

## MK Anwar off to China

### Sino-Bangla fresh trade accord this week

Bangladesh and China will enter into a fresh long-term trade agreement this week, rearranging all bilateral business transactions in cash, abolishing barter, reports UNB.

Officials said the two countries initiated the accord after China had decided to do away with barter trade in the changed perspective of its economic reforms.

The ensuing agreement will replace the existing five-year one, due to expire in 1995, that endorsed barter between Dhaka and Beijing.

Commerce Minister MK Anwar left for Beijing yesterday for trade talks when the new trade pact is going to be signed. Anwar is leading a three-member Bangladesh delegation to the four-day talks beginning Wednesday (Dec 21) in the Chinese capital.

Sources said the fresh deal was likely to go in force January 1, 1993 and remain valid initially for three years.

Bangladesh has been facing an adverse balance of trade with China ever since the two nations established diplomatic links. According to official estimates, cumulative balance of trade since 1973-74 stood at 1,036 million US dollars against Dhaka at the last fiscal year-end.

In 1991-92 fiscal, Dhaka's export to Beijing amounted to only 16.16 million US dollars against the import bill of about 120 million.

But, according to sources, Bangladesh is in a favourable position in barter with China. Export surplus in barter trade stood at 34 million US dollars to date in favour of Dhaka.

Bangladesh and China have so far concluded 13 barter protocols. The 13th protocol, signed in June last year, is due to expire on December 31.

Sources at the Commerce Ministry said despite abolition of barter, the Bangladesh side at the Beijing talks was likely to pursue the Chinese authorities for Special Trading Arrangement (STA).

Narrowing the existing trade imbalance will also be pursued at the meet. Bangladesh may propose some tariff benefit for its exports to China.

China is likely to be requested to buy all its requirement of jute from Bangladesh. Extension Renewal of an existing contract on sale of urea to China will, too, be approached.

A request on early establishment of a joint chamber of commerce will also be put forward to the Chinese negotiators.

However, according to sources, the new trade agreement bears a provision for both Bangladesh and China to treat each other as "Most Favoured-Nation" in all matters relating to shipping, customs duties and other taxes levied on bilateral trading.

## Hasina : Statements

From Page 1 Col 7 took the matter seriously, agreeing with the AL leader that the Prime Minister possibly had something to do with the destruction of the mosque.

To the cheering crowd, it did not perhaps matter that Hasina did not elaborate on the charge against Begum Zia, far from offering any evidence to back up her allegation.

The AL leader's accusation against the Jamaat for working closely with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the same issue, during a Nizami-Advani meeting in New Delhi, must also be treated as an unsubstantiated charge. The fact that these two extremist parties have done their best to exploit the communal frenzy sweeping South Asia does not necessarily make them political bed-fellows in the Babri Masjid episode.

A leader must avoid the temptation of making political statements on the basis of guesses, hear says and hunches. It is a pity that Sheikh Hasina seems unwilling to resist such a temptation.

We are in agreement with the Leader of Opposition when she criticises the government on a number of issues, ranging from the law and order situation to the stagnation of the economy. But we must differ with her, with all the force at our command, when she comes up with unsubstantiated charges against the ruling party and, more often than not, personally against Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Through these attacks on the Head of the Government, the AL President places her own credibility at stake, diverts attention of the people from the real issues facing the nation and further weakens the prospects for an all-party consensus on national problems.

We are speaking for a cross-section of our people when we urge the two leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, to call a halt to the continued deterioration in their personal relationship and place the interests of the country above their mutual hostility.

Meanwhile, leading figures in the ruling party and the opposition will be well advised to play a moderating role on the whole scenario, instead of fanning the increasing distrust between the two organisations as many of them have been doing in recent days over the history of the Liberation War.

What these leaders, including Khaleda and Hasina, may not know, is that they are being judged by millions of people all the time. If they fail in the test which involves a continuous process, they will let themselves down, their organisations, the system and, indeed, the whole country.

## Muggers beat up cop, snatch pistol

By Staff Correspondent

A group of muggers severely beat up a police officer and snatched his pistol with 16 bullets at Khilgaon in the city Saturday evening.

The Sub-Inspector of Police of Mirpur Noor Hossain, was admitted to the Rajarbagh Police Hospital, said police.

Sabujbagh police said that when the Sub-Inspector was returning to Mirpur from his father-in-law's house, he was waylaid at Chittapara, Khilgaon by a group of muggers who severely beat him up and snatched his pistol and bullets.

A case was lodged with Sabujbagh Police who rushed to the spot after several hours of the incident but failed to recover the pistol and bullets until filing of this report at around 11 pm Saturday.

## Kim Young Sam wins ROK polls

SEOUL, Dec 19: Majority Party candidate Kim Young-Sam won South Korea's presidential election by a margin of nearly two million votes, state television said today, reports Reuters.

## De Klerk sacks 6 army generals

CAPE TOWN, Dec 19: President FW de Klerk, admitting the military is waging a secret campaign against opposition groups, dismissed six generals and other defence force members Saturday, reports AP.

## Police disperse JP activists

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday did not allow the Jatya Party to hold a meeting and a planned protest procession on the grounds that prior permission had not been obtained, witnesses said.

Police used batons to disperse defiant JP workers who tried to hold a rally at an alternative venue in front of the National Press Club to protest Thursday's alleged ransacking of their Kawan Bazar central office.

Witnesses said that the JP workers started gathering at the Dainik Bangla crossing at around 11 am but were asked by police there to go near the Press Club where they were dispersed by riot police using batons.

Nearly 200 JP workers led by new acting secretary general Khaledur Rahman Tito were present during the incident. JP leaders Sheikh Shaheedul Islam, Jahangir Mohammad Adel, Pzlec Rabbi MP, Toufik Karim and Amena Bari were also present at the scene.

Meanwhile, the party secretary in a press release condemned the police action and also said that police had locked their damaged office.

He demanded immediate arrest of the attackers and reopening of the office.

The JP will hold a press conference today (Sunday). UNB from Chandpur adds: Acting Chairman of Jatya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday accused the government of harassing his party workers across the country.



Suranjit Sen Gupta MP addressing a rally in city organised by the Hindu Buddhadh Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday.

## Minorities

From Page 1 Col 5

of worship in 43 districts were damaged during the period and losses caused by the disturbances had been estimated at Taka 142 crore.

Held in front of the Jatya Press Club in the afternoon. The rally was addressed, among others, by Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Maj Gen. (Retd) CR Dutta, Justice Debesh Chandra and Badipal Mahat-hero. T Rozario presided.

Addressing the rally, Suranjit Sengupta said the Babri Mosque issue united all democratic, non-communal and progressive forces of the country. But he regretted, the government failed to play its due role in this regard. The negligence of the government to the volatile situation had thrown the minority people into total uncertainty, he remarked.

Referring to Pakistan government's commitment to rebuild the damaged temples in that country, Sengupta said it's unfortunate that our government did not make any such announcement.

CR Dutta in his speech strongly condemned the destruction of Babri Mosque and the consequent communal riot in India. He termed the aftermath of the Indian tragic incident in Bangladesh as worse than that occurred in the country during the Liberation War of 1971.

There's a political intrigue behind all the happenings in both the countries, he commented.

Meanwhile UNB adds: Bangladesh Jatya Hindu Parishad yesterday demanded that a judicial enquiry commission be set up to probe recent incidents following razing of Babri Mosque in India.

In a statement, President of the Parishad Prem Ranjan Dev also demanded reconstruction of demolished temples, houses and business establishments of minority Hindu community and compensation for damage of their property.

He urged the government to ensure security to the minority community and demanded arrest and trial of those involved in looting and arson under the anti-terrorism law.

Dhaka elected ICSC member

NEW YORK, Dec 10: Bangladesh for the first time has been elected a member of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), a UN body, reports BSS.

## SAARC summit agenda

From Page 1 Col 4

sources have been requested for fund for it.

The summit, he said, will also consider activating the South Asia food security reserve, now having 224,000 tonnes of foodgrains.

He said the SAARC Council of Ministers had authorised the SAARC Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito to sign an agreement with Japan, which agreed to provide 500,000 dollars to SAARC-Japan special fund for various projects like holding seminars.

Reaz Rahman said that all was set for the two-day summit of the regional forum to begin here on January 13 and the heads of state and government of the region would arrive here on January 12.

He said that the six arriving heads of state and government would be given ceremonial reception between nine am and 10 am on January 13 at the International Conference Centre, the venue of the Seventh SAARC Summit.

At the inaugural session from 10 am to 1 pm all the seven summit leaders of the region would make statements, he said.

It would be followed by election of the new SAARC

## PM : Military hardware

From Page 1 Col 3

Commander Major Gen Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Bir Uttam and the BMA Commandant Brigadier Mohd Sahool Alizai.

The ceremonial parade was commanded by the adjutant of the BMA Major Alamgir Md Sarwar Hussain.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's limousine was ceremonially escorted to the saluting dias by horse-riders with lancers.

She said the restoration of democracy in the country had created equal opportunity for all to serve the nation.

Describing the armed services as a noble profession she expressed the hope that the newly commissioned officers would discharge their respective duties upholding the reputation of the army. She said the main qualities of a worthy army officer were honesty, sense of discipline, dutifulness, loyalty and above all patriotism. She said the officers should always remember those qualities in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Reminding them the great responsibility of protecting the country's independence and sovereignty reposed on them, the Prime Minister asked them to remain ever vigilant in the discharge of the sacred duty.

Paying tributes to those who embraced martyrdom during the War of Independence Begum Zia said the Bangladesh army has a glorious tradition. She said their sacrifices during the War of Independence would be always remembered by the nation with gratitude. She said their sacrifices would always inspire the nation.

Begum Zia said today the Bangladesh army is well-organised and well-disciplined and earning name and fame not only at home but also abroad. She recalled their glorious role as peace keeping force of the United Nations in different countries including Iran-Iraq, Arab World, Namibia, Cambodia and Yugoslavia.

She said the members of Bangladesh army were assisting relief operation in Somalia. She had words of praise for the services of the Bangladesh army in the reconstruction works of brotherly country Kuwait.

Expressing her satisfaction for the impressive march past by the newly commissioned officers Begum Zia congratulated the teaching staff of Bangladesh Military Academy.

On return from the retreat they would, he said, gather for the hour-long concluding session beginning at 5.30 pm.

The Foreign Secretary said after the concluding session the new SAARC Chairman, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, would speak at a press conference on the summit.

At 7.30 pm all the summit leaders, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, the King of Bhutan and the presidents of Maldives and Sri Lanka would jointly call on the Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

At 8 pm the summiters would attend a dinner to be followed by a cultural function, Reaz Rahman said.

He said that at the concluding session the Chairman of the regional forum, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, would make a statement as the host of the next summit, the Indian Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, was likely to make a statement formally announcing the decision to hold the Eighth Summit in his country.

Bhutan would not be able to host the next summit, although it would be turn of that country, because of lack of infrastructural facilities.

## 'All India Radio report baseless'

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman yesterday (Saturday) dismissed an all India Radio report that US government has warned Bangladesh and Pakistan to refrain from interfering in India's internal affairs over the Babri Mosque issue, reports UNB.

The report is baseless Rahman told a questioner during a press briefing at the Foreign Office yesterday when his attention was drawn to the AIR report broadcast Thursday (Dec 17).

The US government has made no such overtures to Bangladesh formally or informally. Bangladesh has not made a single inflammatory statement on Babri Mosque issue and there is no basis for the (AIR) report, he said.

All India Radio had reported that Washington has warned Pakistan and Bangladesh to refrain from interfering in Indian internal affairs. Quoting diplomatic sources in New Delhi, the report added that the US administration has strongly criticised Islamabad and Dhaka for their inflammatory statements on the Ayodhya issue.

Clarifying Dhaka's position, the Foreign Secretary said, "Bangladesh had only condemned those who demolished the mosque".

Bangladesh also appreciated some positive steps taken by the Indian government to ease the tension caused by the demolition of the historic mosque by fanatic Hindus on December 6, he told an Indian journalist.

The Prime Minister earlier reviewed the smartly turned out parade and took salute at the impressive march past.

Battalion senior under officer Ferdaus Hassan Selim was adjudged the best all-round cadet and was awarded the Sword of Honour. He also received the Osmany Gold Medal for the best academic feat and the C A S Gold Medal for the best performance in military subjects.

He also received Qudrat-i-Khuda Gold Medal for best performance in science group.

The Zahangir Company received the BMA colour for the winter term. It was adjudged the champion company on the basis of different inter-company competitions.

Later, the Prime Minister inaugurated BMA Museum. She went round different sections of the museum and showed interest in items on display. Of the items on display the belongings of Late Lt Mushfiq, son of Abbas Ali Gazi of Devhata, Sathkira were on display. Mushfiq was killed while on duty in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Cox's Bazar truck workers go on indefinite strike

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 19: Trucks went off the roads from Cox's Bazar to Chittagong and Teknaf as the transport workers began a strike for an indefinite period to press for their 10-point charter of demands.

Cox's Bazar Inter-District Road Transport Truck Workers Union called the strike demanding a stop to frequent robbery on the highway, withdrawal of cases filed against the workers and release of a leader.

Relief supplies to the Rohingya refugee camps, and transport of sea fish have seriously been affected because of the strike, which has also increased the price of ice in the district.

Presided over by Boalkhali thana AL President Ataul Haq, the meeting was addressed by Amir Hossain Amu, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, MP, Moslemuddin Ahmed, SM Abul Kalam and, Sekander Hayat Khan.

The opposition leader visited the Koiballaya Dham Mandir damaged by recent communal violence and talked to affected people. She also visited the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where Chhatra League leaders Qamrul Hasan Shaheen, Motahar Hossain Rana and Mahfuzul Haq were undergoing treatment.

## Corpsns: Taxes

From Page 1 Col 5

and Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) have also cleared some of their dues.

According to Finance Ministry sources, the total amount in collected due taxes now stands at around Taka six crore.

However, other corporations have said that because of liquidity crisis they could not clear their dues, sources said.

In view of these difficulties, the Finance Ministry is likely to take a new course of action to recover uncollected taxes after the end of 1992.

Sources further said that although there had been a plan to arrange a special fund for the clearance of the due taxes of the public sector corporations, the idea did not take any concrete shape.

The plan was taken as the World Bank (WB) suggested making the corporations free of all due taxes.

Meanwhile, sources said that collection of due taxes from organisations was also being hampered because of lengthy legal procedures.

## Extra flights

From Page 1 Col 8

passenger failed to obtain seats, he or she could directly contact the General Manager (Reservation and Communication) or the Deputy General Manager (Corporate Affairs) at the airlines' head office in Motijheel.

Moreover, if any agency or organisation intended to send a large number of passengers to Kuala Lumpur in a group, Biman would operate special flights, the press release added.

## The Midnight File

### Nationalists get majority in Taiwan's election

TAIPEI, Dec 19: In Taiwan's first full legislative vote ever, voters angered by government ties with big business dealt a stunning rebuke Saturday to the nationalists who have ruled for 43 years.

The Nationalists retained a 96-seat majority in the 161-seat Legislative Yuan. But their share of the popular vote dropped to 53 per cent from 61 per cent in the last election in 1986, when only 45 per cent of the legislature's seats were at stake. Leaders of the leading opposition Democratic Progressive Party celebrated their victory by exploding strings of firecrackers before a late night feast, reports AP.

### 6 NLF men buried alive

NEW DELHI, Dec 19: Six members of an outlawed guerrilla group were buried alive by their comrades for extorting money from poor villagers, a news agency reported Saturday. Guerrillas of the National Liberation Front of Tripura kidnapped six members of their group on Friday and buried them alive in dense jungles, United News of India said, reports AP.

### Medellin's police chief killed

MEDELLIN (Colombia), Dec 19: Heavily-armed gunmen opened fire today on Medellin's chief of police intelligence and dynamited his house, killing him and wounding five police officers in the attack, police said. The gunmen travelling in at least 10 cars killed Captain Fernando Posada, blew up half his house and wounded five police officers before fleeing leaving three of the vehicles behind, police said, reports AFP.

### Dawn-to-dusk hartal observed in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Dec 19: A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by Sharbo Datto Sangram Parishad was observed here today.

The hartal was called by the Parishad to press for immediate release of Bahauddin, an Awami League leader who was arrested on December 16 following a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and JCD activists at Munsif Bari in the town.

Earlier, on December 18 Sangram Parishad held a protest meeting demanding release of Bahauddin, while JCD held another meeting demanding his trial.

Both BCL and JCD brought out torch processions in town Friday evening.

When the groups reached Kandarpur police had to resort to lathi charge and tear gassing to disperse the groups from engaging in clashes.

Young girl commits suicide

By DMCH Correspondent

A young girl committed suicide at Dhamrai Friday morning as her love was denied by a cousin.

The 14-year-old Hosne Ara Akhter took poison when her cousin with whom she had fallen in love refused to marry her, relatives said.

Hosne Ara's body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy Saturday.

Relatives said that Hosne Ara became pregnant allegedly by her cousin and had an abortion at a local medical centre on December 9.

Hosne Ara, daughter of one Azimuddin hailed from Gopal Krishnapur village in Dhamrai.

## BSRS order

From Page 1 Col 7

under clause 1, the Sangstha shall, on such date as the Government may, by order notified in the official gazette, specify, stand dissolved, (3) Where the undertaking of the Sangstha has been transferred under clause 1, (a) all the contracts entered into and all matters and things engaged to be done by, with or for, the Sangstha shall be deemed to have been entered into or, as the case may be, engaged to be done by, with or for, the company; (b) all suits and other legal proceedings instituted by or against the Sangstha shall be deemed to be suits and other legal proceedings by or against the company; (4) The Government may, for the purpose of removing any difficulty in relation to the transfer of the undertaking of the Sangstha under clause 1 or the dissolution of the Sangstha under clause 2, make such order as it considers expedient and any such order shall be deemed to be, and given effect to as, part of the provisions of this Order."

There is also an explanation of the term 'undertaking' in the ordinance. According to the explanation, "The undertaking of the Sangstha includes its business, projects, schemes, assets, properties, movable and immovable, cash balance, reserved funds, investments, rights, powers, authorities and privileges including rights and interests in, or arising out of, such properties and all books of accounts, registers, records and all other documents of whatever nature relating to the Sangstha and its borrowings, liabilities and obligations of whatever nature."

The rest of the members of the committee are Prof. Dadrudoss Chowdhury, Barrister Nazmul Huda and Aminul Hoque of the BNP and Shuhangshu Shekhar Halder of the Awami League and Latifur Rahman of the Jamaat.

The Opposition members maintained that presence of the head of the government in the House on a regular basis to explain government policies on different issues to Parliament members was the only way to make the parliamentary form of government effective.

The Opposition members in the committee also argued that in the parliamentary form of governance, the accountability of the government to the people could only be ensured by means of making the head of the government directly accountable to the elected representatives of the people in the House, sources said.

The Treasury Bench members in the committee, on the other hand, argued that the Prime Minister could be represented in the House by any of her/his cabinet colleagues with power delegated in him or her by the Prime Minister.

Without contesting the need of the accountability of the head of the government to Parliament, the Treasury Bench members said that mandatory presence of the Prime Minister in the House would definitely hamper smooth functioning of the government, sources said.

The Treasury Bench members also said that they should rather try to create a convention, by gradual practice, that the Prime Minister attend the sessions on a regular basis.

The Committee members failed to decide on the issue yesterday. They, however, agreed to discuss it later on.

Presided over by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, the meeting was attended by Rahamat Ali of the Awami League, Suranjit Sengupta of the Gonoratya Party, Advocate Fazle Rabbi of the Jatya Party and Barrister Salam Talukder, Khandaker Delwer Hossain and Humayun Khan Panni of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, (BNP).