





programme and with the coverage of more than 70 per

cent, the programme now

saved the lives of 72,000 chil-

"It also prevents 4.2 million

The 15 million EPI contacts

episode of illness and averts

6400 cases of polio paralysis,

which the health services sys-

tem has with pregnant and

lactating mothers and infants

could now be used to provide

health interventions, Carriere

The UNICEF Country Rep-

resentative said that although

the Contraceptive Prevalence

Rate (CPR), or use of birth

40 per cent from 15 per cent

gnancies in the country were

still unplanned claiming lives

strategy, once starts function-

ing from January 1, next year,

would save lives of another

of mortality to poverty, malnu-

trition, inadequate health care,

lack of education and con-

According to the SOWC,

1993, about five lakh women

die of pregnancy related com-

plications every year in the

world. Ninty per cent of these

deaths occur in the developing

In Bangladesh, one of every

25 women dies of pregnancy

and many more suffer long

On safe water and sanita-

tion, Rolf C Carriere said that

the news was good and more

than 80 per cent of the rural

households were now within

150 metres of a source of safe

term maternity-related handi-

caps and illness.

He attributed the high rate

He said that the EPI-plus

of 28,000 mothers a year.

52,000 infants.

sciousness.

in 1975, half of the pre-

control materials, have soared

dren every year.

he added.

suggested.

UNICEF chief says

'Daal Bhat' programme to reduce malnutrition

By Staff Correspondent

The United Nations Chil dren's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Dhaka Rolf C Carriere Thursday suggested that the "Daal Bhat" programme initiated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would be able to bring down the country's existing malnutrition rate.

"The Prime Minister's 'daal bhat' programme, if focused on prevention of malnutrition, as well as on dealing with the child under two and on adolescent girls in their last growth spurt, will be able to bring down malnutrition rates significantly, even with current available resources," he said.

Carriere, however, pointed out that the programme involves education for behaviour change regarding distribution of food within the family, and monthly weighing of babies, which he termed a major chal-

The UNICEF Representative was speaking to the press at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on the occasion of launching the 1993 State Of the World's Children report (SOWC).

The daal bhat programme of Begum Zia aims at alleviating poverty and providing minimum nutrition to every indi-

vidual of the region. Bangladesh has the largest number of moderate and severely malnourished children within its borders. According to a study, the per eapita calorie intake for about

11 crore 50 lakh people is

2191... Carriere lauded the success achieved in the country's health and nutrition sectors, particularly in the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI), use of birth control materials, and in the essential drugs policy, which he dubbed

a visionary one. He said that EPI has become the country's flagship

> Editor: S. M. Ali **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Dacoits loot Tk 50,000 gold ornaments in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Dec 17: Dacoits armed with automatic weapons looted gold orna ments worth about Taka 50,000 from a residence opposite the District Judge Court

here this evening. The house owner and a resident were injured in the inci-

According to witnesses, the dacoits numbering seven to eight hit Advocate Nurul Islam on his head with a pistol making him unconscious and looted the ornaments.

A case has been registered with Narayanganj police and nobody in this regard.

Ratan Sen murder: Juba Dal leader gets bail

KHULNA, Dec 17: One of the accused of sensational Ratan Sen murder case was released on bail today, reports

Shaharuzzaman is president of the Khulna unit of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, the youth front of ruling BNP.

He was received by local BNP leaders at the Khulna Jail gate when he was enlarged this afternoon.

Shahar was taken in the town in a truck procession brought out by transport workers. He is also president of the Khulna Minibus Samity.

Ratan Sen, an elderly leader of CPB, was killed here on July 31. The murder case is pending at the District Judge's Court.

Nirmul: Conference

From Page 1 Col 8

committee Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and other leaders including Abdur Razzak, MP, Kazi Aref, Nurul Islam Nahid, Syed Hassan Imam and Ahad Chowdhury were present at the press conference held at Col Taher auditorium in the JSD (Inu) office.

Meanwhile, Jahanara Imam left Dhaka for USA last night. During her three week's stay in the USA, Mrs Imam would undergo treatment, committee sources said.

Students of Bharateswari Homes displaying physical exercise at the National Stadium (top) and BNP (left top) and AL procession in the city on the occasion of Victory Day Wednesday.

Nation celebrates V-Day From Page 1 Col 5 Girls Guide, orphanages and

A 31-gun salute heralded the beginning of the day. The day was a public holiday. National flag was hotsted atop all government offices and private houses. Main streets and road islands in the capital were decorated with miniature national flags.

Colourful march past, rallies, processions, cultural shows and fairs were organised in the capital in celebration of the day.

The Prime Minister in a nationwide broadcast called on the nation to take firm pledge for protection of independence and hard-earned demo-

She attended a juvenile rally and inspected a march past of school children at Dhaka Stadium Wednesday morning.

The Prime Minister said her government was working to mitigate the sufferings of the people and make the hardearned independence mean-There are many who are

being deprived of education and passing their days in sufferings. Our victory will be meaningful if we can bring smile on their faces," she told the children's rally at the National Stadium. The Prime Minister urged

the children to groom themselves as the future leaders of the country, saying "you have to love the country and think about the people."

Nearly 10,000 children of different schools, Boys Scout,

At least ten people were

killed and 44 others injured,

16 of them seriously in road

and train mishaps at Gazipur,

including a woman were killed

and 12 others were injured

Tuesday in a road mishap near

Sutrapur in Kaliakoir thana of

Gazipur district, police and

hospital sources said vesterday.

Hossain, 35, Yakub ali, 28,

Hedayet Hossain Bablu, 30,

Ashraf Ali, 60 and Nurul, 45,

Nurul Islam, 40 and Sabjan

on the spot and Ashraf died on

his way to hospital while

Sabjan succumbed to her in-

referred to 'Dhaka Pangu

Hospital' in a critical condition

while nine others were admit-

incident occurred when a

Dhaka-bound speeding coaster

(Tangail, Ba-339) and tempo

(Chattra-Metro Pa-2023) co-

ming from opposite direction,

Eyewitnesses said the

jury at Qumudini Hospital.

ted to Qumudini Hospital.

Of them, Yakub was killed

Of the injured, three were

The deceased are: Belal

UNB reports: Seven people

Rajbari and Bogra.

Begum, 25,

Ten killed, 44 hurt

in accidents

By Staff Correspondent

terday.

socio-cultural organisations participated in the rally, follewed by cultural function. Mounted police and an elephant also took part in the pa-

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas hosted a reception at Bangabhaban Wednesday afternoon in celebration of the Victory Day.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the re-

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder said the BNP government was working towards realising the dreams of freedom fighters for establishing a democratic, happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Addressing a rally in front

of the National Press Club, Talukder said the 1971 Liberation War was fought to establish a democratic order and an exploitation-free society and to improve the socio-economic condition of commonman.

Earlier, a huge procession which began from the central office of the party, paraded different thoroughfares in the city and terminated at the venue of the rally.

A massive victory march

led by Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina charged with joy and festivity rocked the streets in the capital commemorating the historic victory of the 1971 Liberation War.

Thousands of jubilant people joined the victory march,

collided head-on near Sutra-

Our Rajbari Correspondent

says, two persons including a

madrasa teacher were killed

and 20 others injured when a

minibus fell into a road side

ditch after knocking down a

bicycle on the Rajbari-Faridpur

highway at around 11 am yes-

teacher of Sripur died on the

spot as the minibus hit him.

He was riding the bicycle and

was on his way to the madrasa

Anwara Begum, 20, suc-

cumbed to her injuries in the

hospital at around 3 pm. Five

other persons were also stated

to be in a critical condi-

tion. They are: Md Momtaj, 25,

Abu Bakar, 20, Nurul Islam,

25. Shahjahan, 30, and Muji-

bur, 50. The rest were re-

leased after giving first aid.

Another UNB report from

Bogra adds: At least one person

was killed and a dozen others

were injured, 8 seriously,

when a train rammed a mini-

bus on a levelcrossing near

Gabtali thana in the district

three miles away.

Md Golam Maula, 40,

The marchers carried paper-made cannons, dummy guns, models of freedom fighters, rajakars, Pakistan army and Golam Azam on push-carts and trucks.

At the end of the procession, effigies of Golam Azam. Rajakars and Pakistani soldiers were set aftre.

Sheik Hasina called on the people to rise against the "neoautocracy" of ruling BNP and anti-liberation Jamaat Shibir to consolidate the country's hard-won independence and democracy.

Hasina was addressing a jubilant crowd of thousands of people on the street outside the Bangabandhu Bhaban Wednesday evening at the end of her party's massive victory march Tens of thousands of enthu-

Dhaka University campus Wednesday to enjoy various colourful programmes marking the celebration of Victory Day. The university campus wore

stastic people thronged the

a festive look with various socio-cultural organisations holding a series of cultural fun-At about 10 in the morning,

a large procession jointly or ganised by Muktijoddha Chhatra Command and Sammflita Sangskritik Jote, participated by children, youths, old men and women, paraded the city streets and campus. It was brought out from the Central

Shaheed Minar. Editorial on page 4

Armed men snatch convict from escort

JHENIDAH, Dec 17: A con vict, reportedly a left-wing po litical activist, was snatched by an armed group from an escort on way back to jail from hospi

He was taken to the Sadar Hospital today after he fell sick and released after some time.

Moshfiq, returning to jail in a rickshaw-van, was freed by a band of 12 armed men who

They halted the van near the bar library in the town, blasted at least three crackers and wrest Moshfiq freed.

Plan to build 22

The government has planned to construct 22 cyclone shelters at Dhublarchar and its surrounding areas along the coastal belt in Bagerhat district. Official sources said that the project would cost about Tk 8 crore.

tal today, reports UNB.

Police said Moshfigul Islam Bilu (29), said to be member of Biploby Communist Party, was serving a 10-year prison term in Jhenidah Jail in an arms case tried two years back.

came in four motor-bikes.

The two sentries, who were

unarmed, were injured in the explosions, jail authorities said.

cyclone shelters

Dhaka risks losing support

vesterday.

From Page 1 Col 7

tions of forced repatriation. Since then, the UNHCR has withdrawn from the job of interviewing the refugees prior to their departure. in another development,

the government's hopes for a full-fledged repatriation seem to have been dashed by Myanmar. Early this month the government reported that nearly 40,000 refugees have volunteered to return home. In reality, not more than 1,000 of them could be sent home. According to reports reaching Dhaka, Myanmar's interest in taking the refugees back is gradually declining. That explains the slow process of Myanmar's giving clearance to the would-be returnees.

Officials at the Dhaka mission of the UNHCR are tightlipped about the current situation. "We have reached a very sensitive stage," said one offi-

The Bangladesh government thinks the talk of Dhaka's using force in the repatriation is an attempt at maligning its policy. Bangladesh, according to Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, remains committed to voluntary repatriation. "No one will be sent home forcibly," he said in a recent press interview.

Harping on the voluntary nature of the repatriation is simply not enough. It's equally important that the international donors properly understand the policy, say official sources here.

According to its mandate, the UNHCR cannot be party to repatriation if there is any element of force. But Bangladesh cannot afford to keep the refugees for long. The government is not only facing resource constraints, there is also a strong domestic political pressure to send the Rohingyas home as soon as possible.

"If the government wants to keep the international aid for the refugees coming, it will have to review the repatriation policy," said a Western source.

Meanwhile, donor are sending their representatives to the camps for on-the-spot assessment of the repatriation. June D' Corsel, an official

from the Refugee Programme of the US State Department. visited at least six camps during Dec. 12-13 trip to Cox's Bazar and talked with relief of ficials and refugees.

Prof Yozo Yukata, an investigator appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, also visited the refugees, following his trip to Arakan last week to probe into the circumstances that forced the refugees to flee their homes. Yukata's visit was not directly related to the repatri ation but to investigate the al legations of human rights viola tions by the Myanmar military regime.

The Midnight File

Australia to drop Elizabeth from oath of allegiance

CANBERRA, Dec 17: Australia has decided to drop Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, still titular head of state of the former British colony, from the oath of allegiance taken by new citizens. Australians-to-be will instead swear allegiance to Australia, Prime Minister Paul Keating told reporters. In the new oath that Keating released today, would-be citizens will pledge loyalty to Australia, its democracy, rights, liberties and aws, reports Reuter.

Lebanon to block entry of deported Palestinians

BEIRUIT. Dec 17: The Lebanese army was ordered Thursday to block the entry of 418 suspected Muslim fundamentalist activists slated for deportation from Israel's occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, military sources said. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the decision was taken after the Lebanon representative of the fundamentalist Palestinian faction Hamas, Abu Mohammed Mustafa, called on Lebanese officials to refuse to take the deportees, reports AP.

US offers warplanes to enforce Bosnia air ban

BRUSSELS, Dec 17: The United States on Thursday offered aircraft to enforce a ban on Serbian aircraft over Bosnia-Herzegovina but failed to rally support for such a move from its NATO allies, officials said. Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said US Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger made the offer at a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the 16 NATO nations. It is unclear if the United States would act unilaterally without a NATO consensus, reports AP,

Stranded Pakistanis

From Page 1 Col 6

been already completed and that there were a total of 40,000 families numbering about 2,46,000.

The Secretary General of the Saudi Arabia-based voluntary organization also discussed Rabita projects in Bangladesh, the Babri Mosque and Bosnia issues. He said that the govern-

ments of both Bangladesh and Pakistan were 'committed' to the repatriation process of the stranded Pakistanis. However, replying to a question, he acknowledged that

the opposition in Pakistan is creating some confusion" over the issue. The stranded Pakistanis would be re-settled in Punjab.

in 34 different locations, he

Construction of houses had already begun and the total housing costs would involve about 100 million US dollars he added. They would be temporarily sheltered in camps in

"We are not worried about the money, because once you start the work" people will come forward with help, he

said in reply to a question. Describing his short visit to Bangladesh as "very useful and positive", he said that he also had fruitful talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Prime Minister was very supportive of the Darul lhsan University project in Savar, he said, "We also discussed the proposal to set up

Bangladesh social investment bank . . . to serve the community from the grass-roots

On the Babri Mosque issue, Dr Nasecf reiterated the Rabita stand that the Indian government failed to take adequate steps to protect the mosque and demanded that the mosque be rebuilt.

He also urged the Indian government to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of Muslims and religious institutions in India. Replying to a question, he

said that his organisation is already involved in relief operations in Bosnia. He urged international organisations, including the United Nations, to issue statements on Bosnia "much more positive than they are issuing today". Earlier, at a dinner hosted

by the executive committee of the Motamar al-Alam al-Islami Bangladesh, Dr Nascef pointed out that Rabita had been active in humanitarian services for nearly half a century after being founded by King Abdul Aziz. Motamar Bangladesh prest-

dent and member of Rabita central committee Maulana Mohiuddin Khan and secretary general of the organisaion Nader Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Accompanied by Shaikh Ahmed Salah Jamjoom and Dr Muhammad Abduh Yemani, both former ministers in the Saudi government, Dr Nascel is scheduled to leave today after a three-day visit.

Rao: No-confidence

From Page 1 Col 4

newspapers indirectly came out in support of the Hindurevivalist Bharativa Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), the main opposition.

Editorials said Rao, 71, had played into the BJP's hands, and the party would now project itself as more sinned against after being widely seen as the sinner in the Ayodhya outrage that ignited bloody Hindu-Muslim violence.

. The Economic Times, India's most respected financial daily, called the dismissal "retrograde and probably counter-

1500 loaded trucks stranded in 3 ferry ghats

MANIKGANJ, Dec 17: Some .500 loaded trucks have been stranded at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia ferry ghats for the last three days because of navigation problems in two major river channels, reports

BIWTC officials said many shoals had emerged in the Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia routes in the Jamuna and the Padma, affecting ferry

Ferries take an additional two hours to reach their destinations owing to the sandbars as well as low visibility of the river routes because of dense fog, they said.

Loss of navigability of the river channels is blamed on low flow of Ganges water and erosion of river banks.

Tk 2000 cr From Page 1 Col 7

mills would also enjoy the facility to repay the original loan in instalments, within ten years from 1995, sources further said.

Shah Alam, an influential leader of the Jute Mills Workers and Employees Action Committee, reacting to the government decision told The Daily Star yesterday that it was good news' for the country's jute sector.

productive". The Tribute said it was "ill-advised", while The Times of India described it as over reaction.

The centre has now taken a step which is blatantly ... anti-democratic and opportunist," added The Observer, which along with the newspapers had been mostly supportive of the Rao government's measures against Hindu hard-

The Pioneer, which had also taken a strident anti-BJP line, warned: "This can only win sympathy for the BJP when the need of the hour is to isolate it.

Another report says, India's major communist and centrist parties applauded early yesterday the decision to sack three pro-Hindu state administra-

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), which governs two of India's 25 states, said the governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh had "no moral authority to stay in power.

Rao remains under continued pressure from within his own party to quit for failing to act in time to prevent the razing of the mosque.

Rao, 71, who took power in June, 1991 and ushered in sweeping economic reforms, has rejected calls for his resignation, but party sources said there was still strong pressure on him to step down within

the ruling party. There are still today many people who think the PM must go if the Congress (I) is to regain credibility on a mass scale, said a party leader speaking on condition of anony-

The Indian government yesterday announced a commission of inquiry into the recent destruction of an ancient

mosque.

An investigation headed by Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan, a judge from the Punjab and Haryana state High Court, is to submit its report within the next three months, an Indian government spokesman said in the announcement.

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