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Ctg election office shifted for security reasons

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: Chittagong election office has been shifted temporarily to Zila Parishad Building from Jamal Khan area, election office source said.

Deputy election commissioner Sirajul Islam told this correspondent that the decision was taken for security reason.

He said that nomination papers for Chittagong City Corporation polls would be received tomorrow and scrutinized the day after at the temporary office at Zila Parishad building under strong security.

"We will sit there tomorrow and the day after," he added.

Sources said, the Election Commission was forced to take the step against the backdrop of bomb attack on its office at Jamal Khan Road on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, 25 nomination papers have so far been distributed for one mayoral post while 762 nomination papers for 41 ward commissioners' posts and 137 for 14 reserved seats for women, election office sources said.

Ctg docs vow to continue strike till culprits are punished

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: Medical services at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and Chittagong General Hospital remained suspended mounting the suffering of the common people as doctors continued to abstain from work today.

They are protesting assault on an ENT professor and doctor of CMCH Dr Nilkantha Bhat-tacharya by some armed miscreants at his chamber.

On the second day of the second phase of agitation today the medical services at other private and government hospitals were also remained suspended for two hours beginning from 11 am as part of the programme.

Doctors only attended "emergency" patients at CMCH and general hospital during this time.

A 'protest' meeting was held at the control room set up at CMCH with BMA Chittagong President Dr LA Quaderi in the chair at noon. The speakers vowed to continue their programme until the culprits were detained and punished.

ML Falguni salvaged 63 bodies recovered so far

Star Report

At least 63 bodies were recovered since ML Falguni sank in the Meghna near Bhola on Saturday.

Forty bodies were found near Bhola till Saturday night while 23 were recovered yesterday from Char Gazaria, Char Jahiruddin, Char Pata and Char Meghna areas.

More than 100 people were still missing, according to UNB and our Barisal Correspondent.

BWTC sources told the news agency that the vessel which had no route permit sailed from Baddarhat Steamer Chat in Ramgati for Doulatkhan in Bhola on Saturday at 6:30 am.

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9-hr countrywide hartal today: Ctg to observe 36-hr shutdown

By Staff Correspondent

A 9-hour countrywide hartal is scheduled to begin at 6 am today at the call of the BNP-led opposition alliance to protest "unilateral" announcement of Chittagong City Corporation polls schedule.

The alliance had called a 10-hr hartal on December 9 in support of a 36-hour hartal called in Chittagong city earlier by its unit there to resist submission of nomination papers. Today's countrywide hartal hours were reduced by one hour in view of the Ramadan. The liaison committee yesterday revised the hartal hours. Hartal hours in Chittagong will however remain unchanged.

The Election Commission announced the CCC election schedule on December 7, fixing December 13 for submission of nomination papers and January 3 for the polls.

Today's hartal would be the first in the month of Ramadan since Awami League came to power. The AL had called a half-day hartal during Ramadan

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4 parties hold rally at Ctg Processionists go on rampage: 20 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: At least 20 people including a policeman were injured as violence erupted when supporters of the BNP-led four party opposition alliance brought out a procession after a rally at Laldighi maidan here this afternoon.

The rally was held in protest against Chittagong City Corporation polls, scheduled for January 3.

Constable Rezaul Islam of Kotwali thana was admitted to police hospital with bomb injury.

The trouble began at about 5 pm as some bombs went off near Kotwali thana while the procession was passing by, witnesses said.

The processionists went on a rampage, damaging vehicles as people ran for safety. At that time, some unruly processionists beat newsmen and chased them with lethal weapons in Laldighi area.

Police then resorted to lath-

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Selim buried Ctg BNP barred from funeral procession

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: The body of Jubo Dal leader Md Selim was buried here this afternoon after a 'tug-of-war' between police and BNP leaders, sources said.

It all happened when police refused to hand over the body to BNP and Jubo Dal leaders who planned to hold namaz-e-janaza at Laldighi Maidan after a funeral procession, sources said.

A large number of police, mostly in riot gear, cordoned the house of Selim at Devarpur in the city where his body was taken after post mortem.

The party leaders approached the police officials for handing over the body but they were refused, sources said. Police officials said they had taken such a step to avert any possible outbreak of violence at Laldighi Maidan.

The party leaders and supporters then arranged a janaza in Devarpur area under Doulmooring thana.

Selim, vice president of CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: One of the top terrorists of the city Ali Akbar alias Chhera Akbar, 28, was arrested here this afternoon.

JS body discusses 3 unnatural deaths Army chief asked to bring report at next meeting

By Staff Correspondent

A string of unnatural deaths, including that of Brigadier Shabbab Ashfaq, signal a "major command failure" in the Bangladesh Army, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence said yesterday.

The committee directed the Chief of Army Staff to make immediate and detailed queries into the incidents and prepare an extensive report on all the happenings for the next meeting, scheduled for Dec. 26.

Committee members focused on three unnatural deaths in the last three months. They blamed the army authorities for their failure to prevent, or at least warn people, that such events might happen, sources said.

The first incident involved the death of two students at Sylhet Cadet College.

The second incident involved the alleged suicide of Gamrunnahar Ruma, the wife

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tagong Cantonment on Dec. 8. Committee members agreed the incidents were tragic and unfortunate.

Some members pointed out that it was the army's responsibility to keep abreast of its staff in order to ensure their personal welfare and the nation's security.

A separate wing in the army, the Field Intelligence Unit, is supposed to look after the welfare of its staff, the meeting noted.

Yesterday's meeting was held at the Sangsad Bhavan with Chairman retired Major General K. M. Shaifullah in the chair.

Committee members Chief Whip Abdul Hasnat Abdullah, retired Colonel Shawkat Ali, Golam Mohammed Kader, Mohammed Farooq Khan, M. Rezaul Karim and retired Major Mohammed Akteruzzaman attended the meeting.

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Tokai Mizan held after gunfight with police at Nagar Bhavan

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people, including Tokai Mizan, a gang leader, were injured when police and a gang of terrorists exchanged fire at Nagar Bhavan at Fulbaria in Ramna area yesterday.

The incident took place at about 2:30 pm when plainclothes police team chased a gang of terrorists in Fulbaria area, sensing police presence, the gang took shelter at the Nagar Bhavan, witnesses said.

The gang led by Mizan took position on the first floor of Nagar Bhavan and opened fire on the police team. In return, police fired shots, leaving ten terrorists, including Mizan injured.

Mizan received bullet in his abdomen.

Police arrested Mizan and sent him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the others managed to flee.

Official at the Nagar Bhavan told The Daily Star that the incident took place on the ground floor of Nagar Bhavan at the time of dropping tenders by some contractors.

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'Death threats' to Shahjalal Varsity VC, Proctor Outsiders enter campus, hold rally

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 12: The situation at the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology is again getting tense.

The varsity authorities today lodged three separate GDS with Sylhet Kotwali thana after the Vice Chancellor, Dr Jafar Iqbal and Proctor Nazmul Ashab received three separate 'death threats' through courier service, said an official.

In the letters, the VC and the Proctor were threatened with death for their failure to withdraw the names of halls and buildings of the varsity.

The official said that, about 120 outsiders, riding on 50 motorbikes, entered the campus today. They held a meeting and brought out a procession on the campus and chanted slogans against the VC and Proctor. The on-duty police team did not

prevent the outsiders from entering the campus, the official alleged.

Meanwhile, the varsity authorities in a press release today contradicted a version of the Sylhet district administration which said that the varsity officials in the tripartite meeting at the DC's office on December 10 agreed to discuss the names for the halls and buildings suggested by the All Party Action Committee (Opposition) in the next Syndicate meeting.

The varsity officials did not sit in any meeting at the DC's office, the release added.

The Shahjalal University Teachers Association has also strongly protested the version of the district administration regarding the so-called negotiation meeting.

Terming the version myste-

rious, the association said that it had tarnished the varsity's image.

President and general secretary of the association in a joint statement issued to the press also condemned the 'death threat' to the VC and Proctor.

The All Party Students Action Committee, a combine of the JCD, Chhatra Shibir continued their strike at the varsity for the sixth day today.

They held a rally on the campus with Shahjalal University Central Students Union VP and JCD leader Kamrul Ahmed Kaberi in the chair.

District JCD president Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Sylhet town Shibir president Selim Uddin also spoke at the rally.

CCC elections HC showcase on CEC, 3 others

The High Court yesterday issued rule upon the Chief Election Commissioner and three others to show cause why the notification pertaining to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election scheduled for January 3 shall not be declared to be contrary to the fundamental rights and the tenets of Islam, reports UNB.

The rule was made returnable within seven days.

The Division Bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Abdul Aziz refused to order staying the process of election.

The court, however, observed that the petitioner is at liberty to pray for a stay before the vacation bench of the High Court. The court goes on winter vacation from December 14.

The rule came upon a writ petition filed by Shamsul Alam, Commissioner of Ward No 12 of the CCC.

Moving the petition, Barrister Maudud Ahmed and noted lawyer Khandokar Mahbubuddin pleaded for a stay of the election process.

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Frigate purchase JS team to visit South Korea to probe charges

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on the Ministry of Defence has decided to send a parliamentary team to South Korea to look into allegations regarding purchase of a frigate from that country.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday following allegations from the Opposition members that the Korean company, Daewoo Corporation, was violating the contract as regards design of the naval ship.

The Bangladesh Navy is purchasing the frigate from Korea at a price of Tk 500 crore. The frigate is scheduled to reach the country in June, 2000.

Opposition members in the JS committee further alleged

that the process of payment for the frigate was not transparent, the prime minister's directive to follow competitive price rate was defied and the rate of progress in manufacturing the naval ship was not up to the mark.

But the parliamentary committee did not decide on any investigation into the Opposition allegations.

Chairman of the committee, K M Shaifullah, told the meeting that the committee might consider the proposal for investigation only if it appeared necessary after scrutiny of relevant documents already supplied by the ministry.

Such an investigation might be needed if any member of the JS committee further alleged

Flats for NAM guests Occupants to be evicted from land near old airport

Illegal occupants of Civil Aviation Authority land opposite the old airport will be evicted to construct hotel there for accommodating NAM summit guests, reports UNB.

Price of the land will be fixed as per rule, a sub-committee on the accommodation of the foreign guests during the NAM summit here in 2001 took the decision in an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.

Chaired by Civil Aviation and Tourism and Housing and Public Works Minister Engr Mosharraf Hossain, the meeting also decided to construct 250 flats on RAJUK lands in addition to the proposed construction of 1000 flats by the Public Works Ministry for the foreign guests.

A decision was taken to construct flats in Mirpur on the land owned by Hotel Sheraton. The meeting was told that tender was called for appointing consultants on the expansion of Hotel Sheraton.

Besides, the Architect Singapore has been contacted on construction of additional 250 rooms of Hotel Sonargaon, said an official handout.

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Jubo League activists assault journalist

By Staff Correspondent

Four people including City Editor of the Prothom Alo were injured and more than a dozen vehicles were damaged as two factions of the ruling party's youth wing Jubo League clashed at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday evening, using guns and machetes.

City Editor Sanaulah Lablu was hit on his head while pleading with those clashing not to damage his car parked in front of the Prothom Alo office on VIP road. He was treated at a nearby hospital.

Witnesses said activists of one faction went on a rampage after their leader, Abdul Kashem was shot. They chased the rivals led by Julhas. The two sides traded gun shots and

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Victory Day Festive mood all over

By DU Correspondent

Victory Day is only two days away, and Dhaka's cultural world is set to celebrate the anniversary of the nation's glorious struggle.

Caught by the annual December fever, different social, political, and cultural organisations are celebrating the month of victory with various programmes.

The traditional venues are bustling with activity. At the centre of the celebrations is the Shaheed Minar, where cultural functions are being staged by various organisations.

The festive mood is evident at the TSC at Dhaka University, where the island of 'Shoperjito' is being set up.

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Paksey Bridge: Govt to float tender for second time

Star Report

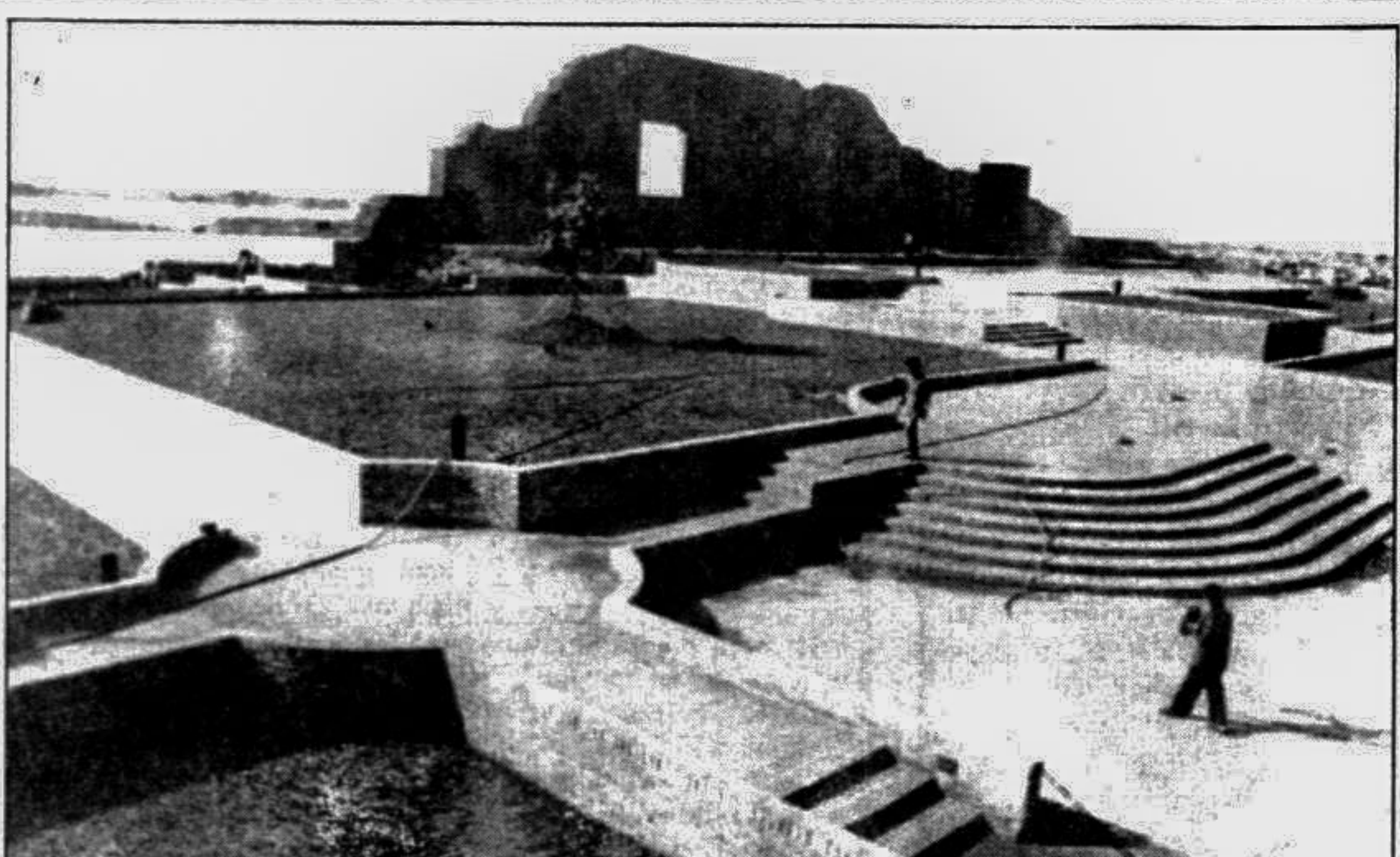
Pressured by its Japanese donor, the government will re-tender the Paksey Bridge contract for a second time, delaying the project for at least a year.

The government selected a Japanese company and a South Korean company to compete for one of its largest infrastructure schemes, but complications marred the tender process.

The government re-tendered the project in November, but this complicated the situation, since the Japanese Bank for International Co-operation apparently tried to favour the Japanese bid. The government finally decided to cancel the bid and re-tender the project.

Earlier this year, two Japanese companies — Sumit-

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Testament to tragedy and dreams

The sad memories are back, but the memorial is ready. The Prime Minister unveils a plaque tomorrow dedicated to the intellectual martyrs who dared to dream of a better, more prosperous path.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
4	13		5-17
5	14	5:08	5-17
6	15	5:09	5-17

Prayer Timings

December 13		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:46		5-12
Zohr	12:45	1-15
Asr	3:42	4-00
Maghrib	5:16	5-22
Tarabi	7:00	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation