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# Goons with their guns camp at City Hall

Mayor's Frankensteins fight for Tk 40 cr contracts

By Staff Correspondent

Armed terrorists of two factions of the ruling Awami League's student front once again camped at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday amidst heavy presence of police.

The arrival of the terrorists at the DCC office has renewed fear among officials and employees, and also police, that a big gunfight' might erupt any time between the rival factions of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, known as "Five Star" group and Shamim Group.

They have been fighting over bids for tender worth around Tk 40 crore, DCC sources said.

The Nagar Bhaban gave a deserted look throughout the day. The "Five Star" group was present at the Bhaban premises yesterday.

Three of the five 'stars' -Shahabuddin Farazi, the BCL vice-president, Iqbal Hossain Apu and Mosharraf Hossain Raja - were leading the Five Star group yesterday. The other two "stars" are Anwar Hossain Nagar Bhaban gate were searchand Kala Sentu.

For the first time yesterday, police were also posted on the roof of the Nagar Bhaban. A notorious activist of the

Chhatra League nicknamed Rogkata Shamim leads the other group. Aga Shamim also belongs to the same group and plays a leading role. According to sources, the Rogkata Shamim group is now preparing to launch an attack on the Five Star before December 25, when the first phase of the contract would be awarded. Officials of the Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) said they were attending office amidst fear. Many officials blamed Mayor Mohammad Hanif for 'not doing enough' to curb terrorism in the city office. They also said the Mayor has 'fallen into his own trap' as he himself had been entertaining the gangs for a long time.

"The same people have been coming to the Nagar Bhaban for

several years and the Mayor has provided them with all sorts of incentives," said a DCC

"The worst thing he has done is to ask the police to release Aga Shamim after he was arrested from his office on various charges. The Shamim group is now convinced that the Mayor is supporting them while the other group has become even more furious," said the source.

As the Chhatra League cadres from the Dhaka University assembled at the entrance of the Nagar Bhaban, a police sub-inspector was seen having a "cordial" chat with the members of the gang. Later the subinspector, Belayet, told this correspondent that during his assignment as a Detective Branch officer on Dhaka University campus he had developed acquaintance with "all the political activists".

Belayet said his men at the ing anyone looking suspicious. Asked whether he had searched the 'political activists', the subinspector said he was sure they (the gang) were not armed.

On December 12, 11 members of the gangs were injured in a shootout with the police at the Mayor's office. Two days later, police arrested four persons from the Nagar Bhaban area but later they had to release the terrorists on request by the Mayor Mohammad Hanif. The Mayor later told The Daily Star that he asked the police to release those men and arrest them from outside his office premises.

On December 21, on-duty policemen, led by sub-inspector Ziaul Haque, threatened to withdraw his men when mysterious notes and requests started reaching him for release of the two men held by the police at the entrance of Nagar Bhaban.

The Mayor could not be reached for his comment.



Gulls that came in from the cold Guest birds make merry on the Bay near Maheshkhali.

- Star photo: A K M Mohsin

### Government shuffles the diplomatic deck

By M Anwarul Haq

In a major revamp, the government has appointed some new envoys and promoted some other foreign service cadre offi-Seven persons selected for

appointment as envoys include a political appointee and a serving military officer.

Five more foreign service cadre officials have been promoted to the rank of secretary, said sources in the Prime Min-

ister's office yesterday. They are Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed. Syed Muazzem Ali, ambassador to France, Shamsher Mabin Chowdhury, ambassador to Vietnam, AKM Faroog, ambassador to China and QAMA Rahim, High Commissioner to

With these, the number of career diplomats promoted to the rank of secretary stood at

Australia.

nine yesterday. The four others already enjoying the rank of secretary are Kazi Anwar Masud, ambassador to Germany, Mahmood Ali, High Commissioner to the UK, Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Aminul Islam. High Commissioner to Canada.

There are however many retired secretary level diplomats See page 11 col 7

### Nasim, Advani discuss border bellicosity

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: Bangladesh and India today discussed wide ranging issues relating to common border and resolved to maintain peace and tranquillity along the borders to the mutual benefit of the two countries, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and his Indian counterpart L K Advani led their respective delegations in the talks. Prior to the delegation-level talks. Nasim had 40minute exclusive meeting with Advani.

While discussing border problems, Nasim sought India's See page 11 col 2

## Dhaka-Delhi talks towards high-tech telecom links

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Dec 23: India and Bangladesh today agreed in principle to set up a microwave link between Agartala and Brahmanbaria and upgrade the existing analogue link to digital optical fibre cable connection between the two countries.

The decisions were taken at a meeting between Bangladesh's Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and his Indian counterpart Ram Villas Paswan here.

On a request from Nasim, India has agreed to send a team of experts to Bangladesh soon to work out details for augmentation of capacities, digitialisation of existing and opening up of new microwave routes, official sources here said.

India has offered financial and technical assistance to establish a microwave link between Agartala and Brahmanbaria and also for upgradation of analogue link to optical fibre one between Bongaon in East Bengal and Jessore, the sources

During the talks, Paswan commended the "immense progress" made by Bangladesh in cellular telephone area and offered to share the Indian expertise with Bangladesh in rural telephone system. The Bangladesh side ex-

pressed keen interest in various telecom projects in India, particularly in villages. Paswan apprised Nasim of soon.

the consultancy service given by Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and the latest technology developed by India's state-owned Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) which is standing the test in rural areas.

After the meeting, Nasim was given a demonstration of C-DOT's capabilities for setting up telephone network in rural areas, a subject in which Bangladesh side evinced keen interest.

Introduction of new services, sharing of experiences in manufacturing of equipment and systems and cooperation in other areas of telecommunications also came up for discussion at the meeting in which senior officials of both the countries were present.

Just ahead of the Indo-Bangla delegation-level talks. Nasim and Paswan had a separate meeting. Both the meetings were held in a "very cordial and business like atmosphere," said Nasim emerging from the talks.

Nasim invited Paswan as well as Minister of State for Communication Tapan Sikdar, a member of Lok Sabha from West Bengal, to visit Bangladesh which was "promptly accepted," the Bangladesh minister

Bangladeshi officials accompanying Nasim said Paswan is likely to visit Dhaka

### 'Caught' in the act 12 sued for corruption

The Bureau of Anti-Corrup-tion yesterday filed a Tk 12 crore corruption case against 12 former and incumbent officials. including five professors of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, reports UNB.

They are Prof Mafizuddin Ahmed, former member (textbook), Prof Mohammad Nurunnabi Khandakar, former member (finance), Prof Harunur-Rashid, former secretary, Prof Ameer Uddin, former chief editor, Prof M Tobarak Ali,

former senior expert, Abdul Haq Chowdhury, production controller, Abdul Mannan, senior storekeeper, Yakub Hossain, deputy production controller, Rawshan Ali, former distribution controller. Amanullah, distribution controller, Nurul Islam, deputy production controller (now suspended) and A K M Shamsuzzaman, section

Sources at the bureau said the corrupt officials were sued See page 11 col 7

### UK envoy warns against politics gone awry

Aid and investment may be key casualties

Bangladesh's be in a position to help out.

there is intolerance on both See page 11 col 7

British High Commissioner

David Walker warned if political situation continued to deteriorate, foreign investment would cease to come and donors won't "It seems to outsiders that

### On the hunt for hands of horror

Trial of war criminals is possible now, says law ministry

By Staff Correspondent

In response to a letter sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by a local physician, who does not wish to be identified. the Law Ministry has just initiated a process of examining the country's laws relating to the trial of war criminals of 1971.

The process was initiated by the ministry about a week ago on the basis of a letter sent to it, with a forwarding letter from the Prime Minister Office

Knowledgeable sources told The Daily Star that the letter was sent to the PMO, following the recent recovery of skeletons and bones of martyrs that spoke of the harrowing genocide, carried out by the Pakistani army of occupation here

'Trial of war criminals of 1971 can well be conducted under international convention

during the war of liberation.

on war crimes,' official sources

told The Star. Asked if the government was forming any special tribunal for the trial, a source in the law ministry evaded a specific reply, pointing out that it was all

subject to a 'government deci-

The law ministry has recently examined necessary laws in regard to the trial of war See page 11 col 4

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

### বিজ্ঞপ্তি

### প্রাইভেট লিমিটেড কোম্পানীর জন্য স্ব-নির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে আয়কর রিটার্ণ দাখিল প্রসংগে

- প্রাইভেট লিমিটেড কোম্পানী করদাতারাও স্ব-নির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে আয়কর রিটার্ণ দাখিলের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।
- যে সব প্রাইভেট লিমিটেড কোম্পানীর হিসাব বর্ষ ৩০.০৬.৯৯ইং তারিখে সমাপ্ত হয়েছে তাদের স্ব-নির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে
- আয়কর রিটার্ণ দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ হচ্ছে ৩১.১২.৯৯ইং। এ পদ্ধতিতে সর্বশেষ নিরাপিত আয় অপেক্ষা কমপকে ১০
- (দশ) শতাংশের বেশী আয় রিটার্ণে প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং তদানুসারে কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে। তবে ন্যুনতম করের পরিমাণ হবে ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা।
- স্ব-নির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে দাখিলকৃত রিটার্ণের উপরে "Self

Assessment" লিখতে হবে।

 লোকসান বা রিফান্ড উদ্ভবকারী রিটার্ণ এ পদ্ধতিতে গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

দাখিলকৃত আয়কর রিটার্ণে সর্বশেষ নির্মাপিত আয় অপেক্ষা

২০% (বিশ শতাংশ) বেশি আয় দেখানো হলে তা দ্বৈকয়নের মাধ্যমে

নিরীক্ষা করা হবে না। প্রাইভেট লিমিটেড কোম্পানীসমূহকে স্ব-নির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে আয়কর রিটার্ণ দাঝিলের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার জন্য জাতীয় রাজস রোর্ড অনুরোধ জ্ঞাপন করছে।

ডিএফপি-২৮৩১৪-২০/১২ জিডি-২১৫৬

জাতীয় রাজস্ব রোর্ড

### Deadly dengue carriers prosper in Dhaka

By Morshed Ali Khan and Naimul Haq

A dengue epidemic could strike Dhaka unless authorities take immediate steps to control the mosquitoes that spread the potentially fatal disease, an

expert warned yesterday. Touhid Uddin Ahmed, an epidemiologist and former scientific officer at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said researchers have observed alarming population increases in the two mosquito species that spread

the disease. In the last two months, doctors have detected 36 cases of dengue fever and 10 cases of the haemorrhagic dengue fever, the disease's fatal form. Dengue's symptoms include fever, headaches, weakness, constant muscle pain and drowsiness.

"This is quite alarming," said Dr. Zakir Hossain, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research. "We are planning to test more blood samples and have asked hospitals to send blood samples to us if they suspect dengue

Experts held an emergency meeting with officials at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday to discuss the problem. Dhaka City Corporation's

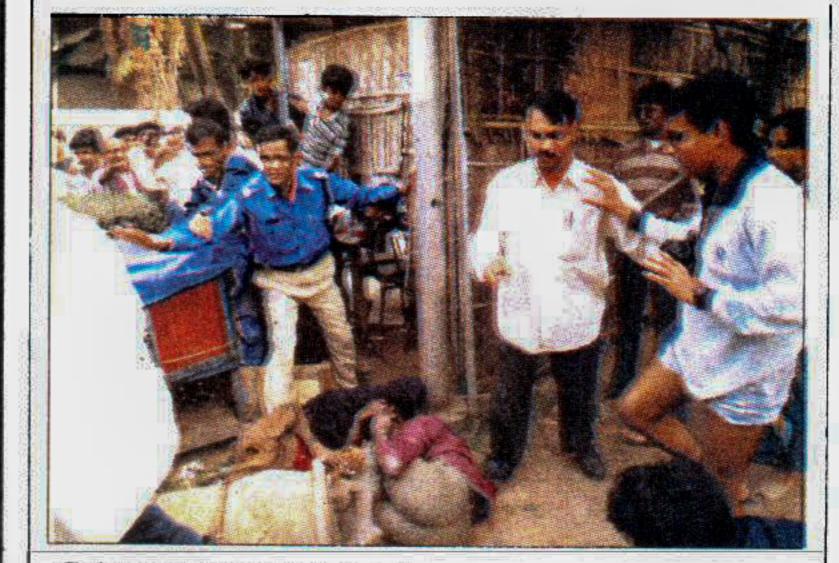
chief health officer said the

corporation would use all

means at its disposal to stop the spread of dengue fever. He said the DCC would work overtime, spraying insecticides to kill the larval and adult mosquitoes. However, the biggest job is to promote awareness among the people so they don't leave stagnant water around, even in

flower tubs, he said. According to doctors, there are no drugs available to prevent or cure dengue. The only way to prevent an outbreak is to kill the mosquitoes, which breed in stagnant water.

However, sources said the DCC's eight spraying machines, purchased last year to control See page 11 col 7



Crime and punishment A police officer tries in vain to shield two muggers from the wrath of DU students after they were caught in the act. (Story on page 12) — Star photo: A K M Mohsin

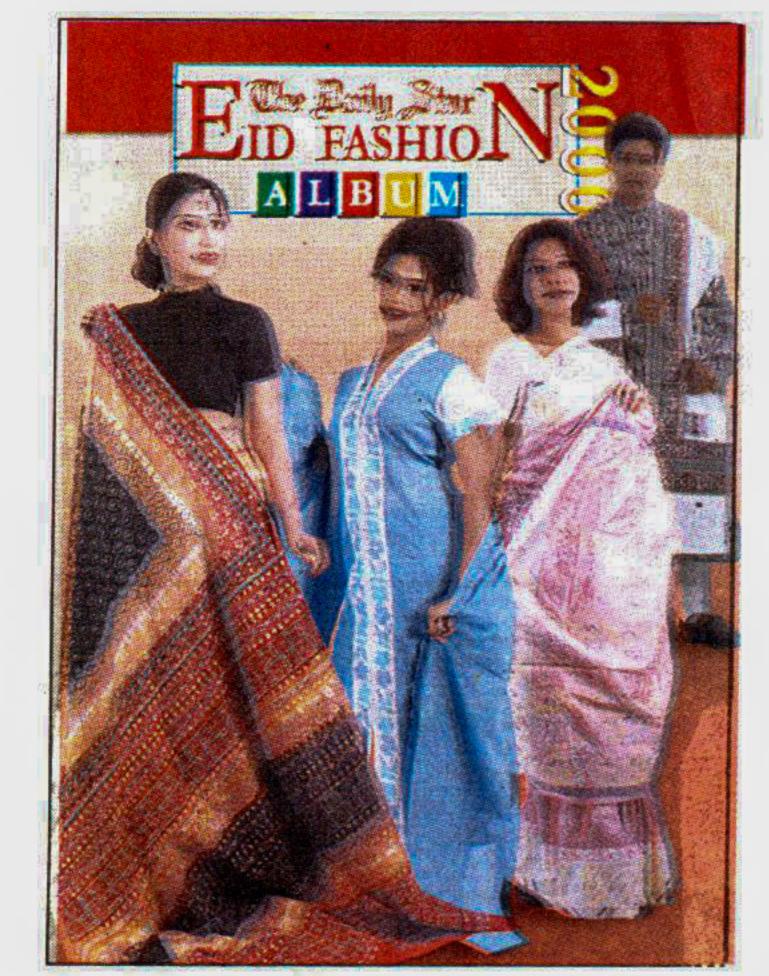
### BNP readies response to Speaker's letter By Staff Correspondent

BNP in response to the Speaker's letter is going to ask

the government to create an "atmosphere" suitable for its return to parliament. According to the BNP letter

finalised last night, the main opposition party said the gov-ernment could create the "atmosphere" by accepting its pre-conditions for joining the upcoming session of the par-liament. The letter is in reply to one from Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury on Monday inviting Leader of the Oppo-See page 11 col 6

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