলিফোন গ্রাহকের নাম

রয়েছে, মূল ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের পরিবর্তে অন্য ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান वावरात कतरहन, या मम्भूर्ग घरेवथ। এ धतरनत रहेनिरकान ব্যবহারকারীগণকে নিম্নলিখিতভাবে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে নিজের নামে পরিবর্তন করে ব্যবহার করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলঃ-এ সকল টেলিফোন ব্যবহারকারীগণ স্ব-নামে টেলিফোন পরিবর্তনের লক্ষ্যে ৪ (চার) কপি গেজেটেড অফিসার

সত্যায়িত ছবিসহ সংশুষ্ট কর্মাধ্যক্ষ/বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী (যারা নৃতন টেলিফোন সংযোগের অনুমোদনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ) বরাবরে আবেদন করবেন মূল গ্রাহকের নাম পরিবর্তনের অনাপক্তি পত্রসহ মূল সংযোগের ডিমাভ নোট/সিফ্টিং ডিমাভ নোট এবং

তা দাখিল করবেন। ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুক্লে নাম পরিবর্তনের জন্য ৫০০০/-টাকার ডিমাভ নোট পরিশোধের পর

সংশ্লিষ্ট টেলিফোন রাজস্ব কার্যালয় হতে বিল পরিশোধ

সংক্রান্ত দায়মোচনপত্র গ্রহণপূর্বক আবেদনপত্রের সাথে

টেলিফোনের নাম পরিবর্তন কার্যকর হবে। এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তিন মাসের মধ্যে অন্য ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক ব্যবহারকৃত টেলিফোন স্ব-নামে পরিবর্তনের সুযোগ পাবেন। এ সময়ের মধ্যে যে সকল টেলিফোন ব্যবহারকারী নাম পরিবর্তনের এ সুযোগ গ্রহণ করবেন না, তাদের টেলিফোন নম্বর সনাক্ত করে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা

কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান যদি অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামে সংযোজিত ও ব্যবহৃত টেলিফোন তার সন্মতিক্রমে নিজ নামে পরিবর্তন করতে চান, তবে তিনি সে মর্মে একইভাবে আবেদন করে স্ব-নামে টেলিফোন পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন

ডিএফপি-৪২৬-১০/১ জি-৬১

গ্রাহক সেবাই আমাদের লক্ষ্য বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Cordless Kettle Hasina to open Natore Stadium

today

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Jan 11: The newly built Natore Stadium is going to be formally inaugurated tomor-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the Tk 2.5 crore stadium, named after late veteran Awami League leader Sankar Govinda Chowdhury. She would also address a public meeting at the stadium.

According to official sour-ces, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in November '91. had laid the foundation stone of the stadium on a 13.7 acre of land at the eastern part of the town beside Natore-Bogra high-way. Four and a half years later, the construction work The work, however, was

completed within 18 months. The stadium was handed over to the District Sports Association (DSA) on 20 October '97 . It is now going to be formally inaugurated tomorrow.

The Prime Minister is also expected to hand over the barrack-style houses, built under the Asrayan project, to the homeless people of Singra

Youth leaders From Page 1

to the chairperson, in which they proposed themselves as president. Sources said Roy proposed

eral secretary -- Moazzem Hossain Alal, Barkatullah Bhulu MP and Khairul Kabir Khokon. Mirza Abbas did not name anyone for the crucial post. Frustrated by the bickering of the top two, two other Juba Dal leaders Barkatullah Bhulu

three possible names for gen-

naming themselves for the number one position. Alal proposed two names for general secretary - incumbent joint secretary Saju Kamal and

and Moazzem Hossain Alal also

came up with separate lists

The details of the list from Bulu could not be known. Yet another list came from Khokon who proposed a number of former JCD leaders to man the new committee. "Many

anti-Ershad movement but are now maintaining low profile." a source close to Khokon said. Sources said most policy-

former JCD leaders For obvious reasons, the

so many proposals. In this backdrop, advisers told Khaleda Zia not to announce a new Juba Dal committee before the forthcoming city corporation elections, fearing

nouncement, she may have responded to this suggestion.

