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The Daily Star

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VOL. III NO. 1 REGD. NO. DA 781 | MAGH 1, 1399 BS, | DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 1993 | RAJAB 20, 1413 HIJRI | 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 4.00

US, allies strike Iraq

George Bush

WASHINGTON, Jan 13: US and Allied warplanes launched raids on Iraq on Wednesday in retaliation for Baghdad's continued violations of Gulf war ceasefire terms, administration officials said, reports Reuter.

A military source in Paris said French Mirage 2000 fighters were escorting in Allied bombers.

British Royal Air Force Tornado fighter-bombers were also taking part in an Allied air raid Wednesday on Iraq, government sources in London said.

Earlier, a defiant Iraq stood firm today, saying it was determined to regain Kuwait and would fight off any attack.

A spokesman for President Saddam Hussein said Kuwait was an "integral part of Iraq" and would return to Baghdad's control regardless of the United States and UN Security Council.

NBC's correspondent at the Pentagon, Fred Francis, said US fighters took off from the Carrier Kitty Hawk in the Gulf and from four bases in Saudi Arabia.

"They are very limited air strikers," he said and quoted one Bush administration official as saying:

"It's just a spanking for Saddam, not a real beating."

Francis said the attack had been scheduled for Monday but had to be put off because of bad weather until around noon EST (1700 GMT) on Tuesday.

The administration officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that a raid had been launched after dark on Wednesday night, Iraq time. Iraq is eight hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time, three hours ahead of GMT.

The officials would not provide any further details.

The Defence Department flatly refused comment although Pentagon officials said earlier that the US aircraft Carrier Kitty Hawk was standing by in the Gulf with navy warplanes to respond to any order from the White House.

More than 100 other US, British and French warplanes are also based in the Gulf.

The Administration officials had confirmed earlier that President Goerge Bush and the allies had made a decision to launch the raid after repeated warnings from both the United Nations and the Western allies to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein to stop violations of ceasefire accords.

US Defence officials have told Iraq to stop violations of a

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Saddam Hossein

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Tomorrow

"Some people wanted the growing Bengali nationalism to be checked by a West Pakistan jingoism. They regarded the people of East Pakistan as a vast colonial population waiting to be proselytised."

From the statement of the late Admiral Ahsan, a former Governor of the then East Pakistan before the Hamoodur Rahman Commission. It is all in the Weekend Magazine of The Daily Star, in our feature "Witness to History".

DO NOT MISS IT!

Call for hartal today

Murders heightens tension in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 13: Tension rose in Chittagong port city and its surrounding areas today following two political murders here Tuesday night.

Rahmat Ullah, president of Sitakundu thana unit of Awami League, was gunned down by unidentified assailants Tuesday night when he was sitting in front of a grocery shop at Barabkundu bazar under the same thana, 30 miles from here.

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SAARC summit postponement

Dhaka rejects Delhi's alibi

Star Report

Bangladesh yesterday dismissed suggestions that the successive postponements of the Seventh SAARC Summit had been made for reasons other than India's troubled political atmosphere that forced Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to stay at home.

Asserting that the decisions of putting off the summit twice were taken due to the Indian Prime Minister's 'inability' to come leaving behind a highly-charged situation in his country, a government spokesman said that Bangladesh had been ready to host the summit and there had been no problems on its part.

The spokesman, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, said that Bangladesh government had taken all measures to maintain communal harmony and "consequently, complete peace and communal harmony prevail in Bangladesh and no such situation existed to hinder the hosting of SAARC Summit."

The government statement came after what the Foreign Secretary described "persistent attempts to misrepresent facts and implicate Bangladesh overtly or implicitly of responsibility" for the summit postponement.

Setting on record the circumstances leading to the postponement, Rahman accused India of deviating from its earlier statements just after the decision.

"The reasons now being cited by the Government of India significantly differ from its earlier position," Rahman said in his written statement.

India is insisting that the regional atmosphere had not been right for holding the summit and deliberating serious issues. An Indian External Affairs Ministry statement is-

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the opening ceremony of Textile Exhibition '93 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. — PID photo

Halishahar incident

BNP has to take responsibility: Workers Party

The Workers Party Central Committee yesterday expressed its deep distress and condemnation at the mass destruction and killing by members of Naval forces at Bandartila and Halisahar in Chittagong early this month, reports BSS.

BNP has to take full responsibility of the incident and punish the culprits, the meeting stated and demanded that affected families should be duly compensated.

The party also expressed grave concern at what it said the deterioration of communal harmony in the sub-continent centering the demolition of the ancient Babri Mosque and demanded its reconstruction.

The central committee of the party which concluded its three-day meeting Tuesday with Party President Amal Sen in the chair also strongly condemned and expressed indignation at the destruction of temples by fundamentalists in Bangladesh and the incidents of killing and looting of houses and business establishment of minority community, a press release said.

Party Secretary General Rashed Khan Menon, MP who returned home following treatment of bullet injury attended the central committee meeting on the first day where he exchanged greetings with members.

The meeting called upon the people to create strong resistance against communalism and added the disruption of communal harmony at the instigation of religious fanatic forces have put the common people of India and Bangladesh into hardship.

People in power making illegal fortune: Hasina

KUSHTIA, Jan 13: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today charged the BNP government with abuse of power, corruption and wastage of money, exacerbating the stagnation in national economy, reports UNB.

"The national economy is now on the verge of ruin while the people in power are making illegal fortune through bribery, corruption and abuse of power," the Awami League President complained.

She was addressing a public meeting at the Islamia College ground on the second day of her five-day organisational tour of country's South-western districts.

Hasina was critical of BNP for what she said not fulfilling its pre-election promises. Problems and misery of peasants and workers increased manifold because of "incompetent" rule of BNP.

She mentioned steady rise in the prices of agricultural inputs while prices of farm products are falling, turning the growers into paupers.

Referring to her party's free-market economic policy, the Awami League chief said implementation of the new economic policy would ensure economic emancipation of the deprived people and a self-reliant economy.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament also castigated government's foreign policy which she said failed to resolve bilateral issues, including sharing of the Ganges water at Farakka and repatriation of the Myanmar refugees.

Hasina criticised the ruling party for making radio and television its "mouthpiece" for campaigning its political programme and propagating "falsehood" against the opposition.

She recalled the joint declaration of three alliances which envisaged that radio and TV be made autonomous. "Radio and television have now turned into the box of bibi-golam from the box of sahebbibi-golam during Ershad's

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Poles first into final

Sports Reporter

Fancied FC Ploesti of Poland have moved into final of the seventh President Gold Cup soccer tournament.

They beat Housing Bank of South Korea by two goals to nil in the first semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium last evening.

Mariusz Gawa netted the first goal in the 57th minute while Bogdan Tereszorynslu completed the tally for the winners in the 70th minute.

Krylia Sovetov of Russia take on FC Ploesti of Romania in the second semifinal today at 5:00 pm.

Detailed reports on Page 10.

Two dacoities in a day

By Staff Correspondent

Two robberies were committed one at a house at North Shahjahanpur in the city and the other on a passenger-bus on the Dhaka-Narsingdi Highway Wednesday.

A group of armedmen stormed into a house of a currency trader, Delwar Hossain at North Shajahanpur in the morning and looted Taka 1,31,000 in cash.

While escaping with the loot by a microbus, two Assistant Commissioners, Nazrul Islam and Delwar Hossain of Detective Branch of Police, who happened to be passing by, followed the microbus, seized it and arrested three persons, said police.

Police recovered Taka 1,570 from the arrested persons while their accomplices managed to escape with the rest of the looted cash.

Three arrested persons, Ahsanul Haq, Rafiq and Anwar Hossain were taken to police custody.

House inmates said that some seven armedmen barging

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More cotton, textile mills in 3 yrs : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday iterated her government's firm determination to make the country's textile sector self-reliant saying the present administration would set up a large number of mills and factories in this field in the next three years, reports BSS.

"A large number of new cotton mills, textile mills and dyeing and finishing factories will be set up in the next three year's to meet both the domestic and the export demands,' she said emphatically while inaugurating the Textile Exhibition-93 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The Prime Minister said textile policy would be announced soon with the aim of forging better coordination among the sub-sectors of the textile industry and boosting up investment.

State Minister for Textile Major (Retd). Abdul Mannan, Additional Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Textile Syed Rezaul Hayat and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation Chairman Syed Yusuf Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said the present government considering the importance of the textile seetor had declared this industry as "thrust sector" for the modernisation, expansion and overall development of the textile industry.

She mentioned various programmes taken up by her government for the improvement of the textile sector including reformation of the denationalised mills, running of the handlooms profitably, providing loans among the weavers through Grameen Bank and constant monitoring of quota policy and increasing exports of readymade garments.

The programmes of the present government led to the increase of the country's export earning to 60 per cent from 25 per cent, the Prime Minister said.

Begum Zia said effective steps had also been taken to

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ECNEC okays Tk 334.42 cr projects

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved seven development projects, involving a projected total outlay of Taka 334 crore 42 lakh with a foreign exchange component of Taka 140 crore 15 lakh, reports BSS.

The approval came in an ECNEC meeting held yesterday at the secretariat cabinet room with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The approved projects are: Revised investment programme for development of small and cottage industries and Universal iodised salt production programme for reducing iodine deficiency under the Ministry of Industries to be implemented by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

Outer by-pass road con-

See Page 12 Col 2

New jute policy aims at expanding market

By Nurul Kabir

In the backdrop of growing demand for jute products in the global market following strong environmental movement across the world against use of synthetic items, the government has decided to adopt a new jute policy with a view to expanding the country's jute market abroad.

Formulated by the Jute Ministry, the proposed policy has also attached importance to the increased use of jute products, instead of the goods made of synthetic and other artificial fibers, at the local level.

In preparing the draft of the proposed jute policy, the Jute Ministry has sought suggestions from different concerned quarters including Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) and experts working with other relevant organizations.

The opinions of the members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Jute Ministry have also been incorporated into the proposed jute policy.

The draft jute policy is now awaiting the approval of the Cabinet.

The objectives of the jute policy, according to the draft, includes production of jute commensurate with the de-

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UAE to ban boy jockey for camel

DUBAI, Jan 13: Young boys will not longer be taken to train as camel jockeys if a proposed new law comes into force in the United Arab Emirates later this year, the official UAE news agency reported Tuesday, says AP.

The newly formed UAE Camel Racing Federation has proposed a law to prohibit the use of these young boys, often between the ages of 4 to 7, from riding in the local races, said the news agency, WAM.

There have been many incidents in some Asian countries, particularly Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Shri Lanka, where police have

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JU students vacate halls

By JU Correspondent

'All my bags are packed, I am ready to go, I am standing here outside the door ...' a JU student was heard humming John Denver's song while locking his room for at least another 21 days.

He like all other residential students of the Jahangirnagar University was forced to leave the halls by 5 pm yesterday as decided earlier by the Syndicate.

The highest body of the university at a special session Tuesday closed the University till February 2 and asked the students to vacate the halls in view of Sunday's violent incident.

On Sunday, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists

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Revised food policy this month

Plan to cut govt role in food procurement

A revised food policy is underway seeking to reduce the government role in procurement and distribution of foodgrains.

The urgency for recasting the policy was felt because of poor food management resulting in damage of about one lakh tons of grains in government godowns in recent months.

The revised policy will give emphasis on cutting production cost of foodgrains through possible reduction in prices of agricultural inputs.

Sources in the Food Ministry told UNB that the new policy will be formulated in line with the suggestions of the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Representatives of IFPRI had a series of meetings with Food Ministry officials discussing the difficulties faced by the government in food management.

IFPRI which carries the brief from western food donors advocated non-interference of the government in food market except in emergency situation. It suggested that government should buy foodgrains

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NEWS BRIEFS

Lightning kills 3 children in Ukhia

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 13: Three children, including two Rohingyas, were killed and four others injured in lightning during heavy thundershower in Ukhia thana today. Officials said the two Rohingya refugee children — Mujibur Rahman, (10) and Semon Ara Begum (8) — were hit by thunderbolt while playing beside their camp at Shailerdeba. Another unidentified boy was killed and a minor girl injured by the thunder strike at Courtbazar at 11 am, reports UNB.

OIC interfering in India's internal affairs : Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: India on Wednesday questioned the right of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to pass a resolution urging it to rebuild the fallen Babri Mosque in Ayodhya and protect its Muslim minority, reports AFP.

A spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry said the OIC had intruded in India's internal affairs by adopting the resolution Monday at a meeting in Dakar, Senegal.

The "unfortunate and regrettable" developments in Ayodhya, where Hindu zealots on December 6 razed down the 16th century mosque, pertained exclusively to India's "internal jurisdiction," the spokesman said.

"India needs neither advice nor exhortation in this regard to the protection of the human and religious rights of the Muslim minority, who number 100 million," he said.

The Dakar meeting of eight OIC countries strongly condemned the destruction of the mosque, which triggered widespread Hindu-Muslim violence, and urged the Indian government to rebuild the shrine at its original site without delay.

PTI adds: The Supreme Court today issued notices on a writ petition seeking a direction to the district authorities in Ayodhya to allow namaz at the disputed site while restraining Hindus from having darshan of the Ram Lalla idols at the makeshift arrangement.

The notices returnable on January 22 were issued by a division bench comprising Justice M N Venkatachallaiah and Justice G N Ray.

The bench also issued notices on two special leave petitions challenging the January one Allahabad High Court judgement allowing the darshan as well as directing district authorities to put up a canopy over the idols.

The court also issued notices on a petition by Mehmood Aslam seeking a restraint on either performing pooja or darshan of the Ram Lalla idols.

The special leave petitions and the petition by Aslam will also come up for hearing on January 22.

AP from Bombay adds: Hindu-Muslim rioting began to subside in Bombay Wednesday as businessmen, movie stars and politicians prayed and fasted, calling for an end to the worst communal violence in the city's history.

A preliminary police report said 11 people were killed and 12 wounded in and around the city Wednesday — far less than the 25 people killed Tuesday in the seventh straight day of fighting among Hindus and Muslims armed with knives, clubs and firebombs.

"Arson is still heavy, but the riots are diminishing," Sangeev Tonapi, chief spokesman at the police headquarters in central Bombay said in an interview.

Nearly 500 people have been killed in rioting in Bombay, more than three

See Page 12 Col 8

2361 more Rohingyas return home

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 13: Two thousand three hundred and sixty one Rohingya refugees voluntarily went back to their homeland in Myanmar through Rongikhali, Noyapara- 2 and Jummapara transit camps at Teknaf here today, official sources said, reports BSS.

Today's figure is the highest since the repatriation started. With this the total number of the repatriated now stands at 14,561.

More than 18,000 refugees are awaiting voluntary repatriation in the three transit camps, the sources said.