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# The Daily Star

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## Inside Today

### Article

**The Year in Review  
 : Mixed Returns  
 Mark Performance**  
 Page 4

### International



**Mitterrand for military  
 intervention in Bosnia**  
 Page 5

### Business

**Tk 80.55 cr PDB bills  
 lying outstanding with  
 govt offices**  
 Page 7

### Rising Stars

**'Tis the Season, Marry  
 Me? To Write or Not to  
 Write, Have a Nice Day,  
 The Ups and Downs of  
 1992', Quiz Club, Jokes  
 and Riddles**  
 Page 8

### Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**The Months to Come**  
 Page 3

### Notice

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our valued readers for the delay in distribution of yesterday's issue of The Daily Star due to breakdown in printing plant.

— Management

## NEWS BRIEFS

### BNPPP meets tomorrow

A meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party will be held at 4:00 pm tomorrow at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder has urged all party MPs to attend the meeting in time, reports BSS.

### ALPP meets today

A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held today at 3:00 pm at the conference room of Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim has requested Sangsad members belonging to Awami League to attend the meeting in time, reports BSS.

### History on JCD presented to PM

Young writer Shamsul Alam Lito presented his book 'Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal: One Decade of Movement and Struggle' to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office last night. The book, describing the history of Chhatra Dal, was presented to the Prime Minister on the occasion of the 14th founding anniversary of the organisation, reports BSS.

### 43 more held on various charges

Police rounded up 43 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said. Of the arrested, four were wanted criminals, one accused of murder, five in arms cases, three on charge of robbery and two for burglary, reports UNB.

## Long-felt demand fulfilled : PM

# Barisal Division opens

BARISAL, Jan 1: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today (Friday) formally inaugurated a new division in Barisal, raising the number of country's administrative divisions to five, reports UNB.

The newly opened Barisal Division, with its headquarters at Barisal town, will consist of six districts — Barisal Sadar, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur.

Begum Zia laid the foundation stone of the new divisional building at Ichhakati here amidst cheers in fulfilment of the long cherished desire of the people in southern Bangladesh.

Addressing a colourful function on the occasion, the

Prime Minister said Barisal has been made a division to facilitate development activities and proper administration of the region.

She mentioned the legendary richness of the region and said the long-felt demand has been fulfilled despite the region's backwardness in communication.

The Prime Minister lauded the role of the people of greater Barisal in the Liberation War and said the country will remember their contribution.

Presided over by State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda, the function was also attended by Finance Minister Saifur Rah-

man, Post and Telecommunication Minister Keramat Ali, State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan and State Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan.

Begum Zia said democracy has been re-established in the country and her government is trying to make democracy meaningful for all by implementing various development programmes.

She said an honest and efficient administration is imperative for implementing these programmes. "We are trying to develop an accountable, transparent and neutral administration at all levels."

A long term administrative

reorganisation has been initiated to facilitate smooth implementation of development programmes, the Prime Minister said.

Development work of Barisal airport is progressing and work on a dairy farm will start soon, she said and also mentioned that work on exploration of natural gas in Bhola has already started.

Later, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of the temporary office of the divisional headquarters at Sadar Hospital premises.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the expanded container exchange of 600 lines of Barisal telecommunication see Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laying foundation stone of the office of the Divisional Commissioner in Barisal yesterday. — PID photo

## Js winter session begins tomorrow

# Opposition sits today to decide strategy

Parliamentary groups of the opposition parties will meet today (Saturday), both separately and jointly, to plan their course of action for the winter session, reports UNB.

After nearly two months of recess, Parliament will go into session tomorrow (Sunday) at 10:00 am.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to deliver his speech in the first session of the new year as per constitutional provision.

Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and other smaller groups will hold their parliamentary party meetings today (Saturday) afternoon to decide strategies.

Political sources said Awami League, its allies and Jatiya

Party would mainly concentrate their deliberations on the question of joining the winter session of Parliament.

MPs belonging to Awami League, Jatiya Party, Ganatantrik Party and JSD (Siraj) did not turn up in the House in the later part of the autumn session. They walked out of the House protesting introduction and passage of the anti-terrorism bill.

Awami League, its allies and Jatiya Party will hold a joint meeting today (Saturday) evening in a bid to formulate a common strategy, sources told UNB last night.

They said the boycotting parties might take a decision to join the proceedings of the see Page 12 Col 4

## Workers Fed calls 'mass hunger-strike' tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent  
 Bangladesh Worker's Federation has called for a mass hunger-strike tomorrow in front of the National Press Club to protest the closure of the Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory and Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory.

The call came at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

It also called for a demonstration on the same day in front of the Industries Ministry to press home its demand for reviving the two factories.

The press conference was addressed by its President M A Mottaleb while A K M Mozammel Huq, Chairman of Gazipur Paurasabha and Convener of the All-Party Committee for

Protecting the Machine Tools Factory, Safar Uddin Khan, General Secretary of All Party Workers' Committee, Lutfar Rahman, General Secretary of CBA of the FFF, Dr Minhaj Uddin and Mahmud-us-Samad were present at the conference.

Mottaleb alleged that vested see Page 12 Col 5

## Rice export plan: Donors may stop food assistance

By Nazmul Ashraf  
 The government move to export rice may cause obstacles to the country's getting future food aid, experts feared.

If the country exports rice, its staple food, the donors may opt to divert their food aid to countries like Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina that are facing food shortages, they added.

Relevant officials in the Economic Relations Division (ERD) hinted that the Bangladesh intention to export rice had raised the eyebrows of some food exporting nations and organisations. The government decision will mislead the donors about the country's food situation, they said see Page 12 Col 7

## Matin briefs Clarke about drug control programme

The visiting British Home Minister Kenneth Clarke yesterday had a second round of talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Abdul Matin Chowdhury on drugs and narcotics control, reports UNB.

During the meeting at the Narcotics Control Department, the British Minister was briefed about all aspects of measures undertaken by the government to arrest the menace of abuse of narcotics and drugs.

The British Minister was assisted during the 60-minute talks by British High Commissioner Sir Colin H. Inray and Head of the British Immigration Department William Jeffery.

Bangladesh Home Minister was aided, among others, by Home Secretary Manzoor-ul-Karim and Director General of the Narcotics Control Department A M M Nasrullah Khan.

The British Minister was also apprised of the activities of the Narcotics Control Department, its organisational set up, operational strategy, awareness programmes, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

See Page 12 Col 1

## Indian Maulana detained for 14hrs at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Immigration police detained Maulana Asad Madani, an Indian citizen, at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the capital for 14 hours Friday.

The airport immigration police did not allow Maulana Madani to pass immigration after he arrived from India by a Bangladesh Biman flight BO 094 at midnight Thursday.

A ZIA immigration official said that they detained Maulana Madani following a verbal directive from higher authority but let him go at around 2:00 pm Friday when the authority withdrew the embargo.

However, the official did not give further details.

## Detect misguided members, PM asks JCD men

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the student community to fight unitedly against terrorism to bring smile into the faces of their parents, reports BSS.

Addressing a function in celebration of the 14th founding anniversary of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the Institution of Engineers in Dhaka yesterday evening Begum Zia said acts of violence could not deliver the good to the nation.

The Prime Minister said the members of JCD would have to give leadership in the campaign against social vices including violence, indiscipline and injustice as they represented the biggest students organisation. She said, "We can achieve great things if there is see Page 12 Col 6

## Red Crescent Society Secy Gen loses job

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Row with his boss over administrative matters and various contracts has cost Maj Ali Hasan Qureshi (Retd), the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), his job.

Qureshi has been removed from the top post at the BDRCS Secretariat with effect from yesterday, two days after the humanitarian body held its annual general meeting.

A terse, one-sentence press release signed by the Public Relations Officer of the BDRCS yesterday said, "This is to inform all concerned that Maj Ali Hasan Qureshi (Retd), the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, has been relieved of his job

with effect from January 1, 1993 (ante meridian)."

Qureshi claimed that the termination of his services did not follow official proceedings required as per the BDRCS rules.

When contacted last night, he said he had not until then heard of the termination order.

Insisting that he had been denied his right to natural justice, Qureshi said that only the Managing Committee had the authority to take such an action and that there was no Committee decision to this effect so far.

A member of the Managing Committee speaking anonymously see Page 12 Col 7

## Czechs, Slovaks formally split

PRAGUE, Jan 1: Czechs and Slovaks woke Friday to find themselves citizens of separate countries, and their legislators met in special session to confirm the birth of the two new nations, reports AP.

The two kindred peoples split their 74-year-old homeland at stroke of midnight at New Year's culminating separatist sentiment uncoiled by the demise of Communist rule in 1989.

New Year's celebrations in Prague had little to commemorate the split. But revelers in Bratislava, the Slovak capital, cheered the event their new flag and independence speeches by their leaders.

Many Czechs and Slovaks opposed splitting until the end. But the unraveling of Czechoslovakia hastened after June 1992, with the elections of two governments markedly different in style, goals and

leaders. Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus pushed ahead firmly with his market-oriented reforms, determined to bring his republic of 10 million people into the European mainstream as quickly as possible.

Populist Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar wanted more autonomy from Prague to move more slowly with a republic already suffering from 12 percent unemployment and an economy dependent on inefficient Communist-era factories.

And in Slovakia, many welcomed the chance for independence after centuries of playing second fiddle, first to neighboring Hungary, which ruled Slovaks until after World War I, then to the more populous and urban Czechs.

But unlike Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union, where nationalist passions had translated into fighting,

the split was accomplished peacefully, a fact proudly emphasized by Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus in comments Friday.

"We had to prove that even such a painful act as a division of state ... can be done in a civilized and cultured way," Klaus told Czech radio.

Klaus said the split was inevitable, but the new realities should allow good cooperation with Slovakia and strengthen stability in Central Europe.

Both successor states have formed a customs union, supported by a web of bilateral treaties allowing free trade and movement of capital on the entire territory.

Sixty-eight countries had recognized the Czech Republic by Friday, CTK reported. There were no comparable figures from Slovakia, but Meciar said recognition was "continuing smoothly".

## Despite crackdown, smuggled items glut market

By Farid Ahmed

Despite the government's countrywide crackdown on both smugglers and smuggled goods, contraband items are being openly sold in the markets — especially in the border areas.

Bent on ending the sale of smuggled goods in the country, the government formed an anti-smuggling task force which has been conducting swoop on the secret smugglers' hideouts since January 1, 1992.

Before the anti-smuggling operation began, the shopowners were given a month-long deadline to sell off all contraband items kept in the shops

in the wake of several rounds of talks with the government.

In course of the task force's operations the government has also made a list of as many as 30 people reportedly responsible for smuggling and announced another list of contraband items including foreign made cotton sarees, shoes, ready-made garments, cigarettes, crockery and some articles of toiletries.

During the year-long drive it was observed that the declared contraband items were being sold in the local markets and no measures were taken against the persons enlisted as 'smugglers'.

After the special anti-smuggling drive got underway, Customs officials and Bangladesh Rifle (BDR) personnel, as routine work, swooped down on the smugglers' hideouts all the years. But a recent official statistics showed that the special operation failed to bring much success in this regard.

According to the statistics disclosed by an authoritative source of the task force, smuggled goods worth about Taka 76 crore were seized in 1988 while of about Taka 60.70 crore in 1989, of about Taka 95.96 crore in 1990, of see Page 12 Col 4

## Religious groups hold long-march to Ayodhya today

The Long March Action Committee plans to begin their long march today (Saturday) towards Ayodhya to press for construction of the Babri mosque on its original site, reports UNB.

Siakhul Hadis Maulana Azzul Haq, Convener of the committee comprising several religious groups, yesterday called on the people to join the march peacefully and make it a success.

The journey will start from the south gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque at 10 am. It is expected to reach Jessore on January 4 via Manikganj, Faridpur, Magura and Jhenidah districts.

The organisers will hold a rally at Jessore City College ground on January 4 at 10 am. The marchers are scheduled to cross the Jessore-Banapole border on the same day and proceed towards Ayodhya.

## 'Resist communal forces at all costs'

By Staff Correspondent

The All-party Committee for Communal Harmony brought out a procession in the city yesterday calling for resisting the communal and fascist forces at any cost.

The processionists assembled near the Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and marched through different city streets chanting slogans in favour of restoring peace, disturbed by the demolition of Babri Mosque in India and against the fundamentalist Jamaat-Shibir axis in the country.

Prior to bringing out the procession, a rally was held at Bangabandhu Avenue. Committee leaders Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, Nurul Islam Nahid and Mozaffar Hossain Paltu addressed it.

The speakers called on the people to make the nationwide demonstration, scheduled for tomorrow, against the attempts to harm the country's tradition of inter-religious harmony. They also protested 'inadequate' government measures for dealing with the aftermath of Babri Mosque destruction in the country.

They accused the Jamaat-Shibir activists of attacking the houses, shops and places of worship of the Hindu community and demanded ban on fundamentalist politics by enacting necessary laws in the parliament.

Communal politics must be banned to help unhindered national development, restore communal peace and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, they observed.



All-Party peace procession in city yesterday calling for restoration of communal harmony. — Star photo

## Foreign investors keen to develop tourism in coastal areas

Responding to the government's quest for capital to develop the tourism sector in Bangladesh, some foreign investors have shown interest about a coastal island, reports UNB.

Sources in the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) said several famous tourism giants from Qatar, Bahrain and India had recently enquired about investment prospect in Sonadia — a tiny coastal island, about 5 kilometers off the sea resort of Cox's Bazar.

Interested parties include internationally reputed Oberoi Group of India, they added.

The response came in the wake of a recent decision of the government to transform Sonadia, now a fishing hamlet, into a tourist resort to be reserved exclusively for foreigners.

The decision calls for maximum facilities — a five star hotel, casino, golf course, water surfing and skiing — in the island to make it a world class tourist resort.

To gear up the efforts for bringing foreign investment, BPC has recently written to all foreign missions in Dhaka asking for prospective associates for joint collaboration in the country's tourism industry.

Meanwhile, to give an impetus to the expansion of tourism, the Parjatan Corporation has embarked on a comprehensive programme to develop infrastructure and other facilities in some prospective tourist spots.

Sources said that BPC has

recently asked for a Tk 200 crore block allocation from the government's development budget to implement the programme.

Special importance is being given to the Sundarbans — world's largest mangrove forest and also the home of famous Royal Bengal Tiger — and to the untouched sea beach 'Kaukaati' where both sunrise and sunset are a wonderful sight.

A Taka 12-crore plan to develop tourism facilities in the

Sundarbans is awaiting government's approval.

Plan has been taken to build a motel and boat-cum-hotel at Mongla, the entry point to Sundarbans, and arrangement of modern fast rivercraft for touring the forest.

Development of road communication between Patuakhali and Kuakata has also been planned. Other programmes to develop Kuakata as a modern sea resort include: construction of modern residential hotels and projection of unique

lifestyle of Rakhaine tribe.

Sources said, recent programmes for tourism development were drawn up as per the guideline in the Tourism Master Plan, a UNDP-funded study done in 1990 by the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The study recommended a number of measures to develop Bangladesh's tourism sector.

The new BPC chairman M A R Talukder told UNB that series of inter-ministerial see Page 12 Col 8