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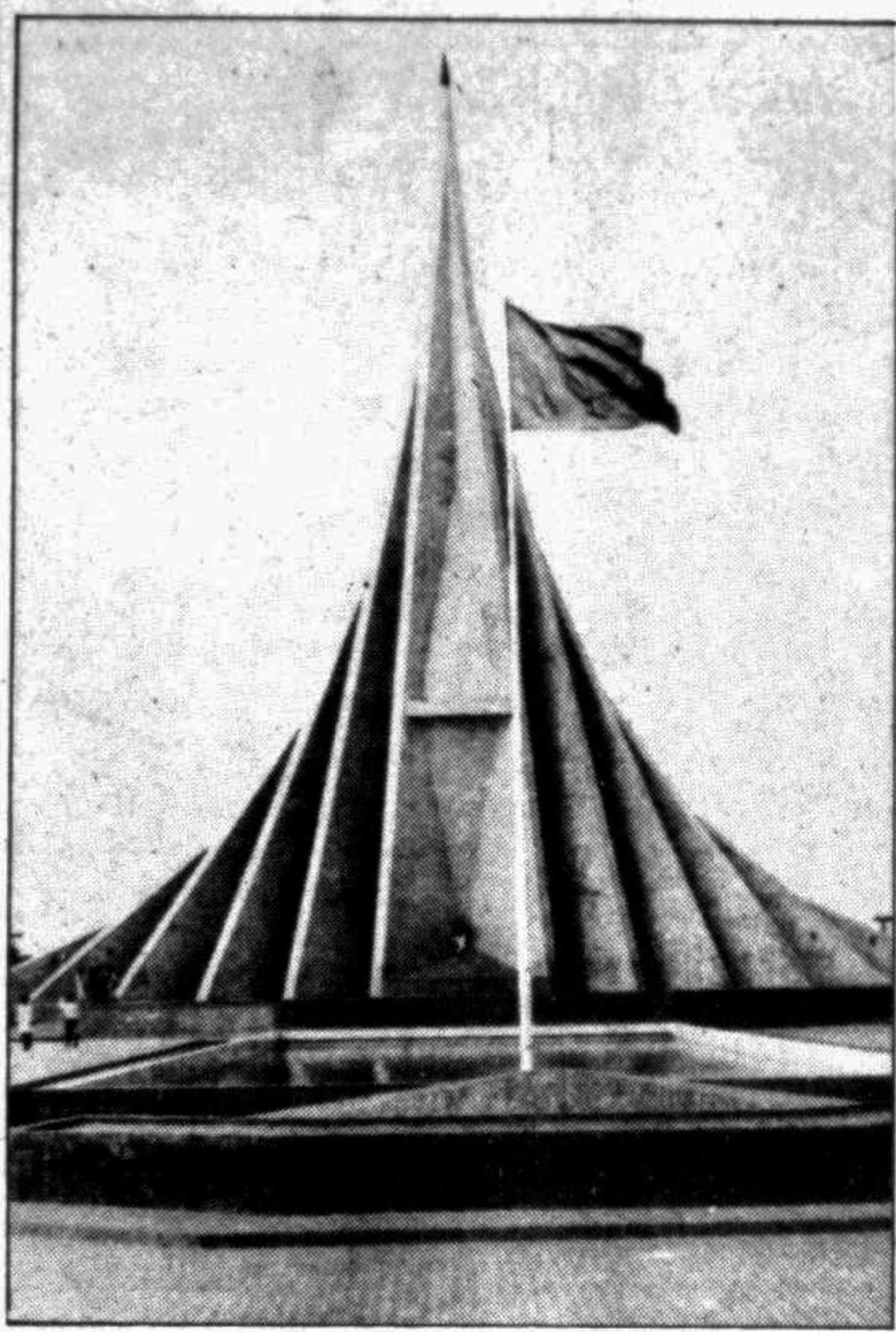
Dhaka Day by Day



Twentyone years of indifference Page 3

**Holiday Notice**

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Wednesday) on the occasion of Victory Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Thursday). — Management



National Memorial in Savar.

— Star photo

## Victory Day today

The nation celebrates the Victory Day today (Wednesday) in a befitting manner with a 31-gun salute heralding the day in the capital, reports UNB.

The government has chalked out an elaborate programme on the occasion.

The day is a public holiday. President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar in the morning.

The Prime Minister will witness a children's and juvenile rally at the Dhaka National Stadium at 8.30 am. She will inspect their march past and take salute.

The national flag will fly atop public and private buildings which will be illuminated in the evening. Main streets and road islands in the capital will also be decorated with national and miniature flags.

The Army bands will play at Farmgate, the Air Force at Manik Mian Avenue, Navy in Crescent Lake area, Police at Bahadur Shah Park, BDR at Azampur Community Centre and Ansar-VDP at Armanitola.

Police, Ansar-VDP, Bangladesh Scouts, Girls Guide and BNCC will display physical feats across the country, in-

cluding the district and thana headquarters.

Ships of Bangladesh Navy will remain open for the public from 3 pm to 5 pm on the day at Chittagong, Khulna and Mongla ports, Sadarghat in Dhaka, and BIWTA ghats at Narayanganj and Barisal.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will broadcast special programmes on the occasion. Newspapers will bring out supplements and publish special articles highlighting the significance of the Victory Day.

Rallies of college students, sports programmes and boat races will be held at the district and thana headquarters.

Arrangement has also been made to screen documentary films in cinema halls in the morning for the students, cultural function by Bangla Batamul in the afternoon and by the Mass Communication Directorate at Ramna Batamul.

Besides, sessions of patriotic songs and film shows will be organised at different playgrounds throughout the country.

Shilpakala Academy will arrange sessions of patriotic songs on mobile trucks in different areas of the city.

Discussions have been ar-

ranged on the independence war, giving emphasis on the use of local products and achieving self-sufficiency in all aspects of national life.

Symposium and fairs and exhibitions will also be held in Dhaka and other divisional cities to popularise local products.

Special prayers will be held on the day at mosques, temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of the nation.

Improved diet will be served to the inmates of hospitals, jails, orphanages, children's homes and vagrant homes.

In the afternoon, a reception will be held at Bangabhaban. Bangladesh missions abroad will also hold reception on the day.

BSS adds: Various political organisations have drawn up their respective programmes.

The programmes of Bangladesh Nationalist Party include assembly of the party leaders and workers at the party offices at 5 am and hoisting of the national and party flags, departure for Savar and laying of wreaths at the National Mausoleum there, ziarat and paying homage at the mazar of Shaheed

President Ziaur Rahman at 8 am and a grand assembly at the central party office at 3 pm and victory procession.

The programmes of Bangladesh Awami League for the day are: hoisting of the national and the party flags at the central party office and Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhaka and party offices all over the country, assembly at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8 am and placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, paying homage at the National Mausoleum at Savar at 9 am, victory gathering at Bangabandhu Avenue at 2 pm and victory procession at 3 pm.

Bulbul Lalitakala Academy, Zia Academy, Jatiya Juba Sanghati, Nazrul Institute, Bangabandhu Parishad, Bangladesh National Museum and Bangla Academy are among the scores of organisations which have chalked out programmes in celebration of the Victory Day.

According to a report from Chittagong, different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, trade unions, student organisations and educational institutions have formulated separate programmes.

### Pourashava poll schedule refixed

The Election Commission has refixed the election schedule of 91 pourashavas for further convenience of peaceful holding of the polls and spontaneous participation of all citizens, reports BSS.

According to the changed schedule, voting will take place on January 30 of 1993 while the nomination papers will have to be submitted to the returning officer on January 5.

The returning officers will scrutinize the nomination papers on January 6 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 13.

### Resist activities of communal forces: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for resisting repression and undemocratic activities of the ruling party and the communal forces opposed to independence, reports UNB.

In a message to the nation on the eve of the Victory Day, Sheikh Hasina accused the 21-month old BNP government of "fraudulent and unprincipled policies" frustrating hopes and aspirations of the people.

"Social, political and economic situations are at stake. Frustration, anarchy and terrorism prevail in the campus. Law and order situation deteriorating," she said.

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### 'All govts have used religion to cling to power'

Rulers, before and after the Liberation, in this country have used and abused religion to prolong their stay in power taking advantage of the popular ignorance about the relationship between the State and the Religion.

This was the key note of the Martyred Intellectuals Commemorative Lecture titled Dharma-shastra, Dharmarajprakashita O Rashtadharma (theocratic state, secularism and state religion) delivered by Prof Anisuzzaman yesterday. The Department of History hosted the annual event to pay homage.

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### Kidnapped man rescued, 4 held from DU hall

Police rescued Mahfuzur Rahman, a kidnapped young man, from Sonargaon Road early yesterday morning, reports UNB.

They also arrested four people in this connection from Extension Bhaban of Mohsin Hall room no. 4014 of Dhaka University.

The arrested were identified as: Manosh Bhadra (22), Rafiqul Islam Pintu (22), Hasan Masum Khan Babul (15) and Sohel Akhter.

Police said a group of miscreants kidnapped Mahfuz and his friend Ishtiq Mahmud from the playground of DU Social Welfare Institute and kept them as hostage at Extension Bhaban of Mohsin Hall room no. 3014 on Monday afternoon.

The miscreants demanded Tk 8 lakh as ransom. Ishtiq Mahmud at one stage jumped from the 2nd floor of the Extension building and informed Dhanmondi police about the incident.

Police then raided room no. 4014 and detained the four people. On the basis of their confession, police recovered the kidnapped person from a house at Sonargaon Road.

### BCL activist held from TSC area

Police also arrested an activist of Awami League-backed Chhatra League from TSC premises after he threw a cocktail bomb at police.

He was identified as Hasibur Rahman Mukur, a former student of law department and a leader of pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League.

Police and witnesses said Mukur, who recently joined the pro-AL-BCL threw the cocktail at police on duty yesterday noon. A case has been filed under the arms and explosives act against him.

## Rao govt fires BJP admns in 3 states

NEW DELHI, Dec 15: The pro-Hindu administrations of three Indian states were dismissed tonight on the recommendation of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government, officials said, reports AFP.

President Shankar Dayal Sharma also imposed central rule on the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh at the recommendation of the government, following a late evening emergency cabinet meeting.

They are governed by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) an ally of the Hindu revivalist organisations which backed the drive to build a Hindu temple on the site of a mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya.

Earlier, amid a mass roundup of members of banned Hindu groups linked to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), leaders inside his ruling Congress Party were pressing Rao to dismiss the BJP administrations in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh states. National BJP spokesman KR

Malkani said his party expected the Prime Minister to do so.

"They are likely to dismiss the administrations," he told AFP. "The Indian government has gone mad."

Malkani said the BJP had "no plans" to back civil unrest if its administrations were sacked, but predicted they would force elections "within a few months." By law, elections need not be held until May 1996.

Reports of intensified behind-the-scenes political activity came as India enjoyed a fourth day of calm after Hindu-Muslim clashes sparked by Hindu zealots' razing of a mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya on December 6 left more than 1200 people dead across the country.

Meanwhile, there were no serious incidents of Hindu-Muslim communal violence reported today. Curfews remained in effect in many cities and towns but were being relaxed, officials said.

By official count police throughout India had arrested

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### 'Enemies of Independence distorting history'

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina Tuesday said that the Jamaat-Shibir and Golam Azam should not be allowed to do politics in this country.

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, said that the "reactionary forces" would have to build strong resistance against these elements and root them out.

Hasina alleged that the enemies of Independence along with some other groups were distorting the actual history of the Liberation War in various ways.

"They are doing so as part of a long-term conspiracy and to some extent they have become successful," Hasina said. Children and youth of the present generation were being confused because of the relentless propaganda and distortion of the history of Independence by these forces.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing as chief guest a discussion meeting organised by the Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote on the occasion of the Victory Day at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers here.

In an oblique reference to the BNP, Sheikh Hasina said that those who went to power shaking hands with the Jamaat, were now distributing

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### PM addresses nation on the eve of V-Day

## Work unitedly to safeguard independence, democracy

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday pledged to ensure 'dal-bhaat' for all and renewed her call to the nation to work unitedly in the spirit of Liberation War, reports UNB.

"Let us all make a pledge to safeguard the hard earned independence and democracy, remove poverty and build a modern and prosperous Bangladesh," Begum Zia told the nation yesterday evening over Radio and Television on the eve of the Victory Day.

She recalled with respect those who made the supreme sacrifice in ensuring the independence. The emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign nation is an unparalleled, memorable event in the history of this subcontinent."

It proved that a united and committed nation could achieve a task seemingly impossible, Begum Zia said. "We have also proved that a united nation can mould its own fate," she added.

"The pride of our War of Independence entirely belonged to us. This independence is not a gift by others," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to the demolition

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributing gallantry awards to the valiant freedom fighters of the War of Liberation at North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. — PID photo

### PM distributes gallantry awards among 675

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the people to sink their petty differences and work unitedly for poverty-alleviation and a nation-building activities, reports UNB.

"Come, let us work unitedly for the country and the people. Let us shun our petty differences and boldly march ahead for alleviating poverty and building a self-reliant Bangladesh", Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister gave the call after distributing gallantry awards to the valiant freedom fighters of the 1971 War of Liberation.

Commemorative coins, engraved with the images of seven Bir Shreshtha, were

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given to the nearest relatives of the Bir Shreshtha while the 68 Bir Uttam, 175 Bir Bikram and 426 Bir Pratikhs were awarded with medals at a function at the North Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday morning.

The colourful function, broadcast live by Television and Radio, was attended by members of the cabinet, MPs, freedom fighters and diplomats.

Begum Zia said the War of Liberation had taught us unity. "It's natural to have difference in opinion but we are all one on the basic question of making Bangladesh prosperous."

The Prime Minister con-

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### Dutchman among the war heroes

By Staff Correspondent

A Netherlands born Australian, who had helped the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) during the War of Liberation, was among the 675 persons awarded for gallantry.

WA Ouderland, who lives in Perth, Australia with his family received his Bir Pratik award Monday through his war-time aide K M Abdul Hal from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who distributed the medals at a function at the North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad building.

Ouderland had served as Managing Director of Bata Shoe Co. (Bangladesh) Ltd. from 1971 to 1978.

"I'm so excited it's a great day for me. I wish I could fly to Dhaka" Ouderland told Hal on

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Sheikh Hasina speaking at a discussion organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote at Engineers Institution in city yesterday. — Star photo

## Gross irregularities in DSE cause depression in capital market

Experts in finance at a seminar yesterday blamed non-payment of dividend and gross irregularities in stock exchange operations for erosion of investors' confidence, resulting in a chronic depression in country's capital market, reports UNB.

All the efforts to develop the capital market might end up in futility unless the lost confidence is restored by bringing about transparency in stock market operations through overhauling and exhaustive reforms of regulatory mea-

asures, they cautioned. Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) arranged the day-long seminar in its conference room for a deep look into the core of country's secondary market.

An exhaustive study on "Status of Capital Market in Bangladesh" by three experts at BIBM, including its Director General AHM Nurul Islam Chowdhury, cited empirical evidences and said activeness and depth of Bangladesh's secondary market were at "very low level" compared to neigh-

bouring countries.

Turnover of stock as percentage of the market value of enlisted shares in Bangladesh is only 2.5 as on September 30 this year, revealing a low level of investors' confidence in the capital market. The percentage is 86 in Korea and 63 in Bombay stock exchange.

According to the BIBM study, as many as 43 per cent of the companies listed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) are not declaring dividends in 1992. And among the companies paying dividends,

62 per cent have declared dividends below 15 percent.

Dr Mozibur Rahman, a Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, said overcapitalisation of most investments in recent years had resulted in a dismal financial state of the companies. Quoting his reading of loan portfolio scenario of banks and DFIs, Rahman said at least 60 percent of the investments were overcapitalised.

The researchers also found frequent price manipulations and unreasonable speculation

as other major reasons for the loss of confidence.

Abu Ahmed, an eminent capital market specialist, said there were even incidents in DSE of companies vanishing overnight gobbling up investors' money altogether, and shareholders didn't get justice from the authorities. He cited such a scandal when a company — Milton Tannery Limited — disappeared after selling stocks worth Tk 2.17 crore.

Other paper writers were Controller of Capital Issues Mamun-ur-Rashid, Dhaka Uni-

versity Professor Dr Shamsul Haque, Deputy Secretary of the Finance Ministry Dr Mozibur Rahman and former DSE Chairman Khurshid Alam.

Prof Abdullah Farouk conducted the seminar. Experts were unanimous in the view that there were enough demand of potential stocks but investors, scared by dismal scenario in capital market, still prefer bank deposit for safety of their money.

Many a bankers at the seminar said despite drastic re-

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### DU opens new department

The Dhaka University has opened a new department of Linguistics. Dr Rajib Humayun of Bangla Department has been appointed as Chairman of the new department. He joined his duty yesterday, reports UNB.

### NSU get-together Saturday

North South University (NSU) will hold a meeting for the students and their parents at its administrative office on Saturday at 4 pm, reports UNB.