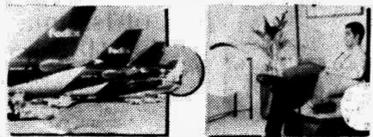


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People know well about the past of BNP, JP & Jamaat: PM

JAMALPUR, Jan 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the opposition parties are threatening to boycott elections sensing that they would not get any chance of rigging, reports UNB.
"It seems they want to boycott polls because they'll not be able to steal votes in the coming elections," she said addressing a public meeting at the Zilla School ground here in the afternoon.
She added: "If they (opposition) don't take part in the elections, then the people will understand that they would not have boycotted the polls if there was any scope for rigging... they'll have to take part in the elections."
Referring to the 'entente' of BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, the prime minister said: "Character of these parties is very much known to the people."
She said Jatiya Party was ousted from power through mass movement for stealing people's vote and the BNP was also forced to resign from the power for rigging the polls on February 15, 1996.
"They don't know anything else but vote stealing, corruption and terrorism," she said adding that the vote thieves have joined hands with Ra-



Feeling shy
Bunty Islam, an accused in the Sohel murder case, tries to hide himself from lensemen as he is escorted to the Detective Branch headquarters in the city for questioning yesterday.

US jets attack Iraqi missile site again

WASHINGTON, Jan 13: US warplanes patrolling the 'no-fly' zone over northern Iraq attacked surface-to-air missile installations today after being targeted by Iraqi radar, US officials said reports AP.
Initial reports said at least one Iraqi missile was fired but missed the US planes.
The incident underscored an increasingly aggressive Iraqi challenge to the 'no-fly' zones enforced by US and British planes in northern and southern Iraq. President Saddam Hussein has nearly doubled the number of surface-to-air missile batteries in the restricted flight zones and has been using them with increasing frequency to threaten allied pilots, US officials said.
Details of today's incident were sketchy but officials in Washington and at US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, said the US planes apparently scored direct hits on at least two Iraqi surface-to-air missile batteries. They fired anti-radiation missiles and precision-guided bombs.
Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of five Arab countries began talks today to try to forge a unified strategy on Iraq and its crisis with the West, Arab diplomats said.
Ministers from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen met with their Egyptian counterpart, Amr Moussa, at secret location in Cairo, said the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity.
The meeting, the second in less than two weeks, came as Iraq proposed a dialogue with fellow Arabs on ways to find a solution.
The session is apparently intended to agree on a position to be taken at a meeting of foreign ministers from the 22 members of the Arab League scheduled Jan 24 in Cairo.
The diplomats said today's talks would focus on a Saudi proposal urging lifting of US trade sanctions on Iraq along with strict measures to limit Iraq's ability to rearm itself and threaten its neighbours.
The proposal, leaked to two Saudi-owned newspapers this week, is apparently designed to respond to rising sympathy among Arabs over the plight of 22 million Iraqis while still blocking Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from using oil revenues to rearm.

Hasina invited to visit Language Martyrs Memorial in Calcutta

Prominent intellectuals of West Bengal in a joint letter have invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to visit the Bengal Language Martyrs Memorial during her upcoming tour of Calcutta on January 27-28, reports UNB.
The intellectuals under the banner of 'Language Martyrs Memorial Society' said: "We are happy to know that you are coming to Calcutta at the end of January. We hope that you will pay homage to the martyrs by visiting the memorial site during the period."
The Bengal Language Martyrs Memorial was unveiled at the Surendra Nath (Curzon) Park on May 26 last year during the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.
Elderly litterateur Annada Shankar Roy inaugurated the memorial, dedicated to the memories of the martyrs of Bengali and Chhichar, who laid their lives for up holding the dignity of Bengali language. One of the architects of Bengali Language Movement Adv Gazul Haque was present at the inaugural ceremony as chief guest.
Artist Badhan Das designed the horizontal memorial made of white and black granite stones.
Writer Annada Shankar Roy, Arun Mitra, Subhas Mukhopadhyay, Mrinal Sen, Nibedita Nag, Kumar Roy, Soumitra Chatterjee, Bibhas Chacrabarty, Azizul Haque, Joy Goswami, and Sunil Gopangadhyay, among others, signed the invitation letter, said a press release received in the city yesterday.

Mamata Banerjee's party now willing to join Vajpayee govt

From Pallab Bhattacharya
allocate portfolios. But Ms Banerjee did make it clear that her party would join the ministry only if "important" portfolios from the point of view of West Bengal were given to its representatives.
The last time a politician from West Bengal had held Railway portfolio was Ataur Barkat Abdul Ghani Khan Choudhury in the Indira Gandhi cabinet. Khan Choudhury was credited with having set up some rail projects and introduced new trains in West Bengal.
Trinamool Congress is also reportedly keen on getting charge of Coal and Steel ministries, the sources said. The names of Trinamool Congress leaders Ajit Kumar Panja and Sudip Bandopadhyay are doing rounds in Delhi's political circles as probable to get ministerial berths in the proposed expansion of Vajpayee cabinet on January 15.
The Trinamool Congress has chosen to remain out of government ever since the Vajpayee government was installed more than nine months ago even though the party has been a constituent of the BJP-led alliance right since its birth last year.
Political analysts say Mamata Banerjee had preferred to be out of the ministry mainly to assess the stability of the BJP-led coalitions and to avoid sharing the onus in the event of possible "failure" of Vajpayee government to deliver the goods.
Although Vajpayee and a section of Trinamool Congress have always wanted the party to join the ministry, Ms Banerjee has studiously declined to do so. But compulsions of "realpolitik" and criticism of Trinamool Congress' political rivals about its "inability" to secure a special package for economic development of West Bengal, as promised by Mamata Banerjee, from a friendly government at the Centre have prompted a change of stand on the issue of joining the Vajpayee ministry, the sources said.
"Ms Banerjee seems to have realised that it is only by being in the ministry that you can serve the people of West Bengal better," a Trinamool leader said.

New school timing

From Page 1
When contacted teachers supporting the proposed system argued that this would help develop the skills of the teachers who take classes at primary level now. Those who take classes at primary level always are being deprived of the opportunity to develop their skill by taking classes at secondary level. They are getting frustrated day by day, they said.
But those opposing the system argued that it would only help teachers to carry on with their private coaching and they will have to work only for five hours a day. "The system will help teachers get more time for private coaching," a headmaster said.
"Some self-seeking influential teachers have managed the Directorate officials and most of the headmasters to argue in favour of the proposed system so that they can carry on with their business," the headmaster told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

Arsenic in WASA water Hardly any chance of contamination: Expert

There is hardly any chance of groundwater-based Dhaka water supply being contaminated with arsenic, a water expert said here yesterday, reports UNB.
Speaking at a press conference, Dr M Ferose Ahmed, a professor of civil engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, said the soil of Dhaka will not release arsenic in water, rather it will adsorb arsenic.
He said it is believed that arsenic is present in adsorbed form of iron-coated soil.
"The conditions do not exist in Dhaka soil. The soil in the capital is already oxidised as indicated by reddish colour produced by oxidised iron on soil grains. The soil will not release arsenic to water, rather adsorb arsenic, if present in water," Dr Ahmed said.
He said that arsenic is likely to be removed by adsorption on naturally occurring iron-coated coarse grained reddish sand before reaching tubewells.
The BUET professor affirmed that "the groundwater-based Dhaka water supply is not likely to be contaminated with arsenic."
The press conference on arsenic was organised by WASA at its head office in the afternoon. It refuted the recent press report that waters of six deep tubewells of WASA in Dhaka city have arsenic above permissible level.
Managing Director of Dhaka WASA Dr Khandokar Azharul Huq said water samples of those six deep tubewells were tested by Atomic Energy Commission, NPCDD, BUET, BCSR and ICDDR,B with recognised method of arsenic determination.
"All the results of the experiments have shown the water of the six deep tubewells is completely free from arsenic contamination and safe for drinking comparing to the tolerable level of arsenic set by World Health Organisation," he said.

Nurul Absar to be produced in court today

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Jan 13: The alleged international terrorist Syed Nurul Absar, who was taken to Dhaka for joint interrogation, was brought back here today, police said.
Absar is now at detective branch office of CMP.
Police sources said that no information validating the allegations of Interpol could be elicited from him.
He will be produced before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate tomorrow, the sources added.
Absar was arrested by DB police on the basis of a fax message from Interpol that branded him as an international arms smuggler and a member of a secret organisation.

50 illegal bars, guest houses in city

More than 50 illegal bars and guest houses are allegedly operating in the capital, reports UNB.
There are only 19 licensed bars across the capital, 90 per cent of which are in old and central parts of the city.
The authorities have not issued any licence in the last six years, it was learnt.
According to Narcotics Control Department and police sources, most of the illegal bars and guesthouses are operating in the city's posh areas like Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Uttara.
Among these bars and guesthouse, at least 15 have dance floors where fighting among the youngsters is a common feature. Some of the guesthouses can be rented for organising independent disco party.
Sources said the Narcotics Department got specific allegations against some bars and guest houses in the city's posh areas last October, but didn't take any action.
The 19 licensed bars in the capital are: Hotel Sonargaon, Sheraton Hotel, Purani, Zakaria Park, Chale Restaurant and Bar, Ruchita Restaurant and Bar, Sakura, Golden Dragon, Platinum Peacock, Pinnace, Red Button, Pipasha Nightingale, Purbasha, Balaka, Salmir, Diplomat, Galaxy and Hotel Eram.

Deadly lead in city air

From Page 1
Her presentation came at a news conference at the Jatiya Press Club, arranged by Porosh or Faribeh Rakikha Shopoth (Centre for Protection of Bangladesh Environment), Centre for Advanced Studies, BELA, Study and Research Group and Dhaka Shishu Hospital.
Porosh president A.M.A. Muhith conducted the news presentation. Dr Amir Khan of DU Chemistry department, who tested the samples sent by Nalla Khan, elaborated on her findings. Prof Feraj Ahmed of BUET and Afzal Sharif also participated in discussions.
He also strongly recommended that use of leaded petrol should be immediately prohibited along with the auto-rickshaws, whose two-stroke engines are mainly responsible for lead pollution in air.
The doctor undertook the study to find out why children had been behaving unusually at a certain age when they should have been normally walking or talking.
"We at the Shishu Bikash Kendra (child growth centre) have been watching patients suffering from serious nervous disorders, epilepsy and other problems, of no apparent reasons," Nalla Khan said.
"When the results came, it did not surprise us because it confirmed our suspicion that their mental growth had been curtailed by heavy air pollution," she said.
The centre at Dhaka Shishu Hospital mostly deals with patients from poor sections. On investigation, it was found that they lived in certain Dhaka city areas where traffic congestion

Young man gunned down in Jhenaidah

From Our Correspondent
JHENAIADAH, Jan 13: Unidentified assailants shot and killed a young man at village Subadi under Kotchandpur thana on Tuesday night.
The victim identified Kheder Ali, 25, owner of a grocery shop, was killed by an unknown gunman opened fire on him through the window of his house at about 8:30 pm.
Police could not know the motive behind the murder but suspected that the victim might have connection with an outlawed party. A case has been lodged with local police.

Meghnaghat plant

From Page 1
the BPDB and the bidders, as the bidders may also want to clarify their positions.
This is for going for tender procedure for selection of a land developer for the Meghnaghat Power Plant, the country's biggest power scheme, which involves investment from the private sector and the Asian Development Bank. The PDB is providing the land for the plant and it will own 10 per cent of the project.
The first bid was cancelled as the authorities found it "non-responsive".
The PDB is also negotiating with AES for the Meghnaghat Power Plant.

Opinion poll

From Page 1
Approve- 36 per cent; disapprove- 54 per cent (CNN/USA Today/Gallup). In early September, 43 per cent approved of the way Republicans in Congress were handling the investigation of Clinton while 48 per cent disapproved.
After each side presents its case in the trial, do you think the Senate should then call witnesses to testify or should the Senate complete the trial without calling witnesses to testify?
Call witnesses — 41 per cent; should not call witnesses — 55 per cent (ABC News).
The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll of 1,014 adults has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The ABC News poll of 923 adults has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Both polls were taken Friday through Sunday. If numbers don't equal 100 per cent, the remainder offered no opinion. — Source AP.
Under a tentative calendar, that takes up the time through Saturday, Jan 23.
At that point, the White House or a Senate Democratic ally is expected to seek dismissal of the charges, and the House is expected to counter with a request for witnesses, with no firm expectation of how long that takes.
Few, if any, senators are predicting that Clinton will be stripped of the presidency — a step that requires a two-thirds vote.

Impeachment

From Page 1
Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee will present the case for Clinton's removal from office. Pending last minute changes, Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois will make brief opening comments, followed by Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, who will speak for about an hour.
Other Republicans, including Reps. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, James Rogan of California and Ed Bryant of Tennessee, will detail the evidence, after which Rep. Bill McCollum of Florida is expected to deliver a summation.
Reps. Bob Barr of Georgia, Chris Cannon of Utah, George Gekas of Pennsylvania, and Steve Chabot of Ohio will discuss the laws governing perjury and obstruction of justice.
Reps. Charles Canady of Florida, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Steven Buyer of Indiana will address the issues of impeachable offenses, and either Hyde or Rogan, a former prosecutor, will make closing arguments.
The Senate schedule sets aside 24 hours for the House to make its case — three eight-hour days, for example — to be followed by 24 hours for the White House to present its defense. Afterward, the Senate will have 16 hours to pose questions to the two sides.
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জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি
ঢাকা শহরের পরীবাগে শেরাটন হোটেল অবিহিত সোনালী ব্যাংকের শেরাটন শাখার কাজের সুবিধার্থে শেরাটন হোটেলের সামনে পরিবাগ সুপার মার্কেটে সাবেক পরিবাগ শাখাটিতে আজ ১৪ই জানুয়ারী '৯৯ থেকে একটি বুথ চালু করা হচ্ছে। এই বুথটির মাধ্যমে শুধুমাত্র বিদ্যুৎ, গ্যাস, ওয়াসা, টেলিফোন বিল, ডিপিএস ও এসডিপিএস ইত্যাদি জমা গ্রহণ করা হবে। বুথটি শেরাটন শাখার নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন থাকবে।
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সোনালী ব্যাংক
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