

Two women march beneath the Communist Party, flag during a peace demonstration by leftists parties yesterday in New Delhi calling for a rededication to secular values .

-AFP photo Police arrest 600 BJP activists

walked from the 17th-century

Red Fort to a sprawling

ground nearly a kilometer (half

a mile) away, shouting slogans

at both Hindu fundamentalists

unity, " down with Hindu fas-

cists," the marchers screamed.

Hundreds of onlookers

watched the procession and

policé maintained a strong

presence, but there was no

members of India's two main

communist parties, while a few

hundred belonged to the cen-

day walked out of the question

hour in the Lok Sabha to

protest the continued deten-

tion of party leaders, including

LK Advani and Murli Manohar

Delhi fears

attack on

Taj Mahal

authorities are reinforcing se-

curity for the Tai Mahal, fear-

ing an attack on the world-fa-

mous monument to love fol-

lowing the destruction of a

Moghul-built mosque by Hindu

zealots, a report today said, ac-

Senior security officials vis-

ited the town of Agra to review

security for the white marble

tomb, built by Moghul

Emperor Shahjahan in mem-

ory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal

in the 17th century, the Press

ment of intelligence and secu-

rity reinforcements, the instal-

lation of metal detectors to

screen visitors and strength-

ening of police communica-

indemnifying the killers Sep-

Later, the BNP government

under the leadership of late

President Ziaur Rahman rati-

fied the Indemnity Ordinance

along with a number of martial

law ordinances through the

fifth Amendment to the Cons-

titution in the Second Par-

liament of the country in 1979

liamentary Committee headed

by the Law Minister Mirza

Golam Hafiz was formed on the

day the Indemnity Ordinan-

cc(repeal) bill was moved by

Nasim with a view to preparing

The committee met for the

sixteenth time yesterday while

Parliament has granted the

committee five deadlines so far

who attended the yesterday's

meeting are Deputy leader of

the Opposition Abdus Samad

Azad, Maj Gen (Rtd) Mohamm-

ad Majid-ul-Huq, Works Min-

ister Barrister Rafiqui Islam

Miah, Mohammad Nasim and

Advocate Fazle Rabbi. The Law

Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz

presided over the meeting.

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Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52, Motijheel

C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36,

Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices:

House No 11; Road No 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX:

500091-4. Advertisement: 500091. Fax No 88-02-863035. GPO Box No

Members of the committee

a report on the issue.

to resolve the issue.

A 15-member Special Par-

tember 20, 1975.

tions, the news agency said.

Indemnity body

They ordered the deploy-

Trust of India (PTI) said.

cording to AFP.

NEW DELHI, Dec 22: Indian

P11 adds: BJP members to-

trist Janata Dal

Most participant were

"Long live Hindu-Muslim

and the government.

women NEW DELHI, Dec 22: Over 600 women activists of BJP were today arrested after they held a demonstration here protesting against restrictions on the darshan of "Ram lalla" at Ayodhya and marched towards

parliament violating prohibitory orders, reports AFP. The women, broke police cordon and rushed towards parliament after staging a demonstration on the parlia-

ment street near Patel Chowk for about two hours. The workers were, however, stopped they went beyond the Patel Chowk and arrested for violating restrictions

imposed under Section 144 of

CRPC, police said. Chaotic conditions deseended on Patel Chowk as several hundred women and other activists ran in different directions in a bid to proceed towards parliament. Traffic on all roads meeting the round about remained affected for

quite some time. Police swung into action and took the entire crowd into custody at Parliament Street police station

A total of 1,458 activists belonging to the banned RSS. VHP, Bajrang Dal and the Jamiat-e-Islami Hind were arrested from various parts of Madhya Pradesh till this morning.

Of these, 532 belonged to the RSS, VHP(448), Bajrang Dal (366) and Jamiat-e-Islami Hind (112), official sources 103 offices of these banned bodies had also been scaled all over the state. AFP adds: Thousands of

Indian communists waving red flags marched here today to condemn the razing of the Babri Mosque by Hindu zcalots and the subsequent bloody Hindu-Muslim violence.

An estimated 15,000 members of four Leftist parties

From Page 1 Col 7

the Treasury bench and the

Opposition in Parliament was a

must for giving hard-earned

democracy a stable foundation'.

Then the Minister proposed a

further extension of time to

the committee to try to narrow

the difference of opinion again

between the BNP and the AL

on the indemnity issue, the

however, agreed that the re-

port on the Indemnity Ordi-

nance (Repeal) Bill would be

submitted to Parliament in its

the constitutional bar on trying

the people involved in the

killing of Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman was moved in the

House by the AL leader and

Chief Whip of the Opposition

in Parliament Mohammad

President of the country, was

killed in a military putsch

med, Mujib's cabinet colleague,

took over state power follow-

ing the military putsch and

promulgated the Ordinance

3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.

Khandaker Mostaque Ah-

Sheikh Mujib, the then

Nasim August 8, 1991.

August 15, 1975.

The bill seeking removal of

The concerned parties,

Committee sources said.

coming session.

blast crackers, escape police arrest in city By Staff Correspondent A group of allegedly wanted persons blasted crackers and escaped when police went to

Wanted persons

the capital early Tuesday. On a tip Dhanmondi police raided an under-construction building at Rayer Bazar at around 2 am Tuesday but the gangsters hurled crackers at police and escaped, according to a police source.

arrest them at Rayer Bazar in

'Govt hiding facts about violence over Babri

Mosque demolition

By Staff Correspondent Two members of Parliament Tuesday accused the government of hiding the fact about the magnitude of violence in the country following demoli-

tion of Babri Mosque in India.

Tofael Ahmed of Awami League and Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party at a press conference at the National Press Club Tuesday said that the death toll and the extent of damage to property were higher than were reported in the newspapers after the violence erupted across the coun-

try early this month. Representative from the Combined Committee for Communal Harmony Syed Hassan Imam was present at

the conference. The two MPs who separately visited Bhola, Sylhet and Sunamganj claimed that those districts were the worst af fected areas of the country where the residents were stil

in panic.

"The government took the stand that nothing scrious had happened over the Babri Mosque issue and so the Prime Minister or any of the ministers visited the affected areas," Sengupta alleged.

He said that some 50 temple in Sylhet and Sunamgani including 18 in Sylhet towns were damaged. The century old Shahittye Parisad library was not even spared by the hoodlums, he' added.

The MPs alleged that many violence-victim were still residing under open sky without relief of any kind of help from the government.

They said that the PM should visit the affected areas and should allow at least the NGOs to work there.

Shahriar Press Club president, Shawkat secy

Hasan Shahriar, Special Correspondent of Dainik Ittefaque and Shawkat Mahmood, Chief Reporter of Dainik Dinkal were elected President and General Secretary of the National Press Club for a two-year term (1993-1994), reports BSS.

Zahir-Shawkat panel won 13 posts out of 17 while Shahriar-Helal panel secured four seats at the Press Club polls held here Monday.

According to the results announced by the Election Commission yesterday, Shahriar polled 230 votes as against 213 secured by Zahirul Hoque, Special Correspondent of Dainik Bangla for the post of President while Shawkat captured 286 votes as against 158 got by Ehsanulkarim Helal, Special Corespondent of BSS. It is to be noted that Shawkat was reelected as General Secretary of the Club.

Other office bearers are: Khondoker Monirul Alon, City Editor of Dainik Khabor -Senior Vice President, Abdul Baten, Joint News Editor of Daily Ittefaque - Vice President (unopposed), Moazzem Hossain Bulu, Senior Photographer of Bangladesh Observer - Treasurer and Badiul Alam, Principal Correspondent of Banglabazar Patrika and Abdur Rahman Khan, Senior Reporter of the

Telegraph — joint secretaries.

The elected members of the Press Club Managing Committee are: Syed Abdul Kahhar, Assistant Editor of Dainik Bangla, Ziaul Hoque, Assistant Editor of Dainik Ittefaque, Swapan Kumar Shaha, Shift-in-charge of BSS, Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Senior Photographer of Bangladesh Times, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, Economic Correspondent of BSS, Syed Lutful Hoque, Artist of Dainik Bangla, Mostafa Kamal Mazumdar, Special Correspondent of the Telegraph and Nurul Huda, Special Correspondent of BSS, Zahiduzzaman Faruq, Economic Correspondent of Dainik

Moazzem Hossain Bulu who was re-elected as treasurer polled the 311 votes highest among all the office bearers and members while Syed Abdul Kahhar got the 273 votes highest among the members.

Ittefaque and Baby Moudud of

Daily Ittefaque.



Jagannath College as chief guest at the centenary celebration of the college yesterday. -Star photo

Japanese aid

From Page 1 Col 7 Annually, he added, Japan provided around 300 to 350 million dollars in aid to Bangladesh and if it was not utilised effectively, there would be criticism and public pressure in Japan against continuing the same level of assis-

He pointed out that as more countries were seeking Japanese assistance, it would not be easy to increase the level of the aid commitment to Bangladesh.

"People in Japan would say that Bangladesh cannot digest 350 million dollars so we don't have to continue that level," he said "and that is a very dangerous argument which might occur at any moment if this 530 million dollar unutilised amount should remain that

However, he added that earlier this year talks with the government were held and an agreement was reached to improve the aid utilisation situa-

"We are trying to intensify our dialogue with the government in order to improve the utilisation and to make our assistance more effective.

In addition to the slow utilisation of aid, the Japanese en voy said that there were problems also with adequate and proper operation and mainte nance of the completed projects. "We would like to see that the efficiency of the bureaucracy will be improved and very hard effort made for good operation and maintenance of the completed projects."

The largest bilateral donor of Bangladesh, Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), since 1972, totals 5.53 billion dollars. Of which, 3.85 billion dollars was provided as loans while 1.68 billion dollars as grand assistance.

Ambassador Saiki noted that the present Japanese aid policy towards Bangladesh was to increase the grant aid and reduce the loan amount in the aid package. We want to increase our

loan amount because loans mean that you have to pay it back with interests and in fact grant assistance is increasing gradually, particularly the debt relief grant assistance." On attracting Japanese in-

grant aid and decrease the

vestment to Bangladesh, he pointed out a number of problems from the viewpoint of foreign investors.

"The number one problem is the labour relations, to put it bluntly, the problem of militant labour is a big concern for those who consider investing in Bangladesh because labour dispute in the form of hartals and other strikes makes their production schedule very unpredictable.

In addition, the Japanese envoy said, there were problems of very different customs and practices, slow bureaucracy and red tape.

These are problems which should be improved by the effort of the Bangladeshi people." However, he added that the

labour situation was much better in the export processing zones than elsewhere in the country. "In view of the difficulties,

am considering promoting Japanese investments in the export processing zones for the near future and hope that investment outside would become more intensified in the remote future.

Ambassador Saiki was optimistic about keeping up the level of aid commitment in the future. "As an ambassador here my ultimate mission is to keep up the level of Japanese assistance to Bangladesh."

He hoped that cooperation with Bangladesh would continue through Japanese assistance, particularly in human resources development and further consolidating the country's infrastructure. "My hope is that in the

twenty-first century, Bangladesh will become -another Japan in South Asia." Details of the interview are on Page 8

Newsmen robbed By Staff Correspondent

of Tuesday.

Two journalists of The Daily Star were held up and there valuables robbed by miscreants in the city in the small hours

Police baton charge

demonstrators

at Johnson Road

By Staff Correspondent

charge to disperse a group of

demonstrators wearing black

badges and holding black-flags

at Johnson Road in the city

demonstrating near Azad

Cinema Hall while President

Abdur Rahman Biswas was re-

turning through after inaugu-

rating the centenary celebra-

tion of Jagannath University

President Abdur Rahman

Biswas inaugurated the two day

function while a group of col

lege students protested his

presence as the chief guest

group of youths were demon-

strating on the route of the

Presidents' return, they im-

mediately resorted to baton

charge to clear the road of

demonstrators. But no arrest

Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) con-

venor Khalekuzzaman Bhutyan

expressed his resentment at

the police assault on students

BSD leader said that the attack

was made because they op-

posed the decision to invite

President Abdur Rahman Bis-

was as the chief guest in the

centenary celebration of the

In a statement Tuesday, the

Meanwhile: Bangladesh

was made, police added.

of Jagannath College.

Police said that when a

College, witnesses said.

said witnesses.

A group of youths were

Tuesday morning.

Police resorted to baton

The miscreants, numbering four, riding a Toyota car stopped the baby taxi carrying Chief Reporter Shaffqul Bashar (Chapal Bashar) and Staff Reporter Masud Hasan Khan after overtaking it in front of the Wapda building in Motifheel.

They then snatched away cash, camera, wrist watches and the government press accreditation cards of the two journalists at dagger-point.

A case was filed with Motijheel police but none was arrested.

Opposition trying

From Page 1 Col 3 people and do not want progress of the country.... they are trying to create terrorism and indiscipline in national life," she said reminding " of the famine, curbing of the press, introduction of oneparty rule and corruption that characterised the post-liberation government."

The Prime Minister also accused the nine-year autocratic rule of misappropriating public money.

Begum Zia said her government has been going by the BNP's election pledges, mentioning the exemption of agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000 and land tax up to 25 bighas, increasing the age-limit for government services up to 30 years and allowing press free-

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 6 Hasina reiterated her allegation against BJP of India and Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh, saying the demolition of Babri Mosque and eruption of communal violence took place in the region after the meeting between BJP leader LK Advani and Jamaat leaders in New Delhi

She urged the Indian government to reconstruct the mosque on its original site.

Presided over by Demra thana Awami League Secretary Safar Ali the rally was also addressed by Amir Hossain Amu, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mohammad Afzal, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Syed Hasan Imam.

The Midnight File

Rajshahi govt college closed sine die

RAJSHAHI, Dec 22: Rajshahi Government College was today closed sine die after a violent clash between Shibir and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists that left some 23 students injured, six seriously. Authorities also ordered residents to vacate hostels of the university-college by this (Tuesday) evening as tension mounted on the campus. All students left their dormitories by 6pm, reports UNB.

Clinton selects security team

LITTLE ROCK, Dec 22: President-elect Clinton has selected a national security team anchored by former Carter administration diplomat Warren Christopher as secretary of state and Wisconsin Rep. Les Aspin as defence secretary, transition and congressional sources said Tuesday.reports AP.

AL Secy accuses

From Page 1 Col 4

be held guilty of heresy certainly it is not our leader Sheikh Hasina. Rather it is Mr S.M. Ali, who should first practice before preaching oth-

However only mitigating factor is that most of Mr. SM Ali's statements regarding Sheikh Hasina for that matter on any issues domestic, social, political on Bangladesh is based on hearsay because of his long absence of about two decades from Bangladesh. The following facts would

indicate that Mr Ali was obsessed with his own ideas and onesided views that led to his failure not to bother to find out the truth before sparing several columns of his own newspaper. Thank God he did not use others. During Begum Zia's last official visit to India in clause li of the Joint Communique issued on behalf of the Prime Minster of India and Bangladesh it was clearly laid down that Bangladesh accepts the fact that there are many illegal immigrants from Bangladesh residing in India. Such admission by the Head of the Government and that too in foreign soil gave Indian Government legal and an inevitable excuse to push back hundreds and thousands of Muslim from India. In fact Indian High Commission in Bangladesh also took that very stand for explaining the expulsion of mostly Indian Muslim citizens from India. How can Mr Ali construc that Sheikh Hasina indulged in personal attacks when she just pointed out such a blunder on the part of Khaleda Zia which jeopardized national interest of Bangladesh and also the fundamental rights of the Muslim

Again regarding the meet ing between Jamati Islami leaders and Mr. Advant and other leader of the BJP, it is an open scarci. Medias were on full of information with photographic coverage! Can Mr Ali refuse such allegations particu larly when JAMAT leaders or BJP never dared to contradict such statements?

Sheikh Hasina's statements, as stated above, is not only based on evidence but the same is now a public knowl-

Last but not the least, we would request Mr. Ali to see the obvious truth and for the sake of honest journalism, side with the truths. Today the BNP/JAMAT axis is engaged in distorting the history of liberation movement. In place of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, they try to impose Ziaur Rahman as the liberator of Bangladesh. Zia's name is placed above Bangabandhu as the leader of Bangladesh independence struggle during Begum Zia's recent speech on Independence Day celebration in Dhaka. Often Awami League is abused for entering into 25 years pact with India. Further Awami League is accused of promulgating Special Powers Act. Why? BNP is now in power! Why don't they terminate the friendship pact with India if that is injurious to the interest of Bangladesh? Why don't they repeal Special Powers Act, more so when AL themselves are advocating for the real of the same. Far from repealing it, they enacted another black law, i.e. Anti-Terrorism Act 1992.

It is Sheikh Hasina who came out with the strongest condemnations against the destruction of Babri Mosque. Yet unfortunately some one like Mr S.M. Ali would not hesitate to depict her as pro-Indian. Awami League under-the

able leadership of Sheikh Hasina fought for the independence of freedom of press. She would continue to do so despite such unfortunate commentary of Mr. Alt.

Only a few days back Dr A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury, Deputy Leader of the Parlia ment and Senior Vice President of BNP called JAMAT as anti-liberation force who do not believe in the existence of Bangladesh. If so, why cannot we expect that Mr. Ali to ask BNP to disassociate themselves from remaining in power with the support of such antiliberation forces. Lastly, Mr Ali be better advised to follow his own preaching and come out in full force against those BNP/ JAMAT axis who are out to destroy the image

S. M. ALI replies : In the process of misinterpreting my commentary, bringing in several irrelevant issues and launching an attack on my professional integrity, the AL General Secretary has overlooked the fact my signed piece was primarily concerned with what Sheikh Hasina had said at a public rally in Chittagong. Quoting a report by UNB, I expressed the view that the AL President had indulged in "insinuations and innuendos' in making a political

Masjid issue. It is important to quote the relevant paragraph from the UNB report again: "It remains a mystery that the push-back drive by India and the demolition of Babri mosque took place after the Prime Minister's visit to New Delhi and the Jamaat-BJP meeting in the Indian capital, Hasina wondered." (Italies mine).

statement against the BNP

government on the Babri

The only conclusion one could draw from this part of the speech of Sheikh Hasina was that the AL leader had strong suspicion that the demolition of the Babri mosque was discussed, before it happened on Dec 6, between Rao and Begum Zia as well as at the Nizami-Advant meeting. Whether Hasina was just

throwing a hint or indulging in speculation, I felt, and said so in my commentary, that this was the "most irresponsible statement to come from one who leads the opposition in the parliament as the head of the alternative government."

in his rejoinder, Zillur Rahman says that Sheikh Hasina's statements are not only based on evidence but the same is now public knowl-

The fact that these meetings took place is indeed publie knowledge. We also know, BJP leader L.K. Advant had also called on Begum Khaleda Zia. But what is the "evidence" that these meetings dealt with the demolition of the historic mosque in advance or, in the case of Rao-Khaleda talk, as well as with New Delhi's "push-back" operation ?

If Hasina's speech at Chittagong failed to produce the cvidence, Rahman's statement has avoided this question altogether

Instead, the AL General

Secretary raises issues which

were not highlighted in my commentary simply because we had dealt with them quite extensively in our editorials, signed articles and commentaries since our inception nearly two years ago. In these pieces, we had focused on failures of the government in many different areas, sharply criticized a number of individual ministers by name for their dismal performance, taken a firm stand against communalism(described in my column last Friday as "immoral") and, in a signed article by our Executive Editor Mahfuz Anam, pleaded with the political parties to treat Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman as two of our greatest national heroes. Supplements we have produced on our martyred intellectuals and on other national occasions would disprove any notion, again hinted in Rahman's statement, that our paper, or I myself in particular, might be part of the "BNP/Jamaat axis." Finally, would such guest columnists of this paper, as Shah AMS Kibria, an adviser to Hasina. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Rehman Sobhan, all strong critics of the BNP government, regularly contribute to The Daily Star if the paper I have the honour to edit was part of the anti-AL lobby that Zillur

A non-partisan independent newspaper cannot - and indeed should not - please all the parties all the time. Herein lies the credibility and strength of The Daily Star. As I found out during my conversations with both Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina that these two leaders view the role of The Daily Star with understanding and perhaps even with some respect. I am sure, Sheikh Hasina would never have made such uncharitable, even malicious, remarks about our newspaper and me as contained in the statement of Zillur Rahman.

Rahman suggests in his state-

ment?

Top aides quit new Russian premier

MOSCOW, Dec 22: Deputy Prime Ministers Georgi Khizha and Alexander Shokhin decided today not to remain in the government of new Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Interfax reported, reports AFP.

The news agency quoted unidentified sources as saying that Khizha, responsible for the military industry and

JUTA goes to polls tomorrow

By JU Correspondent Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA)

goes to the polls tomorrow (Wednesday). With only a day left for the polls, electioneering on the

campus is in full swing. A total of 22 candidates from two panels are contesting for the 11-member JUTA working committee for the year 1993.

Of the two panels, one reportedly backed by the Vice Chancellor, has nominated Muhammad Muniruzzaman (Hayat Mamud), Professor of Bengali Department and Muhammad Afsaruddin, Assistant Professor of the Department of Drama and Dramatics for the posts of the President and General Secretary respectively.

The second panel known as the 'alliance panel' has incumbent JUTA President Professor Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman of Economics Department as the presidential candidate while Abdul Mannan Chow dhury Professor of the Physics Department will compete in the General Secretary post.

Shokhin, Russia's representative to the International Monetary Fund, would not be part of the new government.

Economics Minister Andrei Nechayev reportedly was to remain while Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was to resign following the adoption by the parliament today of a new law on government.

The law stated that President Boris Yeltsin must seek lawmakers' approval before appointing ministers to four posts - Foreign Affairs, Security, Interior and Defence - and it was expected that Kozyrev's candidacy, if presented, would not receive parliamentary approval.

Foreign Economics Relations Minister Pyotr Aven, a key member of Yegor Gaidar's team, resigned on Tuesday

Machine Tools workers call half-day hartal

From Our Correspondent GAZIPUR, Dec 22: The workers and employees of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory called a half-day hartal here tomorrow (Wednesday) demanding reopening of the factory and payment of their arrear salary.

Registration Deptt employees begin strike in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent SYLHET. Dec Employees of the Registration Department have begun a three-day strike from today demanding postponement of the recommendation of Muyeed Committee Report.