

AL call for Hasina's release after Azam's denial

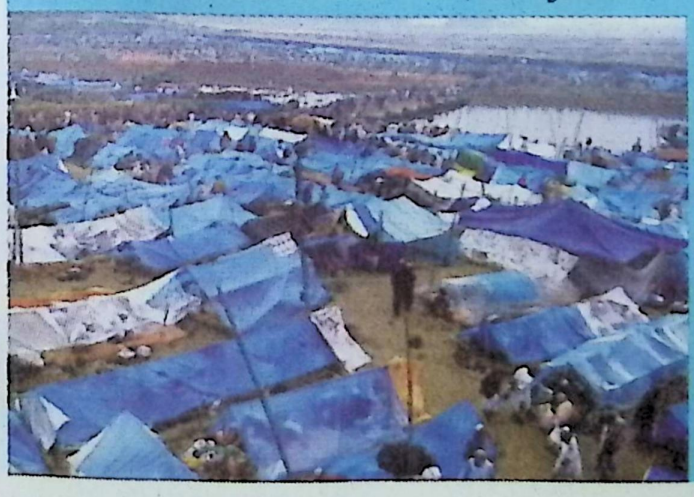
Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman says Sheikh Hasina should be released immediately after the confession of Azam J Chowdhury that he had not filed any extortion case against Sheikh Hasina. Clarifying his position on Jan 24 businessman Azam J Chowdhury says that he did not file any case against former prime minister Hasina, but only against her cousin Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim. AL says it would be injustice to keep Hasina in detention anymore under implication 'in a false and conspiratorial case to isolate her from her people'. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court allows the trial of the case to go ahead by halting an earlier High Court stay order.

Robbers sweep clean lockers in Brac Bank heist

Robbers make off with gold ornaments and other valuables estimated at several crores of taka, breaking open 75 safe deposit lockers in the Dhanmondi branch of Brac Bank Ltd. The theft comes to light on Jan 6, when police report a large hole cut through the floor of a hotel room right above the locker room. The branch of Brac Bank is situated on the first floor of a building, which houses Hotel Nidmahal Residential right above the bank. Police suspect the robbers rented six rooms of the hotel for more than a month to plan the heist. Bank officials said 75 lockers out of a total of 132 were found broken, 15 of which were not in use at the time of the robbery.



Bad weather cuts short Biswa Ijtema



In an unprecedented incident, the three-day Biswa Ijtema, ostensibly the second largest yearly congregation of the Muslims, on the bank of Turag River at Tongi is cut short on its inaugural day, Friday Jan 25, due to an inclement weather that caused deaths of at least three pilgrims. Police confirm that the authorities took the decision considering the sufferings of several lakh pilgrims in the bitter cold weather, and the deaths of the three elderly pilgrims, Ali Ashraf, 55, from Bogra, and Raqibuddin, 70, and Giasuddin, 80, from Pabna. Defying the bitter cold wave and the rain, about two million people from across the country and from abroad join Friday's jum'a prayer but many are then forced by the terrible weather to leave the grounds.