

The Daily Star



VOL. VIII NO. 350 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

MAGH 1 1405 BS DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 1999 RAMADAN 25, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS: PRICE TAKA 9.00



Workers set ablaze Chand Textile Mill

Agitated employees set ablaze a textile mill and a printing press in the city's Shyamampur area yesterday after the management refused to give them salary and Eid bonus, reports BSS.

They said workers of the Chand Textile Mills and Mohamadia and Printing House, a sister concern of Chand Textile Mills, set the factories on fire at 4-20 pm after being told that they would not get their salaries and Eid bonus.

Fire brigade sources said the angry employees attacked the fire brigade vans when they tried to reach the spot. The workers pelted stones at them and damaged the vans. Later, the fire-fighters reached the spot under heavy police escort and extinguished the blaze.

Police said the fire engulfed the entire area and gutted the semi-pucca staff quarters, two union offices, and the generator room of the printing press, a cotton godown, security office room and the security barrack.

Fire brigade officials could not assess the loss in the fire immediately.

Additional police force was deployed in the area.

A case was registered with Shyamampur police station in this connection.

Deadly lead in city air disabling children



Unbearable

These days, many people wear masks to protect themselves from polluted air in the city. The method is ostensibly applied to filter the air they are forced to breathe. It surely does not serve the purpose. But what else can they do given the enormity of the crisis caused by the auto-rickshaws and other vehicles?

— Star photos by Sk Enamul Haq

8 times the WHO limit found in blood samples

By Special Correspondent

Blood samples of patients reporting for unusual behaviour at Dhaka Shishu Hospital show presence of lead at least eight times the limit recommended by World Health Organisation (WHO), a doctor said.

It could be just the tip of an iceberg as many more children untested may be at risk, the doctor said. "The tests done at Dhaka University and Bangla-desh Atomic Energy Commission showed presence of 93 to over 200 micrograms of lead in the samples," Dr Naila Khan, a child Neurologist, told reporters yesterday.

WHO says that presence of more than 25 micrograms of lead per decilitre of blood is unsafe. If lead goes above 10 micrograms, says the American Centre for Disease Control, it can be dangerous for humans, facing long term problems like disability.

"Initial tests showed 'lead lines' on their bones which prompted us to send the samples to the only laboratory facilities available in the country," she said.

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Owners of ATV sued

The government yesterday sued owners of ATV, now shut down, for 'smuggling videotapes and evading tax,' reports UNB.

In a case filed with Motijheel Thana, information ministry sought legal actions against the owners Shoaib Ahmad Chowdhury and Aziz Mohammad Bhai under Section 25 (Kha) (1) of the Special Powers Act, 1974.

Towhida Bulbul, a senior assistant secretary of the ministry, in the FIR alleged that the two accused, along with their associates were involved in smuggling videotapes of different films and programmes.

The tapes were shown on ATV and country's ordinary satellite television viewers are witness to all this," she said, adding their act is in violation of Section 25 (Kha) (1) of the SPA.

Following the prayer, Motijheel police registered a case against Shoaib Ahmad Chowdhury and Aziz Mohammad Bhai (case no 86, dated 13/1/99) under the Special Powers Act.

Aziz Bhai is now on remand on other charges while Shoaib Chowdhury is absconding.

Bunty remanded, Aziz Bhai for two more days

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch of Police yesterday took owner of Club Tramps Bunty Islam on a three-day remand.

He was arrested in connection with the killing of film actor Sohel Chowdhury.

Besides, businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhai was again placed on a two-day DB remand in the same case yesterday.

Earlier, he was on remand for four days in two phases.

Sohel was gunned down by a still unidentified gang in front of Club Tramps at Banani in the city in the early hours of December 18.

Bunty was arrested by DB from a clinic in the city's Gulshan area on January 3 and Aziz was arrested by SB from Gulshan Ladies Park on January 6.

Meanwhile, Tauhida Bulbul, a joint secretary of information ministry, filed a case with Motijheel Thana yesterday accusing Aziz Mohammad Bhai and Shoaib Ahmad Chowdhury, both owners of the Thailand-based private satellite channel — ATV.

In the FIR the joint secretary accused Aziz and Shoaib of

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Junayed's body brought to Dhaka

The body of Junayed, who sneaked into the wheel carriage of a British Airways aircraft and was found dead in New Delhi airport on January 2, was brought to the capital yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Police sources said a British Airways aircraft brought the body of the ill-fated young man from Delhi Airport and handed it over to his relatives. Later, the body was taken to cantonment police station from where it was sent to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Polls in 143 municipal bodies Feb 23-25

By Nurul Kabir

The Election Commission has finally decided to hold election of 143 municipal bodies out of the 182 in the country on February 23, 24 and 25, EC sources said.

The EC will announce the polls schedules this afternoon but is unlikely to mention election of which Paurashabha (municipalities) will be held on what date.

The specific dates will be decided soon, following suggestions from the Deputy Commissioners in this regard, sources close to the Chief Election Commissioner said yesterday.

DCs will coordinate the elections in their respective districts.

Fixation of the specific dates will mainly depend on the availability of law enforcing agencies personnel on a particular date, the sources added.

However, according to the planned schedules, the last date

will be February 25.

However, polls will not be held in 39 municipalities as

tenure of some of the local bodies are yet to be over and litigations in case of some others pending with different courts.

Additional District Magistrates (ADMs) will be Returning Officers in their respective districts and district level Election Officers will be the Assistant Returning Officers in the polls.

At thana level, Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNOs) will be Assistant Returning Officers, EC sources said.

for submission of nomination papers by candidates is January 26. The nomination papers will be scrutinised on January 27 and the last date for withdrawal of those is February 3.

However, polls will not be held in 39 municipalities as tenure of some of the local bodies are yet to be over and litigations in case of some others pending with different courts.

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BNP denies report

BNP has protested part of a report published in The Daily Star yesterday under the headline 'B Chy declines to liaise with JP'.

A statement, signed by BNP's assistant office secretary Emran Saleh Prince last night, denied that the party had constituted its liaison committee to maintain contacts with other opposition parties and that Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury has been made head of the new committee. It also termed as baseless that Prof Choudhury had declined to carry out the assignment.

"In fact, no fresh liaison committee (of the party) has been formed. The liaison committee which used to work earlier is still in operation," said the statement.

Our reply: The BNP statement by Emran Saleh Prince does not contradict the Star report except B Choudhury's position. We stand by our report.

Meghnaghat Power Plant Ministry to choose 'best bidder' for land dev soon

By Sharier Khan

The energy ministry is likely take a decision as regards selection of the "best bidder" for land development for the Meghnaghat Power Plant in a couple of days, sources said.

The ministry's decision will be sent to the Cabinet Purchase Committee for clearance. If cleared, the Power Development Board (PDB) will go on with the Meghnaghat power project.

Work on the project has already been delayed by more than a year.

The ministry had to intervene in the affairs of PDB as

some bidders for the land development project raised objections about PDB's handling of the bidding, specially in determining who is the lowest bidder.

In August last, PDB invited tenders for the design, land reclamation and embankment protection work at a 100-hectare site on the bank of Meghna river.

The bid was participated by four companies. The companies are China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engi-

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CMP to set up 61 more check posts to curb crimes

CHITTAGONG, Jan 13: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) will set up additional 61 emergency check posts to curb crimes in six thanas of the district, reports UNB.

A high-level meeting of CMP here today decided to set up 21 check posts in sadar thana and six each in Paharali, Bandar and Panchalaish, 15 in Chandgaon and seven in Double Mooring thanas.

Officials said there will be one inspector and 4-8 constables in each check post.

Besides, six teams of DB police will be involved in checking crimes round the clock.

A total of 128 additional police officers and 256 additional constables have been deployed for the purpose since January 10.

Khaleda performs Omrah

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia, now on a visit to Saudi Arabia, has performed Omrah, reports UNB.

She performed Omrah on return from Medina to Makka on January 10, a party release said in Dhaka yesterday.

The BNP chief also offered special prayers to Almighty Allah for welfare of Bangladesh and its people.

Begum Zia, who left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia on January 7, has been staying at the Royal Guest House in Makka.

No decision yet on new school timing

By Gobinda Bar

As the education department is considering a major change in timing of government high schools in the city, teachers are locked in a debate over what should be the ideal system for better education.

A proposal for introducing morning and afternoon shifts both at primary and secondary levels in all the 24 government high schools in the city is at the core of debate now.

According to the proposal, morning shift classes of both primary and secondary level students will be held from 7 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and the afternoon shift will be from 12 noon to 5 pm.

Now, classes of primary level students are held from 7 to 11 am and those of secondary level from 11 am to 5 pm.

Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Prof Nayar Sultan, when contacted, said that the proposal was under consideration.

"A decision will be taken regarding this after discussions with the ministry, guardians and others concerned," she said denying press reports that the authorities have already taken decision to introduce the new system.

At a recent meeting, headmasters of government high schools in the city had detail discussion on the proposal with the DG.

At present, 20 government high schools in the city run double shifts and four schools run single shift.

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Impeachment trial Prosecutors to open arguments today

WASHINGTON, Jan 13: The House impeachment team readied opening arguments for President Bill Clinton's historic Senate trial, while White House spokesman Joe Lockhart ridiculed their written filings as "overblown rhetoric" alleging sinister plots, reports AP.

"I'll leave the incentive to Mr Lockhart, retorted Rep. Henry Hyde, the point man in the case against the president.

With the trial to resume at 1 pm EST (1800 GMT) tomorrow, Lockhart also told reporters Clinton intends to stay busy on other matters while the proceedings unfold in the Senate.

The president will deliver his State of the Union speech before a joint session of Congress on Jan 19, for example, and travel to Buffalo, New York, and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, outside Philadelphia, the following day to tout his domestic agenda.

According to a tentative schedule released Tuesday in the Senate, Clinton's attorneys would be presenting his defense both days.

Clinton stands accused of perjury and obstruction of justice in the two articles of impeachment that cleared the House last year. His Senate trial is only the second such presidential proceeding in American history, 131 years after Andrew Johnson was acquitted in 1868.

In a measure of concern for decorum, senators are being asked to observe unusual guidelines for the trial, including a request for all 100 to be in attendance "at all times," and to restrict their reading materials to papers pertaining to the trial.

There had been some confusion over what to call Chief Justice William Rehnquist. It was decided "in accordance with precedent" he would be addressed as Mr Chief Justice.

House officials have until noon today to turn over the written record in Clinton's impeachment case. Democratic sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they would carefully scrutinize the submission to make sure it did not include material that is irrelevant to the two articles of impeachment passed by the House.

Presidential allies are prepared to object if they believe the House has included material that was not part of the two articles, these sources said.

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Opinion poll

UNDATED: Some results from opinion polls released Tuesday on President Bill Clinton, Congress and the Senate impeachment trial.

What do you want your senators to do — vote in favour of convicting President Clinton and removing him from office or vote against convicting Clinton so he will remain in office?

Vote for removal — 32 per cent; vote against removal — 63 per cent (CNN/USA Today/Gallup). Vote for removal — 33 per cent; vote against removal — 65 per cent (ABC News). The number opposed to a vote for removal was 68 per cent in the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll in late December.

Do you think the Senate should or should not censure or officially reprimand Clinton for his actions in the Monica Lewinsky matter?

Censure — 57 per cent; no censure — 38 per cent (ABC News). Censure — 56 per cent; no censure — 39 per cent (CNN/USA Today/Gallup). About the same percentage has been in favour of censure for the last five months.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

Approve — 62 per cent; disapprove — 36 per cent (ABC News). Approve — 67 per cent; disapprove — 30 per cent (CNN/USA Today/Gallup). Clinton's approval ran as high as 73 per cent in some polls last month.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in the Senate are handling the impeachment proceedings against Bill Clinton?

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Inside Today

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Will the Currency King Lose its Crown?

by A M M Shahabuddin Page 4

Alternatives

Down with the garbage, Garbage; Enhancing the recycling paradigm; and Compost plants: Ecocentric approach towards waste management. Page 6 & 7

Prayer Timings

January 14		
Fajr	Azhan	Jamaat
5-20	5-26	
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-35	5-38
Esha	7-00	7-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
25	14	—	5-35
26	15	5-20	5-36
27	16	5-20	5-37

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৯
রঙানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো
১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
ঢাকা-১০০০

নোটিশ

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, যথাসময়ে ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৯-এর শুভ উদ্বোধন নিশ্চিতকরে এ মেলায় প্যাভিলিয়ন, মিনি-প্যাভিলিয়ন ও ষ্টল বরাদ্দপ্রাপ্ত সকল সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের যাবতীয় নির্মাণ ও সজ্জিতকরণের কাজ সর্বশেষ আগামী ৩০শে জানুয়ারি, ১৯৯৯ তারিখের মধ্যে সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখের পর মেলা প্রাঙ্গণে কোন অবস্থাতেই নির্মাণ ও শোভাযানের সামগ্রী এবং শ্রমিকদের প্রবেশাধিকার দেয়া যাবে না। উক্ত তারিখের মধ্যে যে সকল সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্মাণ ও সজ্জিতকরণের কাজ সম্পাদনে ব্যর্থ হবে উক্ত সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে বরাদ্দপত্র বাতিল এবং জমাকৃত অর্থ বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে। পরবর্তীতে অনুষ্ঠিত মেলায় অংশগ্রহণের বিষয় বিবেচনার ক্ষেত্রে উক্ত সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কালো তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা (ডিআইটিএফ) '৯৯-এর সর্বদীর্ঘ সাফল্যের ক্ষেত্রে সকলের সহযোগিতা কামনা করা যাচ্ছে।

শেখ মোহাম্মদ ওয়াহিদুজ্জামান

পরিচালক

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৯

Tk 1 cr radio-therapy simulator lying idle at DMCH

By Naimul Haq

The radio-therapy simulator at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) is lying unused for more than a year.

The Tk one crore device (model MD-5001), imported from China, enables doctors to determine precise position of a tumour before treating a cancer patient with radioactive doses of Gamma ray. It is lying unused since December 1997.

"It was never used since the local agent formally handed the machine over to the authorities here," said a technician at the radiology department yesterday.

"The timer, pivot shaft and other digital system are not working since installation. As a result, the device could not be put into operation."

The device allows a technician to pinpoint the radioactive ray on the 'tumour site' so that

other tissue cells are not exposed to the ray used to destroy the malignant (cancerous) cells.

In the absence of the device, a lot of inaccuracies regarding measurement of the specific position of a tumour take place. This leads to 'death' of normal tissue cells during exposure to radioactive doses. Apparently the patient receives 'unwanted doses', a doctor said.

At the moment, the position of a tumour is determined by anatomical assessment or 'eye estimate' after taking image of the tumour site using X-ray.

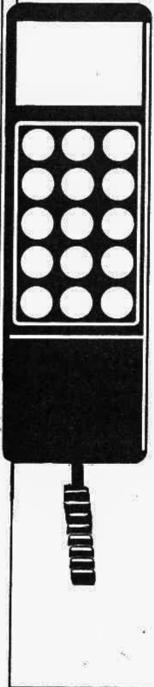
"This method is not reliable as regards accuracy," said one of the technicians working at DMCH for over 20 years. "But

radio therapy simulation is a modern technology. It leads to accuracy and there is hardly any scope for loss of tissue due to unwanted exposure."

During a visit to the spot Tuesday, the simulator was seen covered with plastic sheets in a locked room. The 'control equipment' were also seen covered.

About 40 cancer patients seek treatment at the hospital everyday. However, all the patients are not new. Some of them come for follow-up treatment. They undergo X-ray exposure for specific period of time until the tumour is completely destroyed.

When contacted, the doctors at the department concerned refused to make any comment. Asked about this, Director of DMCH Brigadier Badrul Munir said, "I am aware of the problem. I had asked the officials concerned to provide me with specific information about the problem, but they are yet to respond."



New Auto Hunting Telephone Numbers of Cairn Energy PLC, Dhaka.

Cairn Energy PLC would like to announce the installation of a new Auto Hunting System in our Dhaka office for easier telephone access. This hunting system will be activated from Thursday, 14 January 1999. The pilot numbers for the hunt groups are :

9882991 & 882828

In addition to the above, we also have the following numbers in our PABX :

889845, 882592, 600670
601986 & 600680