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- Inside Today**
Article
 Progress in Thai Economy Obscures Rising Social Costs
 Column: At Home and Abroad by S. M. Ali
 The concluding article of the two-part series based on the writer's recent visit to Bangkok Page 4
- International**
 Arabs propose fresh date for Mideast conference Page 5
- Business**
 Computer manpower and software trade can fetch \$300m in three years Page 7
- Magazine**
 Two Hours that Changed the World — story of Japanese bombing at Pearl Harbour 50 years ago and its affects, by Derek Ingram; Who's Afraid of the ATP? by Sabir Mustaf a. Page 9; The Lady Tell it All — a review of Tehmina Durrani's 'My Feudal Lord,' by Nancy Wong. Page 10; Rising Stars. Page 11
- Metropolitan**
 Dhaka Day by Day
- NEWS BRIEFS**
 Hearing of writ against UZ Ord
 Khaleda witnesses BAF exercise

Nation celebrates fall of autocracy today

By Staff Correspondent

Nation celebrates today the first anniversary of the fall of Ershad's autocratic regime.

On this day last year president Ershad stepped down in the wake of a mass uprising.

Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, nominated by three alliances and mainstream political parties took over as the acting President of the caretaker government following Ershad's resignation.

The jubilant public paraded the streets this day last year with banners, colourful festoons, placards and photos of national leaders rejoicing the fall of the autocratic regime.

Different political parties and socio-cultural organisations in city and around the country today have chalked out separate programmes to mark the day.

The ruling BNP will observe the day as 'democracy day'. On this occasion the party has convened a public meeting today at Gulistan Square at 3 pm.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia and members of her cabinet will address the meeting.

The party also asked all its ward, thana and district units to organise victory processions and hold meetings on the occasion.

Awami League will hold a public meeting at the Bangabandhu Avenue at 2.30 pm to observe the day.

Acting president of the party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad will chair the meeting. Among others, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Quamruzzaman, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim and Mozaffar Hossain Paltu will address the meeting.

The Five-Party combine has called a public meeting in front of the GPO in the afternoon. Central leaders of the combine will speak on the occasion.

The Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF), comprising four left political parties, will hold its public meeting at the Purana Paltan Crossing at 3 pm.

CPB president Saifuddin Ahmed Manik will preside over the meeting which will See Page 12 col 6



CELEBRATION: Sangskritik Jote arranged a cultural show at the Paltan crossing in the city on the eve of the first anniversary of the fall of autocracy. — Star photo

'PM urging terrorists to halt terrorism'

Awami League Thursday condemned what it called a government move to repress leaders and workers of the party and its front organisations in the name of curbing terrorism, reports UNB.

A meeting of the party's central working committee criticised Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her Wednesday's speech at Shapla Chatter where she called on the Chhatra Dal 'terrorists' to contain terrorism.

'This is nothing but a cruel mockery with the whole nation by the Prime Minister who called terrorists to halt terrorism,' a resolution of the meeting said.

Being surrounded by Illias. See Page 12 Col. 1

BNP may abandon Gram Sarkar

Star Report

The future structure of the Upazila would be decided after the election of the Union Parishads, he revealed.

According to the insiders, the ministers are divided on the issue of Gram Sarkar. Some of the ministers who preferred to introduce the Gram Sarkar as the lowest tier of the local government institution citing reason that it was conceived by late President Ziaur Rahman said that the Union Parishad would be more or less non-partisan body and there was no scope to accommodate the representatives of different social forces as per Constitutional Clause 9, which dealt with the promotion of local government institutions.

On the other hand, the ministers opposing the concept of Gram Sarkar told this correspondent that the formation of Gram Sarkar would ultimately See Page 12 Col. 1

Take fresh vow to safeguard democracy: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday urged the people to devote themselves to building a happy and prosperous country imbued with the spirit of anti-autocracy movement and fulfil the dreams of the martyrs, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the 'democracy emancipation day', Begum Zia called for taking a fresh vow on this day to safeguard democracy as the ever-vigilant sentries of democracy.

The Prime Minister said the language of democracy is peace, discipline, fraternity, tolerance, dutifulness, honesty and sincerity. 'We have to set up a glorious tradition to flourish democratic culture through practising this language,' she said.

The Prime Minister said democracy was not an abstract thing. She said democracy did not mean only restoration of political rights, the economic See Page 12 Col. 5

Don't pay heed to propaganda, says Khaleda

KALIGANJ, Dec 5: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the working forces of the country to launch an integrated movement to increase production to attain self-reliance, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge gathering at Kaliganj Sramik College ground, the Prime Minister asked the workers of the mills and factories not to pay heed to the vile propaganda of the vested interests groups.

The workers have to put in extra efforts for increasing production and help the present government solve the accumulated problems, she said.

Begum Zia said the government was trying its best to solve the problems of the workers of the country. It had already granted 10 per cent allowance for the workers, she said adding but all the problems could not be solved at a time with our limited re-

Tinbigha accord doesn't mean transfer: Delhi

NEW DELHI, Dec 5: Government today ruled out any review of the 1974 and 1982 agreements with Bangladesh on the Tinbigha Corridor asserting that even the Supreme Court has held that the whole controversy on the matter was a 'fight on a non-issue', reports PTI.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, told LK Advani during question hour that the question of the review of the agreements never arose even when the non-Congress governments were in power.

He said that it was a misconception to assume that any transfer of Indian territory was involved in granting the Corridor, under the agreements, only a right of access to its enclaves was being cre-

Tribute paid to Suhrawardy

By Staff Correspondent

The nation paid its homage and glowing tribute to Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, on the 28th anniversary of his death Thursday.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Placing of wreaths at the mazar of the late leader, milad mahfil, Quran khwai and discussion meetings at the mazar premises and elsewhere were the highlights of the day.

Speakers at a discussion meeting held at the mazar premises Thursday morning eulogised the pioneering role of Suhrawardy for the establishment and growth of democracy in this land.

Former chairman of Public Service Commission Dr. AQMB Karim presided over the discussion, jointly organised by Shaheed Suhrawardy Jatiya Smriti Parishad, Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation and Jatiya Baktito Gabeshana Kendro.

See Page 12 Col. 4



Terry Anderson, shouts to well-wishers while holding his six-year-old daughter Salome outside the US military hospital early Thursday following his arrival from Damascus. — AFP photo

Terry Anderson in Germany

WIESBADEN (Germany), Dec 5: A jubilant Terry Anderson was reunited Thursday at this way station for freed hostages with sister Peggy Say, who lobbied presidents and prime minister in a dogged campaign to get him freed, reports AP.

"What can I say? It's just great. It's been so long," said the 44-year-old journalist, the last American hostage in Lebanon, from the steps of the US military hospital.

In an intermittent pre-dawn rain, more than 200 shouting and whooping people greeted the chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, who was freed Wednesday after 2,455 days in captivity.

He held the hand of his 6-year-old daughter Salome, whom he met for the first time after he was driven to Syria on Wednesday.

Mrs Say dashed forward, gave him a huge hug and stroked his face after he stepped down from the helicopter that shuttled him from a nearby US air base.

They held each other tightly and rocked back and forth. On the hospital steps she stood at his side, wiping tears of joy from her eyes.

"Welcome Home" and "Merry Christmas" yelled people in the crowd, many of them packed on the balconies of two floors of the hospital.

Recession shows no recovery

Star Economic Report

A recession appears to have gripped the country.

A recent study conducted by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) shows that the economy was in a nose-down situation during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal year. Economic experts say that the situation did not show any improvement in November also.

The slower production trend was also met by a decline in sales for a wide range of items. The worst sale was recorded in steel sector. It fell by about 47 per cent.

Although the export earning during the July-October period increased by about 8 per cent in Dollar terms compared with the corresponding period of the last fiscal year, the increase was mainly due to high performance of the garment sector. Export earnings from all other major sectors fell during the period.

The economic stagnation also caused a fall in import despite a comfortable foreign exchange reserves position. Imports during the first quarter of fiscal 1991-92 was lower by about Taka 700 crore than the same period last fiscal year.

The export during the first See Page 12 Col. 2

Law enforcers need no permission to enter into DU halls

By DU Correspondent

Law enforcers will need no permission to enter into Dhaka University residential halls to push out terrorists.

The decision came at a meeting of the university's Provost Committee Thursday at the office of the Vice Chancellor.

The meeting, presided over by Abul Mansur Muhammed Abu Musa, convener of the committee, also decided to cancel the allotment of the residents if it was found to give shelter to any armed hoodlums or outsiders in their hall rooms.

The meeting said no guest would be allowed to stay at the halls without prior permission of the provosts.

The meeting also suggested the university students keep valid identity cards with themselves.



Australians are waking up after a century on more of British conservatism, says artist David Brian Wilson from the down under. Page 3

Liaqat taken on police remand

By Staff Correspondent

Liaqat Hossain alias Liaqat, one of the suspected killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milton, was taken on a one-day police remand Thursday.

A special squad of detective police arrested Liaqat from Sabuj Sangha Club at New Eskaton in the city Wednesday.

The detective branch of police produced Liaqat before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court Thursday and prayed for ten days police remand. But the Magistrate granted only one day remand.

Fresh autopsy of Mukhter ordered

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Thursday ordered a fresh autopsy of the body of Hafez Mukhter Hossain on a plea by his brother.

The body will be exhumed and sent to PG Hospital for an autopsy as Mukhter's brother appealed to the magistrate not to allow the autopsy again at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The magistrate asked the authority to send the body to PG Hospital and to complete the autopsy report by December 8.

The magistrate rejected the said prayer of Mary Janet Shyamoli and ordered her appearance before the court on December 9. She was sent to Dhaka Central Jail from the court.

Shyamoli was arrested on last Sunday under Section 54 of the Criminal Penal Code in connection with the mysterious See Page 12 Col. 7

China assures help in mass literacy, population control projects

China has assured all possible assistance to Bangladesh in implementing its population control projects and mass literacy programmes, reports UNB.

The assurance was given by the visiting Chinese Minister of The State Family Planning Commission Peng Pei Yun at a meeting with Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Hossain Yusuf at his residence here Thursday evening.

Yun arrived here Thursday afternoon on a 6-day official visit. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Hossain Yusuf received her at the airport.

A senior official of the Health Ministry said the Chinese Minister was apprised of the Bangladesh government's plan to reduce the population growth rate from 2.17 to 1.8 per cent by 1995.

The need for speedy implementation of the family welfare projects and complementary improvement in the rate of literacy were stressed at the talks.

Guarantee Israeli presence, Syrians ask Bush

WASHINGTON, Dec 5: Syria's chief negotiator called on the Bush administration Thursday to guarantee that Israel will go ahead with peace talks which Arabs and Palestinians are already trying to get started, reports AP.

"We hope to have some reassuring information from the American co-sponsor in order to be able to proceed with the peace process," Muwaffak Allaf said as he arrived at the State Department to meet with US officials.

Israel is insisting the negotiations set up by the United States and the Soviet Union in Washington this week should be delayed until Monday.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the refusal to attend the Washington talks "shows clearly that Israel acts according to its own wishes."

However, Shamir has given assurances that Israeli delegations would be here on Monday. And Israel also offered to hold low-level discussions on procedural issues before then with Arab diplomats.

In Cairo, a key aide to President Hosni Mubarak, Osama el-Baz, called the Israeli boycott of the opening "posturing and (a way of) gaining time." President Hosni Mubarak said Thursday.

While Israel stayed away from the scheduled bilateral talks at the US State Department on Wednesday, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians attended but left within an hour.

The Washington sessions were to be a continuation of the conference that began in Madrid, Spain, on November 4.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for Palestinians, said her delegation was not interested in a rerun of Wednesday's false-start to the talks, when Arab and Palestinian delegations spent less than an hour in rooms at the State Department waiting for the Israeli delegations that did not intend to arrive.

"We cannot negotiate unilaterally and we can't make peace unilaterally," she said.

At the same, she brushed aside Israel's offer to hold technical discussions before Monday.

"The technical or low-level delegation has been here for some time and they did not bother to show up either yesterday," she said. "We have not received notification from the co-sponsor that the technical delegation will be here today."

But Sari Nassabah, another member of the Palestinian advisory group, seemed interested in the Israeli proposal.

"If there is an invitation for such a meeting before Monday, we will be willing to study and discuss it," Nassabah said. The Americans should try and set up a meeting between us and the Israelis. This is their responsibility as co-sponsors."

The Arabs and Israelis traded accusations on who was to blame for the first-day fiasco. Then an Israeli official offered a way out.

Meanwhile, in Beijing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview published today that his government was willing to discuss the occupied territories at the second round of Middle East peace talks.

Shamir told the Xinhua news agency's Jerusalem-based correspondent that despite differences with Arab delegates, his government hoped the parties would continue peace talks.

The interview, conducted late Monday in Jerusalem, was carried by the People's Daily.