

Use **Touch**

Facial tissue  
Table Napkin  
Memory Plate  
Paper Clip

143/A, NEW BAILY ROAD, DHAKA, TEL: 417242

# The Daily Star

The finest Ice-cream from Italy

Made with all natural ingredients and Italian technology.

**dolce vita gelato**  
gelateria, ice cream parlour

54 Kemal Ataturk Ave.  
Ground floor, Barani, Dhaka Ph. 607960

VOL. 1 NO. 314 REGD. NO. DA 781

AGRAHAYAN 22, 1398 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1991 JAMADIUL AWAL 29, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 4.00

## Inside Today

### Article

For a Rapid Growth of the Manufacturing Sector  
Page 4

### International



US won't recognise Croatia, Slovenia  
Page 5

### Business

Recent monetary measures: Wrong prescription for economic cure  
Page 7

### National

Pests damage sugarcane on 50,000 acres in greater Dinajpur  
Page 9

### Sport

A tie at Perth  
Page 10  
National youth soccer begins today  
Page 11

### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Reading theatres is not very much in vogue in our country. Six reciters make an effort to reverse the current  
Page 3

## BNP meeting disrupted as violence breaks out

# Attempt to foil democracy will be resisted: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Friday warned that any attempt to undo the advance of democracy would be resisted and called upon the people to protect democracy they had achieved through their nine years' struggle against autocracy.

Addressing a public meeting at the Gulistan square, marking the first anniversary of the fall of the autocratic Ershad regime, Begum Zia said that collaborators of the fallen autocratic force were afraid of the forward march of democracy. The evil design of the conspirators would be foiled untidily by the people, she added.

The public meeting which was disrupted due to a clash for about one hour ended in pandemonium. Begum Zia addressed the meeting only for seven minutes after the situation was brought under control.

As the clash broke out, police fired tear-gas shells at the venue of the meeting at the Gulistan Square.

Teargas soon spread all over the area. At one stage at around 4.21 pm, Begum Zia and her cabinet colleagues, except Social Welfare and Woman Affairs Minister and Joint Secretary General of the BNP Tariqul Islam, had to

leave the dias.

Tariqul Islam however addressed the meeting issuing a warning to the conspirators.

Begum Zia came back to the meeting venue at around 5.10 pm and addressed the public meeting.

She said that autocracy was rooted out from the soil of Bangladesh due to the united struggle of the people. She said that when the country was marching ahead under the leadership of a democratic government and development activities were gaining momentum, the enemies of democracy were conspiring to undo democracy and hence tried to foil the meeting being held in observance of the first anniversary of the fall of autocracy.

The BNP is running the government and will also remain with the people in the street, she added.

She said that the popularity of her party was increasing day by day and it was reflected in the victory of the Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal in the college students union elections one after another.

She said that the people did not want terrorism. Terrorists must be abandoned and lawful actions must be taken against them, she said.

See Page 12 Col. 8



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting organised by the ruling BNP in observance of the first anniversary of the fall of the autocratic regime at the Gulistan square yesterday. — Star photo

## Clashes foil public meeting

# AL calls 8-hour hartal tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League has called an eight-hour hartal beginning at 6 am tomorrow (Sunday) in the city protesting Friday's police action on the party meeting.

The public meeting, convened at the Bangabandhu Avenue to mark the fall of Ershad's autocratic regime ended in fiasco due to the police action.

Abdus Samad Azad, the Acting President of the party at a hurriedly-called press conference at the party's central office in the evening gave the hartal call. He also announced country-wide demonstrations and a public meeting at the same venue tomorrow at three in the afternoon.

Awami League will hold another public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue at 4 pm today. Processions to condemn Friday's police action will follow the meeting.

The party will also organise a torch procession this evening in favour of tomorrow's eight-hour hartal, Azad said. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Azad accused the head of the government of spoiling the anti-autocracy day by attacking the AL meeting. The attack on the meeting on the day of freedom of democracy is undesirable and a heinous act and is in contrary to the three alliances' commitment made in

the joint declaration during the anti-autocracy movement, he remarked.

The AL leader viewed that the country with force and logic and the use of police forces against the opponents without any provocation shows their intention.

Terming it an unholy sign, Azad commented that the incident is a part of a conspiracy to destroy the hard-earned democracy. This anti-democratic action is a continuity of the anarchy that began in the country since the killing of Bangabandhu in 1975, he observed.

The AL acting chief also identified Friday's police 'excesses' with the recent outburst of growing dissatisfaction in the police forces. This dissatisfaction is a result of ruling party's steps to make the administration partisan, he said.

Addressing the press conference AL General Secretary Begum Sajeda Choudhury blamed the Prime Minister of directing the police to attack her party meeting. She termed the 'barbarous' attack by police as very unfortunate and warned that the government must shoulder the responsibility.

Sajeda observed it was regrettable that the Prime Minister had asked to form

See Page 12 Col. 5

## Press note

Sixteen police personnel, including some senior officials, and some members of the public, were injured when brickbats, cocktails and hand bombs were hurled from the Awami League sponsored meeting held at Bangabandhu Avenue Friday afternoon, according to a press note issued by the Home Ministry, reports BSS.

Condition of senior Assistant Police Commissioner, Aminul Islam, is serious, the press note said.

The injured members of the public have been admitted to different hospitals in the capital, it added.

The press note said, one speaker at the Awami League's meeting made certain provocative remarks about the police engaged in the maintenance of peace and discipline. With the utterance of such remarks, people from the meeting in groups launched repeated attacks on the police in and around the area. They also tried to set ablaze the police cars.

See Page 12 Col. 6

## A well-planned conspiracy: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder strongly condemned the attack on the BNP procession from the meeting of a particular political party yesterday describing it as a 'well-planned conspiracy to destroy the just established democracy', reports BSS.

In a statement, Talukder who is also the Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, said the planned attack from the

See Page 12 Col. 5

## Five-party blames AL, BNP for marring Dec 6 spirit

By Staff Correspondent

The Five-party rally yesterday afternoon in front of GPO in observance of the first anniversary of the mass uprising that ousted the Ershad regime had to be abandoned a few minutes after it had begun as police fired tear gas shells at the venue. Panic gripped the area and people attending the rally left the place.

Nayem Jahangir of Otkya Erskria was the only alliance leader who would finish his speech at the rally presided over by Hasanul Huq Inu, the convener of the alliance.

The tear shells were burst about three yards from the dias while

See Page 12 Col. 6

## 50 injured in police action Clashes mar Dec 6 celebration in city

By Staff Correspondent

The public meetings, organised by different political parties in the city in observance of the first anniversary of the fall of the autocratic regime yesterday, ended in chaos amidst police-public clash for more than an hour.

At least 50 persons were injured, 25 of them seriously, when police fired rubber bullets and shelled teargas to disperse the clashing groups.

The Awami League meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue was abandoned, while the BNP meeting at Gulistan square was disrupted for about an

hour. The meeting of the Five Party Alliance at the Zero Point also ended in chaos.

Later, Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad and leaders of the Five-party Alliance held the government responsible for the incidents.

The Awami League claimed that all the injured persons were its activists.

The clash broke out when a procession of the BNP coming through the old bus terminal was about to start a procession of the Awami League advancing from Nawabpur near Gulistan

See Page 12 Col. 7

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Chinese delegates meet Khaleda

The visiting Chinese delegation led by Madame Peng Pei Yun, Minister of the State Family Planning Commission called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence. Madame Peng said the delegation was impressed at the progress of work in the family sector in Bangladesh. Begum Zia told the delegation that progress in the socio-economic sector would not be feasible unless the population growth could be checked, reports BSS.

### 25 injured in bus accident

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 6: At least 25 people were injured, five of them seriously, when a Kishoreganj bound bus skidded off the road near here and fell into a ditch Thursday afternoon, police said. The seriously injured were admitted to Kishoreganj hospital. Witnesses said, the driver of the bus (no Dhaka CHA-63) coming from Bhatrab Bazar had lost control and plunged it into the ditch by breaking the railing of the Maria bridge, reports UNB.

### Baker to visit Moscow

MOSCOW, Dec 6: US Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in the Soviet Union for talks with Soviet government leaders. Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters Friday. Churkin said that Baker will hold talks in Moscow on December 16. He had no other details of Baker's programme. Other sources, however, said Baker would also visit Ukraine to discuss that republic's independence vote, reports AP.

## Arab move for new talks date

WASHINGTON, Dec 6: The vanguard of Israel's negotiating team stepped up preparations Friday for peace talks with the Arabs next week, and Arab delegates met to coordinate strategy, reports AP.

A committee of Palestinian, Jordanian Syrian and Lebanese officials was trying to set a new date for talks stalled by Israel's refusal to attend in the week set by the United States for resuming historic discussions begun October 30 in Madrid.

After a flurry of statements on all sides, Tuesday emerged as a possible agreeable date for bilateral meetings to begin. Israel had proposed Monday. Palestinians said Monday is out because it's the anniversary of their resistance to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Then, both sides indicated a day after Monday would be possible.

The talks are to cover long-running conflicts over territory and other issues in the troubled region. A third phase in the US and Soviet-sponsored

effort has been set for Moscow in January.

Meanwhile, US officials appear to have failed in an attempt to arrange informal talks between Arabs and Israelis to keep the momentum going until the formal sessions start.

A proposed get-together fell through after Israel insisted on holding it outside the State Department negotiating site, and Palestinians said they would meet only with official Israeli delegation members, according to diplomatic sources.

The dispute was typical of the kind of angry volleyball between the parties, who were invited by the United States to start peace negotiations two days ago. Israel, defiant at what it regarded as the peremptory tone of the invitation, said it would only start talks on Monday.

Israel's negotiating teams for talks with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation were due here Sunday. An advance

team arrived Friday and began setting up communications lines and making other logistical arrangements.

To deflect criticism from the United States and the Arabs, Israel said it would be willing to meet informally before Monday. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerjian discussed such a possibility in separate meetings Thursday with the Arabs and Palestinians.

Syria refused. Its chief negotiator, Muwaffak Allaf, said: "Why do we need such talks? We came here to resume bilateral talks. Israel has tried to delay the discussion of substantive matters."

The Arabs had asked US officials to announce another date for the talks.

"I think it's up to them to see when all the sides are ready to sit and talk," said Allaf.

The United States, however, was hoping the sides could work out between them a suitable meeting date, said James Baker.

## Obhi in Bangkok!

By Sohel Manzur

Golam Faruq Obhi, one of the accused in Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder case, reportedly left the country recently.

According to a source close to him, Obhi managed to leave Bangladesh along with some of his associates for Bangkok on November 27 after laying wreaths at the Dr Milon monument in the TSC area of Dhaka University.

It could not, however, be confirmed how he made his way through to the plane despite the presence of immigration and security officials at the airport.

The source mentioned that the existing situation made his stay in the country difficult and he tried to contact with some of the top-ranking BNP leaders for providing opportunity to leave the country.

See Page 12 Col. 1

## News analysis

# Rohingya repatriation - a knotty issue this time

By A Special Correspondent

Bangladesh may find repatriation of Rohingyas an odd job despite the optimism expressed by the Foreign Minister recently on his return after a three-day visit to Myanmar (Burma).

Much of the optimism of the Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was based on his successful handling of the Rohingya refugee issue back in 1979 when he was Home Minister of the then government. Most of the three lakh refugees were taken back by Burma then. The Foreign Minister is also counting the current friendship with Burma overlooking the domestic political situation in the neighbouring country.

But this time the overall scenario is different. After about a decade of domestic political changes and the in-

volvement of the Rohingyas in pro-democracy movement have shrouded the prospect of an easy solution of the issue.

Reports reaching the world media suggest that Myanmar's current military rulers have stepped up their repression on the ethnic minority Muslims. For their support to the pro-democracy movement. On the other hand, the militant Rohingyas Muslims have regrouped themselves for a guerrilla war against Myanmar to restore the once independent Muslim homeland of Arakan, a mountainous crescent in the Bay of Bengal on Myanmar's west coast.

The current exodus of Rohingyas began last March when the military junta launched a fresh crackdown and destroyed at least seven

See Page 12 Col. 1

# Asians fear hard days in Europe in coming year

S Bari writes from London

Ask Rana Zardari about 1992 and he shrugs his shoulders. Trade barriers between European Community countries will break down in the near future, while Zardari, who operates an import business, remains unconcerned about potential upheavals. His community, the Asians of Britain, are largely sharing his attitude. But increasingly, voices within the community and from outside are urging for planning and action.

Though people from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are often unskilled labourers and sometimes professionals, the typical British Asian is a tradesman; one who is unmoved by the prospect of competition or an expanding market.

"The Asian community is parochial," explains Parveen Moman, a ministerial advisor. "They don't look beyond their front door." The mood on the street confirms his point. There is a consciousness that Europe is "in the news", but Asians on the whole do not feel a part of it. Many subcontinentals believe they have taken a long time to become part of Britain; to now broaden their scope seems superfluous.

"Why should I worry," asks Zardari. "I import spices. In a few years, they say, I might be competing with Algerian stuff coming in through France. But I don't really believe we'll be swamped with goods from Europe." Asians tell themselves nothing will change.

Wrong, think the Committee for Racial Equality (CRE), the Labour Party, and a growing number of private in-

dividuals. According to Shreela Flather, member of the House of Lords, Asians will be affected in many ways. "I cannot say what the Asian community is doing about 1992, but I can tell you what they should be doing," said Flather in a telephone interview with The Daily Star.

Flather, who was a British delegate to the European Parliament, thinks the crucial issue will be freedom of movement. "There are a large number of Asians with Right of Abode in England, not citizen-

ship. Being Commonwealth citizens, they have all basic privileges in Britain, but will face serious travel restrictions once the frontiers open."

Moman agrees, "this is a politically sensitive issue, because to put it starkly, no country wants another country's immigrants." Non-British residents of England could find not only their travel but their employment and business opportunities limited, and suffer in the competition.

The rights of third-country citizens is now on the EC

agenda. The British intend to put some pressure on their fellow members to agree to full freedom of movement within the community for legal residents of each member nation.

Some observers are apprehensive about professional restrictions. Subcontinental physicians who qualified in their country of origin are recognized in Britain and have the right to practice. They will almost certainly be denied this right in unified Europe. There is now talk of permitting

agenda. The British intend to put some pressure on their fellow members to agree to full freedom of movement within the community for legal residents of each member nation.

Some observers are apprehensive about professional restrictions. Subcontinental physicians who qualified in their country of origin are recognized in Britain and have the right to practice. They will almost certainly be denied this right in unified Europe. There is now talk of permitting

See Page 12 Col. 4

## DU classes resume today

By DU Correspondent

The classes of Dhaka University begin today (Saturday) after forty day's unscheduled closure due to teachers' strike demanding effective measures to curb terrorism on the campus.

The teachers of Dhaka University went on a strike on November 2 for an indefinite period after a fierce gun-battle on the campus on October 27 between the supporters of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) that left three students and an unidentified street

See Page 12 Col. 3