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BANGSHAL

Majed Court, 16/1 Siddique Bazar North South Road, Dhaka Tel # 9667462

Non-government primary school teachers brought out a procession in the city yesterday

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along

with most of his family mem-

former lieutenant colonels

Syed Farook Rahman, Sultan

Shahriar Rashid Khan and

Muhiuddin Ahmed and ex-ma-

jor Bazlul Huda, are now in jail

awaiting the higher court

judgement. The rest including

key plotter Lieutenant Colonel

(dismissed) Khondokar Abdur

Rashid fled the country soon af-

to the High Court against the

verdict following the lower

defence so far did not appear in

the High Court to seek hearing

BCL leader shot

dead in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: A BCL

The victim, identified as Md

leader was shot dead at Bepari-

thana here last night.

of rival Kader group.

para under Double Mooring

Nurul Afsar, 22, was attacked

by some gunmen wearing

musks when he was passing

through the area at around 7.30

at the Chittagong Medical Col-

BCL Agrabad unit and a leader

of BCL AZM Nasir group. He was

reportedly killed by the gunmen

Zimbabwe beaten by 75 run

lege Hospital at around 10pm.

He succumbed to his injuries

Afsar is vice president of the

court judgement.

on their appeals.

The four convicts appealed

But court officials said the

ter the 1996 general elections.

But only four of the convicts,

demanding nationalisation of their service.

the Bangabandhu Murder Case

before the High Court today for

lower court verdict which sen-

tenced 15 former army officers

Special Public Prosecutor

Anisul Hug told BSS yesterday

he would "mention" the case

before a High Court bench today

for hearing the "death refer-

ence" for confirming the sen-

tence awarded by Dhaka Dis-

trict and Sessions' Judge's Court

High Court bench tomorrow

tice, the bench is then expected

to fix a date for hearing the case

Legal experts said the hear-

ing on the death reference and

the appeals of the convicts were

likely to be held simultaneously

The prosecution last week

moved the case before a High

Court bench comprising Justice

Kazi Ebadul Huq and Justice

Sikdar Mokbul Huq, which had

advised it to "mention" the mat-

ter to another bench earmarked

Court officials said the

for death reference on a techni-

bench did not want to entertain

the case as it was likely to be re-

constituted before the disposal

of the matter. The bench broke

on Thursday with the elevation

of its presiding Judge Ebadul

Huq to the Appellate Division

Dhaka District and Sessions

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul, now

retired, sentenced the 15 out of

19 accused to death on Novem-

ber 8, 1998 for killing Father of

After 149 days of hearing,

of the Supreme Court.

(within 10 to 14 days)," he said.

and in line with the usual prac-

"I will submit a 'slip' before a

to death 14 months ago.

in November 1998.

in the same bench.

cal ground.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

Move in HC today to

fix date for hearing

of death reference

The prosecution will move the Nation Bangabandhu

hearing and confirming the bers on August 15, 1975.

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Salary of PM, ministers enhanced

Parliament yesterday passed two bills enhancing monthly remuneration of the Prime Minister and members of her council of ministers, reports

Education Minister ASHK Sadique introduced the bills for consideration of the House. Earlier on January 20, chairman of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta submitted a report on the bills.

The Prime Minister's Remuneration and Privileges (Amendment) Bill 1999 raised the PM's monthly salary to Tk 22,000 from Tk 14,000.

Under the Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers Remuneration and Privileges Bill 1999, the remuneration of the ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers increased to Tk 20,000, Tk 18,000 and Tk 17,000 respectively.

Earlier they each got Tk 12,000. Tk 11,000 and Tk 10,600 respectively.

CMM's Court faces acute shortage of magistrates

By Court Correspondent KM Abdullah, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka, said yesterday there is an acute shortage of judicial officers in the CMM's Court.

About 68,000 cases are pending with the court and some of them even date back to 1990, said the CMM.

"At least 80 magistrates will be needed to clear out the backlog," the CMM said. Only 23 magistrates were working in the court now and some of them even do not have separate courtrooms to hear cases, he

"About 2000 extortion related cases are pending for about a year due to shortage of magistrates," he said talking to reporters yesterday.

The CMM refused to answer questions about corruption by the magistrates which human rights activists and newspapers often accuse them of.

Mentioning some recent incidents of terrorist attack on magistrates and complainants. the CMM suggested a permanent police box be set up on the court premises to ensure safety and security of all concerned in the

'Alamats (evidences) and other vital documents related to cases cannot be accommodated in the court custody due to shortage of space on the court premises.

The record room also does not have sufficient space to accommodate the disposal records, Abdullah added. They are now being stacked in the corridors of the court building despite possibility of damage and theft anytime.

Hartal paralyses life in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Normal life was paralysed in the port city and its adjoining areas today due to an eight-hour hartal enforced by BNP-led opposition alliance.

The opposition alliance enforced the hartal protesting killing of a Shibir activists in the city on Thursday.

Shibir blamed BCL for the killing, but BCL denied it. Police and witnesses said some bombs exploded at different places of the city during

hartal hours. Police arrested five pickets from different places.

JCD-BCL clash Natore Govt College closed

sine die From Our Correspondent NATORE, Jan 23: Natore NS Government College has been declared closed for an indefinite period following a clash

between the activists of BCL and JCD on the campus yesterday. The authorities took the decision at a meeting today apprehending fresh violence.

Two rival student organisations - JCD and BCL - clashed over admission to the first year Honours classes in the college. At least 30 people were injured in the clash.

Police arrested 31 people in connection with the clash. Of them, ten were released while the rest sent to jail.

DESCO

From page 1 lease added. The board also decided to recruit new executives to replace them.

DESA Chairman, who is also DESCO Chairman, will act as managing director till a new chief executive takes over. DESA Member (Finance) and DESCO Director Dr. Md. Mozibur Rahman and DESA General Manager and DESCO Director Abdul Mannań Mollah will perform as director (finance) and director (technical) respec-

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1500 Jamaat, Shibir men sued in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Jan 23: Sub-Inspector Abdur Rashid of Khulna thana has filed a case today accusing 14 leaders and 1500 activists of Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shibir of hurling bombs on police vans during a procession on Saturday after-

noon. Four activists of Jamaat and Shibir have so far been arrested in connection with the incident that left two policemen injured

seriously. Jamaat-Shibir activists who took shelter in Tarer Pukur Jame mosque after being chased by police on Saturday evening were allowed to leave the mosque at about 9:45.

Police forces were withdrawn after two Jamaat leaders assured that the accused would be handed over to Khulna

Earlier, police cordoned off the mosque keeping over two hundred leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir confined in the mosque.

Awami League and its front organisations have strongly condemned release of Jamaat Shibir activists who took shelter in the mosque with arms and bombs.

Non-govt primary teachers begin sit-in at Osmani Udyan

Several thousand non-government primary school teachers yesterday morning began sit-in demonstration for an indefinite period at Osmani Udyan demanding nationalisation of their service, reports

- Star photo

Sacked Biman

pilot takes

up case

with BAPA

By Staff Correspondent

lots - two of them sacked and

another sent into retirement

recently -- has taken up the

matter with Bangladesh Airline

two of the 15 persons convicted

Bangabandhu murder case.

and sentenced to death in the

Ajmal Hussain, one of the

sacked pilots, yesterday told

this correspondent that he had

asked BAPA president Captain

Mafidul Islam to take up his

case since he had done 'nothing

lam said, "Ajmal came to me. I

told him BAPA is an associa-

tion that looks after the welfare

of Pilots. It cannot take up a

case where security of the state

Ishfagur Rahman, his wife Cap-

tain Yasmin Rahman and Cap-

tain Ajmal Hussain. Ishfaq and

Yasmin were grounded on Au-

gust 16, 1996 while Ajmal was

(dismissed) Faruk Rahman and

and Ajmal is the brother of Na-

imul Hussain Ansar. Faruk and

Najmul were sentenced to death

in the Bangabandhu murder

case by the District and Ses-

sions Judge's Court, Dhaka, on

NIDs on April 3,

and May 3

second rounds of National Im-

munization Days (NID) have

been fixed on April 3 and May 3,

respectively with a view to erad-

icating polio from Bangladesh

the National Steering Commit-

tee of NID yesterday at the

It was decided at a meeting of

by the year 2000, reports BSS.

The dates of the first and

November 8, 1998.

Health Ministry.

Yasmin is the sister of Col

grounded on November 8, 1998.

The three pilots are: Captain

is involved

When contacted, Captain Is-

They are close relatives of

Pilots Association.

One of the three Biman pi-

"We shall not leave the Udyan until our demand is met", said Shamsul Alam, president of the Bangladesh Nongovernment Teachers' Association, while he was addressing the teachers. The teachers in a procession

went to the Prime Minister's Secretariat to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, but police intercepted them near the Shishu Park at about 1.15 pm. Police officials requested

leaders of the teachers to send

their representatives to Prime

Minister with the memorandum, but they declined. Protesting police interception, the teachers sat on the road, causing serious traffic jam in the city. They staged sitin on the road till 3 pm.

Later, two officials from the Prime Minister's office came and received the memorandum on behalf of the Prime Minister from the leaders. The teachers later returned

to Osmani Udyan and vowed not to go home until the demand is met by the government. The teachers staged a simi-

lar demonstration in May in 1998 at the same place, and held a grand rally in the city in December the same year. The number of non-govern-

ment primary school teachers is estimated at 92,000. A teacher gets a salary of Tk 1300 at the beginning.

Nikunja murder Two alleged accused remanded again

Shaheenoor and Morshed Hossain, two alleged accused in Nikunja Murder Čase was taken on a four-day remand yesterday, reports BSS.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) police yesterday produced the accused before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) and prayed for five days remand. The court granted them four-day fresh remand after hearing both the

Police said they were remanded for the second time yes-terday in connection with Joint Secretary Nikunja Bihari Devnath murder.

Nikunja was stabbed to death by muggers near Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University recently.

Indo-Bangla Joint Working Group meets today

A two-day joint working group meeting of Bangladesh-India begins today at the State Guest House Padma in the city. reports BSS.

Joint Secretary (Political) of Home Ministry Md Janibul Haq will lead an eight-member Bangladesh delegation while Indian Joint Secretary (North-East) GK Pillai will head his country's seven-member team at the meeting.

The meeting will discuss bilateral issues and existing problems between the two countries. an official handout said in the city last night.

JS quorum problem seems easing

By Nazmul Ashraf

The quorum problem in Jatiya Sangsad eased slightly yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending the House after skipping the proceedings on four working days.

Still, the day's business was 20 minutes behind the schedule although the PM and Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid took their seat on time, that is 9:30 As the Chair was waiting for

a quorum that requires at least 60 members, the PM sent a message through a Whip to her party MP Prof Ethin Rakhaine. who briefly chaired the session on Thursday.

"Congratulations," said a smiling Hasina to Rakhaine as soon as the latter came near her. The two had a brief discus-

Ruling Awami League lawmakers was late in the House probably being unaware of the PM's presence in the House. The House had long been suffering from the quorum crisis which worsened as the lawmakers of major opposition parties started boycotting the parliament since July last year.

To overcome the crisis, the Prime Minister and the Speaker started arriving in the House on time. And the quorum crisis cleared off a lot in the past two sessions.

But the problem surfaced again in the current session. The PM could attend proceedings on three out of the ten working days till yesterday, ow

Seemingly annoyed with the absence of many of the members in the Treasury Bench yesterday, the prime minister looked around the House. Looking at the front row where most of the ministers sit, she said in lighter vein, "The ministers failing to come on time will lose their jobs."

Then, apparently losing patience. Hasina told the Deputy Speaker, "You can start now.. think the quorum is now there in the House provided you do the counting yourself."

But the quorum was not She looked at the two press

galleries which were almost empty. "I see, the journalists also do not come on time." Hasina remained in the

House during the three-hour sitting yesterday. However, she took a 40-minute break when a good number of her party MPs also went outside. But most of them returned when she was

On the day, all but one min ister having scheduled businesses were present. So were the lawmakers.



A procession by DU students on the campus yesterday protesting assault on a woman at TSC during the New Year's celebrations. - Star photo

Brother-in-law of Huda on fresh remand

By Court Correspondent Hanif Bhuiyan, brother-inlaw of Bazlul Huda, was taken on a three-day fresh remand vesterday.

Bhuiyan was produced before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Dilip Kumer Sharma at about 5:30 pm yesterday. The court granted him three days' remand rejecting the prayer for seven days' remand by cantonment police.

He was picked up by Special Branch Police from Zia International Airport (ZIA) early hours of January 20. Earlier, he was granted a two-day remand. Bhuiyan is being interrogated under Section 54 of the

Code of Criminal Procedure. Salma Huq Rozy, wife of Kamrul Huq Swapon, younger brother of Maj (retd) Shariful Huq Dalim was also picked up by Special Branch of Police from Zia International Airport (ZIA) the same day, police said. Huda and Dalim are among

death in the Bangabandhu Murder Case. Rozy was released later, po-

the 15 who were sentenced to

Auto-rickshaw strike partially observed in city

By Staff Correspondent Strike called by auto-rickshaw drivers to protest the ongoing crackdown on illegal driving license holders in the city yesterday was observed in certain areas, according to witnesses and leaders of the drivers' association. A few auto-rickshaws were

seen plying the roads in the cap-Ital but most of them were off the streets, witnesses said.

Clashes between police and autorickshaw drivers were reported from old parts of the city during yesterday's crackdown. Some vehicles were also ransacked during the clashes, witnesses said. Police said none was hurt or arrested.

DMP traffic officials, however, said that many autorickshaw drivers did not come out

The two-week old crackdown on illegal and smoke-emitting more days, sources said.

Star, alleged that police started a crackdown on them and was charging a "fine" of Tk 2,000.

advantage of the situation since most of the auto-rickshaw drivers did not have legally issued licenses.

A genuine driving licence for auto-rickshaw would cost about Tk 4,000 while a fake one could be obtained for Tk 800 only,

by extortionists

A retired official of the police and hospital sources

Mohammad Nuruddin, 59, son of late Taher Uddin and resident of T&T colony.

Nuruddin was hit by a bullet when the extortionists chased by local businessmen opened fire indiscriminately. The victhe sources said.

Motijheel police, said Nuruddin was shot in his chest. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 6:30 pm where the doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue

jheel thana in this connection.

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Jan 23: Another businessman was kidnapped by some terrorists from his home in the city at midnight on Fri-

was kidnapped at gunpoint as he failed to pay toll to the ter-

Six persons have so far been arrested in this connection, police said.

The alleged kidnappers are

armed cadres of an outlawed or-

ants from Nirala vegetable market. Khulna thana police.

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Bangladesh top the group Sports Reporter

Bangladesh thumped down a himself out on 54 in the 23rd 75-run defeat on fancied Zimbabwe to become the Group One champions of the Plate League of the World Youth Cricket Championship yesterday.

With this commendable win at Colombo's NCC ground, Bangladesh determined Ireland as their semifinal opponents. avoiding the possibility of facing strong South Africa before the January 27 final. Group One runners-up Zimbabwe will now face South Africa, who emerged champions from Group Two.

Back to the day's match, Bangladesh, riding on two halfcenturies from openers Nahidul Haque and Mohammad Selim. scored 270 for seven in their share of 50 overs. The defending Plate champions then went on to restrict Zimbabwe for 195 for Electing to bat first, and middle-order Kuntal Chan-

sharing a century partnership.

Bangladesh got off to a flying dra (17) were the other notable

the highest opening stand for 5.42 per over at the onset, Zim-

them so far. Together the two babwe never looked comfort-

put 122 runs before Selim got able against an attack that of-

start with Nahid and Selim run-getters for Bangladesh.

balls.

knocks from tail-enders -Mahfuz Kabir and Tariqul Hasan, Bangladesh could garner a commanding total in the end. Combing for the seventh wicket, Mahfuz and Tarigul picked up 71 runs off 64 balls. Mahfuz smashed an unbeaten 41 off 39 balls while Tariqui clobbered 38-ball 35.

With a required run-rate of

over. In his innings, the righthanded batsman played 77 Only after two overs, his right-handed opening partner

trudged off to the pavilion scoring an identical 54 off 66 balls. Following the departure of the free-scoring openers, Bangladesh middle-order failed to click as they lost four wickets before reaching two hundred. Thanks to the valiant

One-down Rajin Saleh (19)

Off-spinner Anwar Hossain. three for 39, was the most successful bowler for the winners. Left-arm new-ball bowler Bikash Ranjan Das meanwhile returned with two for 19 from

will be held at Asgiriya International Stadium. **STANDINGS** (Group One) Team

(Group Two)

fered lot of variety.

his ten miserly overs. Both the semifinal matches will commence on January 25. Bangladesh will face their foes from the British Isles at the Walagedara Stadium. The other semis between South Africa

Kenya Namibia

Ireland Netherlands More stories on page 13

Bangladesh Zimbabwe

Team South Africa

Old man shot dead

By Staff Correspondent Postal and Telecommunications Department was shot dead by extortionists in front of the Baitul Amur Mosque Near T&T colony at Motifheel yesterday,

The dead was identified as

tim was returning home after Magrab prayers in the mosque,

for autopsy. A case was filed with Moti-

Another businessmen kidnapped in Khulna

The victim Firoz Mahmud

Police could not rescue him till filing of this report at 8 pm

> ganisation, said members of the victim's family. Earlier on Thursday, a businessman named Sultan Bepari was kidnapped by some miscre-

He is yet to be rescued by

on the streets fearing police crackdown. Majority of the auto-rickshaw drivers were holding fake licenses, they al-

vehicles will continue for few Some auto-rickshaw drivers, contacted by The Daily

Police were allegedly taking

some drivers alleged.

in city

Duration

guest pick-up

Price