Come to CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
The House of Peace & Rest, The Place of High Class.
We Cordially invite you to try our Beautifully prepared and Beautifully presented authentic THAI CUISINE and SEAFOOD in the cosy atmosphere of a LOVELY HOUSE.
1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL: 226803

The Daily Star

VOL. 1 NO. 323 REGD. NO. DA 781 POUSH 1, 1398 BS, DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 16, 1991 JAMADIUS SANI 9, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 4.00

AEI OF U.S.A.
CUT DOWN AIR FREIGHT AND DUTIES ON YOUR IMPORTS
CALL 232224, 237784 239145, 239217
BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L LTD

Inside Today

Supplement
In observance of the Victory Day we publish a four-page supplement today
Pages 8, 9, 10 & 11

Article
The Blood of Our Neighbours
Page 4

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day

A freedom fighter's sister tells the tale of her horror and motivation during the Liberation War
Page 3

Business
Saifur blasts aid conditionalities
Page 6

International

Shevardnadze urges Gorbachev not to rush into resignation
Page 5

Holiday Notice

The offices of the Daily Star will remain closed today (Dec 16, Monday) on the occasion of Victory Day. There will, therefore, be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Tuesday)

NEWS BRIEFS

Commemorative coin on Dec 16

The government has decided to mint and issue one-Taka commemorative silver coin on December 16 to mark the 20th Victory Day. This first ever commemorative coin will be considered as legal tender or coin of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The portraits of seven Bir Shreshthas will be on the coin, reports BSS.

WB suggestion on jute sector

A Jute Mission of World Bank yesterday suggested the government to bring down the loss in Jute sector by reducing the number of workers. The Mission which met the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman here yesterday morning said the situation in the country's jute sector was grim. They expressed deep concern at the annual loss incurred by the jute sector which has risen to 1000 crore taka, reports UNB.

Judgement on UZ system delayed

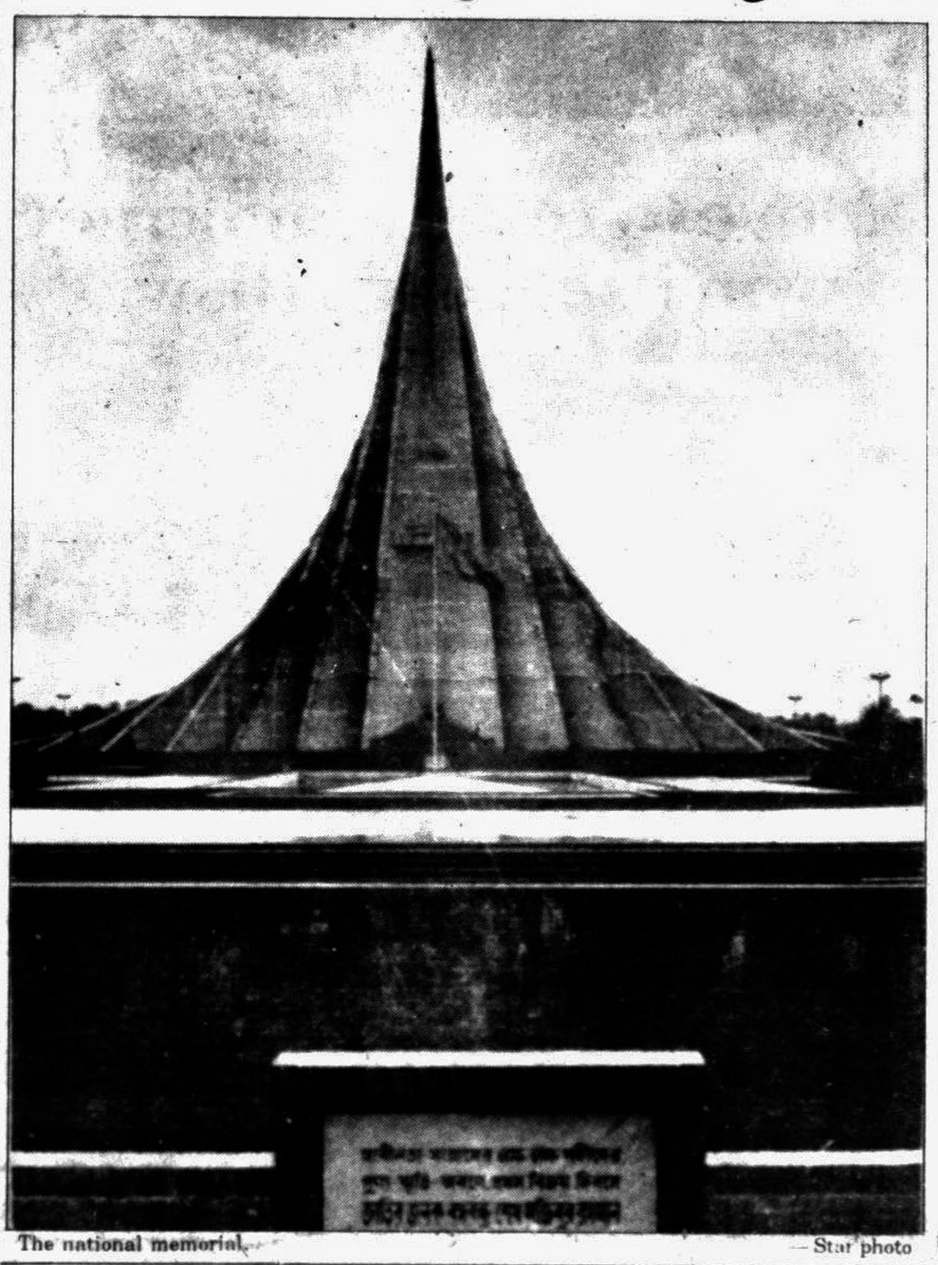
Judgement on the writ petition, challenging the validity of the ordinance abolishing the upazila system was re-fixed on Thursday.

The division bench comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Nazimuddin Ahmed earlier fixed the date of the delivery of the judgement on Sunday.

Train driver suspended

The driver of the train, which met an accident Saturday between Nandangachi and Arani stations in Rajshahi killing one person and injuring several others, has been suspended, reports BSS.

Victory Day today



The national memorial. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The nation today celebrates its victory in 1971 over a genocide- mounting Pakistan in a nine-month long engagement immortalised as the Liberation War.

Today's celebration gains in pith and moment as being the 20th anniversary of the day the Bangladesh state took over the whole of the territory that it is now constituted of—after securing unconditional surrender of all the Pakistani occupation forces left in the land.

The occasion is special also because it is now a nation with a democratically elected government, first time after repeating spells of coups and takeovers and autocratic rule, that is today re-living the memories of greatest glory in its history of at least three thousand years.

Alongside the nation will remember with gratitude the sacrifices of the millions of martyrs.

However, unlike previous years, there will be no Victory Day parade this year. But massive popular participation will mark the celebration. Day-long performances on numerous daises specially in the two venues of university campus and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar will particularly reflect the popular sense of jubilation.

Hoisting of the national flag, discussions on the significance of the day, rallies and special prayer at all places of worship for the progress of the country will be the main highlights of the day.

In Dhaka city different political and socio- cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the day.

To mark the occasion President and Mrs Abdur Rahman Biswas will host a reception at Bangabhaban this afternoon.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister

See Page 12 Col. 3

Create tradition of democratic culture : PM

Prime Minister Begum Zia Sunday called for creating the tradition of a healthy democratic culture in which "constitutional process will be the order of our politics," reports UNB.

"Anarchy and indiscipline can never be the language of democracy," she said addressing the nation over radio and television last night on the eve of the 20th Victory Day.

Reminding that political power is never perpetual, the Prime Minister warned we should guard against foolhardiness that could strike a blow on our new democratic system.

"Independence did not come to us as a present. We had to pay a high price for it," Begum Zia said urging all to uphold the spirit and values of independence and the Liberation War. "This country belongs to us all."

Begum Zia said one of the objectives of our Liberation War was to establish a democratic society. "We will be able to consolidate our hard-earned independence by giving democracy a permanent and institutional shape", she said.

In a 23-minute speech, the Prime Minister gave a resume of the government's achievements in the last nine months as well as outlined the policy guidelines that will govern its future course.

The Prime Minister also underlined the need for taking equal initiatives in changing the lot of the people. "Because in the final analysis political freedom is meaningless without economic emancipation".

See Page 12 Col. 1

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the nation over radio and television on the eve of the Victory Day yesterday. — PID photo

Collaborators still active, says Hasina

Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the ruling BNP of conspiring against the country's hard-won independence in unison with the anti-liberation forces, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of the Victory Day today, she called the people for unitedly averting such conspiracy and also resisting "undemocratic and unconstitutional" acts of the present government.

Paying tributes to the memory of the freedom fighters who dedicated their lives for the cause of the motherland in 1971, the Awami League President said the whole nation joined the independence war at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina, also leader of the Opposition in Parliament, recalled the historic 7th March speech of her father Sheikh

See Page 12 Col. 2

Three burnt alive in a city shop

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons, of them two are brothers, were burnt alive in their sleep at a motor-parts shop at Folder Street, Wari early Sunday morning.

The fire broke out at about 4 am where the three persons were asleep.

Two Fire Service units reached the spot after about half-an-hour and managed to bring the fire under control in about 20 minutes Fire Service officials said.

Fire Service personnel broke open the front door of the Bhai Bhai Motors at 11/A, Folder Street and recovered the three charred bodies.

Two of the victims Ruhul Amin (40) and Bablu (18) are brothers of shopowner Shah

See Page 12 Col. 6

Fund crisis cripples FF's trust

By Asiuzzaman

The Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust (Freedom-Fighters' Welfare Trust), set up to rehabilitate the disabled and warmaimed freedom fighters, has been limping for 19 years because of huge bank liabilities and some of its non-viable enterprises.

So far what it did for the freedom-fighters was not up to the expectation and the allowances and remunerations being provided by the Trust were not sufficient, a Trust source said.

Currently, it was providing help to 2,152 martyr families and 920 crippled freedom fighters. It has some fund-starved rehabilitation programme operating in small scale.

The Kalyan Trust was established on August 7, 1972, under a presidential order and started functioning from October 11 of the same year. It was housed at a three-storied abandoned building at 88, Motijheel Commercial Area which was later named "Sadhinata Bhaban" in February 1986. It is now a five-storied building.

Initially the Trust was given 16 mills, factories and other enterprises most of which were losing concerns, and Taka 100,000 as working capital. The enterprises had a huge financial backlog now swelling to Taka 25 crore.

The Trust has settled off liabilities worth several crores of taka so far, but some of the cases still remain disputed as the Trust is being asked to pay off the borrowings of the former owners of some Trust concerns, Trust officials say.

The Trust appealed to the government to waive the loans and interests, but no positive response was received, he added.

The number of its business establishments rose to 30 in 1978, but later seven of its

See Page 12 Col. 3

Govt-workers talks hit snag

By Nurul Kabir

The dialogue between the Government and the Sramik Karmachari Oikkya Parishad(SKOP) yesterday ran into a deadlock with both the sides having conflicting views on the major points of demands.

The SKOP has been fighting for realisation of its five-point charter of demands that include fixation of the 'national minimum wages' for both the private and public sector workers at Taka 14,000, halt to denationalisation of public sector industries and repeal of labor laws that go against the interests of the workers and employees.

The SKOP earlier announced a 48-hour countrywide work stoppage beginning from December 22, to press home its demands.

Incidentally, the workers of jute and textile sectors also jointly called a 72-hours rail and road barricade programme coinciding with the same date, aimed at materialising their separate 8-point and 6-point charters of demands. But, according to competent sources, there remains strong possibility for the withdrawal of the barricade programme following 'fruitful' discussions already held between the leaders of jute and textile workers and the concerned ministries.

But the discussion between the Labour and Manpower Ministry and the SKOP leaders held on Sunday morning ran into a deadlock, sources close to the SKOP said.

It was learnt that the government side showed its strong reluctance in making any written commitment to denationalisation of the industries.

On the question of the national minimum wages, the government was reluctant to impose the would be wage commission report on the private sector trades and industries.

The government also declined to fix the 'minimum wage' in the bilateral meeting between the SKOP and Labour Ministry while the SKOP leaders were demanding of the government to announce it at that forum before their proposed 48-hour work stoppage begins.

The government's position on this issue in yesterday's

See Page 12 Col. 2

ADB will slash lending

MANILA, Dec 15: Budgetary problems and increased Soviet and East European competition for funds will limit proposed lending by the Asian Development Bank to Asia's poorest nations, ABD officials said, reports Reuter.

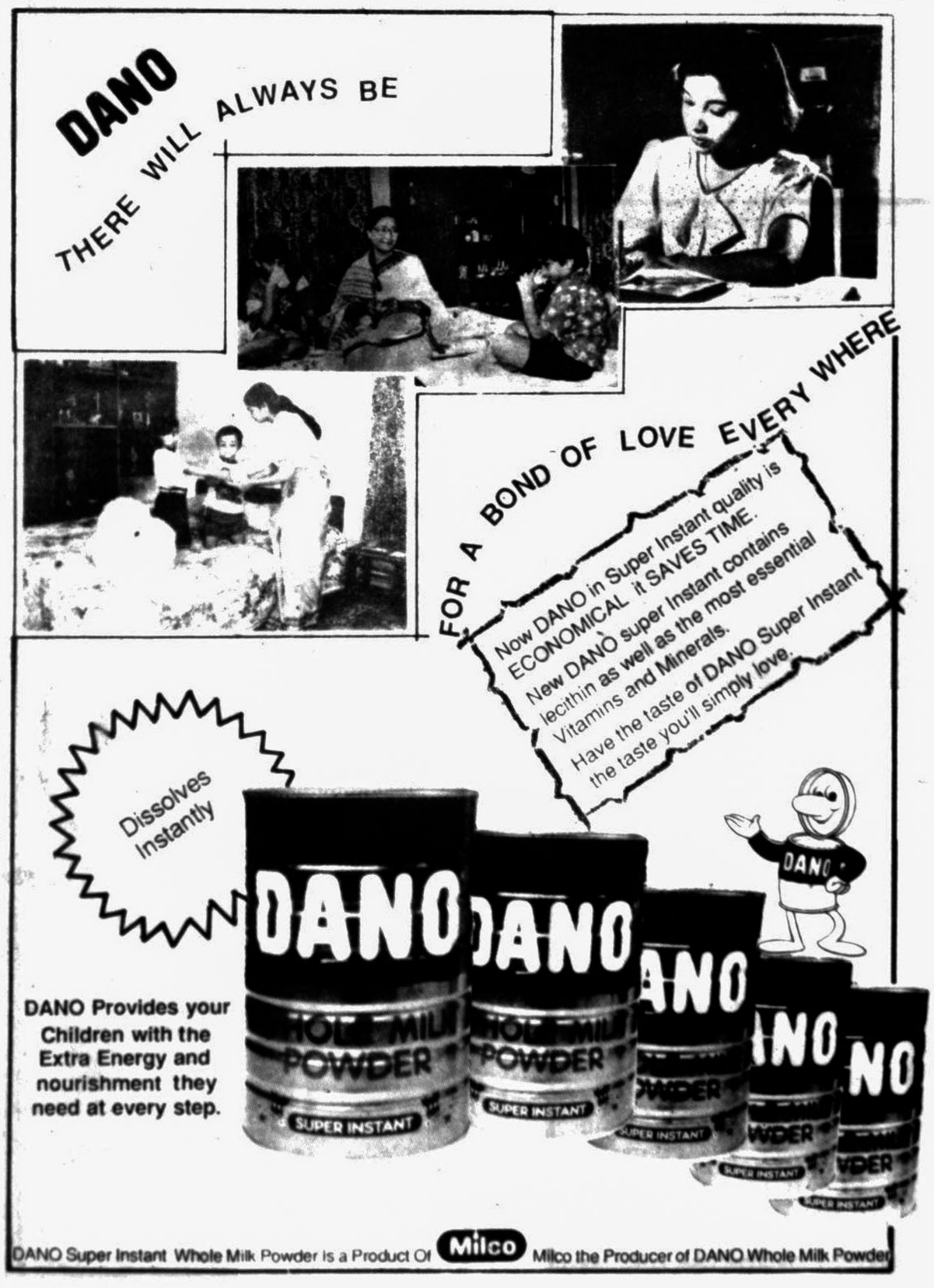
The Manila-based regional bank expects to lend 5.7 billion dollar in concessional funds to Asia's poorest countries over the next four years.

But the Bank said in a statement that new pledgesof funds for soft loans from donor countries at a meeting this week in London had fallen short of its target.

"The result is less than what the Bank requires,' siad Gunther Schultza, ADB Vice-President for Finance and Administration. But he said it was something the Bank would have to live with, given the budgetary constraints of many donors.

The ADB said that donors had pledged 4.2 billion dollar for the Asian development fund (ADF), the Bank's concessional lending window, at a meeting which ended in London on Tuesday.

With an additoonal 1.5 billion dollar from previous pledges, the Bank would be able to lend 5.7 billion Dollar on concessional terms in 1992-95. The Bank and originally targetted almost double that.

Loans from the ADF are provided for the region's poorest countreise. They are interest-free, carry a nominal service charge fo 1.0 per cent and hae an extended repayment period of 35-40 years.

Schultz told Reuters in a telephone ADF interview the Bank had set a much higher target for the replenishment., given the ADB's stronger focus on poverty reduction and environmental issues.