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# The Daily Star



VOL. III NO. 4 REGD. NO. DA 781

MAGH 4, 1399 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 1993

RAJAB 23, 1413 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 4.00

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Adjourned meet of BNPPP held**

The adjourned meeting of BNP Parliamentary Party was held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at the Committee Room of Jatiya Sangsad here yesterday evening. After the meeting BNP Secretary Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar told newsmen that contents and implications of the bills, to be placed before the current session of the House, were discussed during the meeting, reports BSS.

**ALPP, ALWC meet today**

A meeting of central working committee of Awami League will be held at its central office today at 10 am. The parliamentary party of the party will also meet in the conference room of the opposition in Sangsad Bhavan today at 11 am. Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will preside over both the meetings.

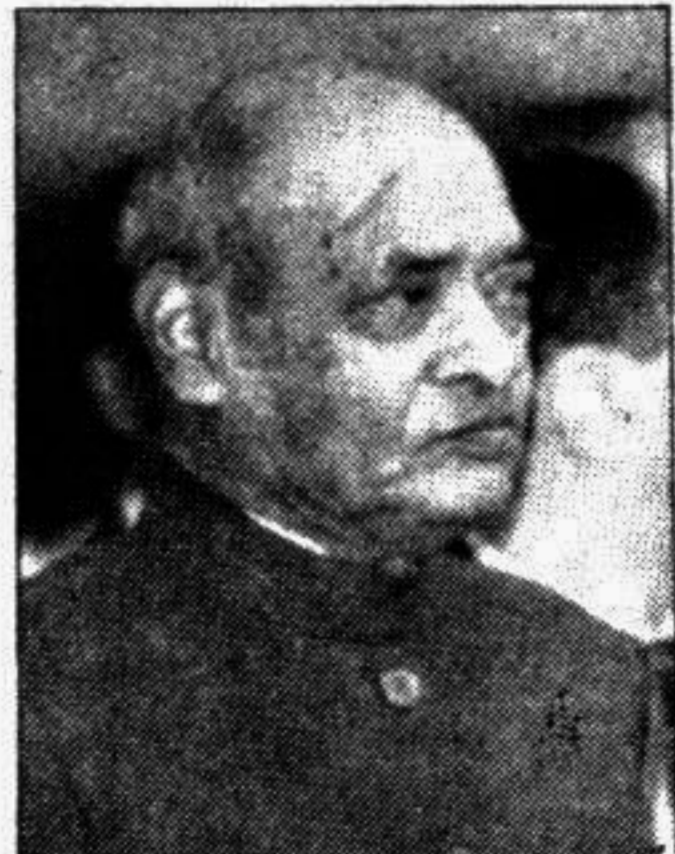
**Holiday Editor off to Rome**

A Z M Enayetullah Khan, Editor-in-chief of Holiday, left Dhaka last night for Rome to attend the Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). He has been specially invited by the IFAD to attend the meeting scheduled to be held in Rome later this week, reports BSS.

**Tariq visits victims' houses**

JESSORE, Jan 16: Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam today visited the residence of victims on Jan 14 bus accident — late Nasruddin, late Golam Ambia, late Rafiqul Islam of Sheikh Hat'i village and late Altaf of Bakchar village, reports BSS.

## BJP deadline for polls, temple building Rao cabinet resigns



Narasimha Rao

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: The entire Union cabinet today submitted its resignation to the Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, tonight to enable him to reconstitute his council of ministers, reports PTI.

The resignations were submitted at a dinner hosted by Rao at his residence here tonight.

All the ministers indicated that the council of ministers might not be reconstituted tomorrow, official sources said tonight.

The reconstitution of the cabinet is likely to take place on Tuesday as the Prime Minister is leaving on a day's visit to Tamil Nadu on Monday.

Earlier, in the day, Rao had a 30-minute meeting with the

president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

He also had a meeting with Mrs Sonia Gandhi this evening and is believed to have discussed with her the impending expansion of his council of ministers.

Rao is known to have completed the exercise and prepared the list of the new incumbents to fill up several vacancies which included key ministries of commerce, industry, civil aviation, law and justice and external affairs.

Among names being speculated for possible berth in the council of ministers are Dinesh Singh, who is not an MP, NKP Salve, deputy leader of the Congress-I in the Rajya Sabha, See Page 12 Col 7

## Commentary

### On foreign policy crisis, govt should brief opposition at every step

by S. M. Ali

As Indo-Bangladesh relations enter a difficult phase, with a shadow cast over regional co-operation, there is an urgent need to develop a common understanding between the government and the opposition over the foreign policy objectives of the country and as to how they can be reached.

Even in the past, the need was there. However, in retrospect, it seems that some kind of an unspoken consensus existed on the handling of the external relations by successive governments in Bangladesh. Then, during the nine-year authoritarian regime of Hussain Muhammad Ershad, political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League

(AL) were rightly too preoccupied with the struggle for the restoration of democracy to pay much attention to foreign relations.

Now, in the changed scenario, foreign policy issues have assumed extraordinary importance — and visibility — arising out of unprecedented developments in South Asia, such as the massive influx of refugees from Myanmar, the demolition of the Babri Masjid followed by outbreak of communal frenzy in different places and the uncertainty over the holding of the twice-postponed summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

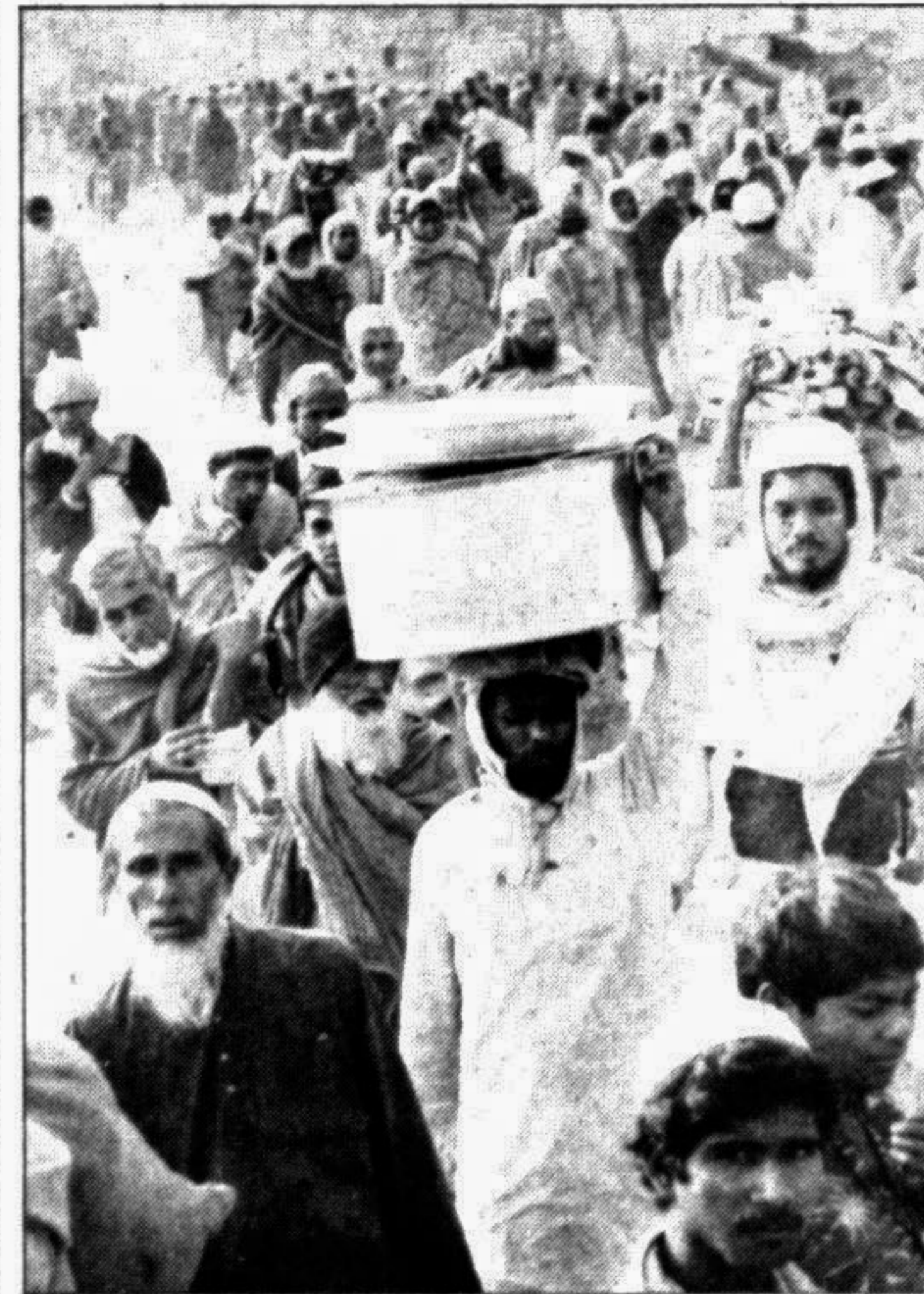
What has dismayed non-partisan observers here is, differences between the ruling BNP

and the opposition AL over the handling of these issues now figure prominently in the continuing internal political debate, virtually sending out a wrong signal to the outside world that Bangladesh may well be a "house divided" on the country's foreign relations, especially in the South Asian context.

It would certainly be a wrong signal, because we believe that the major parties, especially BNP and AL, are united when it comes to such broad issues as the repatriation of Rohingya refugees, the maintenance of communal harmony throughout South Asia, the holding of the SAARC Summit and the expansion of regional co-operation. They are

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## Lakhs attend Ijtema in Tongi



Devotees streaming into the Ijtema maidan in Tongi yesterday.

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Jan 16: Biswa Ijtema, the second biggest Muslim congregation of the world began today on the bank of the river Turag at Tongi.

Lakhs of Muslim devotees gathered at the river side to listen sermons by famous Muslim religious leaders from home and abroad.

On the first day of the three-day long congregation, sermons were delivered on the ideals of Islam and the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (SM) after the Fajr prayers.

The Ijtema is being held at the same venue for the last 28 years.

In addition to the participants from home, some 2500 devotees from about 60 countries are attending the Ijtema.

The number of devotees is expected to rise to about 21 lakh on the concluding day of the congregation when the Akheri Munajat, will be held.

Special arrangements have been made for the treatment of the participants while the Tongi Hospital has been kept open round the clock and a field camp has been set up at the venue.

All inter-city trains excepting the Mahanagar will stop at the Tongi Station for two minutes for the benefit of the devotees.

## Iraq ignores UN deadline

DEMILITARIZED ZONE (Kuwait-Iraq Border), Jan 16: Iraq has missed the deadline for removing six police posts from territory that is in Kuwait following the redrawing of the border, a UN spokesman said Saturday, reports AP.

Spokesman Abdel-Latif Kabbaj said the violation will be reported to the UN Security Council.

Baghdad was supposed to remove the border posts by midnight Friday. The posts are staffed by 46 soldiers.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has rejected the newly redrawn border which the UN Security Council endorsed in November.

Kabbaj also said that recent confrontations between UN observers and Iraqis removing

four Silkorm missiles from the DMZ had prompted the Security Council to consider sending armed peacekeeping troops to protect the 249 UN observers.

Meanwhile, Reuter said, BAGHDAD, Jan 16: Iraq sent planes to confront western aircraft and its anti-aircraft guns fired at the intruding planes, Iraqi television said today quoting a military spokesman, reports Reuter.

Iraq will guarantee the safety of UN aircraft provided they enter Iraqi airspace from the West and not, through Allied-patrolled no fly zones, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarq Aziz said today.

Another reports said: Iraq

on Saturday vowed to shoot down allied aircraft in the "no-fly" zones, and a battalion of US troops continued to arrive in Kuwait to protect the emirate from possible reprisal.

Iraq will "not accept that the desecration of its air space continue," declared Iraqi Air Force commander, Lt Gen Mozhahem Saab al-Hassan.

"We shall strike at any target that enters our airspace. Our aircraft and defense systems are ready to confront enemy planes that fly over our southern or northern territory," he said.

Al-Hassan's statement was published Saturday by the Defense Ministry newspaper, Al-Qadisiya and carried in full by the Agency.



Grigore Octavian, captain of the champions FC Ploesti receiving the 7th President Gold Cup from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Ploesti beat Polonia Warszawa of Poland in the final 1-0 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



### FC Ploesti lift President Cup

Sports Reporter

FC Ploesti of Romania emerged as champions in the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament.

Ploesti edged past Polonia Warszawa of Poland by a solitary goal in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Simon Florin scored the decisive goal in the 27th minute of the first half.

Krylia Sovetov of Russia secured the third position when they outplayed Housung Bank of South Korea by three goals to one in the third-place deciding match held earlier in the day.

Eight teams including four European club sides participated in the eleven-day meet organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia witnessed the final match as chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Detailed reports on Page 10

### Paracetamol case : 2 manufacturers sent to jail

A drug court yesterday rejected bail petitions of two manufacturers of paracetamol and sent them to jail, reports UNB.

Harunor Rashid and Abdur Rob, Managing Director and Director of Polycam Laboratories, surrendered to the court and prayed for bail.

They were prosecuted by the Superintendent of the Drug Administration under Section 16(c) and 17 of the Drug Control Ordinance, 1982 for manufacturing substandard and adulterated medicine.

The ordinance provides for a maximum punishment of 10 years rigorous imprisonment for its violation.

Opposing the bail petition, public prosecutor of the drug court Fazlur Rahman Khan submitted that hundreds of children died following they took paracetamol manufactured by Polycam Laboratories which proved to be poisonous.

After hearing both sides, judge Mohammad Ali Khan rejected the bail petitions.

### Menon will join JS session today

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon MP will join the parliament session today (Sunday), report UNB.

"I am happy to return to the country and I will attend the session tomorrow (Sunday) to express gratitude to my parliament colleagues," he told UNB last night.

Menon, who was shot at and critically injured on August 17 last year, returned home on January 9 after his treatment in London and Bangkok.

"Doctors advised me not to over stress on myself. I will try to take part in the business of the House as far as possible," he said.

## Hundreds injured as Shibir swoops on All-party RU students

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, Jan 16: Armed activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Shibir swooped on the students belonging to the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and the pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in several residential halls here tonight leaving hundreds injured, many with stab wounds. Hundreds of shots were fired while the nightly raid was on.

Witnesses said the Shibir activists stormed into the Sher-e-Bangla, S M and Amir Ali Halls and began beating the general students indiscriminately with sticks and rods and stabbed many of them. Scores of injured students stayed stranded until midnight inside the halls as

the Shibir activists locked the gates.

The Shibir action came apparently in retaliation for Thursday's death of a fellow activist. The Jamaat-backed student body alleged that the activist, Yahia, a First Year student at the university, succumbed to his injuries in a clash with rivals belonging to GCO and JCD when they attacked its procession in the city streets.

The trouble began 10 at night when the Shibir activists, organised in a street corner meeting in front of the Amir Ali Hall, launched attack, blasting cocktails and firing shots, on a similar rally of the students belonging to the All Party Students Unity, a committee.

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## Defeated forces behind Halishahar incident: PM

CHITTAGONG, Jan 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today assured that all responsible for the Bandartula-Halishahar incidents of violence would be punished, reports UNB.

"BNP government is a people's government and will do everything for their welfare," she told a public meeting at the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone after visiting the areas ravaged by the January 2-3 violence triggered by outrages of some Navy personnel.

"Charges cannot be levelled indiscriminately," the Prime Minister said, hinting that vested quarters were behind the trouble.

She alleged that vested quarters which do not want the country to prosper were involved in the conspiracy to hinder the development efforts of the government by creating indiscipline in national life.

"You know who are doing all these... It's the defeated forces," she pointed out.

The authorities have already fired the base commander, three other officers and 15 sailors on charge of rioting in the seaside city which left some 17 civilians dead and scores injured, besides a trail of destruction of property.

Five other officers and eight sailors will face court martial

for their involvement in the incident as evident from departmental investigation. The government has also formed a one-man judicial commission to probe into the incidents.

Addressing the meeting at the EPZ, near the scenes, Begum Zia urged the people to cooperate with the commission investigating the "tragic" incident.

"Hartals will push the country backward and weaken the economy," she told her audience, pointing at the motives of some political parties trying to play up the issue and disrupt development activities.

The incidents touched off continuous protest programmes in the port city.

She asked the people to keep vigil on the forces trying to mislead them and create indiscipline at the cost of commonmen's life.

Begum Zia assured that the government would do all possible for rehabilitating the distressed. Bank loans will also be provided for restarting the business damaged, she said.

The Prime Minister thanked the political parties working for the rehabilitation of the people of the area. "Let's work together for the welfare of the people and progress of the country."

Presided over by City BNP

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## Long marchers were shot to please India: Hasina

JESSORE, Jan 16: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Saturday warned of mass movement against what she said the autocratic role of the present pseudo-democratic government, reports UNB.

"Our movement will be directed against misuse, corruption and naked policy of politicisation of the ruling BNP threatening democracy and economy," she said.

The opposition leader was addressing a huge public meeting at the local Town Hall maidan on the last day of her five-day mass contact tour in the country's south-western districts.

Referring to the January 4

"long march" to Ayodhya, Hasina alleged that the march was organised at the instigation of the ruling party but later the government fired on the marchers to "please India" at the cost of five lives.

The Awami League leader, speaking about the rule of late president Ziaur Rahman, said he had surpassed all records of repression on the people.

Hasina accused the people in power of patronising smuggling from across the border saying that Indian smuggled goods had flooded the market destroying the prospect of local industries and products.

"The faith and commitment on which we led the anti

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## Unanimous JS resolution condemning Babri mosque razing likely

Parliament is likely to adopt a unanimous resolution condemning the razing of historic Babri mosque in India and the outbreak of communal violence in the country, reports UNB.

The House will take up the Babri mosque issue for a general discussion when it resumes winter session today (Sunday) at 4 pm after a 13-day recess.

A draft of the resolution was prepared by leaders of the government and the opposition parties in Parliament. The copies of the draft resolution were sent to Prime Minister Begum Zia and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina for their approval.

Major Gen (Rtd) Majid Haq, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar and Whip Mahubul

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## Delhi, Colombo talk holding summit of SAARC

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: India and Sri Lanka will tomorrow discuss steps to put the SAARC back on the rails amid reports that the twice postponed Dhaka Summit of the regional grouping is likely to be held in March, reports PTI.

President R Premadasa of Sri Lanka, the present SAARC Chairman, will have a luncheon meeting with the Prime Minister PV Narasimha, tomorrow.

Premadasa, currently on a pilgrimage to Buddhist centres in Bihar, is also expected to brief Rao on the efforts being made by his government to tackle the Tamil problem.

The Sri Lankan President had visited New Delhi last October as part of his tour of SAARC member-countries.

## Golam Azam's detention extended

The detention of Prof Golam Azam was further extended by another three months here Saturday. This is for the second time that the detention has been extended, reports BSS.

The extension of his detention for another three months was taken by a three-member advisory board comprising Justice DM Anwaruddin Ahmed, Justice Mohammad Ansar Ali and Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division.

Prof Azam was produced before the Review Board at Court No 8 of the High Court Division yesterday morning and the government requested the board to review Prof Azam's detention as required by law.

The writ petition filed by the son of the detenu challenging the detention order against Prof Azam and seeking restoration of his citizenship is pending before the High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court.

The hearing of the writ petition seeking restoration of citizenship may be held soon.

## Jamaat sees no difference among AL, JP and BNP

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders at a rally yesterday (Saturday) alleged the BNP government had totally failed to run the country, reports UNB.

"There's no difference among the Awami League, Jatiya Party and BNP governments," said Abdul Kader Mollah, Publicity Secretary of Jamaat which lent support to BNP to assume power two years back.

"All the three governments betrayed with the people and introduced autocratic rule in the country," said Mollah in a hard-hitting criticism of the government while demanding release of his controversial party chief.

City Jamaat organised the meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque to press the demand for unconditional release of Prof Golam Azam and halt to repression on

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