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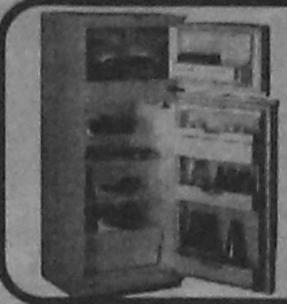
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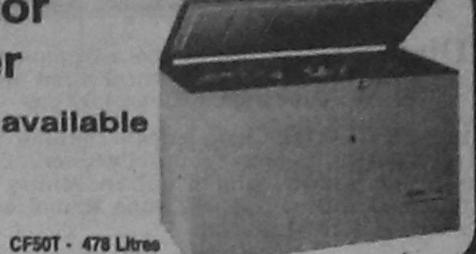


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Down to Earth

Sartorial trends in men's wear

By ASM Nurunnabi

Lately new trends in men's attire seem to be in evidence in the city. Normally in our country, there are no distinctive features in dress, formal or informal, for our males. In a country where the climate is hot and humid for most of the year, the general preference is for a dress that is light and loose, allowing ventilation of air in the body. This requirement is fully met in the present trends in male attire. The notable thing is that these trends are getting highly popular in the field of casual wear. This relates to the males' steady preference for punjabi (kurta) and pajama in the

summer. Gone are the days when men used to wear sherwani and chost pajama for formal occasions with, of course, some exceptions. Now their place appears to have been taken by the knee-length kurta during religious festivals particularly. This new trend is noticeable

almost everywhere. Indication of the present popularity of kurta is available in almost all city shops dealing in ready-made garments for males. When a big religious festival arrives, the buying spree for this item of dress is set in motion. Lately there is such a big variety of designs on the shoulder and front portion of the dress that making a selection for purchase is not an easy thing. Lately a number of fashion houses have come up displaying attractive varieties of this wear. They are made from various kinds of dress materials: cotton, silk, grameen check with embroidery work of eyecatching designs. The carry price tags ranging from hundred taka to several ti sand

KHULNA, Jan 14: Notorious

criminal Ershad Shikder's

chief bodyguard Noor-e-Alam

deposed against his former

master in the Jainal murder

'case in the court of Additional

District and Sessions Judge

Hasan Imam yesterday as a

sons including Shikder killed

Jainal Khan by firing shots

from a close range at Skid Ghat

murder plan although I wit-

nessed it from a distance of

others accused in the case - Li-

aquat Lashkar, Idris 'Jamai',

Nazem Sarder and 'Tunda' Ha-

roon — were present in the court

during Alam's 150-minute

cross-examination by defence

committee of 101 members and

abolition of the position of

would lead the APAC in almost

all tiers under the final compo-

sition and that in that event JP

would get fewer posts of con-

scheduled meeting of the four

secretaries general of BNP.

Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami

and Islami Oikya Jote, was can-

celled all on a sudden yesterday.

29 Minto Road, the official res-

idence of the Leader of the Op-

position in Parliament, at

6:30pm yesterday. The secre-

taries general were scheduled to

sign the circular yesterday

which, in turn, was to be

secretary general Matiur Rah-

man Nizami along with party's

liaison committee representa-

tives. Mohammad Kamaruzza-

man, Abdul Qader Mollah and

ATM Azharul Islam rushed to

BNP to reply

The BNP leader said a dia-

logue is necessary before the

Opposition returns to the

House. But the demands and the

preconditions must be met for

creating a congenial atmo-

Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami

and Islami Oikya Jote at a

meeting last month announced

that they would not join the

current session of Parliament.

Earlier, the chiefs of BNP.

From page 1 remarks on Khaleda Zia.

sphere for dialogue.

As per the schedule, Jamaat

despatched today.

The meeting was to be held at

Due to this fresh dispute, a

Manjur feared that BNP

joint convenors.

Ershad Shikder and three

Alam said only three per-

"But I was not aware of the

government approver.

on April 22 in 1995.

about 40 vards", he said.

taka. Punjabis with special designs were lately seen in the market. Such newly designed punjabis are known as Pathan punjabi. Nawabi punjabi. Za-mindar punjabi. There is a variant of this dress known as Peshwari or Kabuli suit with loose flowing shirt reaching down below the knee and loose shalwar. Although this dress is sometimes worn for formal occasions, it doesn't enjoy much popularity because it is more expensive than the embroidered

The over-all impact of this dress with elaborate embroidery work is that it is now elevated almost to the status of a formal dress. We find evidence of this in gatherings where Western dress is taboo. For some religious functions particularly, this dress enjoys predominant preference.

It is a pleasant development that this new trends in casual wear offer vast scope for colourful designs and styles, free from the straight jacket of convention within affordable financial limits for most of the male consumers.

The kurta for the males, however, stands behind in comparison with the so-called three-piece for the females, which is more variegated and gorgeous in colour and design and more expensive. This kind of female dress is also getting very popular because of its greater functional facility.

The main shopping centres for the male punjabi and pajama are located among other places, at Bangabazaar and on Mirpur-New Elephant Road junction and the shopping complex opposite Dhaka Col-

lawyers. The five are among the

nine accused in the murder

Lawyers defending Shikder

case. Four others are abscond-

put a barrage of questions but

Alam remained firm in his

stand against Shikder. They

also charged him with taking

financial benefit from police

for being a government ap-

bodyguard. I tried to get rid of

him. But I could not succeed in

my three attempts". Alam said.

He looked jolly while deposing

The court fixed January 16 for

while abusing local journalists

loudly for covering news, which

he termed false. "I will take re-

venge when opportunity

Minto Road in time, only to

tact BNP and other leaders from

the Minto Road office by tele-

phone. Finally he came to know

from the BNP secretary general

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan that

the meeting had been cancelled.

The Jamaat leaders expressed

their dissatisfaction as none

had informed them about the

also waiting at the party central

office for attending the sched-

meeting had been cancelled as

the JP secretary general could

not be contacted. A liaison rep-

resentative told The Daily Star

that despite frantic efforts, he

could not contact Naziur Rah-

day's meeting as none could get

in touch with the JP secretary

general by phone," the liaison

is representing the BNP in the

liaison committee, told The

Daily Star that the meeting of

the four secretaries general was

contacts with the leaders of the

alliance and trying to hold the

meeting today (Saturday). He,

however, could not confirm

whether the secretaries general

would meet today. Zahid, how-

dispute within the alliance.

the 'fresh dispute'.

ever, denied that there was any

and Jamaat leaders, especially

Naziur Rahman Manjur, were

not available for a comment on

Despite repeated tries, JP

He said that he was making

not scheduled' for yesterday.

We were forced to cancel to-

However, Anwar Zahid, who

man Manjur.

leader added.

BNP's Mannan Bhuiyan was

Liaison sources said the

cancellation of the meeting.

Qader Mollah tried to con-

Shikder used filthy words

"While I was Shikder's chief

prover, but he denied it.

against Shikder.

the next hearing.

comes," he warned.

find the office empty.

Action council faces

Deposition in Jainal murder case

Noor-e-Alam firm

in his stand

against Shikder

From Staff Correspondent

A change has come over in the wedding dress for the males. Previously for such occasions. sherwani and chost pajama used to be worn by the groom. Nowadays 'prince coat' is more in fashion, because this can be worn for formal occasions in subsequent period, as against sherwani, which after use on the wedding day, is rarely made use of subsequently.

A status symbol implication is involved in the use of suit and tie for the males, though these are not suitable to our hot and humid climate. Yet in order to maintain formal decorum in dress, bankers, bureaucrats and multi-national company executives wear suit and tie. The younger generation, however, prefer casual wear in the form of jeans trousers and sports shirts. The brand names of such clothes fascinate them nonetheless. The fascination with brand names goes to such an extent that unscrupulous businessmen cash in on almost exact replicas of the imported clothes and their labels and sell them as originals with a big margin of profit. The original brand items face stiff competition from designer items. Leve's and Wrangler jeans are generally in great demand. But anyone with an eye for fashion and a wish to establish sartorial superiority buys designer jeans at exorbitant prices.

The sartorial changes, as noted above, are the result of the fast changing outlook in a developing society and help in the burgeoning consumer market. Their economic implications seem, on the whole, to be favourable in the free market economy

Transport workers block Dhaka-Aricha

road for 2 hours SAVAR, Jan 14: Transport workers clashed with local 'community police' over extortion and blocked Dhaka-Aricha highway in Gabtali-Amin Bazar area, disrupting traffic for two hours today, reports

Witnesses said transport trucks haphazardly on the highway creating five-kilometer-long traffic congestion in the afternoon to protest assault on a transport owner and a

worker. A local group, known as community police, who control traffic in the area, beat up a transport owner and a worker earlier in the day apparently

for toll, leading to the clash. Police from Savar thana appeared in the scene after two hours at 6 pm and dispersed the clashing groups to clear the traffic jam.

Attack on Zilla Parishad office: 20 BCL men sued at Barguna

BARGUNA, Jan 14: Twenty eaders and workers of the district unit of Chhatra League, including its president and general secretary, have been sued for their alleged involvement in the attack on Zilla Parishad of fice, reports UNB.

Zilla Parishad Administrative Officer Parimal Chandra Duari filed the case with Sadar police after the attack on January 4.

According to the case, 20 BCL leaders and workers attacked and ransacked the office as they failed to get a work order in lot-

Chhatra League leaders and workers brought out a procession in the town on Thursday demanding withdrawal of the "false case" filed against BCL

leaders and workers.

Bomb blasts at proposed venue for CCC Mayor's reception

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Petrol bomb explosions rocked a community centre in the city

Unidentified miscreants hurled at least 12 bombs at Rima Community Centre on Jamal Khan Road under Kotwali thana at around 7 pm.

A reception for the newly elected CCC Mayor and Ward Commissioners is scheduled to be held there tomorrow.

6 Indians held

From page 1 napole border on January 12 and were residing at a hotel in the town.

When asked, the arrested persons admitted their involvement in smuggling out the magnet and said they sell those to Rainbow Company in India after collecting from Bangla-

A case was filed with local police station and the arrested were handed over to them.



A fine balance Workers busy themselves with preparations for the Biswa Ijtema on the banks of the Turag River in Tongi -Star photo

6 S Asian countries meet today to float stock exchange fed

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: About 15 delegates from six South Asian countries are expected to arrive in the port city to attend a two-day conference beginning tomorrow to work out modalities for floating South Asian Stock Exchange Federation (SASEF) Chittagong Stock Exchange

(CSE) is hosting the conference to be participated by delegates from major bourses in India. Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Addressing a press confer-

ence today. President of CSE Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowd hury MP, said such an economic forum is a necessity for development of regional capital market under private initiative. "It is the need of the countries, need of capital market in

CSE took the initiative to hold such a conference being tional Stock Exchange welvatisation and to form the Fed-

the process of rapid globalisa-

tion of economic activities," he

eration. Khosru said. 'We want to come out of bureaucracy in the field of development of regional cooperation," he added.

The CSE president mentioned some objectives of the proposed Federation. These include encouraging mutual cooperation among the Federation members to expedite development of share markets, concerned to project the members in international capital market, development of coordinated international share trading system in the region and creation of scope for listing and trading of shares issued in the region and giving importance to subjects of identical interest.

Besides, the Federation members will extend mutual cooperation in commercial research, exchange of information and technology, organising subjectwise seminar and development of human resource. The Federation of Interna-

workers kept their buses and | imbued with the spirit of pri- comed the initiative and its Secretary General Gerrit De Mares Oyens will attend the conference. Khosru said.

Talks with US Senators

Musharraf promises to restore democracy

ISLAMABAD, Jan 14: Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf today told four visiting US senators he was committed to restoring democracy, reports Reuters. They were apprised in detail

about the measures for economic revival and social devel opment," a government statement issued after the meeting

"The government is commit ted to restoration of democratic institutions on the basis of devolution of power and to hold district level elections during the current year.'

The senators' three-day trip. ending tomorrow, is the highest-level American visit to Pakistan since the October 12 military coup that toppled prime minister Nawaz Sharif and installed army chief Musharra as chief executive.

Move tomorrow

From page 1 The four are Lt Col (retd) Syed Farugur Rahman, Lt col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan. Lt col (retd) Muhiuddin Ahmed and Maj. (retd) Bazlul Huda. Huda was flown back to Dhaka only two hours after the

Post-Eid frowns all around

vacation.

"It was a good visit," delegation leader Tom Daschle told reporters.

Daschle. Senate Democratic leader, declined to comment further on his talks with Musharraf and later with Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar.

The Pakistani statement said Sattar and the senators talked about security in South . Asia with particular focus on India-Pakistan relations, the two rival countries' dispute over Kashmir, the Afghan conflict and international terrorism.

See also page 5

It quoted Sattar as saying he hoped the United States would "play a proactive role to help resolve the Kashmir problem, over which Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

"President Clinton's visit to South Asia (expected this year) would provide an important opportunity in this regard," he

The senators also met delegations from Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party and an alliance of opposition parties led by former prime minister Beverdict was pronounced on nazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

Dhaka should return to its noisy, congested self shortly. No wonder everybody at

Kamalapur Railway Station seems less than thrilled to be back after their long Eid

Mastaans assault woman in city By Staff Correspondent

A woman was assaulted by two mastaans Thursday evening at her Eskaton Garden residence in the city while she was boarding the family car.

Ramna police arrested Sumon and Mohsin in connection with the attack. They are allegedly linked with a Jubo League leader of Eskaton area. Police declined to give de-

They were produced in court vesterday.

Combing Operation 20 maunds of sulphur seized

A total of 1042 people were arrested and 11 illegal weapons. 25 bullets and 28 mounds of sulphur seized on the 267th day of the countrywide combing operation by police. Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar, reports BSS.

The combined forces arrested 508 people on different charges from across the country including four metropolitan areas and seized the arms, ammunition and sulphur. They also arrested 533 wanted accused during the operation.

Thirteen persons were arrested from Khulna Metropolitan area with two arms and three bullets while one person was held from Rajshahi Metropolitan area.

A total of 276 persons including 153 wanted accused were arrested from Dhaka Range with 28 mounds of sulphur while 180 people including 128 wanted persons were arrested from Chittagong range with two arms and six bullets.

Abu Nidal group leader arrested

VIENNA, Jan 14: A leading female member of the Abu Nidal extremist Palestinian guerrilla group. Nimer Halima, has been arrested in Vienna, police said Friday, reports AFP. Police said Halima was de-

Saul Bellow father again at 84

tained on Thursday.

WASHINGTON, Jan 14: Saul Bellow, 1976 Nobel Prize for Literature winner, has become a father again at age 84, The Boston Globe daily said, reports

Bellow's wife, Janis Freed man. 41, gave birth to a baby girl on December 23, the paper reported in its Friday edition. quoting sources close to the

The name of the girl, Bellow's first child with Freedman was not given. Bellow, who also won the

Pulitzer Prize in 1976, has three sons from previous marriages and several grandchildren.

Suspension of coal import

Brick fields in Sylhet badly affected

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 14: Burning of bricks in the brick fields in Sylhet region has been badly affected due to suspension of coal import through Tamabil land customs station in Sylhet and Barchhara and Chargaon land customs stations in Sunamgani for the last few weeks.

Coal prices have also gone up in the local markets. It may result in fall in the production and rise in the price of bricks in this region.

About eight lakh tonnes of coal is imported every year. Of this, seven lakh tonnes are imported from India alone. Besides, about 80 per cent of the coal is imported through the

Tamabil land customs station. Officials said the daily demand of coal for burning bricks is about 2000 tonnes. Brick manufacturers use Indian coal imported from Meghalaya

About 20,000 tonnes of coal is imported through Tamabil and Sutarkandi borders in Sylhet and Barchhara and Charagaon customs stations, one official informed. Coal import was suspended on September 30 last year after resuming for two

months during the season. Conflict between the BSF and BDR also caused suspension in import through the Barchhara and Chargaon customs stations.

After resolving the problem it was resumed in late October But it was suspended again only after three days on November 1 as the BDR and BSF exchanged fire. The BDR and BSF resolved the matter after a week. After this, the border trade remained unhindered for about a month. But the import was suspended from the beginning of December through the Barchhara and Chargaon borders. Recently, import through the Tamabil border had also been suspended. Presently, import is on only through the Sutarkandi customs.

The change in the system of weighing of coal by the Indian exporters had mainly caused the crisis, sources alleged.

The importers did not accept the change and immediately stopped business. Due to suspension of import, the price has gone up. It is now being sold at Tk 2,100 to Tk 2,400 per ton at Barchhara and Chargaon borders against a price of Tk 1,400 to Tk 1.700 the same time last year, sources said.

The price has risen from Tk

CU classes resume tomorrow amid siege programme

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Classes at the Chittagong University (CU) will resume on January 16 after a month-long vacation for holy Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr amid an indefinite siege programme enforced by Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS).

The Jamaat-backed Shibir enforced the siege programme on the campus protesting killing of its two leaders in a gunbattle with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus on December 19. The dormitories of the uni-

versity will reopen at 10 am tomorrow for the resident students amidst tight police secu-

Official sources said a total of 3,000 additional security forces were deployed on the campus to avert further vio-The CU authorities vacated

the dormitories and postponed all scheduled examinations of the university till January 13 following the gunbattle.

Cricket From page 1

land on January 16 and if New Zealand, meanwhile, go down against India by a big margin. 'You have a better chance to qualify in the Super Eight because New Zealand have no runrate at this moment although they have got three points from two games," said Labroy, after calling off the match.

What you need to do is beat Holland comprehensively and wait for the outcome of the India and New Zealand match." he But easier said than done.

Having a sorry run-rate of -2.44 following their heavy defeat against India, Bangladesh need to beat Holland flat out at the Moratuwa Stadium on Sunday. This is the ground where they were bundled out for a meagre 113 chasing India's 235.

But New Zealand, who finished runners-up in South Africa two years back, can put the issue beyond any doubt if they beat India at Galle on Sunday or get a point at the courtesy of rain. Rain is however always on the cards in this part of the

Bangladesh team, being led by Hannan Sarker, will be leaving for Colombo tomorrow morning. (More Stories on Star -Star photo | Sport)

1,800 to Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,200 to Tk 2.600 at Tamabil border. Kalandar Ali, general secretary of the Coal Importers Association. Sylhet, said there should be immediate steps to resume coal import through Tamabil which handles about 80 per cent of the total coal im-

> "We have already contacted the Indian High Commission officials and they have assured of taking necessary measures immediately." he said last

The stalemate began on September 30, 1999 when the Indian authorities introduced 'weigh bridge' at Dauki customs station, opposite the Tamabil border, without ensuring necessary arrangements here. It caused a lot of troubles for the importers, he alleged.

Some brick manufacturers said, if the situation remains the same for a few weeks more, there will be no alternative but to close down the brick manufacturing units.

14 alleged terrorists held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Fourteen alleged terrorists were arrested from different areas in Panchlaish thana in the city

A joint force of police raided Kasaipara. Purana Colony, Shantinagar and Mohammad Nagar and arrested Md. Abul Hossen, 22, Aminullah alias Fakir, 23. Nurul Haq alias Nurul Amin, 25, Md. Jahangir, 25, Md. Shah Alam, 29, Md. Alauddin, 22, Md. Mizanur Rahman, 20, Md Mostafa, 23, Md Ali alias Halim Bihari, 40, Md Hossen, 35, Md Shahjahan, 30. Hamida Begum, 32, Hafej Rokon, 30 and Golam Sharif.

Police said they were arrested on charges of dacoity. snatching and extortion.

Indian miscreants abduct boy from Naogaon village From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 14: A Bangladeshi boy was kidnapped by a group of Indian miscreants from frontier village Chalkmadal in Dhamoirhat thana of Noagaon district on January

According to a delayed report, the Indian miscreants entered Chalkmadal village and abducted Shahinoor. 14. at gunpoint while he was playing cricket at Basudevpur Primary School ground.

Later, the miscreants sent a message demanding Tk 1.10 lakh as ransom for his release. Local BDR authorities held

two flag meetings with the Indian BSF near Pillar No 66/2 on January 11 and 12, but the meetings ended without any

Cold wave

From page 1 degree C and 14.5 C on Thursday. The minimum temperature of 12.2 C in the country yesterday was recorded at Srimangal It was 8.5 C on Thursday.

In Cox's Bazar, the minimum temperature yesterday was 16 C. in Chittagong 14.7 C. Mongla 15.5 C. Bhola 14.2 C. Rajshahi 14.5 C and in Ishurdi

Air pollution

From page 1 vealed during a working session on air pollution that a 10 microgram per decilitre increase in lead contamination cause a 2.5 point decline in a person's IQ. A one point decline in IQ translates into a 1 per cent drop in a person's lifetime income capacity.

Policy makers must take immediate steps to phase out leaded fuel, two-stoke engines and all badly maintained vehicles plying Dhaka's streets, said

Dr. Naila Zaman Khan, a professor of child neurology at Shishu Hospital. said Dhaka's children have been exposed for years to serious air pollution that is hampering their mental and physical growth.

Khan discussed the cases of two babies - one from Aminbazar and the other from Tongi - who have developed physical disabilities due to high levels of lead in their blood to illustrate her point. "A baby's respiratory rate is

have the natural instinct of picking up things from the soil. so they are more vulnerable to lead pollution, said Khan. So far, we know only the tip of the iceberg. Khan said urban children are more vulnerable than rural

children to air pollution, while

twice that of an adult and they

children who live in slums are worst-hit. Our children are voiceless.

Do something now before the whole generation of children are destroyed." Khan concluded passionately.

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