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# The Daily Star

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The Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in city. — Star photo

## Homage to martyred intellectuals today

The nation today will observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day with due solemnity and renewed pledge to uphold the spirit of Liberation War, reports BSS.

On the eve of final victory of independence, on this day in 1971, the local collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces, the Al-Badr, the Al-Sams and Razakars, picked up several intellectuals from their residences and brutally killed them in the dark of night.

Those who fell to the naked bullets of the Pakistani collaborators included leading intellectuals of that time like Alam Chowdhury, Fazlur Rabbi, Munir Chowdhury, Shahidullah Kaiser, Sirajuddin Hossain and Santosh Bhattacharya.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the occasion said that the ideals and sacrifice of the martyrs intellectuals would continue to in-

## BJP downscales protest: Quiet returns 700 held in crackdown on extremists across India

**NEW DELHI, Dec 13:** Police sealed the offices of newly outlawed groups and arrested nearly 700 activists in a nationwide crackdown against extremists blamed for a week of Hindu-Muslim rioting, reports AP.

The government announced a casualty toll of 1,210 dead and 4,600 wounded in the mayhem that erupted after Hindu zealots tore down a 16th-century mosque in the town of Ayodhya last Sunday. More victims were still being discovered.

The arrests were part of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's effort to assert the government's authority and counter his critics who called him weak and indecisive when he failed to forestall the mosque's destruction.

Quiet returned to most areas after a week of the worst Hindu-Muslim clashes since independence in 1947.

The only major incident reported Sunday was in Mysore, a city in the southern state of

Karnataka. Police opened fire on rioters after 15 people were stabbed in a melee.

Curfews were lifted during day time hours in most of the 135 cities where people had been confined to their houses for days, including India's two largest cities, Calcutta and Bombay.

Police in three states swooped down on the activists of the organisations that were placed under a two-year ban last week for allegedly encouraging communal hatred and violence.

The operation appeared to be the prelude to a sweep against the extremists in all of India's 25 states and seven territories. Hundreds of people were reported to have gone into hiding to avoid arrest.

Officials said the groups bank accounts were frozen and their offices were searched for material that could connect them with inciting the disturbances.

Among the activists were 18 Muslims belonging to two Islamic fundamentalist groups that fell under the ban.

The rest belonged to the VIII which organized the campaign to demolish the mosque in Ayodhya, and the more militant Hindu groups, the RSS and the Bajrang Dal. Two members of a Parliament were among the Hindus who were detained. Both represented the Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest opposition party that championed the idea of building a temple on the plot where the Muslim shrine had stood.

About 500 people were arrested in Uttar Pradesh, the northern state where Ayodhya is located and a stronghold of Hindu nationalism.

Other arrests were made in the eastern state of West Bengal and in Kerala in the south, where the extremist Muslim groups are strong.

More raids were conducted in New Delhi, the National capital which does not belong to a state.

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## JS winter session Jan 3

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has summoned a session of the Jatiya Sangsad at 10 am on January 3, 1993 in Sangsad Bhaban at Sher-e-Banglanagar here, reports BSS.

This will be the eight session of the fifth Parliament.

## Premadasa visits Paharpur, Mahasthangarh

**PAHARPUR (Naogaon), Dec 13:** Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa flew here from Dhaka to visit the historic Buddhist shrine locally known as 'Paharpur Monastery', reports BSS.

Later he visited Mahasthangarh in Bogra district to witness the site of an ancient civilisation in Bangladesh.

Soon after alighting from the special helicopter at Paharpur, the visiting President, accompanied by Minister-in-Waiting Dr Khan-dakar Mosharrar Hossain, climbed up the flights of stairs of the ancient monastery which was established more than 400 years ago during the reign of

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## A day of tragedy in our life: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the people to devote themselves to the task of building the country unitedly for realising the dreams of martyred intellectuals, reports UNB.

"This will be our best tribute to them," she said in a message on the eve of Martyred Intellectual Day, being observed today (Sunday).

December 14 — the Shaheed Intellectual Day — is a day of tragedy in our national life," Begum Zia said, adding the occupation forces and their collaborators brutally killed some distinguished intellectuals of the country on this day in 1971 with a design to create a void in the domain of art, literature, culture and journalism of the emerging nation.

But all their plots fell apart and Bangladesh achieved victory on December 16, she said.

"On this day, pay deep respect to the memory of all

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Dhaka University teachers, students and employees brought out a procession on the campus yesterday calling for communal harmony. Story on page 3. — Star photo

## Persecution of minorities here may benefit extremists in India: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday (Sunday) visited the villages affected by communal violence in her Tungipara constituency in Gopalganj district and consoled the victims, reports UNB.

She warned that the extremist forces in India may take advantage if the minorities are persecuted in Bangladesh.

Those involved in arson and destruction of places of worship in the name of Islam are worst than animals. They are enemies of Islam... looters have no religion."

The Awami League President went round Patgati, Chinguria, Kakubunia, Lebukhali and Bashuria in

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Premadasa visits National Museum**

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa visited the National Museum here yesterday afternoon. On arrival at the museum, the visiting dignitary was received by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum. President Premadasa went round various sections of the museum and evinced keen interest on the exhibits, reports BSS.

**BNP emergency meet Dec 16**

An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held on December 16 at 7 pm at its central office. BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperative Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar has requested the ministers and party MPs to attend the meeting on time, reports BSS.

**15 students hurt in Sirajganj clash**

**SIRAJGANJ, Dec 13:** At least 15 students were injured in a clash with police over Chhatra Sangsad election results of Sirajganj Government University College today. Witnesses said the clash erupted when the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists hurled stones at police after hearing that they lost two seats out of 18 in the election, reports UNB.

**Anti-Terrorism Law: 6 arrested**

Four cases were filed and six people arrested from different parts of the city last week (December 6-12) under the anti-terrorism law. Meanwhile police rounded up 71 people from different parts of the city yesterday (Sunday) on various charges, reports UNB.

## Aid utilisation rate higher this year

**By Inam Ahmed**

Despite World Bank (WB) assertions on the country's low foreign aid utilisation, this year's utilisation till now has shown a marked improvement over last year's.

At the end of the first quarter of this fiscal year, the foreign aid utilisation stood at about eight per cent of the total outlay. Last year's percentage for this period was about six per cent, according to concerned ministry sources.

However, they said that the aid utilisation had already crossed 11 per cent by the end of October.

The utilisation rate was usually slow during the first and second quarters of the year, after that it started picking up, sources said.

The reason behind the slow utilisation in the first two quarters is that during this

## Launch movement against killers, collaborators of '71: Hasina

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for a united movement against the 'killers and collaborators' who worked against the country's Liberation War, for consolidating the hard-earned independence and building Bangladesh as a progressive and non-communal state, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of Shaheed Buddhjeebi Dibas (Martyred Intellectuals Day), the Awami League President alleged that the present ruling coterie of Bangladesh had not only rehabilitated the "unscrupled killers and collaborators" of the Pak-occupation forces" who were totally against the nation during the country's Liberation War, but had also provided them protection to undo the independence of the

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## Pourashava election schedule announced

Nomination papers will have to be submitted to the returning officers on December 19 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm for the forthcoming election to 91 pourashavas, reports UNB.

The municipal election is scheduled for January 23.

According to a detailed election schedule announced by the Election Commission yesterday, scrutiny will take place on December 20. December 26 has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Candidates for the post of chairman and commissioner will have to deposit Tk 2,000 and 1,000 respectively along with their nominations.

Meanwhile, 57 returning officers and 91 assistant returning officers have been appointed.

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## AL may move bill to ban communal parties

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim yesterday said Awami League, if it at all joins the coming winter session, will move a bill seeking the ban of communal organisations in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Nasim, also the party's organising secretary, disclosed this while addressing public rallies at Harinathpur and Sibalbari in his Kazipur constituency in Sirajganj Sunday afternoon.

Condemning the demolition of Babri mosque at Ayodhya by Hindu extremists, he said fanatic and extremist elements in Bangladesh capitalised on the issue and launched a "heinous" attack on the life and property of the minorities.

There is no ideological difference between BJP of India and Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh. They are enemies of

## All-party committee rally today

**By Staff Correspondent**

The 'all party committee for communal harmony' has called upon the people to make its rally protesting demolition of Babri Mosque in India and restoring communal peace in Bangladesh a success.

Scheduled to be held at Bangabandhu Avenue, at 3 pm today, the rally would also protest the 'fascist activities' of the communal forces including the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and the Freedom Party, a press release of the committee said last night.

The rally will be followed by a peace procession, the press release added.

Meanwhile, the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) has demanded that the government of India compensate victims of the Babri Mosque demolition and ensure punishment to those responsible for attacking the mosque.

A resolution adopted by the steering committee meeting of the PDF also demanded of the government of the country to

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## Indonesian quake death toll rises to 1232

**JAKARTA, Dec 13:** Rescuers dug through devastated villages searching for survivors and victims Sunday as the death toll from a powerful earthquake reached 1,232, the government said, reports AP.

About 1,120 of the deaths from Saturday's quake occurred in the town of Maumere on the remote eastern Indonesian island of Flores, the governor's office of East Nusa Tenggara province said.

Hundreds of other people were injured in the quake, officials said. Many people drowned or were swept away when large ocean waves triggered by the earthquake inundated coastal areas.

Hendrik Nai, a spokesman for the rescue team, said about 80 per cent of the buildings in Maumere were destroyed. Whole villages in coastal areas were wiped out by the seismic waves, he said.

The waves, called tsunami, were as high as 25 metres (80 feet) and swept as far as 300 metres (1,000 feet) inland, he said.

Nai said bad communications still were hampering the task of gathering information from some parts of the island, which is about 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) east of

## Madrassa students clash with police: 17 hurt

**By Staff Correspondent**

At least 15 people were injured, one of them seriously, in a tripartite clash in Gulsitan square in the city Sunday.

The clash with police began soon after an unidentified group of armed men attacked the procession of the madrasa students protesting the assault on Shaikhul Hadis Maulana Azizul Haq.

Maulana Azizul Haq, principal of Mohammadpur Jamayia Rahmania Madrasa, and a senior leader of Khilafat Andolon was assaulted by a group of people near Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University Saturday noon.

When the attackers fled, unruly madrasa students ran

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## Fresh ceasefire in Bosnia

**SARAJEVO, Dec 13:** Warring Muslim, Croat and Serb forces in Bosnia signed a fresh ceasefire agreement today at a meeting with the commander of UN peace-keeping forces, UN sources said, reports Reuter.

They also reached agreement in principle on opening three corridors for the safe passage of civilians out of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, which has been under Serb siege since April.

Serbian military sources said on Saturday their Muslim and Croat opponents had launched an all-out attack to try to cut the corridor linking Serbia in the east with Serb-

## Satinath dead

**CALCUTTA, Dec 13:** Eminent Bengali singer, Satinath Mukhopadhyay died after a heart attack at the SSKM Hospital today. He was 61, reports PTI.

He is survived by his wife, Utpala Sen, also a singer and a son.

Family sources said that Mukhopadhyay, who was unwell since yesterday, was rushed to the hospital after feeling severe chest pain.

His body would be kept at his residence to enable the large number of his admirers and pupils to pay their last respects.

The cremation would take place tomorrow