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## Inside Today

### Article

#### The Spectre of Population

Our present economic planning does not seem to take into account the spectre of population which is staring at our face  
**Page 4**

### Metropolitan



An American family which was here in 1971 recounts its experiences of the Liberation War  
**Page 3**

### International



Kennedy Smith acquitted  
**Page 5**

### Business

Workers may get interim relief from January  
**Page 7**



### Magazine

An interview of BBC correspondent Mark Tully with The Daily Star during his recent visit here in connection with the filming of 'Twenty Years of Bangladesh', on **Page 9**  
 My World, S M Ali's weekly column resumes, on **Page 10**  
 Young readers' page Rising Stars, on **Page 11**

## OIC summit a success

# Hasina's letter to envoys was not desirable: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia termed the OIC summit meeting as a success and said that five suggestions put forward by Bangladesh were incorporated in its resolutions.

She was talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on her return from Dakar on Thursday after attending the sixth summit of the organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Ministers, Dhaka city mayor, state ministers, diplomats and high civil and

military officials received Prime Minister at the airport.

Begum Zia was given a guard of honour by the three services. She inspected the guard and took the salute.

The chiefs of three services were present on the occasion.

During her two and a half days of stay at Dakar, the Senegalese capital, she had bilateral talks with delegations of a number of Islamic countries including Indonesia, Kuwait, Senegal, Pakistan, Turkey and Oman.

She said that Pakistan

Prime Minister Newaz Sharif had assured repatriation of stranded Pakistanis as soon as possible and that she believed it would start sometime next year.

She said the Bangladesh proposals accommodated in the resolutions included an action plan on security and development of children; by measures to ensure socio-economic development of women; support to disaster-prone poor countries like Bangladesh by rich Islamic

See Page 12 Col. 3



A Palestinian woman shouts at Jewish youths who are settling into her house in Jerusalem Thursday. Some 30 Jewish settlers moved early in the morning into five houses in Silwan, East Jerusalem's Arab neighbourhood.  
 —AFP photo

## Jihad against Israel dropped

DAKAR, Dec 12: The final declaration of the Dakar Islamic summit, issued early on Thursday, made history by dropping a call for 'Jihad' (Holy war) against Israel, reports Reuters.

Every Islamic summit for 10 years has urged Muslims to wage Jihad to free Arab territory occupied by Israel, including East Jerusalem and its Muslim shrines.

But delegates in Dakar forced the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to cut the word out, arguing it was inappropriate since Arabs have begun direct peace talks with Israel.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat pleaded and campaigned late into the night but finally failed to persuade the summit.

"We reaffirm our resolve to face the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967",

read the final wording, markedly softer in tone than earlier drafts.

Instead of calling for Jihad, it added, "We affirm our resolve to confront this occupation and pressure with all the means at our disposal to prepare ourselves to strive for the liberation of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories."

The declaration denounced terrorism in ringing terms "we reaffirm our unanimous condemnation of the phenomenon of terrorism which constitutes a violation of the teachings of the glorious Islamic religion, values, norms and traditions of our countries," it said.

The final declaration did not mention Iraq by name but it stressed several principles which the Emir of Kuwait piloted Iraq for breaking by invading his country last year.

They included non-inter-

ference in the internal affairs of countries in the 45-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

For the first time, according to delegates, the final declaration of an Islamic summit mentioned both women and children.

"We reaffirm the importance of the role of women in the process of development of the Muslim societies and call for greater participation of women in the activities for social development," it said.

Societies of countries in the OIC differ greatly in their attitudes towards women. In Saudi Arabia, women are not allowed to drive cars but Bangladesh is ruled by a woman Prime Minister.

"We insist that the survival, protection and full develop-

See Page 12 Col. 6

## Accord with jute workers likely

By Nurul Kabir

The government and the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad have reached a consensus on signing agreement following a 'fruitful' bilateral talks on Thursday, official sources said.

The Sangram Parishad has been continuing movement to press home its 8-point charter of demands that include fixation of minimum wages for the workers at Taka 14 hundred, halt to denationalisation of the public sector jute industries, replacement of time-rated system of payment with that of piece-rated ones, reinstatement

ment of jute mills workers terminated during the last decade for political reasons, providing the jute sector with fifty per cent government subsidy under bonus voucher and repeal of black labour laws that go against workers' interests.

Earlier, the Sangram Parishad announced a 72-hour road and rail blockade programme from December 22 to realise its demands. This programme, however, synchronises with the 48-hour work stoppage programme of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) which has

been struggling to press home its identical five-point demand.

According to reliable sources, Jute Minister Brig Hannan Shah (ret'd) and the Jute Ministry officials present in Thursday's meeting with the leaders of jute mills workers verbally agreed to meet most of the demands of the jute mills workers.

They have also reached a consensus on forming a 10-member draft committee to prepare the text of the agreement to be signed by the concerned parties on the basis of

See Page 12 Col. 1

## Tribals face food crisis in Indian camps

RANGAMATI, Dec 12: Camps across the border in Indian state of Tripura where tribals were given shelter are running short of food and medicine, according to refugees who returned home over the last few days.

Bir Kumar Chakma who had crossed the border at night on December 8 told UNB that most of the camp dwellers were suffering from severe malnutrition which claim five to six lives every day.

Malaria, diarrhoea and skin diseases have also spread in an epidemic form in all the six refugee camps in the state, said Bir Kumar, Chairman of Thakumbari refugee camp in Tripura, who stayed there for

See Page 12 Col. 6

## AL threatens movement to oust govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League joint secretary Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said that the AL would launch a vigorous movement to unseat the government if it continued its partisan activities.

He stated this at a public meeting in the city yesterday held in observance of the Awami League's countrywide 'protest day' against what it called the repression on its workers by the ruling BNP.

The party also accused the ruling party of encouraging terrorism to subvert the democratic movement.

The meeting was presided over by city AL president Mozaffar Hossain Paltu.

Amu accused the BNP of harassing AL workers in the

See Page 12 Col. 5

## JP observes 'Ershad release day'

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (JP) activists held rallies across the country to observe the 'Anti-repression Day' and 'Ershad Release Day' Thursday marking the arrest of party chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad a year ago.

Deposed president Ershad was arrested on this day last year and later detained in a sub-jail in the capital's posh Gulshan area following a mass upsurge that toppled his nine-year-old government. Ershad is now serving a 14-year jail term for possessing unlicensed arms.

In the capital, JP activists staged a noisy demonstration at the busy Motijheel Commercial Area and held a rally.

Some 2000 slogan shouting activists of the Jatiya Party

See Page 12 Col. 5

## PDF leaders call for fresh movement

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) Thursday called for launching a fresh movement to revive the spirit of country's Liberation War in which millions of people sacrificed their lives.

At a discussion held at National Awami Party (NAP) office premises in observance of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day and the Victory Day, the leaders also called for national consensus for resolving the ex-

See Page 12 Col. 2

## Smuggling out of imported goods reaches peak

S Y Bakht

The trend to smuggle out legally imported items to neighbouring countries has reached a dangerous level in recent years.

Terming the staggering rise in imports and the subsequent 'illegal export' an 'alarming phenomenon', a recent Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) draft report points out that legally imported items are being increasingly smuggled to the neighbouring countries.

The first draft report on the changing trend in illegal

trade in the country also notes that, under the legal cover provided by the commercial policies, goods smuggled in through one sector are again smuggled out through other sectors.

This suggests, the report adds, that Bangladesh is being used as a conduit for smuggling goods to the neighbouring countries by the illegal traders and they are effectively helped and encouraged in this pursuit by the fiscal and commercial policies adopted by

See Page 12 Col. 7

## Stop repressive steps, Hasina asks govt

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has asked the BNP government to refrain from "repressive" measures against her party workers in the interest of democracy and political stability in the country, reports UNB.

Hasina, who is now in Singapore, wired a statement to Awami League Joint Secretary Amir Hossain Amu yesterday after she was apprised of the country's latest political situation.

In the statement, the opposition leader expressed her deep anguish at the police "atrocities" on the Awami League public rally December 6 and "ramming of police jeep" into the Chhatra League procession

Alleging similar incidents of driving police trucks into Chhatra League processions during the Zia and the Ershad governments, Hasina said

"killing of Selim-Delwar under the wheels of police truck" could not stop Awami League workers during the Ershad regime.

"Killing and repression could not suppress Awami League in the past and will not succeed in future."

Stop torture and repression, she said, otherwise the BNP government will have "to bear the consequences."

Referring to the arrest of the workers of Awami League and the Chhatra League, Hasina accused the government of outright bias.

She alleged that instead of being impartial, the BNP government is sheltering the identified terrorists under the umbrella of its student wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, while detaining the Awami League and Chhatra League workers on false charges.

## Judgement on UP ordinance Sunday

The two-judge bench of the High Court Division Thursday concluded hearing on the writ petition which challenged the validity of the local government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administrative Reorganisation) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1991, reports UNB.

The petition filed by Ahsanullah Master, former chairman of the Gazipur Sadar upazila was heard for four days.

Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed announced that they would deliver the judgement on Sunday.

Earlier, concluding his dispensation on the petition, Attorney General Aminul Huq said the repealing the ordinance was not inconsistent to the Constitution.

Article-9 which says state will encourage local govern-

ment does not put any embargo on abolishing any of its tier, Aminul Huq argued adding "as parliament can create any law so it can also abolish."

He referred in this connection to a number of decisions of the US Supreme Court which proved that legislature had the right to create and abolish any tier of the local government.

"As the repeal is permissible, the ordinance will not also conflict with articles 11, 59 and 60 of the Constitution", Aminul Huq said.

He further argued that as Article-9 did not make it obligatory on the parliament to create, establish or maintain any particular tier of local government at any particular time

See Page 12 Col. 6

## India, China denounce New World Order

NEW DELHI, Dec 12: China and India on Thursday denounced attempts by the rich nations to dictate world economics and the emerging political order, reports AP.

The broadside aimed at the United States and Europe came on the second day of Premier Li Peng's visit to India, which has been dogged by protests from Tibetan refugees against China's 41-year rule over their Himalayan homeland.

Li's six-day visit that began Wednesday was the first by a

Chinese premier to India in 31 years — a summit of the world's most populous nations.

At their first working meeting, Li and Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao condemned "international oligarchies," and said that no country or alliance "should be permitted to manipulate world affairs and practice power politics."

They agreed to work for "a new world order where all countries, irrespective of size, have the right to formulate

See Page 12 Col. 7

## Honecker takes refuge in Chile's embassy

MOSCOW, Dec 12: Former East German leader Erich Honecker, ordered to leave Russia or be expelled to his homeland to face manslaughter charges, has taken refuge in the Chilean Embassy, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Honecker, 79, is wanted in united Germany to face charges in the shooting deaths of people who tried to flee hard-line Communist East Germany, many by scaling or crashing through the Berlin wall.

The Chilean Embassy said in a statement that Honecker had been staying in its ambassador's residence "as a guest" since Wednesday. In Santiago, the Chilean government said Honecker had not received political asylum.

## Burmese troops turn away students nearing campus

RANGOON, Dec 12: Troops turned away students arriving for classes Thursday at Rangoon University as the military junta shut down the nation's schools to try to halt anti-government protests, reports AP.

"The government will in no way brook any attempt to upset the prevailing environment of peace and stability," said an editorial in Working People's Daily, a newspaper published by the military government which has refused to turn over power to a political party which won parliamentary elections in May 1990.

The government announced Wednesday night that all universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning were being closed.

See Page 12 Col. 4

## Police yet to get Mukhter's fresh autopsy report

By Staff Correspondent

Tejgaon police did not receive the fresh autopsy report of Mukhter and finger print report of the recovered revolver till Thursday, police said.

The fresh autopsy was conducted by the Forensic Department of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) on December 10 and the recovered revolver was sent to CID for examining the finger print on it.

Hafez Mukhter Hossain, former chairman of Narayan-ganj Sadar Upazila was found dead with a bullet wound in his head in a car parked at Tejkonipara on November 29.

The bail petition of Mary Janet Shyamoli, a girlfriend of Mukhter, who was arrested in connection with the mysterious death on December 1, will be moved at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court on December 14.

## Dhaka-Pabna road link still cut off

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 12: Road communication on some routes from the town and Pabna became operative today but link with the capital still remained cut-off as the fortnight long transport strike continued in 16 northern districts, reports UNB.

Vehicles specially trucks began moving on the routes of Sirajganj-Tarash, Shadatpur, Chandigona and Belkuchi, eye witnesses and reports reaching here from different sources said.

In Pabna movement of trucks are normal and about 500 buses were reportedly on the streets.

Motor Sramik Union President Abdul Mannan said that these transports have come out on the streets because they have received appointment letters from their owners and are moving within the districts.

Transport remained off the road since November 29 following refusal by the owners to issue regular appointment letters to the drivers as per their demands.

Prices of essentials shot up abnormally as food supply from Bogra and Dinajpur could not reach the district due to the strike. District Food Controller Shamsul Huq Mollah said.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 3 Bangladeshis held in Kuwait

By Staff Correspondent

Three Bangladeshis have been detained in Kuwait recently, according to a message received from Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait. Labour and Manpower Ministry sources said.

The Bangladeshis who had been there for jobs did not have valid documents, the message said.

### 50 workers hurt in clash

By Staff Correspondent

About 50 workers were injured in a clash between two rival groups at a steel rolling mill in Fatullah Thursday afternoon. A case was filed with Fatullah Thana. However, no arrests were made.

### \$56m WFP aid

ROME, Dec 12: World Food Programme has recommended an amount of over 56 million US dollars for Bangladesh. The recommendation was made at its current session held here yesterday on national assisted works programme for water and land development. Bangladesh is one of the largest recipients of WFP assistance, reports BSS.

## Arabs, Israelis achieve little progress in peace talks

WASHINGTON, Dec 12: Israeli and Syrian negotiators on Thursday remained deadlocked at the Mideast talks on the issue of exchanging land for peace while the Palestinians pressed demands to meet separately with a delegation from Israel, reports AP.

An Israeli official said Israel had made a proposal to break the deadlock by launching immediate and simultaneous negotiations along two fronts: one with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team and another with a separate Palestinian delegation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as a third day of negotiations be-

gan at the State Department.

The Syrians and Israelis said they would try again on the lands-for-peace problem. The heads of the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations said they would continue meeting on a couch in a State Department corridor.

The Palestinians are seeking talks separate from the Jordanians as part of a campaign to assert independence.

The Arab parties want the United States to intervene and resolve the conflict over Palestinian representation. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Wednesday that US officials are not participating in the

corridor talks, but "the US has had some suggestions," she gave no details.

"The latest Israeli counter-proposal is that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation meet and set up separate committees for different subjects. We turned that down," a Palestinian delegate said after nearly six hours of talks with the Israeli delegation Wednesday. "We are still in the corridor."

"We submitted fair, repeat fair, proposals," said Elyakim Rubinstein, chairman of the Israeli delegation. "It's a pity we are wasting time."

Rubinstein has indicated the issue is further compli-

cated by divisions among the Palestinian delegation on how to handle the issue, a claim the Palestinians denied.

But the parties are still wrangling over procedural items and have barely touched on substantive issues.

The Syrian and Israeli delegations reported a deadlock during their Wednesday discussions and Syria hinted it might not stay here much longer.

"If we have no hopes for results we shall not stay," chief Syrian negotiator Muwaffak Allaf told reporters. "We still hope that may be, at a certain moment, the other party would realize that its real in-

terest is to try seriously to talk peace and not insist on keeping territories occupied by war."

Joseph Ben-Aharon, the head of the Israeli delegation for the Syria talks, accused the Syrians of being "locked into a rigid position with emphasis exclusively on the issues of territory." He said the Syrians refused "to engage in a discussion of the elements of peace."

However, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's chief spokesman, said the talks were "not without promise." He said that on Wednesday, "the edge was taken off the frost... there was a cracking of smiles."

In meetings between Israeli and Lebanese delegations, "We are progressing bit by bit," said Uri Lubranit of the Israeli team, giving no details.

Reuters adds from UN: As the Middle East peace talks began in Washington, the General Assembly on Wednesday adopted resolutions advocating a US-sponsored peace conference and condemning Israeli conduct against the Palestinians.

As in past years, the United States and Israel voted against all the resolutions, on the peace conference resolution, many European nations this year abstained instead of voting in favour.