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People's Right to Know

Charge sheet given in first sedition case against JMB

3 JMB suicide bombers, 1 supporter held in N'ganj with 10kg explosive materials

STAR REPORT
The police yesterday submitted the charge sheet in the first sedition case against seven JMB members to a Dhaka court, while the Rab arrested four others including three suspected suicide bombers with 10kg explosive material in Narayanganj.
Sub-Inspector (SI) Iqbal Hossain, investigation officer (IO) of the sedition case filed with

Dhamrai Police Station, submitted the charge sheet to a first class magistrate's court in the city yesterday afternoon, naming 25 people as prosecution witnesses, reports our court correspondent.
The seven Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operatives accused in the charge sheet are Mohammad Rafiqul Islam alias Sentu, 22, Mohammad Wahab, 26, Yaqub Ali, 21, Anwar Hossain, 23, Faruq Hossain alias

Kosai Faruq, 25, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman alias Pintu, 20, and Abdus Salam, 22.
Of them Sentu is in police custody and the remaining six are absconding. The IO prayed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the six accused still at large.
Dhamrai police arrested Sentu, Wahab, Yaqub, Anwar, Faruq and Salam with nine manuals on bomb making and other contraband

materials on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway on February 20.
They showed the six men arrested under the Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code and produced them before a first class magistrate's court in Dhaka on February 22 with a prayer for a seven-day remand to interrogate them. The court granted a two-day remand.
Thirteen days into their arrest, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Workers of Continental Apparels of Manipuripara in the city injured in a stampede sparked off by a rumour of fire being treated at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

Japan to give \$250m for 3 projects

UNB, Dhaka
Japan will provide \$250 million to finance three projects in Bangladesh for water-supply improvement in Chittagong, replacement of old transformers and installation of new transmission line, and Dhaka-Chittagong telephone-line development.
Japanese Foreign Minister Aso Taro yesterday called Foreign Minister Morshed Khan over the phone and conveyed the Japanese government's decision.
Under the grant assistance, \$120 million will be spent on the Chittagong water-supply improvement plant, \$46 million on replacement of old transformers and setting up new transmission line and \$80 million on Dhaka-Chittagong telephone-line development project. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

14-party lays siege to upazilas

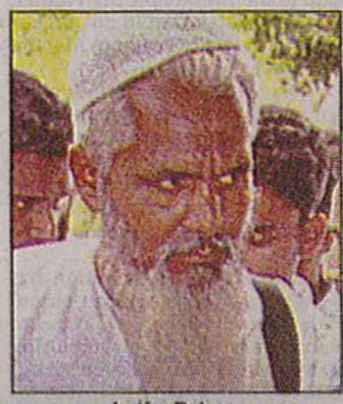
20AL men hurt as procession attacked in Gazipur

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday laid siege to upazila administrations across the country demanding reduction in the prices of agricultural inputs and protesting the price hike of essentials.
In Gazipur, 20 opposition leaders and activists including AL Organising Secretary and ex-lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman were injured when their procession towards Kalliganj upazila office was attacked by the ruling BNP activists. SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Some ministers, state machinery backed JMJB

Says Bangla Bhai adviser; asks why cops arrested him alone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Arrested Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader Lutfar Rahman yesterday said some ministers and the state machinery, including the police and district administration, patronised JMB chief Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai's "anti-outlaw" operations in Rajshahi region.
Lutfar enquired of the police why he alone was arrested. "I will tell the truth, even if I am killed or hanged to death," an investigator quoted him as saying after his arrest Monday afternoon. SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Lutfar Rahman

BSP, NOAB for zero import duty on newsprint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) and Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) yesterday demanded the government withdraw import duty on newsprint.
In a statement, BSP President Mainul Hossain and NOAB President Mahbul Alam said that the local mills supply low quality newsprint that makes up only 25 to 30 percent of the total demand.
The price of newsprint has increased to Tk 49,000 per tonne within the last six months and it is heard that the newsprint mills

FALSE FIRE ALARM 50 garment workers hurt in stampede

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
At least 50 garment employees were injured, two of them critically, in a stampede resulting from a false fire alarm inside a garment factory at Manipuripara in city's Tejgaon area yesterday.
The rush of over a thousand workers brought down the main collapsible gate of the garment factory on the third, fourth and fifth floor of a six-storey building.
Some of the injured workers alleged that the authorities of the factory, Continental Apparels Limited, kept the main gate on the

AFD chief retires today

Post vital for next polls

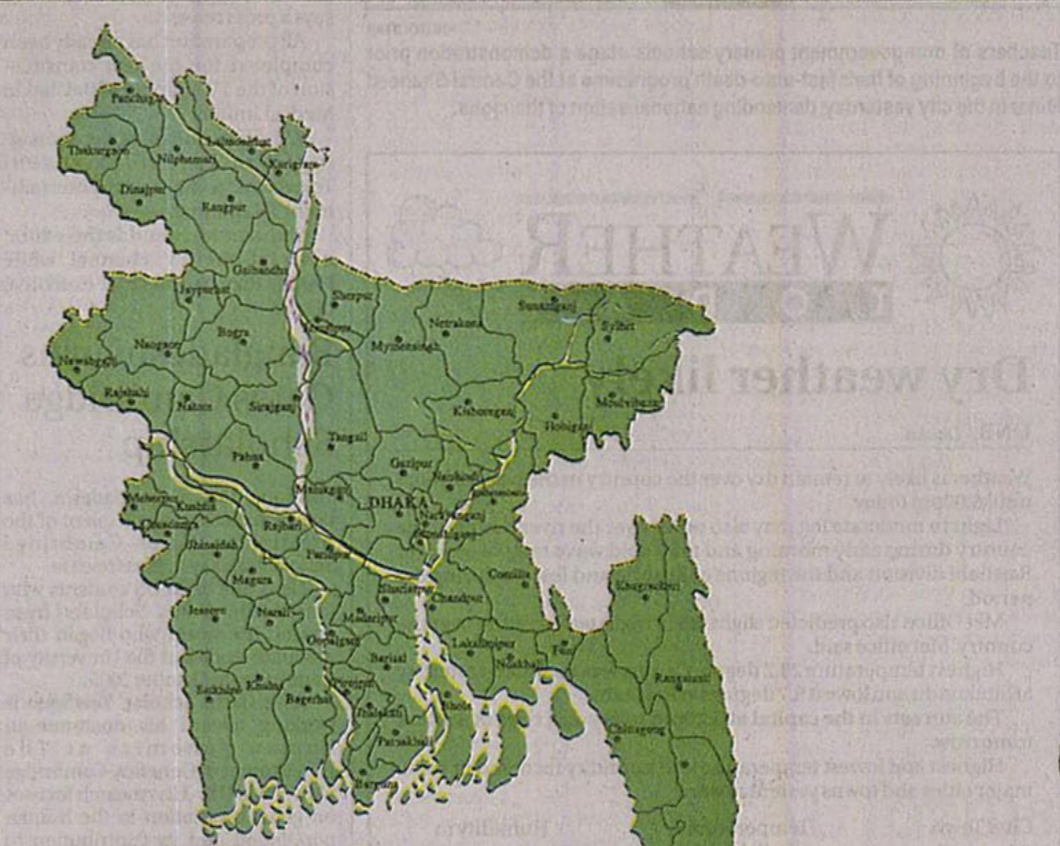
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Several senior army officers are busy in last minute lobbying to get the post of the principal staff officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division (AFD) as Major General Mustafa Reza Noor retires from the post as well as service today.
The government is considering appointment of "a trusted and efficient" officer as chief of the AFD that will play a vital role in the deployment of troops for the next election duties, sources concerned said.
The AFD, which coordinates the activities of the three armed forces, will assume greater significance during the election period, as the



A mobile court seizes water containers without BSTI seals from a Nilkhet shop in the city yesterday. The court awarded the shop owner a hefty fine.

17 mobile courts join food drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The ongoing drive against food adulteration was reinforced yesterday as 17 magistrates joined the drive in the capital and sealed off two vermicelli factories.
The 17 mobile courts raided 89 places in the city and realised Tk 6,61,700 as fine from the owners of the shops and factories. They also sent 13 people to jail.
A mobile court sentenced nine persons to jail, for seven to 15 days, for cheating in measurement in two fuel stations -- Meghna and Ramna -- in Ramna area.
The courts lodged cases against them under Hygienic Food Act, BSTI Act, Environment Act, Motor Vehicle Ordinance and other acts, a home ministry press release said.
A mobile court, led by SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Our Country



Opposition out to capture power thru' backdoor: PM

UNB, Nagarpur, Tangail
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday apparently blamed the opposition parties for sponsoring 'bomb terrorism' and said they have hatched a conspiracy to oust the elected government and capture power through backdoor.
Justifying her claim, she mentioned that the opposition leaders were saying that bombings would stop if the government resigned, Jamaat was ousted from the government and reform of the caretaker government system done.
"The blasts will stop as people stood united against bombings and terrorism, many perpetrators have already been arrested and drives are on to arrest the rest," she said addressing a public meeting at Nagarpur Government College ground.
Khaleda, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, urged people to vote for BNP and the alliance candidates in the next general election to keep up the trend of ongoing development activities carried out by the four-party government.
She said if her party and alliance came to power again in the next election in January 2007, girls' education would be made free up to degree level.
Referring to the national dialogue initiated by her, the PM said all excepting the 14-party combine responded to her dialogue call. "It is clear that they don't want peace SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Punish Islamist militants immediately

Demands 14-party combine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 14-party opposition combine yesterday demanded immediate punishment to the Islamist militants and those responsible for all the bomb attacks in the country according to the existing laws.
The opposition leaders at a meeting at the Dhanmondi Awami League (AL) office also accused the BNP-Jamaat alliance government SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BSF abducts 5 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhira
Five Bangladeshi citizens, including a minor boy, were kidnapped by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Debhata and Kalaroa upazilas in the district yesterday.
The abducted are, fishermen Abdul Qaddus, 35, Samir Moral, 40, his son Raju, 12 and Abu Sayeed, 25 of village Shakhra Komorpur in Debhata and Golam Rasul, 27 of village Chandanpur in Kalaroa.
BDR and police sources said, a BSF patrol team of Taki camp SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Govt mulls stopping pvt fertiliser import

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
The government is considering importing non-urea chemical fertilisers to sell those at a subsidised rate to the farmers, stopping the import by the private sector.
It has always been doing the same in case of urea fertilisers.
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will sit down with the representatives from agriculture and industry ministries today to discuss the issue.
The alleged irregularities by the private importers of non-urea fertiliser regarding the subsidy have prompted the government to consider doing the import on its own.
Earlier on December 7, the cabinet committee on purchase in a meeting discussed in detail a SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

DCC hands over maiden Nagar Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for the first time ever gave 'Dhaka Nagar Padak' awards yesterday for outstanding contribution to society.
The Dhaka Nagar Padak-2004 was awarded to veteran journalist Nurjahan Begum, founder editor of the weekly Begum, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Nirapad Sarak Chai SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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