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The Daily Star

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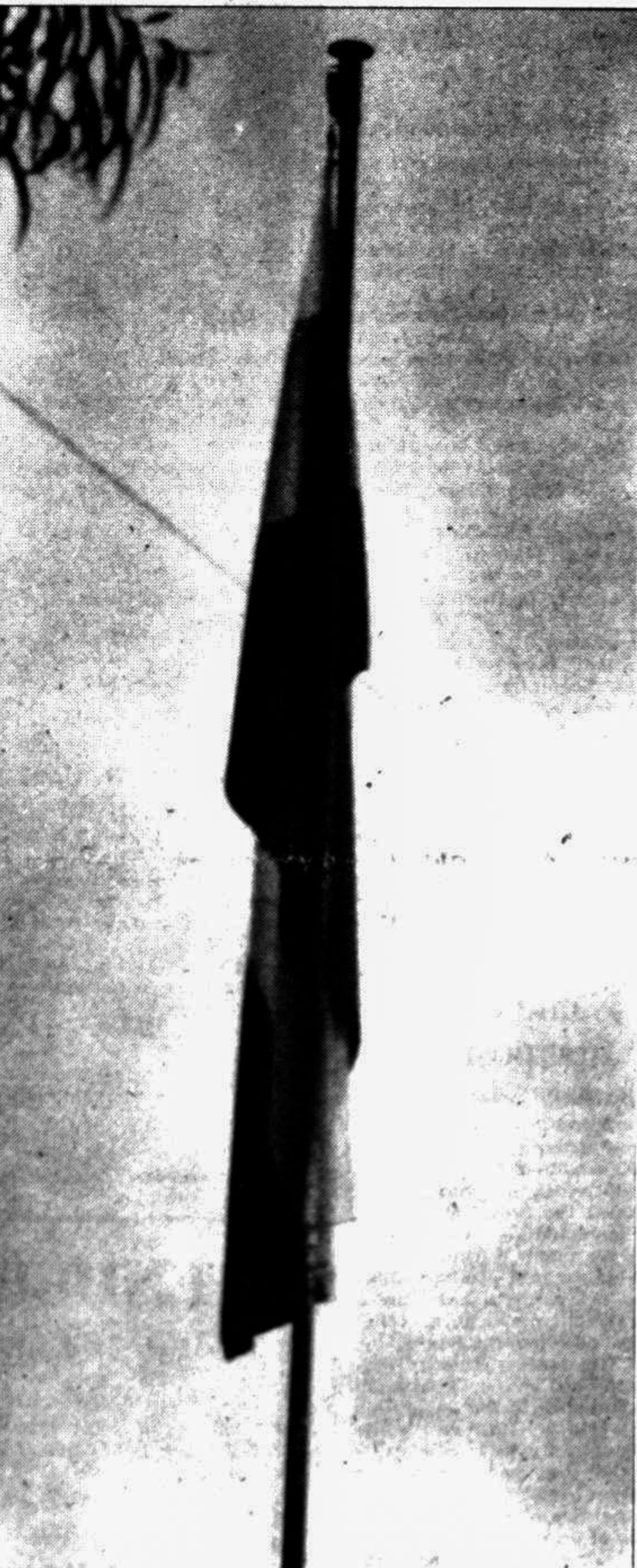
NEWS BRIEFS

Security money forfeited

BARISAL, Dec 22: Security money of 7 among the 9 candidates, including those from Awami League and Jamaat, was forfeited in the by-election to Bakerganj-5 constituency on Saturday. Election officials said 99,300 votes, 39.09 per cent of the total, were cast. Candidates required to poll minimum 12.5 per cent of the votes cast to retain their deposit, reports UNB.

Moscow Reds decry dissolution of union

MOSCOW, Dec 22: Some 3,000 people, some carrying pictures of Lenin and Stalin and waving the Soviet flag, demonstrated here today against the introduction of capitalism and the "ending of the Soviet Union," reports AFP. The demonstration was organised by the Liberal Democratic Party of populist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, by the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the "Moscow Workers' organisation." Waving both red Soviet flags and former Czarist navy blue flags, the demonstrators sang communist and World War II songs. The crowd called for republican leaders who agreed to form a commonwealth of independent states—in place of the Soviet Union—to be sent to jail. The demonstrators accused Russian President Boris Yeltsin and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of destroying the union and bringing about poverty. Yeltsin, demonstrators said, "should lie down on a railway track". They later marched onto the television centre at Ostankino to demand air time to voice their grievances. Attending the demonstration were former conservative deputies Yuri Slobotkin and Viktor Alksnis. AP adds: A leader of the



Russian tricolour at former Soviet Embassy in Dhaka yesterday. — Star photo

Bangladesh may soon recognize Russia, 10 other republics

By A Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh is on the verge of recognising the independent republic of Russia and 10 other former Soviet republics, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said in Dhaka on Sunday. "The government is actively considering giving recognition to them and it may come any time," he said in reply to a question on the latest independence of the republics — Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizia, Tadjikistan, Armenia, Moldavia and Azerbaijan. Bangladesh has already recognised the three independent Baltic republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. The Foreign Minister faced the question on recognition during his press briefing at the Foreign Office on the outcome of Saturday's SAARC summit in Colombo. Rahman came to the briefing after a meeting with the Soviet Ambassador U K Alekseev who called on him to say that henceforth he will represent the Russian federation in Bangladesh. "The Ambassador told me he would also look after the interests of other independent republics," he said. The eleven non-Baltic Soviet republics on Saturday formed a new commonwealth of independent states formalising the demise of the Soviet Union. The black Mercedes Benz that brought the Ambassador to the Foreign Office was flying new tricolour Russian federation flag. The white-red-and-blue flag was formally hoisted at the Soviet Embassy in Gulshan at 12:30 pm on Sunday, when the mission reopened after two days of weekly holiday, embassy sources told The Daily Star. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the portraits of V I Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union, and Soviet President Mikhail

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CHRISTMAS is round the corner. And while Santa Claus will be coming with his sackful of goodies riding on a reindeer sledge across the snowy slopes, here in the warmer clime of Bangladesh Father Christmas often rides a rickshaw. Scene from the Christmas programme at the Australian Club in Gulshan. — Star photo by A K M Mohain

New book policy soon: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday announced that the government would introduce a national book policy soon, reports BSS. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the National Book Fair organised by National Book Centre at Jsmany Memorial Hall. The Prime Minister said "we have to put in our united efforts to help our children grow up in a healthy cultural environment as they are the future of the nation". The Prime Minister said the educated and conscious citizenry was the biggest safeguard of democracy. Reading habit helps in creating awareness and increasing knowledge of the people, she said. Underscoring the need for eliminating illiteracy from society to consolidate democracy and give it a permanent shape, Begum Zia said creating reading habit among the people would be one of the major initiatives in removing illiteracy. "We have to acquire knowledge in order to understand the country's problems and find out their solutions." The cultural ministry has undertaken a programme to find out means for ensuring publications of books on all subjects and their proper utilisation, the Prime Minister informed. Initiatives have been taken to translate books written by the country's prominent authors and publicise them abroad, she said adding that translation of famous writings of foreign writers was also necessary. The function was also addressed by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum, Cultural Secretary in Charge Islamuddin Malek and Director of National Book Centre Dr Fazle Rabbi. Later the Prime Minister formally inaugurated the book fair being participated by more than fifty publishing houses. She went round different book stalls of the fair, Iranian Cultural Centre, Alliance Francaise, Chinese Embassy and Indonesian Embassy are also taking part in the book fair.

SAARC summit a success: Mustafiz

Bangladesh considers the just-concluded sixth SAARC summit a "success" and hopes that the on-going cooperation among the seven South Asian nations will be further consolidated in the future, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman told newsmen here Sunday, reports BSS. He said Dhaka had generally been pleased with the outcome of the summit and its ideas particularly the 'daal-bhat' approach to poverty alleviation found acceptance and appreciation in the conference. The Foreign Minister said the Bangladesh delegation under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia played an "active, constructive and moderate" role in the summit. The Prime Minister's efforts were directed at keeping SAARC on the rails and preserving the momentum, viability and credibility of the SAARC as the major harmonizing force in the region, Rahman said. The Foreign Minister said major thrust of her speech was how to improve the living standard of the ordinary people of the region and to exploit the full opportunities to achieve this objective. The summit accepted and welcomed Prime Minister's "daal-bhat" approach towards the satisfaction of the basic needs and alleviation of absolute poverty in South Asia, he added. The Foreign Minister detailed the outcome of the summit and the role Dhaka See Page 12 Col 6

Dhaka expresses concern over Burmese attack

By a Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh on Sunday expressed "serious concern" to Myanmar (Burma) at the attack on a BDR outpost by Myanmar's border security forces that left two Bangladeshis killed and another 22 injured. See Page 12 Col 1



M N Huda dead

By Staff Correspondent
Dr Mirza Nurul Huda, former vice-president and finance minister, died of massive heart attack at the Diabetic Hospital (BIRDEM) in the city Sunday morning. He was 72. A renowned economist of the country, Dr M N Huda served the erstwhile East Pakistan government as governor and Minister for Finance and Planning and Commerce. He was also minister in charge of the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Commerce and advisor to the President of the Bangladesh government. His See Page 12 Col 6

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Board of Revenue
Dhaka
Special Notice

The Government has taken some steps for easy and speedy containerization and shipment of exportable goods and quick clearance of imported raw materials to be used in the export oriented industries. The additional Collector of Customs, Custom House Chittagong, Joint Collector of Customs, Custom House, Dhaka and Khulna respectively have been directed to ensure these in their respective field of jurisdiction. All concerned are advised to contact the relevant officers directly for any query. However, in case of emergency, First Secretary (Customs-2), National Board of Revenue, Dhaka, may also be contacted.

National Board of Revenue
DFP (G) 15621-21/12 G-1107

Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Ideally located, most suitable commercial plot No-13 of Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, a top busy business centre of the Dhaka City at Air Port Road measuring 1218.00 Sqr. metre (18 Kathas 3 Chattaks 9 Sft) will be allotted for 99 years lease, on open auction. Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Agrani Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk-200/- (Taka two hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 1.00 PM on 5-1-92. The auction will be held on 6-1-92 in the 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban Dhaka at 10.00 AM. Chairman, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha, Dhaka.

SKOP to continue talks

By Staff Correspondent
Leaders of the Sramik Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) will continue negotiations with the government to realise its demands. SKOP on Saturday postponed its planned 48-hour work stoppage that was scheduled to begin Sunday following assurance from the government that a solution to their demands would be sought within three weeks. After days of hectic parleys, the two sides reached an understanding Sunday settling See Page 12 Col 4

UAE assures development aid

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will provide necessary assistance to various development programmes of Bangladesh, including the construction of permanent rehabilitation shelters and protection dam in the coastal area initiated by the present democratic government, reports BSS. This was stated by the visiting chief of Economic Relations and International Cooperation Division of the UAE Foreign Ministry, Mohammed Khalifa Bin-Al-Sowedi, when he called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Sunday. Sowedi said his country would also find out more fields of cooperation, including the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and Teesta projects. Our Staff Correspondents add: Bangladesh has sought financial assistance from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for irrigation, flood control, rural electricity and primary education. The request was made at the two-day meeting of the second Bangladesh-UAE Joint Commission meet that concluded in the city on Sunday. Talking to reporters, on the outcome of the two-day session, Additional Foreign Secretary Faruque Sobhan said UAE assistance was also sought for joint venture projects and for procuring fertilizers and power tilters for rehabilitating the farmers in the flood and cyclone affected areas. "The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere" Faruque Sobhan, who led the Bangladesh delegation at the talks, said, adding, "a wide range of subjects were discussed including expansion of trade and economic cooperation, funding of projects in See Page 12 Col 1

Ceasefire collapses in Slovenia

RELAGRADE, Dec 22: A regional truce collapsed just hours after it took effect Sunday, with Croatian media reporting sporadic artillery duels on the western Slavonian front, reports AP. Clashes also flared elsewhere in Croatia, and political leaders in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina warned that "horrible violence" could soon erupt in their republic, a hotbed of ethnic tensions. Serbs in ethnically mixed Bosnia-Herzegovina proclaimed their own republic Saturday, in a further sign of the disintegration of the Yugoslav federation. The move was in response to a declaration last week by Bosnia-Herzegovina's government of ethnic Croats and Slavic Muslims that Bosnia, like three other Yugoslav republics, would pursue independence. Federal Defense Minister Veljko Kadijevic, an advocate of Serbia's demand that Yugoslavia's internal borders be redrawn to allow all Serbs to live together, urged quick realization of that goal. Bosnia's ethnic mix Serbs, Croats and Muslims is a potential tinderbox. Alluding to the proclamation of a Serb republic, Muslim political leaders warned that "any attempt at partitioning Bosnia-Herzegovina would lead to horrible violence and unimaginable destruction," the Tanjug news agency reported. The Serb community in Bosnia controls more than half of the republic's territory. Ethnic Serbs in Croatia proclaimed a similar Serb republic on Thursday. Last week, the European Community said it would recognize Jan 15 any Yugoslav republic seeking independence that could guarantee minority rights. Serbia and its tiny ally Montenegro are the only republics trying to preserve the Yugoslav federation. Thousands of people have died in Croatia since Croats and a Serb minority backed by the federal army began fighting after the republic declared independence on June 25. Slovenia and Macedonia are the other republics seeking independence. Tanjug, the news agency See Page 12 Col 8