

Shahjalal varsity APSU calls indefinite strike

SYLHET, Dec 6: BNP-Jamaat backed student fronts have called a student strike for an indefinite period from tomorrow at Shahjalal Science and Technology University, reports BSS.

In a statement, general students today expressed grave concern over the prevailing situation and urged the university authorities to bring back normalcy on the campus at the earliest.

A volatile situation is prevailing on the campus since December 3 when All Party Students Unity (APSU) locked the main gate of the university demanding renaming of dormitories after local noted personalities and saints.

Opposition announces countrywide programme

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday announced a 13-day mass contact, public rally and workers meeting programme across the country, beginning tomorrow, to mobilise support for the one-point movement.

Announcing the programmes at a post-hartal briefing at 29 Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament in the evening, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said people of the country had once again expressed their no-confidence against the government through the two days' hartal.

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Prayer Timings

December 7

	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-42	4-00
Maghrib	5-18	5-23
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Condolence



With heavy hearts, we mourn the untimely demise of Mrs Yasmin Rahman, a beloved director of our company. The memory of her gracious presence remains in our hearts in a place of utmost reverence. We extend our deepest sympathy and support to the family of Mrs Rahman, and pray that the Almighty sees them through this shocking ordeal.

Colleagues at Asian Surveyors Limited
C-1010

Nasim asks AL men to make list of terrorists

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has asked Awami League workers in the capital to list terrorists, extortionists and bomb makers and users in their respective areas and submit the lists to law enforcers for necessary action.

Addressing a public rally in the city yesterday, Nasim also instructed them to organise anti-terrorism rallies and processions in every ward of Dhaka City Corporation, even in the month of Ramadan.

Accusing the BNP and some other parties of resorting to terrorism in the name of agita-

tion, he asked the AL workers to rise against terrorists, find them out, list them wherever they are and help the administration contain terrorism. "If necessary, we'll go for a combing operation to nab the terrorists in the city," he said.

The AL would announce specific programmes in this regard today, Nasim added.

AL's city unit organised the rally at Paltan Maidan to mark the fall of HM Ershad's autocratic government this day nine years ago.

Criticising BNP chief Khaleda Zia's understanding

with Ershad of Jatiya Party and Golam Azam of Jamaat-e-Islami, the minister said their unity would fail to do any harm to the government or remove AL from power.

"They can sit for photo sessions but cannot wage a successful movement... We know how to face them and contain their terrorist activities... We'll complete our term."

He went on, "People will not forgive Khaleda Zia as she has shaken hands with autocrats and raskars in the Month of Victory."

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Officials go on 'mass leave' today

Army deployed at power stations

Army reinforcements were sent to important power plants and the Power Development Board took alternative measures for uninterrupted electricity generation as officials planned to go on a three-day strike from today, reports UNB.

Senior engineers of PDB were sent to important installations yesterday to monitor managerial and technical aspects to ensure smooth power generation.

Army deployment at key installations has been strengthened

to avert any disorder and meet emergency needs, PDB officials said.

"There will be no interruption in power supply," a PDB official said.

Power Generation Officers' Association announced that they would go ahead with their 'mass leave' programme as their negotiations with PDB Chairman failed on Sunday.

PDB has called a meeting with the Association leaders at 10 am today in the city in a last-ditch effort to resolve the crisis.

Meanwhile, the PDB Board meeting yesterday decided to give power station allowance to station managers, one of the five demands of the Association.

The Association announced the action plan to press their five-point demand which includes rescinding of the electricity reform act, halt to power theft, recovery of arrears and more allowances.

The PDB board yesterday issued letters asking officers con-

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Y2K: Only health sector unsafe

The Cabinet was informed yesterday that except for health sector, the millennium-bug problem would not affect other fields in the country because of precautionary measures, reports UNB.

"All the major areas adopting high-tech computer technology have been made Y2K compliant 90 or 90 plus per cent of their respective sector," it was told.

But the meeting was further informed that in the health sector so far only 70 per cent was made Y2K compliant, official sources said quoting the cabinet discussion.

The hazards for the remaining 30 per cent, specially in case of medical equipment in the hospitals, might be disastrous, the Cabinet was apprised.

Official sources said that the disclosures came as the Cabinet held detailed discussion on preparedness to face apprehended Y2K technological calamity at the dawn of year 2000.

The major sectors in the country related to sophisticated information technology are financial, energy, telecommunications, information, transport, industry, medical equipment and health sector and defence.

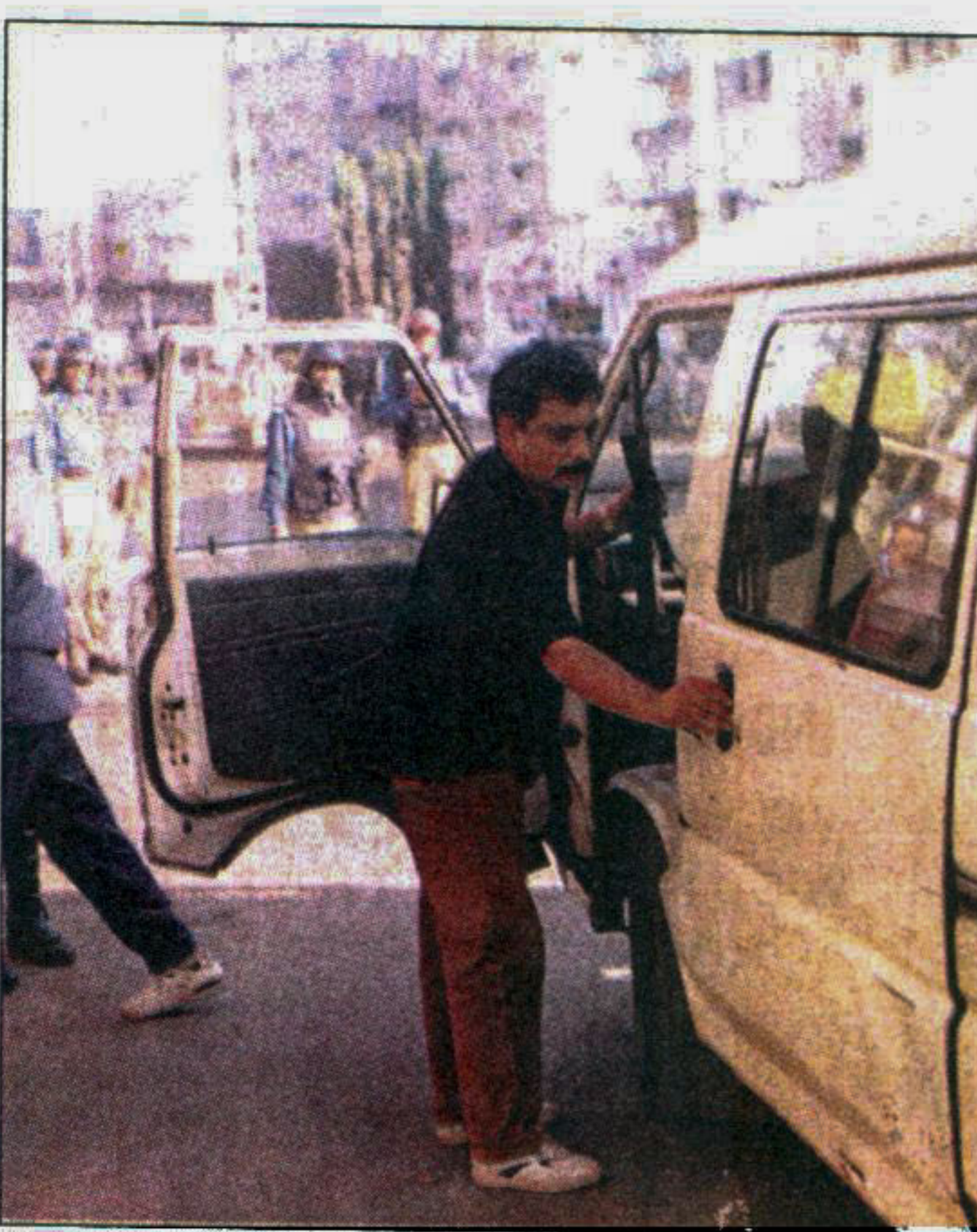
Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan presented a report prepared by the Bangladesh Computer Council.

Sources said the Health Ministry was asked to take immediate measures to make the

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100 hurt during hartal

Police, pickets clash at Jatrabari



A plainclothesman does not try to hide his gun as he gets off a motor vehicle during hartal hours yesterday. Police code says one cannot show off his firearm unless in uniform. But exception to the rule apparently remains the rule.

—Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the BNP-led opposition alliance passed off by and large peacefully yesterday but paralysed normal life and business across the country.

No major incidents were reported, after a similar 12-hour shutdown enforced the day before.

There were reports of hand-made bomb explosions, sporadic clashes and about 100 injuries in different parts of the capital and elsewhere in the country.

In the capital, more than 25 people were injured while police arrested 60 pickets on charges of damaging vehicles, exploding bombs and throwing stones at police.

Police and pro-hartal activists clashed all day at Jatrabari, the usual trouble spot in the city, leaving at least 15, including a policeman, injured.

Witnesses said the activists exploded a large number of hand-made bombs while police responded with gunshots and teargas shells.

There were some 100 explosions and more than 50 rounds of teargas shells and 25 rounds of rubber bullets during the battle at Shaheed Faruk Sarak.

At one stage police picked up at least 10 opposition activists from the spot.

During the Jatrabari trouble, a group of unidentified mis-

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Declaration of Mother Language Day to be celebrated today

The nation celebrates today the UNESCO declaration of February 21 as International Mother Language Day glorifying Bangalees' sacrifice of blood for the mother tongue, reports UNB.

The UNESCO recently declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day recognising the Bangalee nation's Language Movement in 1952 for establishing their mother tongue as state language during the Pakistani rule.

Like other UN Days, this Day will also be observed around the world from now on.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

The government has chalked out celebration programmes leading to the Shaheed Dibash (Language Martyrs' Day) on February 21.

As part of the programmes, a

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Rajshahi-5

Many know nothing about bypolls

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, Dec 6: Many people in Rajshahi-5 parliamentary constituency comprising Charghat and Bagha thanas do not even know that a by-election is going to be held in their area on Wednesday.

Many others said they only heard about it but do not know 'All voting centres are vulnerable to trouble'

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities have rated vulnerable to trouble all the polling centres of the three constituencies in which by-elections are due tomorrow.

The deputy commissioners of Sirajganj, Rajshahi and

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details. They could not say names of candidates and their symbols.

Some people said, minister Alauddin is contesting the by-election.

The seat fell vacant when Jatiya Sangsad membership of Dr. Mohammad Alauddin was cancelled by the Election Commission last month for floor-crossing. Alauddin joined ruling Awami League from BNP and became a state minister.

While visiting some areas in Charghat and Bagha thanas, some journalists including this correspondent saw almost no sign of election. No poster, wall-writing, election camp and procession was seen in most of the areas. People seemed unconcerned about election.

Out of the initial seven can-

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Security beefed up as fears of violence grip Sirajganj-7

From Akhtaruzzaman

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 6: Amid fears of violence during voting on Wednesday, electioneering is coming to an end at midnight tonight at Sirajganj-7 constituency.

Security has been beefed up in the constituency following series of clashes in last few days between supporters of two main contenders — Hasibur Rahman Swapan of Awami League and Chayan Islam, an independent candidate. There are five others who are also in the race.

The latest round of clash last night left 30 hurt. The clash erupted soon after the home minister had addressed a rally there.

Both Swapan and Chayan had accused each other of violating the election code of conduct and were warned by the Election Commission (EC).

The EC has completed all

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Ahmadiyas attacked in Natore: 30 injured

NATORE, Dec 6: At least 30 members of Ahmadiya community were injured, including a woman and three children, when mob attacked their mosque and homes in the Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Among the injured, condition of two elderly men was reported to be critical. They were

rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while 20, including the president of district Ahmadiya Jamaat, admitted to Natore Hospital.

Rezaul Karim, the district Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat president, alleged that police didn't turn up to help them despite their repeated appeals. "Police came only to send us to hospital."

Villagers said a group of people with lethal weapons including firearms stormed the Ahmadiya mosque at South Tebaria, on the outskirts of the district town, at about 10:30 am over rumours that the 'Kadianis' were preparing to unleash an attack on them.

The group (30 to 40 people) beat the Ahmadiya people in the mosque indiscriminately. Some were also hit with sharp weapons. As the sect faithful tried to get shelter in their nearby houses, the marauders unleashed attack also on women.

According to the witnesses the attack continued for two

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KMC closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 6: The Khulna Medical College was closed sine die today and students were asked to vacate hostels by 9 pm when first year students continued agitation to realise their 11-point demand.

The students today demonstrated on the campus chanting slogans against Principal Abdul Hanan of the college. They also exploded bombs and fired shots to scare teachers and officials, sources said.

The students on Sunday also kept the principal under lock and key in his office for about six hours and ransacked some classrooms of the college.

The academic council at a meeting today decided to close the college for indefinite period and asked the students to vacate hostels by 9 pm today.

Police forces have been deployed on the campus.