

PM returns home

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday evening concluding her three-day visit to Cambodia where she attended conference of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace and held talks with Cambodian leaders, reports UNB.

The trip added another dimension to the diplomatic success story of the government as she had fruitful bilateral meetings with Cambodian Prime Minister agreeing to bolster Dhaka-Phnom Penh cooperation, especially in economic field.

Hasina arrived at Zia International Airport at about 7:5 pm from the Cambodian capital. Before leaving Cambodia, the Prime Minister yesterday visited an ancient historical place, Siem Reap province of the country.

She went to Siem Reap by a helicopter of Cambodian government and visited the ancient shrine of Buddhist community, Angor Vat.

Suo moto rule on Sessions Court judge for violating HC order

By Special Correspondent

A Division Bench of the High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule asking Ms Munira Mahfuza, a judge of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court, Dhaka to show cause why contempt proceedings shall not be drawn against her for violating an earlier High Court directive to try a murder case within three months.

The accused, Rafiqul Islam and Mantu Mia, both members of Railway Police were charged with killing one Jasimuddin on November 14, 1993.

The accused prayed for bail in the High Court which asked the sessions judge on October 10, 1999 to complete the trial in three months.

Justice Ali Asgar and Justice SK Sinha issued the rule.

'Make census programme a success'

By Staff Correspondent

The ongoing fourth population census would be objective and realistic as all-out preparations have been taken for the smooth holding of the national event, State Minister for Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told reporters at a press briefing yesterday.

The fourth National Population Census 2001 began in the early hours yesterday to enumerate the country's population according to professional groupings and incomes.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed was formally enrolled as the country's first citizen.

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Bomb blasts Hawkers Fed denies involvement

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Bangladesh Hawkers Federation yesterday refuted the allegation of their involvement with any fundamentalist group in connection with Saturday's bomb incident in the city that killed seven people and injured more than 50.

The leaders were addressing a press conference at the National

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Visitors take a close look at a painting on the inaugural day of the 14th National Art Exhibition 2000, at the Shishu Academy yesterday. The three-week exhibition, organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will run through February 12. -- Star photo

Armed activists of Jubo League take position around KU Hony Treasurer allegedly involved

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Jan 23: A group of armed cadres of the ruling Awami League has taken position around Khulna University allegedly at the instruction of treasurer Abdur Razzak Sarder who is also one of the vice presidents of the party's district unit.

According to agitating students, the honorary treasurer of the university has called the armed cadres of Jubo League 'obviously in support of the authorities'.

At least 10 students were injured in attacks by the Jubo League cadres in the last two days.

The Jubo League cadres have threatened us to leave Khulna or face severe consequence, the students alleged.

Demanding re-opening of the university, students blamed both the Vice Chancellor and the Treasurer for creating anarchic situation on the campus by using the armed cadres against the students who are agitating to stop politicisation in admission, administration and allotment of seats in residential halls.

The Treasurer invited his party leaders to attack us on the campus on Sunday, forcing the Vice Chancellor to close the varsity for an indefinite period when situation had gone beyond his control, students alleged.

The authorities declared the varsity closed for an indefinite period on Sunday following agitation by the students.

A six-member committee headed by Prof Mohammad Abdur Razzak has been formed to probe the Sunday's untoward incident on the campus in which the VC, some professors and officials were assaulted and Administrative building and some dormitories ransacked.

The five other members of the committee are Prof Dr Saifuddin Shah, Md Abdul Matin, Ali Naki, Obaidul Hannan and Md Rafiqul Islam.

The holding of the second convocation of the university now depends on the outcome of the

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Forest dept: 94 out of 256 Class One posts vacant

By Nazrul Islam

A total of 94 posts including four posts of Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest (DCCF) out of 256 posts of Class One officers are lying vacant in the Forest Department, a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) was informed yesterday.

Acting Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Mohammad Nuruzzaman was made CCF superseding his four senior colleagues on August 1 last year, it was learnt.

According to provisions, the file of an official should be sent to the authorities concerned within two months of his appointment for confirmation in the post. But in the case of Nuruzzaman, his file was neither sent to the Superior Selection Board (SSB) nor the authorities concerned.

Nuruzzaman is now holding responsibilities of eight posts in the department.

A source close to the ministry said that the Prime Minister's office had sent a letter to the MOFE asking it to follow existing rules and regulations regarding appointment of the CCF.

However, yesterday's meeting did not go through the CCF's appointment. It suggested immediate recruitment in the vacant posts of Class One officers.

The other vacant posts are: 12 posts of Deputy Conservator or Assistant Chief Conservator, seven posts of Deputy Divisional Forest Officers, 47 posts of Assistant Conservator, one Computer Programmer, three posts of Assistant Computer

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Contractor stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young contractor was stabbed to death allegedly by a gang of miscreants at Sarulia in Demra in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sharif Hossain, 25, a contractor and trader of construction materials.

Police, however, said Sharif, son of late Bashi Mian, was a local musclemen and involved in criminal activities. One Badsha Mian filed a case against Sharif and his associates at about 9 pm on Monday.

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CPB to hold another rally at Paltan

By Staff Correspondent

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will organise another 'red flag' rally at Paltan Maidan in the city on January 29 protesting Saturday's bomb attack on its rally.

Four people were killed and over 50 injured when a powerful bomb exploded at the rally at Paltan Maidan Saturday afternoon.

CPB leaders at a meeting at the party's Purana Paltan office yesterday announced the 'red flag' rally will be attended by its activists from Dhaka and its adjoining districts.

People-FFs rally Ministers, MPs going to Barisal to mobilise people

By Staff Correspondent

Ministers, MPs and central leaders of the ruling party are going to Barisal to mobilise people in a bid to make the fifth people-freedom fighters 'grand' rally on January 27 a success.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to address the 'grand' rally, organised by the Combined Freedom Fighters Front (CFFF), at Bangabandhu Park in Barisal on the day.

The Awami League launched

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Mass Upsurge Day today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is the historic Mass Upsurge Day.

On this day in 1969, the valiant sons of the soil, defying a curfew, rose in a mass upsurge against the oppressive Pakistani rulers.

Matiur Rahman Mallik, a brilliant student of Nabakumar Institute at Dhaka's Bakshi Bazar, sacrificed his life on this day during a mass upsurge against the Ayub regime.

Matiur, a student class ten was gunned down by police when he was leading a student procession for pressing the 11-point demand of Chhatra Sangram Parisad that quickly turned into a mass movement.

Some other valiant sons of the soil also laid down their lives in the firing incident.

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No more high-rises in six-storey zones

Housing ministry decides

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided not to allow 'any more' high-rise buildings in areas where a six-storey height restriction is in force, sources said.

The decision was taken by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing following a report headlined 'Rajuk flouts its own rules, allows high-rises in six-storey zone' published in The Daily Star on Saturday, January 20.

Minister for Public Works and Housing Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star that the government was determined to implement the zoning layout of the city.

"Several high-rise buildings in six-storey zones have become obnoxious. This trend of unplanned growth of the city must be stopped for the sake of our environment and living conditions," said Mosharraf.

Rajuk has been approving high-rise building plans in violation of an official height restriction under the cover of 'privately owned lands'. In many city areas where Rajuk has strictly imposed the height restrictions, developers have managed to 'twist the standard' and obtain approval for high-rise building plans, sources said.

In residential areas like Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Baridhara, Lalmatia, Moham-madpur, Shamoly, Maghbazar, Shantinagar and other areas, 'enclaves' of privately owned

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Gulshan Lake Rajuk removing earth dumped by CSKS

By Staff Correspondent

In an unprecedented move, Rajuk started removing earth from the Gulshan Lake yesterday, dumped by the Cooperative Society of the Senakalyan Sangstha (CSKS) which claimed the ownership of a portion of the lake at section-1 near the shooting club.

Heavily backed by two platoons of riot police, superintendent engineer and magistrate of Rajuk more than 40 labourers and a mechanised earth remover of the Dhaka City Corporation started recovering the Gulshan Lake from piles of earth dumped in the last month. The recovery work kicked off at around 1-00pm.

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