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Clinton's impeachment trial resumes Judge asks Lewinsky to submit to interview with Starr

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial resumed today with attention divided between senators' questions and a new legal battle touched off by prosecutors' efforts to force Monica Lewinsky's cooperation, reports AP.

US District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson ordered Monica Lewinsky to submit to an interview with prosecutor Kenneth Starr to assist the Senate impeachment trial, a legal source said.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Johnson ruled that House prosecutors had no right under Ms Lewinsky's immunity deal with Starr to force her to submit to their questioning. But Johnson ruled that Starr could force Ms Lewinsky to answer questions from his staff and allow the House prosecutors to attend. The House prosecutors led by

Republican Rep Henry Hyde obtained Starr's help Friday in attempting to force Ms Lewinsky to talk to them, touching off a legal battle in Johnson's court.

Judy Smith, a spokeswoman for Ms Lewinsky, said her legal team was considering an appeal. "We're taking that question under advisement," she said.

Starr's prosecutors and the lawyers for Ms Lewinsky went to court late Friday arguing over whether she had to cooperate. Hyde has written Starr seeking his help with Ms Lewinsky, who rejected being interviewed by the House team.

Democratic Sen John Kerry said he opposed the ruling. "It's an inappropriate intervention of the judiciary in the proceedings of the Senate," Kerry said. "It is a separation of powers problem."

Back at the trial, senators

began a second day of probing the two legal teams, submitting written questions through Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Republican Rep Lindsey Graham, one of the House prosecutors, pleaded with senators not to end the trial and "leave this confusion behind."

"If you leave us confused about whether or not this is a crime or not, the impact is far greater than if you rule that this is a crime but the political death penalty is not called for," he said, arguing senators should allow the trial to go through to a final vote of the articles.

The House managers were also questioned by Democrats about why they pressed ahead with plans to force Ms Lewinsky to submit to an interview. They acknowledged they had not told the president's lawyers of their plans.

NGFF renovation work

From Page 1
A public meeting was also held at Kachuaabhar to realise the demands.

The factory authorities then contacted the Department of Environment (DOE) which later sent a high powered team to the factory. The Director of the DOE and a chemist from Chittagong visited the factory in December last.

In the meantime, the NGFF authorities procured a NOC from the TNO of Fenchuganj and submitted it to the relevant authorities. They are expecting a decision in the next ECNEC meeting, the sources said.

On completion of the renovation work, the factory will continue production for a period of 3 years from the year 2000, said an official source.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) which owns the factory, has decided to set up a treatment plant in the factory

ALPP meets tomorrow

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at its meeting room in the Sangsad Bhaban at 2:30 pm tomorrow, reports UNB.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah has requested all Awami League MPs to attend the meeting.

Over 24 shops gutted at Shahjadpur

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 23: At least 13 people were injured and more than two dozens shops gutted in a fire at Shahjadpur Municipal Market early today, reports APB.

Goods worth several crores of taka were destroyed in the fire. The injured were admitted to the Potajia Health Centre at the thana headquarters.

The fire, believed to have originated from a burning mosquito coil at a shop in the market, spread to adjacent shops.

Some 13 people, who were sleeping inside shops received burn injuries.

Pak cabinet orders more security for Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Jan 23: Pakistan's Cabinet on Saturday ordered additional security for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif following an attempt on his life earlier this month, reports AP.

A bomb shattered a bridge over which Sharif and his family were to cross on Jan. 3 killing four people, including a police officer, who was aiding in the security preparations.

"Following the Cabinet meeting Federal Information Minister Mushahid Hussain told reporters that the Cabinet was convinced that the bomb was meant for Sharif."

The Cabinet vowed not to be browbeaten by terrorists and to continue its vigorous campaign against terrorists and anti-state elements," Hussein said.

Frustrated by relentless ethnic killings in southern Sindh province, and particularly the provincial capital of Karachi, the government last October dismissed the provincial government, suspended civil rights and brought in the army to run special anti-terrorist military courts.

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Police yet to recover arms looted from Akij Jute Mills

JESSORE, Jan 23: Police are yet to recover any arms or ammunition looted from the Ansar camp of Akij Jute Mills at Noapara on Wednesday, reports APB.

Police have launched a massive search for the arms and their looters in Jessore, Khulna and Kushtia districts.

All the 12 Ansars who were on duty during the incident, were removed from their jobs. An official of Khulna division of Bangladesh Ansar is conducting a departmental inquiry.

The miscreants snatched away 12 rifles along with 155 bullets from the Ansars camped at the mills premises early Wednesday.

Municipal polls BNP asks partymen not to submit nomination papers

BNP yesterday directed all its party units to refrain from any sort of involvement in the municipal elections to be held February 23-25, reports UNB.

In a statement, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan directed party leaders and workers at all levels not to submit nomination papers for the municipal polls.

He also asked the partymen not to involve themselves or participate in the election process.

The BNP leader also urged all democracy-loving people not to participate in the municipal election.

Exercising voting right or reflection of people's verdict is impossible as the government is out to stage a farce in the name of election through massive rigging and terrorism, he said.

5 murdered

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On the night of January 21, Salma Khatoun, 23, of Durjan Mahal village under Rupsha Thana was beaten to death allegedly by her husband Shagar and mother-in-law Rasheda Begum for dowry. They were arrested soon after the murder.

On the same night, another woman Zobeida Khatoun, 19, was beaten to death allegedly by husband Selim Fakir of Bhandarpura in Dumuria. She was murdered for dowry, police said.

A farmer named Afsar Shaikh, 55, of Adia village under Teror Kheda PS was stabbed to death in a clash with his rivals yesterday noon, police said.

Five separate murder cases were lodged.

Opposition

From Page 1
joining. They said they would wait and watch the government response towards the opposition programmes and then take a decision.

They said opposition MPs would be present in the parliament building but would refrain from joining the first day's session on Monday. They said their attendance would depend on government's attitude towards the opposition demands.

Meanwhile, the "Liaison Committee" of the BNP, JP, Jamaat and IOJ will sit at 4 pm today to discuss the preparations for Tuesday's hartal and their future course of action ahead of the municipal polls.

A liaison committee leader said the next course of action would be announced after the hartal on Tuesday. It will also discuss formation of liaison committees at division, district and thana levels.

The leader said that the opposition parties would ultimately form an All-Party Action Committee to gear up their anti-government agitation.

Earlier, a meeting of the BNP-led 7-party alliance yesterday at 29 Mintto Road with Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair took stock of the preparation for Tuesday's hartal.



Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing the extended meeting of the party's National Committee and Executive Committee at Ganobhaban yesterday. — PID photo

US warplanes bomb Iraqi missile sites

WASHINGTON, Jan 23: American warplanes patrolling the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq bombed two surface-to-air missile installations Saturday after encountering Iraqi MiGs "darting in and out" of the off-limits airspace, US officials said, reports AP.

The two American F-14 Tomcats and two F/A-18 Hornets returned safely to the USS Carl Vinson in the Gulf, according to the US Central Command outside Tampa, Florida, and the Pentagon.

The incident, the latest in a string of clashes, occurred at 0615 GMT when American planes on routine patrol detected two Iraqi warplanes

Hunt continues

From Page 1
Bazar. Harkat-uz Jihad recruited people from different places including some madrassas and train them in the hill area in Chittagong, police added.

The arrested persons told police that they maintained a chain of command although interaction with the "supreme command" was very rare.

The sources said they got some more names of persons who could be involved with the organisation but would not disclose for the sake of investigation.

Meanwhile, the five-day police remand of the accused will end today. Police may seek their remand again.

Hasina

From Page 1
level opposition leaders were ready to join the election fray.

"In fact, more pro-BNP people had collected nomination papers than their AL counterparts for the elections," a presidential member told The Daily Star, quoting the district leaders.

At the outset, party general secretary Zillur Rahman presented a brief report on organisational activities. HN Ashkur Rahman, the treasurer, placed the party budget for 1997-2000, which was endorsed at the meeting.

3 killed in Pabna road accident

PABNA, Jan 23: Three people were killed and six others injured when a passenger bus rumbled three rickshaw vans on Pabna-Nagarbari highway today, reports APB.

All the three, who died on the spot, were passengers of the vans, police and hospital sources said.

They were identified as Monirul Islam, 32, of Ganguahate, Azmal Hossain, 30, of Khetupara and Mozammel Hossain, 22, of Santhia in Santhia thana.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred in Banogram area at about 4pm when the bus driver lost control over the vehicle.

The bodies of the deceased were sent to Pabna Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Three of the six injured were under treatment at the hospital.

Police seized the bus, but the driver managed to escape.



Bangabandhu Sangkritik Jote brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of those who made an attempt on the life of Poet Shamsur Rahman on the eve of Eid Day. — Star photo

Abolish madrassah board

From Page 1
NGO who was present at the meeting told The Daily Star last night.

The speakers also criticised the government of Sheikh Hasina for "following the footsteps of her preceding regimes that patronised the madrassah education which has clearly failed to produce modern citizens."

Many of those present at the meeting were critical of the government's "inaction" regarding implementation of the verdict of the Gana Adalat (People's court).

During the government of Begum Khaleda Zia, a Gana Adalat was formed with some eminent citizens to try the religious fundamentalists who had actively opposed the War of Independence in 1971. Sheikh Hasina, who was then Leader of the Opposition in parliament, had given strong support to the Gana Adalat that announced varying punishments including death sentence for the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh.

However, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, who was an organiser of the Gana Adalat, told yesterday's meeting that there would not have been any attempt on the life of Shamsur

Rahman had the government took initiative to implement the "verdict" of the Gana Adalat.

Talking to The Daily Star Chowdhury said that most of those attending the meeting found "substance" in his argument and felt that they must resume the struggle for implementing the Gana Adalat "verdict."

According to meeting sources, some speakers specially those representing the NGO communities accused the government of forging a compromise with the fundamentalists when the latter had attacked the "progressive forces" in Brahminbaria in December last year.

They said that the government this time must prove its political commitment against the fundamentalist forces of the country.

The PM's political adviser Dr. S A Malek who was present at the meeting said that he was there to represent the Bangabandhu Parishad, not the government. Dr. Malek, however, assured the meeting that he would communicate the feelings to the Prime Minister.

Justice K M Sobhan who chaired yesterday's meeting urged the government to form a special tribunal to try the war criminals. According to him, such an initiative can substantially contribute to check the growing influence of the religion based fundamentalist forces in the society.

Family seeks police protection for Taslima

MYMENSINGH, Jan 23: The family of controversial writer Taslima Nasrin has sought protection from the local police as anonymous telephone callers are allegedly threatening her, reports UNB.

Taslima is now staying at her father's residence in My-mensingh town.

Taslima's family said they informed the local police Friday night about the threats by anonymous callers over telephone. But no step was taken till 8 pm today (Saturday), they added.

When contacted, Kotwali thana police said the family of Taslima Nasrin telephoned them seeking protection, but a decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

However, local sources said, plain-clothes policemen are keeping close watch on the writer's house and the adjoining areas.

Meanwhile, Taslima Nasrin strongly condemned the attack on poet Shamsur Rahman and demanded trial of those responsible.

Narail dist JP leaders join AL

Leaders of Narail District Jatiya Party today joined Awami League dissolving their district committee, Awami League sources said, reports UNB.

More than one hundred leaders of Narail district JP, led by former MP Saif Hafizur Rahman, joined the ruling party at a function at Ganobhaban yesterday evening.

They included president of Narail district JP Shaikh Abdus Sabur and general secretary Ismail Hossain and three Union Parishad chairmen.

The JP leaders joined the ruling Awami League expressing allegiance to the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the ideals of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Awami League's presidium member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin received the newcomers to the party on behalf of party chief Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban.

Leaded fuel

From Page 1
ment had gone out of order. ERL has been instructed to speed up the process of fixing its equipment.

To be necessary, it has been told to go ahead without "lengthy" tender procedure, the sources said.

All petroleum importers have been told to import octane-92 instead of octane-96 as the latter has higher contents of lead.

Bangladesh consumes more than two lakh tonnes of petrol annually and one lakh tonnes of octane. It also consumes more than eight lakh tonnes of kerosene and 16 lakh tonnes of diesel.

Ershad's letter

From Page 1
many MPs as possible, JP sources said.

Only Manju has requested the Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah to move his seat on the treasury bench away from Ershad's.

Meanwhile, a JP presidium member fired a warning salvo to possible defectors.

"If anyone from JP attends Monday's session violating the party decision might lose his or her membership," presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid said, speaking to The Daily Star.

"Party MPs must abide by the whipping, otherwise the party will proceed towards its own course," the JP leader said.

Hectic preparations for poura polls

Hectic preparations are on to hold pourasabha polls across the country on Feb 23-25, reports BSS.

In Chittagong Division, prospective candidates in most of the 20 pourasabhas have already launched their election campaign.

Election Commission has fixed January 26 as the date for filing nomination papers. Nomination papers will be distributed in Chittagong today. Scrutiny will take place on January 27 while the last date for withdrawal of the nomination papers has been fixed February 3.

In Chittagong Division elections will be held in 20 pourasabhas out of a total of 24. Elections to Cox's Bazar, Chakararia, Comilla and Sitakunda pourasabhas will not be held because of some legal complications.

Another report says, candidates intending to contest the coming election in 39 pourasabhas in Rajshahi Division have started collecting nomination papers yesterday.

Official sources told BSS that 621 nomination papers including 65 for chairman posts have been sold in 16 districts of the division on the first day.

An Election Commission source said that 106 nomination papers were collected in Natore, 89 in Pabna, 59 in Nil-

phamari, 67 in Dinajpur, 40 in Rangpur, 35 in Rajshahi, 71 in Bogra, 36 in Thakurgaon, 18 each in Kurigram and Naogaon, 17 in Gaibandha, 23 in Chapainawabganj, 29 in Sirajganj, five in Panchagarh, two in Lalmonirhat and six in Jaipurhat.

Meanwhile, Election Commission has planned to open 3447 election booths in 657 centres in 39 pourasabha areas to conduct the election. There are 11,28,312 voters including 5,52,910 female in the division.

A Khulna report says, candidates are busy to get support from their respective parties though the character of pourasabha polls is non-political. They are also trying to woo the voters in their respective constituencies.

In Khulna Division polls will be held in 21 pourasabhas except the newly created Keshavpur pourasabha in Jessore due to incomplete delimitation. The pourasabhas are: Khustia, Kumarkhali, Mirpur, Bheramara, Alamdanga, Dharrasha, Jeebabganj, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Kotchandpur, Maheshpur, Kaliganj, Jessore, Noapara, Monirampur, Narail, Kaim Baganj, Mongla Port, Paikgacha and Sathkira.

A total of 4,74,241 male and female voters will cast votes in the division.

Ctg JP leader to contest municipal election

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Jatiya Party's central committee member and Chittagong divisional organising secretary Shamsul Alam Master will contest the municipal election defying the directives of the party chairman H M Ershad.

The party high command has given the decision against participation in the polls. But it will not be possible on my part to abide by the decision," Shamsul Alam, incumbent chairman of Patiya Municipality told UNB tonight.

"The opinion of the people is more important than the decision of the party. I have no scope of going against the will of the people, and if necessary I may have to stand against the party decision," he added.

He said he would submit nomination on Tuesday for re-election to the post of chairman of Patiya municipality.

When contacted, Kotwali thana police said the family of Taslima Nasrin telephoned them seeking protection, but a decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

Poet in prison

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the septuagenarian poet were receiving friends, relatives and well-wishers at his study.

At one point, the poet's wife, Zohra Rahman, came sobbing to see Professor Khatun Sarwar Murshid, one of the visitors at the time. The professor consoled her.

Some armed young men allegedly belonging to a religious fundamentalist group took an abortive attempt on the poet. His son and wife who eventually resisted the attackers received injuries.

Khaleda

From Page 1
opposition leaders and workers.

In a statement yesterday, the BNP leader alleged that elections to the Union Parishads and parliamentary by-elections held under the present government were not free and fair. She also accused the AL government of vote rigging.

Begum Zia said the government had announced the schedules for the pourasava elections unilaterally, ignoring the demands of the opposition and fixed the date for filing nomination paper on January 26.

"They don't want the opposition parties to participate in the election," she said, adding, "in the greater interest of the nation and democracy we can't accept a face elections."

Meanwhile, leaders of the 7-party alliance yesterday also urged the people to make Tuesday's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal a success defying all sorts of instigation.

Traffic system

From Page 1
lice, by providing equipment and training.

Greater Dhaka Transport Planning Coordination Board, a public-private partnership for transport planning and management in Dhaka headed by the city mayor, will be created to oversee the long-term urban transport policy making.

The ultimate goal of the Air Quality Management project will be to reduce human exposure to vehicular air pollution in a cost-effective manner.

This project will build government's capacity to fight air pollution, test technical options and raise awareness of the issues and options related to vehicular air pollution.

It will help revise vehicle, fuel and lubricant standards, carry out vehicle spot-checking for emissions compliance, and promote pilot technologies for emissions reduction in autorickshaws and diesel powered buses and trucks.