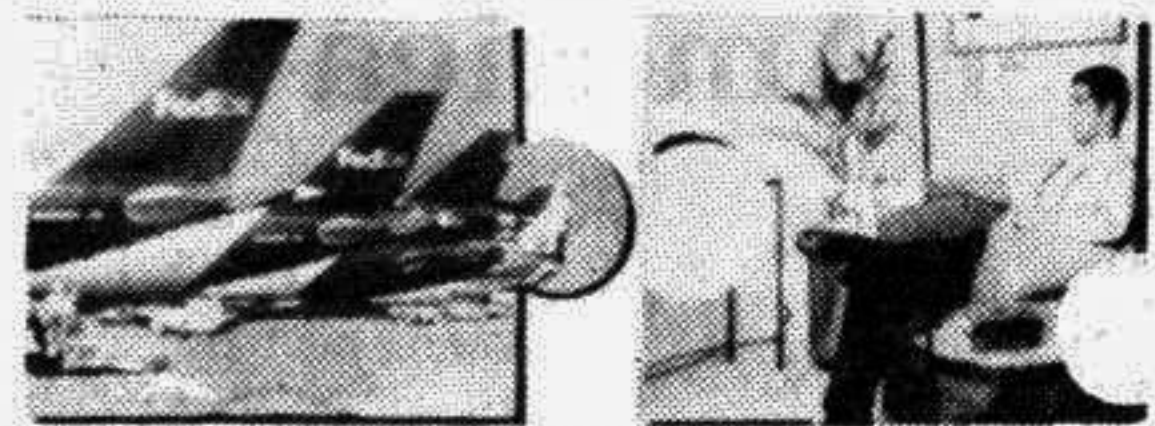


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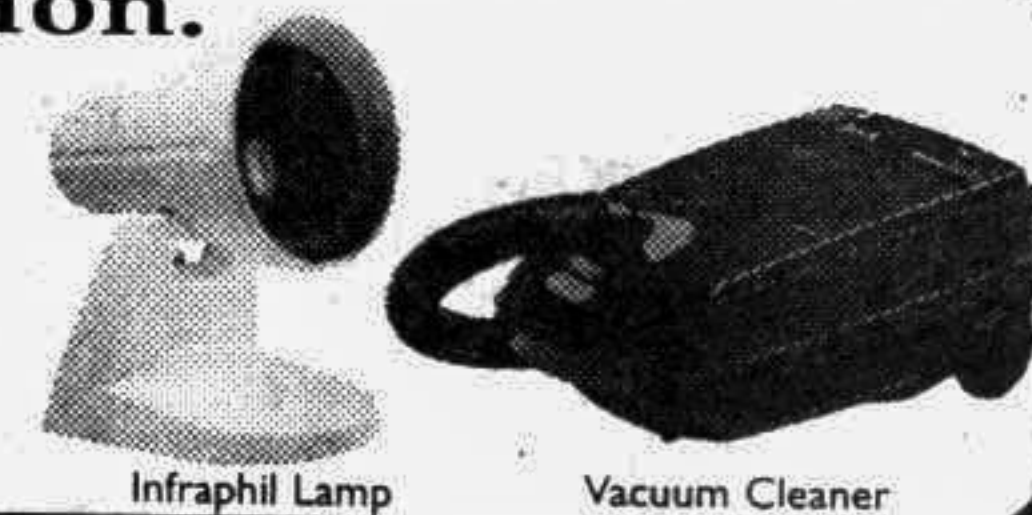
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WB project aims at better transport for working women

The World Bank funded Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) will take specific measures to improve transport for women commuting to work, reports APB.

The 177 million dollar project intends to accelerate women's economic and social participation by improving public transport facilities which will reduce bus congestion and allow 'sitting only' buses.

The provision of mini-bus services for garments workers, gender sensitive training to drivers and transport personnel, improvement of the condition of pavements to make it easier to walk to work, enhancement of road safety through regulated traffic and construction of more pedestrian facilities such as bridges at the crossings will be encouraged under the project.

Much of the available mass transport services provided by public and private buses are insecure, unreliable, congested and unsafe, according to Thampil Pankaj, World Bank task leader for the DUTP.

Incidents of harassment by male passengers generally discourage many women from using public buses, he added.

Walking to work and non-motorised transport trips are major components of travel

patterns specifically for women in Dhaka. Between 1981 and 1998, female labour force participation in Dhaka increased from 4 per cent to nearly 18 per cent.

A survey of women garments workers who constitute the majority of Dhaka's female workforce found that 66.7 per cent indicated verbal and physical harassment as the major problem in commuting.

Some 60 per cent of these garments workers walk to their workplace, spending two hours in addition to their 12-hour work schedule.

Hasina to open Calcutta Book Fair Wednesday

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for the Indian State of West Bengal on a three-day visit on Wednesday to inaugurate the Calcutta Book Fair and receive an honorary degree, D. Lit, from Visva Bharati University, reports UNB.

Hasina will inaugurate the Book Fair and deliver a speech on Wednesday. Bangladesh is the theme country of this year's Calcutta Book Fair.

She will also attend the opening ceremony of Bangladesh Pavilion there.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister will go to Visva Bharati University where former Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral would receive her.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister would be conferred on D. Lit by Visva Bharati University at a special convocation.

She will also visit Tagore's home and museum. Later, the Prime Minister will fly to Churulia to visit the birthplace of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. She will be given a reception there.

During her stay in Calcutta, West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh will call on the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

West Bengal Governor Dr AR Kidwai will host a reception in honour of the Prime Minister at Raj Bhawan while the Mayor of Calcutta will accord a civic reception to her at the Town Hall. The Prime Minister will meet the press before her departure for Dhaka on Friday.

More than 50 journalists from national news agencies and newspapers will travel by bus to Calcutta to cover the Prime Minister's visit.

ALPP meets today

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

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

JP situation

From Page 1
arises out of it, I might look into it. But the Constitution does not require any intervention on my behalf," the Speaker said.

Sources close to Ershad said they were expecting almost all to follow his directive, barring former JP Secretary General and communications minister Anwar Hossain Manju, who had been relieved of his primary membership of the party recently.

Ershad aides said they were able to get hold of four to five MPs available in Dhaka who had received the whip by the JP supremo.

The letter was mailed to others staying out of Dhaka. But the aides could not say how many actually received the letter.

On the other hand, the JP dissident led by minister Manju quietly took stock of the situation, discussing the legal aspects of defying the whip. JP Presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid has already said defiant MPs would risk losing their seats.

"It's a hoax in legal terms. Ershad cannot deliver a whip like that. The decision was not taken at a meeting of the JP parliamentary party nor did it come from the parliamentary whip," said one of the dissident MPs, speaking anonymously.

But it remained a closely guarded secret whether the dissidents would defy the whip. In that case it would be a show of strength, something the dissident leader Manju is not willing to face at the moment.

He wants to go slow, quietly winning more MPs who are not happy with Ershad's leadership and his tilt towards the BNP, a source close to the minister said.

Besides, the source said, most MPs were yet to return to capital after the Eid holidays and unlikely to attend the session today which would immediately go into a four-day recess after the presidential address.



Open latrines and a sewer on the western side of Sadarghat polluting the Buriganga waters. The sewer carry the effluents of a market at Kaliganj in Keraniganj thana. An unplanned urbanisation is taking place on the other side of the river which is going to be linked when Babupura bridge is completed in near future. — Star Photo by Anisur Rahman

Party govt has no right to recast EC: PM

KUSHTIA, Jan 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today rejected the four-point demand of the BNP-led opposition and urged all to keep their respective areas hartial-free, reports UNB.

"The four-point demand of the opposition is illogical and aimed at creating loopholes for rigging," she told a huge public meeting at Talbaria in Mirpur thana of the district two days ahead of a countrywide shutdown called by the BNP-led opposition for January 26.

The Prime Minister arrived here to open a second phase of the Goral River Restoration Project, to ensure the flows of the river in dry season through dredging its silted bed. She questioned the justification of calling hartial by the opposition parties on the day set for filing nominations for the February 23-25 pouro polls. "What is the issue, why they are calling this hartial?"

Lalkhan

From Page 1
the madrassah and entry was very much restricted for outsiders, he said.

All the students of that madrassah hailed from far flung areas and none was a local one, the ward commissioner said.

The madrassah was set up in 1979.

More documents

From Page 1
monthly publication is the mouthpiece of the extremist group.

They are Moazzam, Shafayet Hossain, Monir Ahmed and Mahfuzur Rahman. Their father Sheikh Akram Hossain hails from Kashadia, Khulna.

In Khulna, Farid is known for his public seminars on religious-political issues. Police also continued their hunt for Maulana Abdur Rahman, the alleged trainer of the extremist group, the sources said.

Rinku, another arrested from Barisal, is yet to be brought to Dhaka for interrogation.

A CID team returned from Feni yesterday. Another team left for Chittagong yesterday to nab other suspects.



WASHINGTON, DC: Monica Lewinsky (R) is escorted by an unidentified aide as she arrives at her hotel January 23. Lewinsky was called to return to Washington by Independent Council Kenneth Starr for further questioning in the impeachment trial of US President Bill Clinton. — AFP photo

Transport owners block Dhaka-Aricha highway today

MANIKGANJ, Jan 24: Hundreds of Dhaka-bound passengers from 36 northern and southern districts were stranded at Aricha and Daulatdia ghats as no buses plied on Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

The road communication was disrupted from dawn-to-dusk over a feud between the leaders of transport owners and workers association.

The owners' association blocked the highway keeping vehicles haphazardly at Savar and Nayabhat.

The barricade was withdrawn after 7 pm. Police said some leaders of transport owners' association were reportedly assaulted by a group of workers on January 22.

In retaliation, agitated members of the owners' association beat up some workers mercilessly at Islampur in Dhamrai thana disrupting the road communication for last three days.

Hartal extended

From Page 1
maruzsaman represented the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami respectively at the meeting. A third BNP leader Shamsul Islam was also present.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena could not be reached for comment.

The hartal was aimed to resist the election process, particularly to prevent aspirants from filing nomination papers. The opposition parties have said they would not let the election take place without their participation, which depends on meeting their four demands, including resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

They also want the government to "stop repression" on opposition activists. The ruling Awami League has already rejected the demands.

Ulema

From Page 1
Jalalabadi, a Central Committee member of the Parishad.

They said, Hakkani Uleqas and their educational institutions never believe and support the "wrong thoughts" as regards Islam.

They called upon all madrassah teachers and students to be united against the religious extremists.

Plot to assassinate Advani: 4 Sikhs held

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: Indian police have arrested four Sikh militants and charged them with planning to assassinate Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani and two other prominent figures, the United News of India said today, reports AFP.

Police in the northern state of Punjab said they arrested one "terrorist trained in Pakistan and his three accomplices and seized explosives from them."

State police chief PC Dogra told reporters the suspects belonged to the Babbar Khalsa Sikh guerilla group, which was active during a 1983-1991 separatist campaign against Indian rule in Punjab.

The terrorists were in the process of logistical planning to target Advani, Hindu leader Bal Thackeray and KPS Gill, who was the police chief of Punjab when the separatist drive was at its height.

Dogra said police were also hunting for two more Sikh militants of the six-member assassination team who had crossed over from Pakistan into Punjab.

Another report says, police launched a manhunt today for a Hindu militant in eastern India after arresting 47 other suspects

for the murder of a respected Australian missionary and his two sons.

They announced a reward of 25,000 rupees for the arrest of Dara Singh, who allegedly led the Hindu mob that burned to death Graham Stewart Staines, 58, and his sons aged seven and 10 late Friday.

The United News of India (UNI) quoted police as saying Dara Singh was a member of the Hindu militant Bajrang Dal group which is linked to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu Nationalist Party.

Staines, an Australian missionary working with leprosy patients in India, and his sons Philip and Timothy, were killed when a mob set fire to the car in which they were sleeping, in the eastern state of Orissa.

A resident of India for 34 years, Staines headed the evangelical missionary society in the town of Baripada, Mayurbhanj district, which is populated mainly by poor tribe members.

Abu Nasir

From Page 1
or from Delhi police in this regard.

The reports claimed that four of Nasir's confederates were from Egypt, two from Sudan, and one from Myanmar. They are still at large, the report said.

"All the seven men crossed the porous border between Bangladesh and West Bengal in October last on their bombing mission and subsequently travelled to Madras and Calcutta to survey the US consulate for possible openings for an attack," the New York Times Service quoted Delhi police as saying.

Nasir also claimed to have undergone training at a camp in Afghanistan and met Osama bin Laden, the report said.

JS session

From Page 1
Meanwhile, sources in the government said that the Treasury Bench would move a few fresh bills during the session. The fresh ones would include the Ain Shahajaya Bill, 1999, seeking provisions to extend legal aid to the poor.

Besides, the parliament is likely to take up for reconsideration the Civil Procedure (amendment) Bill, 1998, passed in the last session. The President refused to assent to the legislation on the ground that it might contribute to compromising the quality of justice. He sent it back with a request for reconsideration.

The legislation, as adopted by the House, empowered the district judges and additional district judges to try 'revision cases', which is still the sole jurisdiction of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

According to sources close to the law minister, the government is likely to get the law passed during the current session with a change under which only the district judges would have the power to deal with revision cases.

If the opposition parties join the session at all, the parliament is likely to witness stormy debates on various issues including trimming of the size of the Annual Development Plan (ADP), government's alleged failure to maintain law and order and alleged repression on opposition leaders and activists and price hike of essentials.

Indian ministers asked to declare 'their assets'

NEW DELHI, Jan 24: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has asked his cabinet ministers to declare their family wealth before the end of this month, AFP quoting the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today.

The prime minister, who heads a tenuous multi-party coalition which took office in March 1998, made the request in letters to his colleagues, PTI said.

Vajpayee asked the ministers to detail all "their assets," including shops and companies as well as land and houses owned by them, their children and parents, besides details of bank accounts and deposits.

The request followed a similar appeal by opposition leader Sonia Gandhi to leaders of her Congress party.

জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি



বাইশতম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ

জেলা পর্যায়ের অনুষ্ঠান

১ ফেব্রুয়ারি --- ১৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি '৯৯ এর যে কোন তিন দিন জেলা পর্যায়ে বাইশতম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ ৬৪টি জেলার ৭৯টি কেন্দ্রে উদযাপিত হতে যাচ্ছে।

বিজ্ঞান মেলায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক স্কুল-কলেজ, মাদ্রাসার ছাত্র-ছাত্রী, বিজ্ঞান ক্লাব সদস্য ও সৌখিন উদ্ভাবক স্ব স্ব জেলার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ উদযাপন কমিটির সভাপতি বা পৃষ্ঠপোষকের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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বাইশতম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ

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