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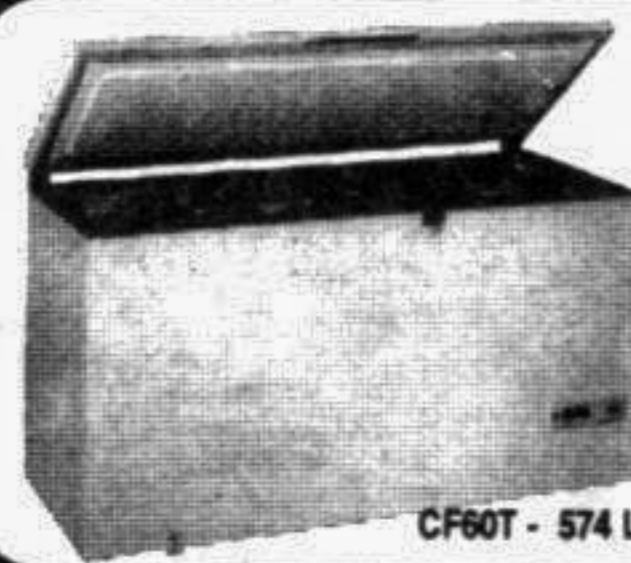
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## Accommodation for NAM guests Abandoned property to be sold to raise funds

The government has decided to sell out some abandoned property for funding construction of apartment houses to accommodate 5,000 guests during the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Dhaka.

Besides extension of the city's five-star hotels, few more hotels will come up in the private sector and apartment houses be built at Mirpur, Gulshan, Banani and Dhanmondi as part of the hospitality arrangements.

In preparation for hosting the biggest-ever summit meeting in the capital, tender for auctioning the abandoned property to raise funds will be floated soon. Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary CM Mohsin told UNB yesterday.

Some 1200 flats will be constructed on 15 bighas of land owned by the Civil Aviation Authority in Mirpur alone, which later will be used by government officials.

RAJUK will be given the responsibility to sell the abandoned property and construct the apartments at an approximate cost of Tk 250 crore.

The government has also decided to construct 50 new suites at Sheraton Hotel exclusively for the heads of state or government attending the summit, at a cost of about Tk 40 crore.

A plan has been taken to demolish the western part of Sheraton Hotel where some offices of airlines, an international news agency and others are housed, to construct the new block for the suites.

The wall-breaking and construction works are likely to start in January. There will be a big underground parking lot at the basement.

The exclusive office building that housed UNICEF in the Sheraton premises is likely to be converted to economy rooms as extension of the hotel.

An independent block with 250 rooms will also be built behind the Hotel Sonargaon.

The famous Indian hotel chain Oberoi will start construction of a new hotel at Fairly House on the Myrmensingh Road also from next month. The new hotel will have 200-plus rooms of which the government will enjoy 51 per cent share.

The Fairly House premises have been leased out to the Oberoi for 99 years.

Besides, two new hotels are coming up on the Panthapath in private sector and yet another two hotels are likely to be constructed by two big business magnates at Nikunja, a housing estate beside the Airport Road.

Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism said plans are there also to construct a hotel near the Zia International Airport and Singapore-based financial institution IFO had shown interest in arranging funds for it.

"There will be 20 per cent over-programming so that even if any dislocation takes place in any of the projects, there be no problem in accommodating the guests," the official said.

## Lest we forget



### Bus strike in Rajshahi continues

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 13: The second day of the indefinite strike called by the Rajshahi District Motor Sramik Union (RDMSU) here passed off without any major incident.

A truck was ransacked at the Rajshahi Central Bus Terminal by the members of RDMSU this evening.

The RDMSU leader at a press conference held at the office of Rajshahi Bus Owners Association this afternoon threatened not to ply their vehicles until their three-point demands were met.

The demands include immediate arrest of those involved in yesterday's violent incidents, compensation for the victims of yesterday's incidents and security for the bus drivers, helpers and passengers.

At least 100 people were injured and 17 buses were damaged during clashes between the members of Rajshahi District Truck Sramik Union (RDTSU) and RDMSU in the city yesterday.

Hundreds of people of the divisional headquarters, who are mainly dependent on road communication, remained stranded due to the unscheduled transport strike.

Meanwhile, a mediation effort by Police Commissioner failed as leaders of both the unions did not turn at a negotiation meeting called by him.

### 40 injured as Jubo League factions clash at Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 13: At least 40 people were injured, seven of them seriously, as two rival factions of Jubo League district unit clashed here this evening.

The seriously injured included general secretary of the unit Mostafa and his younger brother Hafizur. They were admitted to the General Hospital and the others to Ibne Sina Hospital.

Police and witnesses said the clash ensued when Mostafa was beaten up by two activists of the rival faction, Polish and Liton, in Daplabari area of the town.

Both the groups used lethal weapons and iron rods and exploded at least 50 crackers. Chase and counter-chase between the two groups continued for several hours.

Police fired 13 tear gas shells to disperse the rival groups. Some sources said that the clash was a sequel to personal enmity between Mostafa and Polish and Liton.

A case has been filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

### Principal's room ransacked

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 13: Some unruly students of the Salanga Degree College in Raiganj thana today ransacked the room of the principal alleging corruption.

Earlier two rival groups of students clashed on the campus leaving 10 injured. The aya of the college was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. Police arrested 3 BCL leaders—Sohel, Qaiyum and Akash from the campus.

The agitated students later brought out a procession in the town demanding removal of the principal.

## Martyred Intellectuals Day

From page 1

Construction of the Tk 17.8 crore memorial on a 3.5 acre site started in March 1997 and ended recently. The Public Works Department (PWD) implemented the project. Sheikh Hasina had laid the foundation stone on December 14, 1996.

Consultants, designers and architects of the memorial said it bridged the past with the present.

"Our future generations will remember the martyrs and recall their sacrifice when they visit the memorial," said one architect.

Steps must be taken to preserve the natural set-up of the area and prevent high-rise buildings from coming up there, another architect suggested.

The authorities have already acquired 100 feet of space around the memorial and are planning to remove slums nearby to beautify the area.

The day will be observed through offering special pra-

yers for the deceased intellectuals, placing wreaths at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum and Rayer Bazar mass graves, seminars and discussion meetings.

Political parties and various socio-cultural organisations, trade bodies and student organisations have chalked out separate programmes for observing the day with due solemnity and patriotic spirit.

Awami League's programmes include hoisting national and party flags at half-mast along with black flags at its offices and Bangabandhu Bhaban at 5:30 am garlanding the portrait of the Father of the Nation at 8:05 am and placing wreath at Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Mausoleum at 8:35 am.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's programmes include hoisting national and party flag at half-mast, wearing black badges, placing wreath at Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Mausoleum at 9 am and offering

at Jatiya Press Club 11 am. Jatiya Party will hoist black flag at its central office and hoist national flag at half-mast. Party leaders and workers will place wreaths at the Mirpur mausoleum.

The leaders of left-leaning 11-party alliance will place wreaths at the mausoleum and hold discussion meeting at the Communists Party office at 3 am.

Bangla Academy will organise a discussion meeting at its seminar room on "Martyred Intellectual and Bangladesh Today" at 11 am.

Other political and socio-cultural organisations which chalked out programmes to observe the day are — Awami Sechchhasebak League, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Samajbadi Chhatra Jote, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh Workers Party, Bangladesh Jubo Maytree, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Smriti Shangrakhan Jangda, BFUJ, DUJ and DRU.

## Pro-AL students clash at DU

By DU Correspondent

Tension gripped the Dhaka University campus yesterday as two ruling party-backed student groups chased each other trying to gain control of a dormitory.

Two BCL activists — Sagar and Mesbah were injured following assault by rival activists at Zia Hall.

Witnesses said the trouble began yesterday noon when Monir, president of Zia Hall unit of BCL, asked his organising secretary Rizvi not to take free meals at the hall canteen.

Rizvi, responsible for many incidents of campus violence, did not pay heed to his president's warning.

Monir warned Rizvi again when he along with some of his associates had taken free food from the canteen yesterday.

An angry Rizvi responded with a threat on Monir's life brandishing his sawed-off rifle, witnesses said. But Monir backed by his group of followers drove Rizvi out of the hall.

The two groups then began

chasing each other when Rizvi, aided by an ally from adjacent Mohsin Hall, tried to stage a comeback.

The Rizvi group led by assistant literature secretary of BCL central committee Abdul Wadud Khokon approached the Zia Hall, Monir's supporters chased them away.

Some Rizvi supporters took refuge at Jasim Uddin and Surya Sen Halls. Two of them entered the Jasim Uddin Hall with firearms in their possession, witnesses said.

In an instant drive, police searched Jasim Uddin Hall but failed to arrest the youths or recover their guns.

The Rizvi group made another attempt but failed. A number of Rizvi followers were also beaten up and ousted from Zia Hall.

Campus sources said Rizvi and his followers were now at Mohsin Hall and preparing for another drive to regain control of Zia Hall.

## 'Hidden agenda' on Ram temple triggers opposition walkout

NEW DELHI, Dec 13: The Indian parliament was adjourned today after the opposition walked out over a reported pledge by a provincial minister to build a temple on the debris of a demolished mosque, reports AFP.

The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ram Prakash Gupta, was quoted by the Hindu newspaper as saying "constructing a Ram temple at Ayodhya ... as far as the BJP is concerned is very much on the agenda."

The main opposition Congress and the communists demanded an explanation from Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee over the reported remarks and accused the government of having a "hidden agenda."

Vajpayee rejected the opposition allegations arguing his National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was determined to keep the temple issue out and his pre-

election manifesto had no mention of it.

But an united opposition staged a walkout from the lower house.

"I have also read these reports and tried to find out what was said. I am trying to get the full report," Vajpayee said, adding what was published in newspapers was "not necessarily ... altogether true."

"We have no hidden agenda and the ... controversial issues are not on the NDA agenda on which we have come to power. Nobody should have any doubt or confusion about it," he said.

Hindu zealots linked to the ruling nationalist BJP party say they are determined to build a multi-million-dollar temple for the Hindu warrior God Rama in the northern town of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

Thousands of Hindu fanatics tore down the Babri mosque in Ayodhya in December 1992, set-

## Two businessmen shot, robbed of Tk 7.5 thousand

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of muggers opened fire on two young businessmen and snatched Tk 7.5 thousand from them at Naya Paltan crossing yesterday evening.

The victims were identified as Shamim, son of Borhanuddin and a residence of New DOHS and Mostafiz. Their condition was stated to be critical.

Shamim and Mostafiz, both suppliers of corrugated iron sheets, were crossing Naya Paltan area in a rickshaw at about 6 pm. Four muggers stopped their rickshaw and asked them to hand over their valuables.

The miscreants fired on them as they refused to comply with their order. Shamim was shot in his hand and Mostafiz in his back and chest.

The gang left the spot immediately after snatching Tk 7.5 thousand from them.

The injured businessmen were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

When contacted Motijheel police said that they have heard about the incident and a mobile team was sent to the spot.

## Shahjalal varsity Concern at death threats to VC and Proctor

By DU Correspondent.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday expressed grave concern at the death threats to the Vice-chancellor, Proctor and a teacher of Shahjalal University, given allegedly by some activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir in Sylhet.

In a statement, the FBUTA also condemned the attack on 15 journalists by 'Jammat-Shibir activists' during a public meeting of the four-party opposition alliance at Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong on Sunday.

The FBUTA also expressed concern at the recent snatching of six 'identified terrorists' from police by Shibir activists and their procession on the Rajshahi University campus 'violating the authorities' order'.

The teachers' federation demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the incidents and urged all pro-liberation forces to be united against anti-liberation forces.

The Ekattorer Ghatok Dal Nirml Committee (Committee for Eliminating Killers and Collaborators of '71) also condemned the death threats to Shahjalal University teachers and attacks on journalists in Chittagong and on a procession of Sammilito Nari Samaj in

Dhaka city by Jamaat activists. The committee in a statement signed by poet Shamsur Rahman and Kazi Mukul said incidents of violence by anti-liberation forces increased in recent times due to patronisation by the main opposition party and government's inaction.

It said, "Fundamentalist forces have enforced an indefinite student strike at Shahjalal University to resist naming of halls after Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Shaheed Janani Jahannara Imam.

The fundamentalists again proved their loyalty to Pakistani generals Niazi, Rao Farman Ali and Tikka Khan by attacking the procession of Sammilito Nari Samaj'.

The leaders said the government by not trying the killers and collaborators of '71, has created the path for them to 'take revenge'. They, along with BNP, are now engaged in a conspiracy to make Bangladesh a Pakistan again, the leaders alleged.

They called upon the government to take stern action against those engaged in subversive activities. "Otherwise, both BNP and Awami League will have to bear the consequence".

## Cancel CCC polls schedule: Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition alliance leaders yesterday reiterated their demand for immediate cancellation of Chittagong City Corporation's polls schedule to avoid 'conflict and confrontation in the month of Ramadan.'

Addressing a post-hartal press briefing at 29 Minto Road, they said the government by announcing the polls schedule compelled the opposition to call a hartal against its will.

The opposition leaders warned they would announce a tougher programme soon to force the government to cancel the CCC polls and resign.

MP M. Shamsul Islam, BNP vice chairman, said the government, as in the past, resorted to state and party terrorism across the country to foil the hartal.

He said the 9-hour hartal in the country was a complete success, since people from all walks life spontaneously observed the hartal, expressing no confidence in the Awami League government.

Abdullah Al Noman, the BNP's acting general secretary, said the AL government created a reign of terror throughout the country, especially in Chittagong.

The BNP general secretary said the BDR, police and AL terrorists launched an attack on opposition pickets and obstructed processions in the port city that left unspecified number of people injured.

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## CUJ to boycott programmes of 4-party alliance

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: The Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) today decided to boycott four-party opposition programmes till January 3, reports UNB.

The decision was taken as a mark of protest against attack on working journalists while covering the 4-party opposition's public meeting at Laldighi Maidan on Sunday.

Some 15 journalists were injured in the attack by opposition activists at the fag end of the meeting. Two of the injured were still languishing in the hospital.

The meeting over, the journalists brought out a silent procession protesting the attack.

## Ctg doctors

From page 1

Control room source said only emergency squads were providing emergency medicare service to patients.

On the other hand, the doctors at government and private clinics here continued to observe two-hour token strike from 11 am everyday.

Poor patients who came from remote areas for treatment at CMCH and General Hospital, were returning home due to the strike.

Earlier, the doctors stopped private practice and the hospitals remained open. But on Saturday the doctors resumed private practice and began strike at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Chittagong General Hospital.

## Ctg hartal: 50 hurt

From page 1

Sources said trains to and from Chittagong ran as usual.

UNB adds: Barbed wire fences were erected around the Zila Parishad office while huge contingents of police and paramilitary BDR deployed in the port city which is experiencing trouble over the CCC election schedule.

Awami League held a rally in front of its office at Darul Fazal Market before formally submitting nomination paper for the party candidate. Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan addressed it.

The incumbent mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury is vying for his re-election to the mayor post from Awami League. Major opposition parties boycotted the polls.

After the rally, Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a huge procession marched towards the Zilla Parishad to submit his nomination paper. Ministers MA Mannan, Engineer Mosharrar Hossain, Chief Whip Abul Hasadant Abdullah and Dipankar Talukdar MP led the procession.

As the procession reached near the Zilla Parishad office at about 11:45 am, six homemade bombs were hurled at the Awami League leaders and workers. However none was injured.

The bomb explosion was followed by a chase and counter chase between the law enforcers and opposition activists picketing in the area.

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said he is contesting the election with the consent of the people in Chittagong. "After receiving consent from the residents of Chittagong, I am submitting nomination paper," he said.

BNP leader Mir Nasiruddin who was surrounded by police and BDR men at BNP office at Nasimun Bhaban said, "We are kept confined by police and BDR. Arms were handed over to the people of the ruling party. It will be a worst election by keeping us confined. People won't accept it."

Shops and markets were shut during hartal period. Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port was suspended while partial cargo handling was carried out inside the jetties, port sources said. Railway

## Meghnaghat plant

From page 1

project's financier and sub-contractors might back out. "Ultimately, the project might not be implemented at all," warned an industry insider.

The Tk 141 crore contract for site development was awarded to CWHEC, a Chinese contractor, reportedly under pressure from political lobbyists.

CWHEC was supposed to deliver the land on July 21. If CWHEC failed to deliver the land on time, it would be penalised \$30,000 US per day.

However, the board asked AES to extend the schedule -- first to September and then to November -- rather than penalise CWHEC.

AES agreed to the change. The move pardoned CWHEC of Tk 17 crore in penalties accumulated between July 21 and November 13.

The CWHEC worked slowly, forcing the board to delay the project again. The board asked AES to begin project site testing on December 3 instead of taking action against the Chinese contractor.

However, a board official blamed AES for the delays.

"The project site is ready and AES is not taking the land. Actually AES is delaying the process," said the official. "It's probably delaying because it has some financial difficulties and can't start the project on schedule."

Another source defended AES position.

"As per the agreement, board must hand over the land following an engineering level test. Its a huge project, the project components must comply with the financiers' and insurers' criteria and it must be safe. That is why the government agreed to these tests. AES just can't and it should not, take the land unless the tests are positive."

Sources said some flaws and irregularities have already appeared in tests. A source claimed CWHEC used cheap, inappropriate technology.

"CWHEC was supposed to compact the project site by using a technology called vibro-flotation piling. The budget was set at Tk 18 crore for this work. Instead of using that technology, it used horizontal wick drainage technology. This costs only around Tk 1.75

3 dacoits

From page 1

Sabur, succumbed to injuries at the local thana health complex. The other, identified as Shahidul, died at Jessore General Hospital.

The injured dacoits — Hossain and Tuku — were admitted to the General Hospital and their condition was critical.

When contacted, SP of Jessore A Rouf said the gang had earlier committed dacoity in two houses in village Dohakhola and Ramnagar in the same thana and took away about Tk 50,000 in cash and kind.

He also said that the Addl SP along with the ASP visited the place this morning.

A case has been recorded with Bagherpara thana.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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