

## News

## Opposition parties conspiring to grab power: BCL

By DU Correspondent  
Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League, yesterday accused the opposition parties of hatching a conspiracy to grab power.

In a statement, BCL president Badhur Bepari and general secretary Ajay Kar Khokan also alleged that the opposition parties were calling hartal with a view to create anarchy in the country.

They are enforcing such anti-people programmes when the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was trying to build and exploitation-free Bangladesh," the BCL leaders said.

They termed the hartal "illegal and undemocratic" and said that the countrymen would reject today's hartal.

The BCL leaders also condemned the opposition to destabilise the country's democracy and peaceful atmosphere through such undemocratic activities.

## Diarrhoea claims 12 in Noakhali

NOAKHALI, Jan 25: Diarrhoea has broken out in greater Noakhali in an alarming proportion, claiming 12 lives and affecting 2100 people in last one week, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said more than 100 people were affected by the disease in Feni district in 24 hours ending at 3 pm Sunday.

The sources said Latu Mia, 14, of Joylaskora in Dhonghuiyan, Feni died of diarrhoea on Saturday, while Dhaniora, a woman from Barahigobindapur, had undergone abortion in a local clinic as she was seriously affected by the water-borne disease.

Diarrhoea claimed another man from Barahigobindapur several days back.

When contacted the Civil Surgeon of Noakhali said 40 medical teams were working round-the-clock in the affected areas of the district to combat the disease.

Sources at the Civil Surgeon office also confirmed the death from the disease of four other people — Rozina, 2, Nazma, 4, Ramzan Ali, 60, and Nur Box, 65.

The worst affected thanas of the district are Begumganj, Companiganj and Hatiya.

But sources at PDB, a non-government organisation, said the disease has also broken out in an epidemic form in Noakhali thanas.

They said four people died in Noakhali thanas, three in Begumganj, two in Companiganj and one in Hatiya thanas in the last three days.

## Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Shamsun Nahar (Huri), daughter of late Afzaluddin Ahmad, former leader of the opposition in the erstwhile East Pakistan. As assembly in 1962-64, died of prolonged illness on Sunday at BIRDEM Hospital in the city. She was 63.

She was the wife of late Ghiasuddin Ahmed, a renowned social worker of Arambagh. She is survived by son Shahid Ahmed, daughter Salma Ahmed Dipu, a singer, two grandchildren, and a host of relatives and admirers. Her younger brother is Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju MP.

Her quirkwani will be held tomorrow after Maghreb prayers at her Arambagh residence.

## Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Sohrab Hossain, a former minister and one of the key organisers of the Liberation War, will be observed today, reports BSS.

On the occasion, Quran-khwani and a mild mahfil will be held at his Magura residence.

Sohrab Hossain, who was the president of Awami League unit of greater Jessore district, played an active role in different democratic movements.

He was elected member of parliament from Magura constituency in 1973.

## Raisuddin buried

Principal Raisuddin Ahmed, a former Member of Pakistan National Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary, was buried at Banani graveyard after Jahan prayers yesterday, reports BSS.

Namaz-e-Janaza of Principal Ahmed, who died at a city clinic Sunday evening due to old-age complications, was held at Banani Bazar mosque.

An M A in English from Dhaka University, Principal Ahmed devoted all his life to the promotion of education. He founded over half a dozen colleges across the country.

In recognition of his contribution to education sector, he was honoured with international "Russel Award" by the World Teachers' Congress.

A widely travelled man, Ahmed was also associated with the profession of journalism.

He was Assistant Editor of then "Pakistan Observer" during 1954-55.

Born at village Junail in Madarganj thana of Jamalpur district, Principal Ahmed was actively involved in many social welfare activities.

Doa mahfil and quirkwani of the deceased will be held at House number-50, Road number-1, and Sector-6 of Uttara Model Town after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend.



Anti-hartal activists are busy writing slogans on a banner at city's Mohammadpur area yesterday ahead of today's opposition-called hartal.

— Star photo

## China rejects Russian proposal for 'strategic triangle'

BONN, Jan 25: China rejects a Russian proposal for a "strategic triangle" among Russia, India and China, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said in an interview to appear here today, reports AFP.

Tang told the German economic daily Handelsblatt that "China has always adhered independently to a foreign policy oriented toward peace," and, "we will not be deterred from this path."

He said China has a very good strategic partnership with Russia, which is full of vitality and regularly produces new elements."

But he added that Beijing's partnership with Moscow, "includes neither alliances nor confrontations with third countries, such as the United States."

Last month, on a visit to India, Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov had floated the idea of a strategic triangle among the three countries.

Tang also took a swipe at Japan for criticism during a visit to Tokyo in December by Chinese President Jiang Zemin, saying, "The Germans have more or less come to terms with their Nazi past, but the Japanese are having trouble with their militarist past."

To mark his trip, the first by a Chinese President Jiang had been pushing hard for a full written apology from Japan over its brutal occupation of China before and during World War II.

**Mayor meets poet Shamsur Rahman**

Mayor Mohammed Hanif yesterday visited the Shamsur Rahman, reports BSS.

The Mayor stayed with the elderly poet for some time and enquired about his health. Poet Shamsur Rahman described the incident elaborately.

Mayor Hanif asked the concerned authorities to take stern action against those involved in the attack.

**Indian artist's painting show begins**

By Staff Correspondent  
A solo painting exhibition by eminent Indian artist Dipali Bhattacharya began in the city yesterday.

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Deb Mukherjee inaugurated the 15-day show at Galleri 21.

Speaking on the occasion, Deb Mukherjee reminded the visitors that the artist's earlier exhibit four years ago at La Gallerie had been a tremendous success.

Artist Mohammed Kibria was also present at the function as special guest.

Dipali explained that her 25 mixed media pieces depicted men and women busy in their daily routine within the typically urban setting of Calcutta, her city. The smaller works are more intimate views of women in contemplation, handling their innermost feelings and also having to confront the complexities of their relationship with men she added.

The artist also stressed that women play a very vital role in her paintings: they are depicted as deep and introspective, thoughtful and different, but never uninterested.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm everyday till February 8.

Born in 1952, Dipali graduated from the Government College of Art and Craft, Calcutta in '74, and won a national scholarship from '76 to '78. At present she is an assistant professor at the Govt. College of Art and Craft, Calcutta.

The artist has exhibited her work in London, New York, San Francisco, Berlin, Stuttgart, New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta.

**Raisuddin buried**

Principal Raisuddin Ahmed, a former Member of Pakistan National Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary, was buried at Banani graveyard after Jahan prayers yesterday, reports BSS.

Namaz-e-Janaza of Principal Ahmed, who died at a city clinic Sunday evening due to old-age complications, was held at Banani Bazar mosque.

An M A in English from Dhaka University, Principal Ahmed devoted all his life to the promotion of education. He founded over half a dozen colleges across the country.

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Doa mahfil and quirkwani of the deceased will be held at House number-50, Road number-1, and Sector-6 of Uttara Model Town after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend.

## House adopts obituary motion

The Jatiya Sangsads yesterday condemned the death of ten former ministers, MPs, members of provincial council and constituent assembly, reports BSS.

They are: former minister and MP Prof Yusuf Ali, former minister and provincial council member Mahfuzul Haq, former national council and constituent assembly member Sayeed Fazlul Haq BSC, former MP and constituent assembly member Abdul Awal, former MP and constituent assembly member AKM Nurul Karim, former MP Kudrat Ullah Mandol, former MP and constituent assembly member Moazzaf Ali, former MP Dil Mohammad, former provincial council member BD Habibullah and former provincial council member Devendra Nath Gosh.

The House adopted a unanimous obituary motion when the Speaker proposed for the motion citing the names of the deceased distinguished persons of the country.

The House offered fateha for the salvation of the departed souls.

**President, PM greet Narayanan, Vajpayee**

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has felicitated Indian President KR Narayanan on the occasion of the National Day of India to be observed today, reports BSS.

In a message sent yesterday the President expressed his confidence that the existing friendship and cordial relations between the two neighbouring countries would be further strengthened in the years ahead.

He wished for good health and happiness of the Indian President and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of India.

Meanwhile, in another message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has greeted Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on the occasion of the National Day of India.

In her message to her Indian counterpart, the Prime Minister yesterday expressed her belief that the existing bonds of friendship, understanding and cooperation between the two friendly countries would be further strengthened and consolidated in the days to come.

**Nagarik Sanghati merges with JP**

Jatiya Nagarik Sanghati (JNS) has decided to merge with the Jatiya Party, reports BSS.

A press release said JNS would formally join the JP at a function at the Engineers' Institution at 3 pm on Wednesday.

JP chief Hossain Mohammad Ershad will attend the function as chief guest.

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## Weather

## No change in temperature

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports BSS.

Met office said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest of 10.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets today at 5.40 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.42 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were as follows:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.8	14.2	88	70
Chittagong	29.9	15.0	79	64
Khulna	29.9	14.2	90	—
Rajshahi	28.2	12.5	89	56
Barisal	30.0	14.2	90	—
Sylhet	27.9	14.5	76	60
Cox's Bazar	30			