

## Thrust into Somalia's interior US marines swoop on military airbase

MOGADISHU, Dec 13: More than 200 US Marines swooped on a military airbase in Somalia's interior today to secure it for the US-led armed intervention to get food to the starving, a spokesman said.

It was the Marines' first thrust into Somalia's lawless and famished interior since they reached the capital on Wednesday.

Marine Lieutenant Colonel Fred Peck said 230 Marines had taken off from Mogadishu in 12 helicopters, with an escort of Cobra helicopter gunships, to secure the airfield at Bali Dogle, about 160 km (100 miles) from the capital.

Bali Dogle is likely to be used as a staging post to secure relief operations for Baidoa, dubbed Somalia's 'City of Death'.

Peck said the Marines had taken food supplies with them to Bali Dogle after receiving reports that large numbers of Somalis had gathered there waiting to hand in their weapons.

"The elders are gathering the men and trying to arrange the turnover saying 'we're fed up with all this', he added.

"We put on rice and flour so we would have something to give in gratitude."

He said the Marines would secure the airfield for troops from the US Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Another military spokesman, navy commander Jim Kudla, said advance elements of those troops could start arriving in Bali Dogle as early as tomorrow afternoon.

Some aid agency workers have criticised the US-led armed intervention in Somalia, dubbed Operation Restore Hope, for moving too slowly to save thousands of starving people in Baidoa and other towns at the mercy of looting gunmen.

Peck would not say when the operation would move on to Baidoa. "We are not going to say in advance when we are going in there," he said.

## 50 Pak families likely to be repatriated Dec 31

After years of languishing in makeshift camps and shanties in Bangladesh, some of the stranded Pakistanis will move for their cherished homes in Pakistan on December 31 when the first batch of 50 families are expected to be repatriated.

Chief Minister of Punjab Ghulam Haider Wyne is likely to come here on December 30 to begin the process of their long-awaited repatriation, informed sources told UNB yesterday.

The Pakistan government had promised to take 3,000 families by December this year when Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia visited Islamabad last August.

with the Punjab Chief Minister on repatriation was fruitful.

He said they (the stranded Pakistanis) want implementation of the Pakistan-Bangladesh joint communiqué issued during Prime Minister Begum Zia's visit to Islamabad.

Khan, the chief patron of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC), said the first batch of 50 families will be drawn from Adamjee Nagar camp. They will be taken first to Okara, Minawali or Walton in the Punjab before being finally rehabilitated in Mian Chunnu in the same province.

## 10 injured in police-mob clash at N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Dec 13: Police lathicharged and tear gassed a procession that attacked two sweetmeat shops in the town while protesting the demolition of Babri Mosque. At least ten persons were injured in the incident.

Supporters of Majlis Hefazate Islam brought out a procession at 4 pm in the town protesting the demolition and also the manhandling of Maulana Azizul Haque, president of Khelafat Majlis.

When the militant procession reached Ukil Para, it attacked Sonal Ghosh Sweetmeat shop. Police immediately resorted to lathicharge and dispersed the mob.

Later, the processionists reached Kalir Bazar where they attacked another sweetmeat shop. Police used tear gas to disperse the mob.

The processionists then gathered in front of the Bangladesh Jute Association office and started brickbating the police contingent.

Police again lathicharged the mob. After the incident, the procession broke up. However, no one was arrested.

## 4 killed in Jessore road mishaps

JESSORE, Dec 13: Three people, including two brothers, were killed and three others injured when a truck crashed on a rickshaw van on a road here today, reports UNB.

Mian (20), his brother Monob (12) and Akhter (12) of village Panchbaria in the sadar thana died instantly.

Injured van puller Sohrab (22), Saharun (19) and Muntaj (28) were admitted to the sadar hospital in critical condition.

Police said the accident occurred when the van with passengers was rammed by a speeding truck from behind at Amtola at around 5 pm.

The truck sped away after smashing the van.

Within only around an hour, another killer truck rammed another rickshaw van near the central jail in the town, killing its puller, Abdul Khaleq (40) died on the spot at 6:30 pm.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver, Rabul Islam (50).

Separate cases were filed in connection with the two accidents and all the four dead were sent to the morgue.

## 15 fishermen families' houses set ablaze in Feni

FENI, Dec 13: Houses of at least 15 families of fishermen were torched and 5 people injured in a mob attack Saturday night in Chhagalnaiya thana, police said, reports UNB.

Some rowdy elements attacked Jelepara at village Panua at about 11:30 pm in backlash to the demolition of ancient Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in India.

The injured fishermen took first aid.

Police Superintendent Sirajul Islam visited the spot this morning.

In another incident, some protesters set fire to Kalimandir (temple) at Andarmanik village in the same thana and the same night. Local people rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

Meanwhile, an all-party meeting was held today at the DC office for maintaining law and order and communal harmony in the district.

## One held for kidnapping girl in city

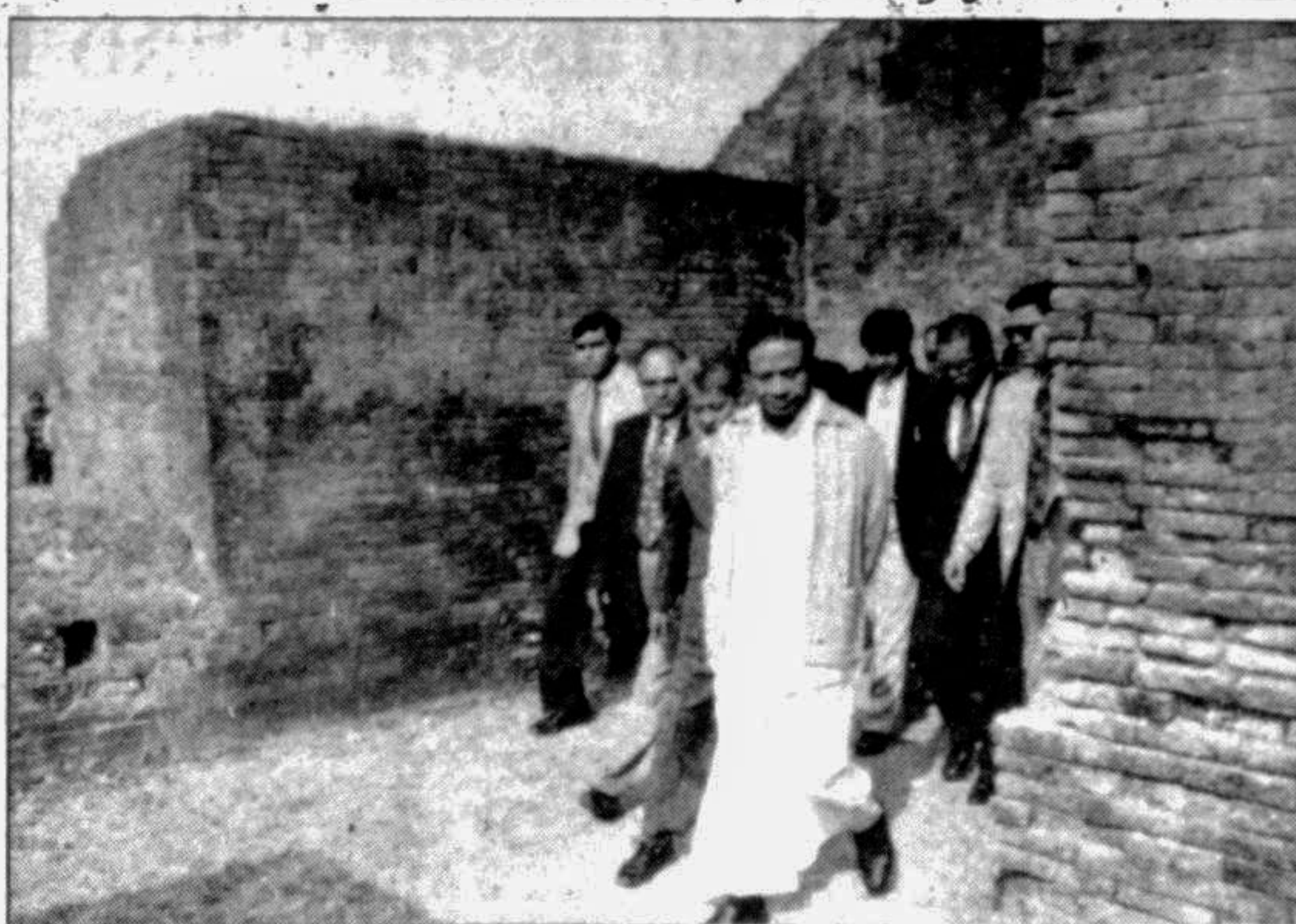
Police yesterday arrested Anisur Rahman from his Gopibag house for his alleged involvement in kidnapping a girl on Friday, reports UNB.

Shaminta Sharmin alias Jhuma was reported kidnapped by a group of youngsters from near Gopibag mosque Friday afternoon while she was going to Siddeswari by a rickshaw.

Jhuma's guardians filed a case with Sutrapur thana against Anisur Rahman in connection with the kidnap.

Police early yesterday arrested Anis from his residence, but Jhuma's whereabouts were not yet known.

The girl is a neighbour of Anis, police said.



Shri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa visiting the historic site of Buddhist civilisation at Paharpur in Naogaon yesterday. — PID photo

## Premadasa

From Page 1 Col 8  
Buddhist Paal Dynasty in Bengal.

The Shri Lankan President later visited the archaeological museum of Paharpur which put on display various historical antiquities, images of Lord Buddha, Buddhist gods and goddesses and terracotta pieces symbolising the folk art of the ancient Bengal.

Later, President Premadasa flew to Mahasthangarh in the district of Bogra to witness the ruins of ancient Pundranagar.

On his arrival he was received by GOC 11 Infantry Division Major General Sadequr Raman Chowdhury and greeted by a large number of school children.

The President visited the Mahasthangarh Museum which housed the relics of Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim civilisations of ancient Bangladesh. Premadasa took keen interest in looking at the historical objects excavated from the ruins of the ancient Pundranagar which had its existence from the third century BC till 15/16th century AD.

The President was accompanied by Shri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat and members of the delegation.

Later, he attended a luncheon hosted by Major General Sadequr Rahman Chowdhury in his honour.

## Ceasefire in Bosnia

From Page 1 Col 7  
Bosnian Serbs to end the Bosnian war and condemned 'acts of unspeakable brutality' against Bosnian Muslim women in detention camps.

French President Francois Mitterrand announced late on Saturday that his country would ask the United Nations to authorise enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Mitterrand's statement at a news conference followed an announcement by US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger that the outgoing Bush administration was now also ready to back use of force against Serbian aircraft violating the no-fly zone.

The French move went further than the EC summit ending on Saturday, which mentioned violations of the no-fly zone and said the UN Security Council should examine the situation in the light of its Resolution 786 of October 1 which provided for possible enforcement.

Ministers said Serbia's leadership and the Bosnian Serbs shred primary responsibility for the war in Bosnia.

A separate part of the text

said, "the (summit) is appalled by the systematic detention and rape of Muslim women. It strongly condemns these acts of unspeakable brutality, which form a deliberate strategy to terrorise the Muslim community in Bosnia."

The ministers said those responsible for atrocities would be brought to justice and urged the immediate closure of all detention camps, especially those for women.

The draft said dame Anne Warburton, 65, a former British ambassador and now president of a Cambridge college, would be sent to investigate cases of rape. Irish diplomats said Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews would go also.

The summit text said Serbian authorities bore equal responsibility for fomenting the conflict and failing to use their influence to curb it.

The ministers said more action was needed to protect civilians in Bosnia through the development of safe areas, and by providing refuge in EC member states for particularly vulnerable categories of refugees.

## 'Implementation of Mujib's policies can help build an ideal state'

Participants at a discussion on "The Dream of Bangladesh: Independence and our Bangladesh" yesterday called for forging a greater unity among the democratic forces to maintain communal harmony in the country, reports BSS.

Held at the Bangabandhu Bhaban the function was presided over by parishad chairman Begum Sufia Kamal and was addressed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Abdus Samad Azad, Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali MP, Justice K M Sobhan, Advocate Shamsul Hq Chowdhury, Prof A Joy Roy, Nurul Islam Bhandari, Golam Akbar Chowdhury and general secretary of the Bangabandhu Parishad Dr S A Malek.

They condemned the incident of demolition of the historic Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics and urged the people to help maintain communal harmony in the society.

Paying homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his contribution in the struggle for the independence of the country, they said, the implementation of the policies as enunciated by him could help build the country as an ideal state.

Abdus Samad Azad in his speech deplored the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque and said the world humanity would never forgive a section of Indian leadership for its failure to protect the historic mosque from destruction.

Likewise, he regretted, our leaders have also failed to protect the life and property of the people in the country.

In her presidential speech, Begum Sufia Kamal said that it was a great defeat on the part of Indian leadership in its failure to protect the 16th century mosque.

She also expressed her hope that the right minded people everywhere in the sub-continent would come up at this moment of crisis to establish peace in the region.

She urged the new generation to imbibe themselves with the spirit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for building Bangladesh into an exploitation free, happy and prosperous country, where people of all faiths and convictions would be able to live in full human dignity.

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## Pourashava

Sec Page 12 Col 5  
pointed to conduct the elections. Additional District Magistrates of 57 districts will discharge duties as returning officers.

The election schedule also carried prescribed criteria for eligibility of pourashava chairman and commissioner candidates.

As per the Pourashava Ordinance 1977, a candidate must be a citizen of Bangladesh and enlisted as voter of the concerned ward/pourashava and must be 25 years of age or above.

The ordinance says a person who is insane or bankrupt or has lost his citizenship or accepted citizenship of and expressed allegiance to any foreign country or suffered at least two years imprisonment in a criminal case and not passed five years or more in certain cases after release will not be qualified for election.

People serving in any post of profit, contractors, suppliers and dealers appointed by concerned pourashavas as well as bank defaulters have also been barred from contesting the elections.

One cannot contest for commissioner and chairman posts at the same time or for more than one post of commissioner.

Nomination papers of all candidates who fall short of fulfilling the requisite merits will be cancelled.

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## The Midnight File

### UN may okay operation in Mozambique today

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 13: The UN Security Council is expected to approve Monday a major operation in Mozambique, authorising the deployment of some 8,000 people to monitor implementation of the October peace accord, reports AFP.

### Charles, Diana attend X-mass concert

WOKINGHAM (England), Dec 13: The Prince and Princess of Wales attended a Christmas concert Sunday at their sons' school. The couple, whose separation was announced on Wednesday, travelled in separate cars to the school, 35 miles (56 kms) west of London, reports AP.

### Students observe hartal in Pabna

PABNA Dec 13: An eight-hour hartal was observed today by an all-party students unity in Santhia protesting the cancellation of degree centre at Santhia Degree College and degrees of 154 students of the college, reports UNB.

Campus sources said vehicles were off the roads and shops were closed during the hartal hours that began from 6 am.

Angry students brought out a procession chanting slogans for the restoration of the centre and the degrees of the 154 students. They also gheraoed Thana Nirbahi Officer Amanullah at his office at 3 pm for about two hours.

Students alleged that the cancellation order came upon a "false" report of the TNO about the centre.

### Police asked to arrange special patrol on highway

Inspector General of Police ASM Shajahan yesterday (Sunday) directed the police to arrange special patrol to curb highway robbery and snatching, reports UNB.

He also directed the district Superintendents of Police to be on maximum alert and called for stepping up police activities to curb terrorism.

The IGP gave the directives while reviewing the country's crime situation with senior police officials at the Police headquarters yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, police recovered 52 firearms and 104 rounds of ammunition from different parts of the country in the second half of November and arrested 40 people for illegal possession of firearms.

During the same period, police also recovered smuggled goods worth about Tk 1.09 crore and arrested 170 people.

### 70 pc Indians flamed religious passions across the country.

The poll found 78 per cent of those questioned felt that India's image abroad had worsened as a result of the temple demolition and the Hindu-Muslim riots which followed.

Eight per cent said that the country's image had improved, while four per cent felt it made no difference.

The MARO findings are a silver lining in a week of gloom," said analyst Pran Chopra of the New Delhi based centre for policy research.

"An overwhelming majority of Hindus and Muslims of this country are secular. It is time now for silent secular majority to assert themselves and tell communalists that we will not accept the message of hate," said Chopra.

As the violence ebbed and a curfew was lifted in more areas, the ruling Congress Party and other groups began planning peace marches.

"We are getting back to normal, but keeping our fingers crossed," a government official said.

### All party committee

From Page 1 Col 8  
take steps for ensuring stoppage of civil activities of the communal forces in Bangladesh.

The PDF also demanded that the government ensure punishment to those involved in attacking temples of the Hindu community and ransacking the offices of the secular political parties in the country.

### 17 hurt

From Page 1 Col 5  
sacked roadside shops and damaged several vehicles plying on the road near Gulistan Cinema at around 5:00 pm yesterday, witnesses said.

Police immediately baton charged and tear-gassed to disperse the clashing students.

Our DMCH correspondent reports: Two madrasa students, Habibullah and Masudur Rahman were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Habibullah's condition was stated to be critical.

Seven other madrasa students were given first aid at the DMCH.

### Aid utilisation

From Page 1 Col 3  
the implementations, sources said.

Meanwhile, the government is now making a list of the implementing agencies and divisions according to their rate of aid utilisation. Those ministries having an aid utilisation rate of below five per cent, would be asked to hasten their activities.

Till now, ten agencies, below the bottom line in aid utilisation, have been identified they said.

### Indonesian quake

From Page 1 Col 4  
Gadidjau quoted the governor as saying.

After shocks around every five minutes hampered rescue work until midnight Saturday, Nai said.

Most people remained away from their homes to avoid falling beams and spent Saturday night outside in open areas without tents in a pouring tropical rainstorm.

The quake destroyed government buildings, schools, mosques, churches and shops in Maumere and Larantuka on the eastern part of the island.

Most of the buildings on the island are single-storey structures made of wood and brick.

The island is a poor, mountainous area which exports copra and grows maize and rice.

The quake struck East Nusa Tenggara province at 1:20 pm (0520 GMT), officials said. It was centred about 30 kilometres (19 miles) southwest of Maumere, which has a population of 40,000.

### Day of tragedy

From Page 1 Col 4  
martyred intellectuals. I pray for salvation of their departed souls.

The Prime Minister said the intellectuals had awakened the people with the spirit of independence with their intellect and writings, she said adding "we have achieved the independence through supreme sacrifices."

"This self-sacrifice of the illustrious sons of the soil for independence of motherland will remain as a source of inspiration for all of us."

Referring to the restoration of democracy in the country after a long struggle, she stressed the need for united efforts of all to safeguard national independence and sovereignty and consolidate democracy for ensuring peace, happiness and prosperity of the masses.

A policeman reads a newspaper in front of a signboard at the headquarters of the Hindu fundamentalist BJP in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP/photo

## Sanskritik Jote Victory Day festival begins today

By Staff Correspondent  
Victory Day festival, 1992 organised by Sammlita Sanskritik Jote will begin at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3:00 pm today.

It will be inaugurated by eminent fighter in anti-British movement, Vinod Bihari.

A discussion meeting will be held on the occasion. It will be participated, among others, by Barrister Syd Ishtiaq Ahmed, Jahanara Imam, Dr Ahmed Sharif, Shahmsur Rahman and others.

The festival that will remain open until December 16 will also include dramas, recitals and exhibition on the Liberation War.

### 350 prisoners released

The government has ordered release of 350 prisoners including 65 under-trial prisoners on the occasion of the Victory Day this year, reports BSS.

A directive was issued to withdraw, detention orders after reviewing the cases of 285 persons who were detained under Special Powers Act of 1974.

## 700 held in India

From Page 1 Col 6  
Across the country, members of the Bharatiya Janata Party wore black ribbons to protest the arrest of their two most senior leaders last week on charges of inciting violence.

The BJP after downscaling a "Black day" protest, announced plans to defy the law with a large demonstration tomorrow, according to AFP.

Party members are being summoned to protest outside the Pakistani High Commissioner (Embassy), BJP said.

A spokesman for the party in the capital, a BJP stronghold, said he hoped at least 10,000 supporters would gather in defiance of a temporary order banning the assembly of four or more people.

The BJP's "black day" protest against the banning of the VHP and the RSS, was at the last minute moved from the streets to fundamentalists' premises to avoid provoking a confrontation with police, the party said.

PTI from Delhi adds: The investigations in to the demolition of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya by Karsewaks has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), according to an official spokesman here.

The spokesman said the Centre had taken the step in