

Manzur-led faction

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Manzur. The sources said the faction was considering appointment of Dr MA Matin as party chairman.

Change of power

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ultimatums time and again as she has 'gone mad' losing power in the last election.

Laltu arrested

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Laltu, all other leaders and activists of four-party opposition alliance. Presided over by Manir Hossain, the rally was also addressed by Asaduzzaman Palash, Nuruzzaman and Lutfar Rahman.

JS goes into session

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According to parliament secretariat sources, the current session would deal with several serious legislative businesses including passage of some bills on issues related to the ruling Awami League's 1996 election pledges.

DU Syndicate polls today

DU CORRESPONDENT
The election to the posts of teachers' representatives on the Syndicate of the Dhaka University will be held at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) today.

Bangabandhu

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statements of the witness, the counsel told the court that Justice Ruhul Amin had discarded the witness and appealed for upholding that.

11-party

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into the January 20 bomb explosion at CPB's Paltan Maidan rally. The delegation also complained against non-holding of trial of the Ratan Sen murder and attempt on Rashed Khan Menon after passage of so many years.

Ershad: Lawyers

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Wahedullah said his client is looking for new counsels after Barrister Rafiqul Huq, who used to represent Ershad in the High Court Division and the Appellate Division, declined to continue.

Welcome shower

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stretching from the north-western region to the north-eastern region of the country. There may be gusty winds with rains in some parts of Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions and in some areas of Kushtia, Jessore, Comilla districts till 6 p.m. today, a Met office forecast said.

Customs

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However, the foreign ministry sent the letter to the Ministry of Communications, which, in its turn, passed the responsibility of providing papers to the NBR on the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).



Arshad Ahmad, a participant from Sri Lanka, addressing the national workshop on "Disasters and Livelihoods" organised by ITDG at BETS auditorium in the city yesterday.

Khaleda: Ultimatum to go

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According to the Bangabhaban communiqué, the president explained to the opposition leader that there was a difference of only a few days between the election timeframe proposed by the ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP.

press while coming out of the Bangabhaban at 6.30pm. The president invited the opposition leader to the meeting on Tuesday, according to BNP sources. After the meeting, the BNP chief drove straight to her Banani office where she informed top leaders of the four-party opposition alliance of the outcome of the crucial meeting.

could only help rid the country of the political crisis. "We also apprised the president of our demand for freeing the civil administration from politicisation, recasting the Election Commission and recovering illegal arms from the ruling party men," he said. Bhuiyan suggested that the government should resign now for holding of the next polls before the rainy season so that the caretaker administration gets enough time to ensure free and fair elections.

Gidita protested atrocities

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the loans they often give without any proper agreement, the villagers told a group of journalists who visited the spot on March 25 to investigate the incident and subsequent atrocities by the Bangladeshers there. The murder followed when Gidita's younger sister Namreta Rema, a fifteen-year old school girl, was allegedly abducted on February 7 and forced to marry Hobibur Rahman's younger brother Mafizur Rahman.

"The murder has made me afraid of sending my daughters to school," said a father who refused to tell his name. A neighbour anticipating more violence said, "This may be the first incident of murder, but we have been forced to obey their orders almost everyday since they had settled here. They lay their hands on whatever we earn." Eleven persons including two women have been accused in the murder case, but none has been arrested so far.

arrest the accused, "but I doubt whether they are in this district." Chairman of the Union Parishad Mohammad Zakir Hossain refuted the charges that he was involved in the murder. "I had called both the parties for a settlement. Namreta confessed that she belongs to her husband Mafiz. So, I asked them to settle the issue accordingly," said Hossain. "In fact, it was Hobibur who had earlier complained to me that he was being harassed by the Garo over a land dispute," Hossain added. The Adivasi Coordination Committee has called a rally to protest the growing atrocities in Magantinagar at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3:00 pm tomorrow.

Disaster mitigation

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rounding social and political institutions reckon with this interdependencies, households barely have time to recoup before the next cycle of destruction". The report termed the quality of existent disaster management programmes 'wanting'. Attention was focused mostly on floods among the three types of disaster. "Programmes that directly address the problems arising from river erosion are practically non-existent," the report said. The study found that there was not enough political will to cope with the arsenic disaster. "Community level interventions are mostly limited to providing information about the dangers of arsenic-polluted water, but nothing is being done to enable communities to acquire facilities for arsenic removal or the treatment of surface water."

the study said the forecasting of disasters and dissemination of information on floods should be improved by strengthening coordination among flood forecasting, warning centre and the Meteorology Department. Similar policy directives should be set to assess and upgrade quality, timeliness and forecasts of river erosion, it suggested. It also recommended the upgrading of disaster management plans, establishment of flood refuge centres and drills in complex activities such as emergency evacuation. It further suggested that activities at the village level be aimed at establishing facilities needed in case of an emergency. These include setting up and equipping flood refuge sites, community silos, community livestock shelters on high land and elevated beds for seedlings. Mobilisation of local resources through the donation of land for facilities, materials, cash or labour was also suggested at the workshop.

BBC agrees to probe

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assured him that he will write "fully once that investigation has been completed". Dyke requested the high commissioner to extend necessary assistance to Elizabeth Wright, Head of the Asia Pacific Region, to carry out her investigation. Meanwhile, Wright, who is to investigate the case, has already procured the tape of the interview Syed Mahmud Ali gave to Masuda Bhatti, sources said. In that interview which appeared in Janakantha, Syed Mahmud Ali stated that he fought against the people of Bangladesh in 1971 as an officer of Pakistan Army and was present at the Dhaka Radio Station on August 15, 1975 following the

assassination of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with members of his family. Syed Mahmud Ali in the interview also claimed that he subsequently arrested Tajuddin Ahmed, the wartime Prime Minister of the Bangladesh. While demanding immediate action against BBC Bengali Section Chief Syed Mahmud Ali for his past activities, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed paid rich tributes to BBC for its traditional and glorious role in promoting democracy, progressive politics and human rights.

Indian film awards

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ity of some jury members came from within the jury. Film director Pradip Kishen, who resigned from the jury, and Dhritiman Chatterjee alleged several members of the jury owed their position due to "political patronage." It was obviously in reference to the presence of a lady BJP legislator, editor of the RSS mouthpiece, and another lady who had campaigned for information Minister Sushma Swaraj against Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in a parliamentary by-election. Also, another member of the jury, veteran actor Mac Mohan, is an uncle of Raveena Tandon. What angered Kishen, husband of leading author Arundhati Roy, more than inclusion of these people in the jury was the manner in which they had pushed through decisions about certain awards. Daman, which won Raveena got the best actress's award, was recalled for consideration after having been rejected by a team of selectors who had short-listed the films for the final round, Kishen pointed out. It was done to reward Raveena for campaigning for BJP in the 1999 parliamentary polls, he alleged.

As per rules, Dhritiman Chatterjee said, nobody related by blood or marriage to anyone in the race for the awards should be on the jury. "But I am told Mac Mohan is Raveena's uncle." Vijayantimala Bali, however, pointed out that Mac Mohan had abstained from voting while the jury chose the best actress. Raveena's close contenders for the award were Hindi film stars Tabu for her role in Astiva and Karisma Kapoor in Shyam Benegal's Zubeida. In being adjudged the best actor, Anil Kapoor is understood to have edged out veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee for his performance in Dekha directed by internationally acclaimed director Gautam Ghosh. Soumitra was given a Special Jury award. However, there was complete unanimity about most of the other awards including the one for best director, which went to Rituparno Ghosh for his Bengali film Utsab. Malayalam language film Shantham, starring among others star Indian footballer I M Vijayan, was adjudged the best film.