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# The Daily Star

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## Inside Today

### Article

**Economists Wreck the Economy**  
Page 4

### International

**More US troops land in Somalia**  
Page 5

### Business

**US financial expert says free convertibility of profit can improve investment situation**  
Page 7

### Magazine



**Dr. Mohammad Yunus speaks about the Grameen Bank, My World by S M Ali, sombre, emotional and expressive, transports of joy**  
Pages 9, 10, 11

### Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Days of Hopes, Days of Fear**  
Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### AL national body meets today

By Staff Correspondent  
The Awami League National Committee (ALNC) meets this morning to discuss the political situation and evaluate the party activities all over the country. This will be the party's first national committee meeting after its last council sessions held in September last year.  
Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, in a press release issued last night, requested all members of the committee to attend the meeting to be held at the Central Office of the party.

### All-party public meet today

By Staff Correspondent  
An all-party public meeting will be held at the Dhaka Stadium gate in city today (Friday) at 2 pm.  
Leaders of different political parties and the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee will address the meeting to be followed by a procession.

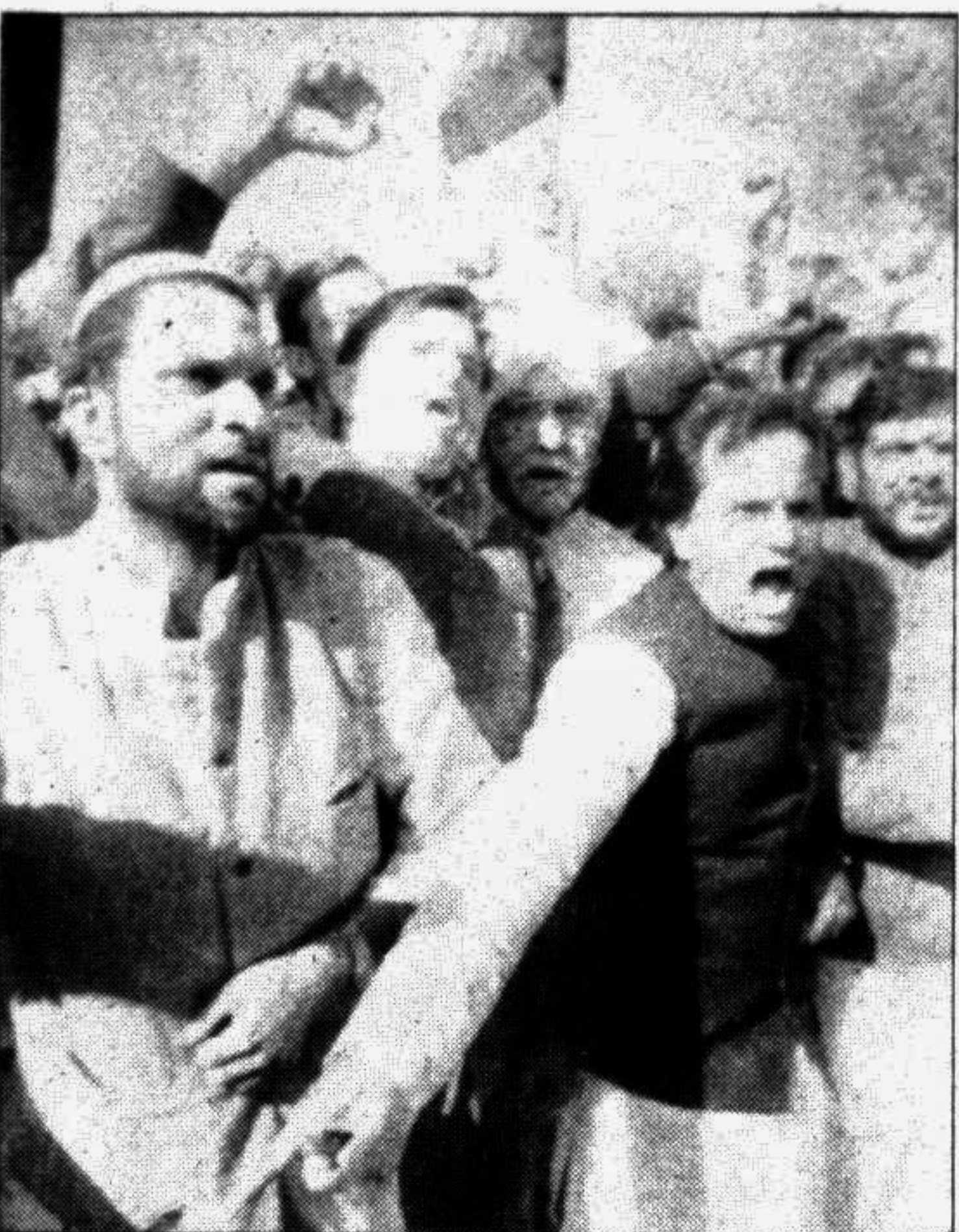
### Cessna crashes

By Staff Correspondent  
A Flying Club aircraft crashed Thursday at the old Tejgaon Airport damaging its engine, officials sources said. The cessna aircraft rammed the taxi track and was damaged Thursday afternoon, a Civil Aviation official said adding that the trainee of the aircraft was unhurt.

### BDRCS members meet PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the members of Red Crescent Society to strengthen their activities for ensuring better service to humanity. The call was made when the members of the society's managing board called on the Prime Minister at Sugandha in the evening, reports UNB.

## Army ordered to shoot at sight : Fresh violence in Calcutta : Death toll rises to 950 Delhi bans VHP, RSS, 3 other religious parties



Muslim and Sikh MPs from opposition parties march yesterday to protest the destruction of Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu militants. The marchers had planned to go to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's office but were arrested.  
—AFP photo

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: The Centre tonight banned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Bajrang Dal, Jamiat-e-Islami Hind, Islamic Sevak Sangh and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, an official announcement said here, reports PTI.

This has been done under the Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act, 1967. Meanwhile, army was ordered to shoot at sight in Calcutta and Kanpur, police opened fire at four places in Bombay and widespread clashes hit Ghaziabad, near here, as violence kindled by

### Rao admits mistake in believing BJP

From Kuldip Nayar

NEW DELHI, Dec 10: Visibly disturbed Prime Minister Narasimha Rao admitted his mistake of putting faith in the undertaking by the Bharatiya Janata Party not to harm the Babri Masjid structure but indicated that the disputed site would be "cleared" in the next few days.

The throng which razed the mosque to the ground built a small temple on the site and installed an idol of Ram before withdrawing. No visitor is allowed even near the site but a  
See Page 12 Col 1

the Ayodhya incident escalated today claiming 170 lives and hiking the toll to 950.

However, in some other parts of the country the situation showed signs of improvement.

In West Bengal, 10 people were killed today — nine in the metropolis and one at Kharagpur — pushing the toll to 19. Army moved in to take control and began combing operations in the worst-hit areas of Banipur, Kataya, Tangra, Entally, Taltala, Park Circus, Beliaghata, Manikala, Tiljala and Metiaburj in the evening.

The otherwise busy streets of Calcutta, after a brief respite, were again gripped by an eerie silence as fresh incidents of mob frenzy, stabbing and arson rocked the city since midnight last night.

Curfew, lifted for ten hours yesterday, was clamped again for an indefinite period.

The situation in Uttar Pradesh remained grim, accounting for 151 deaths. Shoot-at-sight orders were issued as 25 people, including seven members of a family, were killed in escalated violence in Kanpur today increasing the toll to 40. Violence, rioting and looting spread to suburbs including Naubasta Bara, Juhi, and Kidwai Nagar, where the situation was reported very tense.

Army staged a flag march in Ghaziabad, near here, where two persons were killed as widespread violence broke out.

The situation in curfew-bound Varanasi district also remained 'very tense' following outbreak of violence in Lohia Bazar, Dhannipur and Mahamoodpur villages which  
See Page 12 Col 3

## After swallowing initial shock BJP begins to reassert itself

By Kuldip Nayar in New Delhi

With the arrest of the Bharatiya Janata Party top leaders and the burning of temples in Pakistan and Bangladesh, the fundamentalist Hindus are having more cars now than they had in the first two days when there was wide revulsion against them after the demolition of the Babri Masjid structure at Ayodhya.

They are pointing out that while they are being blamed for the 'unfortunate incident', as they put it, the 'over-reaction' of the Indian government and 'vandalism' in the neighbouring countries are going unnoticed and uncondemned.

### News Analysis

The BJP has begun to talk tough and has regained some of its aggressive attitude. The retaliation in certain parts of India and the neighbouring countries has given them a talking point. That is one reason why the leaders of the All India Babri Masjid Action

Committee have appealed to the Muslims the world over not to demolish any temple or assault and kill any innocent Hindu in retaliation for the developments in Ayodhya.

The BJP is also reorganising its forces in the intelligentsia. The Supreme Court Bar could not pass a resolution to condemn the violation of the rule of law. There was pandemonium at the meeting where the resolution was sought to be passed. However journalists in  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Babri Mosque demolition has usurped religious rights: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday regretted violation of human rights in many parts of the world, including India, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and South Africa and demanded implementation of Human Rights charter everywhere, reports UNB.

"We hope the world conscience will speak out against such barbarism and bring an end to it," she said.

Referring to the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in northern India, Begum Zia said this had usurped the religious rights of a large section of the population there.

The Prime Minister was

addressing a function on the occasion of 44th World Human Rights Day, arranged by Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) on conclusion of its 3rd National Convention.

Presided over by former chief justice Kemaluddin Hossain, the function was addressed, among others, by Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Swiss Charge d'Affaires Albert Mehr and deputy chief of US mission in Dhaka Lee O. Coldren, Chairman of International Amnesty, Ross Daniel and BSEHR Secretary General advocate Sigma Huda.

Begum Zia pointed out that the Universal Human Rights

Charter, adopted 43 years ago, asserts political and religious rights of all and the freedom of expression of individual thoughts and opinion. It also calls for ensuring the right of food, clothing, education, health and shelter, she added.

"Bangladesh is a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights. We are pledged to uphold human rights through justice and development of human values," the Prime Minister said. "Our constitution also provides for upholding rule of law and human rights."

Begum Zia pointed out that democracy was pre-requisite for ensuring human rights and  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Resist communal forces for democracy : Hasina

NAWABGANJ, Dec 10: Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina today called for resisting communal and evil forces for consolidating democracy and national independence, reports UNB.

She told a big public meeting at Nawabganj Pilot High School ground at the thana headquarters that communal and fundamentalist elements must be eliminated unitedly in the interest of stability and development in the country.

The Awami League chief condemned the demolition of historic Babri Mosque by extremist BJP in India and said fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami was also instigating communal violence in Bangladesh to fulfil its 'heinous political design' following the line of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Criticising the BNP gov-

ernment for what she said backing the extremist Jamaat-Shibir forces, Hasina said BNP came to power with the help of these anti-liberation elements. The people will not spare BNP if the hard-earned democracy fails for its inefficiency and wrong steps, she warned.

The Awami League President flayed the government for applying the anti-terrorism law against its opponents, including her party workers, to suppress people's movement on their legitimate demands.

The opposition leader called for annulling the Indemnity Ordinance for trial of the self-confessed killers for the sake of justice. She also demanded trial of 'war criminal' Golam Azam to show respect to the martyrs of 1971 Liberation War.

## Jamaat memo to Indian HC

By Staff Correspondent

More than a thousand supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Thursday demonstrated near the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and submitted a memorandum protesting demolition of Babri Mosque.

The processionists led by Jamaat Secretary General and Parliamentary Party chief Matur Rahman Nazami, marched from the Baitul Mukarram Mosque but were obstructed at the entry point of Dhanmondi Road No 2, some 200 yards from the High Commission.

Riot police backed by paramilitary BDR forces, however, allowed Nazami and some other leaders of the city committee which organised the demonstration to go to the High Commission for handing over the memorandum addressed to the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

## Nirmul forms human chain to press for Azam's trial

By Staff Correspondent

A cross-section of people formed a 10-kilometre human chain in the capital Thursday demanding implementation of four-point agreement signed between the opposition and ruling party which provides for Golam Azam's trial.

The committee's other demands includes ban on fundamentalist politics and stopping harassment of committee workers and leaders.

Men and women of all age groups joined hands to complete the human chain. A septuagenarian held hand of a three-year old child to form the chain stretching from the Parliament Building to Bahadur Shah Park.

Organised by the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee, the two-hour hand-in-hand, ring jammed traffic movement from 11 am in some areas.

The human-chain, first of its kind in the country, was, however, broken in some parts because of traffic-rush and in some places for lack of participants, they said.

The programme was also observed in some other districts in the country, a committee source said.

Jahanara Imam, Convenor of the Committee, also took part in forming the ring and visited some sections of the long human-chain.

The participants among others included radio and television artists, members of parliament, political activists and students.

"It is a symbol of unity of people who want Azam's trial", Imam said during her participation, adding that "when the government will realise that the people are united in favour  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Sugar price reduced

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) has reduced the price of its sugar at the rate of Tk 2000/- per ton from December 5, a BSFIC press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The new ex-mill price of sugar, including VAT, has been fixed at Tk 25,000/- per ton, that is, Tk 25/- per KG.

## SAARC Summit Jan 13-14

Star Report

The Seventh SAARC Summit will now be held on January 13-14.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told newsmen yesterday that the agreement on the dates came at the meeting of the Council of Ministers that sat formally in the morning.

The formal meeting, which saw handing over of the Council's chairmanship from Sri Lanka's Harold Herat to host Foreign Minister ASM Mostfizur Rahman, discussed the reports on the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA), the South  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Govt to build memorial at Rayer Bazar

The government has decided to build a memorial at the 'Rayer Bazar mass execution place' to project the correct history of the great Liberation War before the nation, reports BSS.

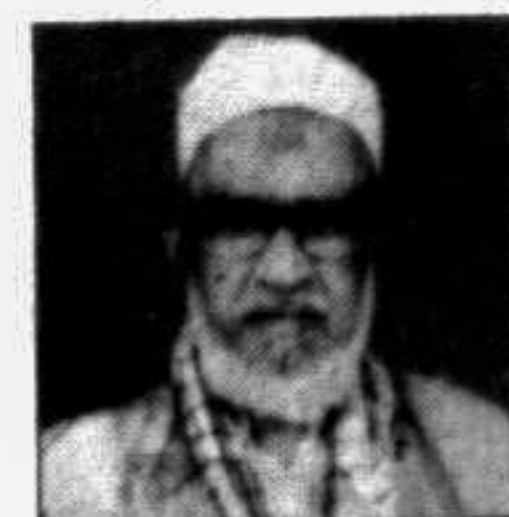
Many people including intellectuals were brutally slaughtered at this place at Rayer Bazar during the Liberation War of 1971. This area is identified as an important place in the history of Liberation War.

## WELCOME



**Our Prime Minister H. E. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif!**

Request visit Stranded Pakistanis Geneva Camp even for five minutes. Everyone's eager to have a glimpse. Hope Your Excellency will not disappoint us.



**M. Nasim Khan**

**Leader of Stranded Pakistanis**  
Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee

## Indian bid to elbow Dhaka out of jute market

By Nurul Kabir

Bangladesh is having a tough time selling its jute products in the international market as India is offering the same but at much lower prices official sources say.

According to sources in the Jute Ministry, Bangladesh lost a full deal with Egypt and partially failed to win an export contract with Syria in the last weeks of November.

The officials in the Jute Ministry believed that Bangladesh had lost the business to India because, in both the cases, the latter offered its products to the buyers at

prices much lower than production costs.

Egypt, an old buyer of jute products from Bangladesh, in a bid to purchase 3000 bales of a particular jute product, floated an international tender in November where India offered the product at a rate of 13 dollars per 100 l. yards and secured the contract.

According to BJMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation) officials, Bangladesh sold the same jute products only few months ago at almost double the price India offered Egypt.

In the second incident, Bangladesh was supposed to export more than 80,000 bales of jute products (50 kg gunny bag) to Syria last November.

But Syria became reluctant to purchase the products from Bangladesh on receiving an Indian offer to get the same at a price significantly lower than that Bangladesh quoted.

Bangladesh, however, managed to secure half of the deal because of what the Jute Minister Brig (ret'd) Hannan Shah termed Syria good wishes for Bangladesh. But  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Funding power sector Delay in World Bank decision likely

By Inam Ahmed

A World Bank (WB) decision on the withdrawal of suspension on funds to the power sector may be delayed until next year, according to concerned sources.

A World Bank team is now studying the situation in the power sector. The team will also check Bangladesh's claim on lowering the system loss to a considerable level.

The team report may be discussed at the WB headquarters in Washington for the release of funds by February next year, sources said.

US dollar fund in the pipeline while another 300 million-US-dollar agreement is awaiting WB approval.

Meanwhile, sources said that the present system loss in the power sector was about 30 per cent, an improvement from the previous 40 per cent plus.

They said that the power sector had shown a marked improvement in recent months. The Power Development Board (PDB) had been able to improve its realisation of bills.

For the last few months, the  
See Page 12 Col 8