

**Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT**  
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD SEA FOOD in CHITTAGONG. Please try us and you will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than ever before.  
 10% Discount to PayLess PrivilegeCard Members  
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD CHITTAGONG, TEL: 226803, FAX: (880) (31) 225258

# The Daily Star

**NIRMAN TILES**  
 Broken Marble Tiles In More Shades Than The Rainbow  
 Tel: 605957, 861985

VOL III NO. 315 REGD. NO. DA 781

AGRAHAYAN 23, 1400 BS, DHAKA TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1993 JAMADIUS-SAANI 22, 1414 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

## Inside Today

### Article

#### An Insider's Story of Bangabhaban

Column: Passing Clouds  
 by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui  
 Page 4

### International

#### Ethnic groups may start peace talks with Yangon



Sadhua at a ceremony in Ayodhya marking the first anniversary of Babri Mosque demolition  
 Page 5

### Business

#### Late snags dampen hope of imminent GATT deal

World Bank stresses cleaning up Asia's industry  
 Pages 6, 7

### Feature

#### Health

Antara: A beacon of hope for people in distress; Children and drugs; Starting the habit of a lifetime; From Napoleon to Thatcher; sleep is not king; and Spraying wipes out more than just pests.  
 Page 8

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Woman Who Represents a Role Model  
 Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### BNP public meeting today

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a public meeting today at the Gullistan Democracy Square at 3 pm on the occasion of the Democracy Day. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to address the meeting, organised by Dhaka city BNP, reports BSS.

### ALPP meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at 3:30 pm today at the Opposition leader's conference room at the Sangsad Bhavan. Secretary of Awami League Parliamentary party Syeda Begum Sajeda Chowdhury has requested all the Parliament members of the Awami League to attend, reports BSS.

### NSC lottery draw today

The first phase draw of the National Sports Council lottery will be held today at the Engineers' Institute auditorium at 12:30 pm. The numbers for about 320 prizes, from 1st to 10th positions, will be sort out by the draw. The prizes involved Tk about 25 lakh, reports UNB.

### BFUJ, DUJ meet December 9

The discussion meeting under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Federation of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists will now be held on December 9 at 3 pm at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club. Earlier the meeting was scheduled to be held today, reports BSS.

## Heated debate in JS over post-Ershad role of parties

# Help democracy grow in peace: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the opposition parties in Parliament, which fought against autocracy in the last decade, to cooperate with her government for consolidating the democratic process.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Jatiya Sangsad (JS). Yesterday was the third anniversary of the fall of Ershad gov't in the face of a mass upsurge on December 6, 1990.

Admitting the opposition's right to protest against what

they feel unjust, the Prime Minister urged them to demonstrate in a peaceful manner and put forward their constructive suggestions to strengthen the hard-earned democracy.

She paid homage to those who had laid down their lives for democracy and expressed her gratitude to the people who actively supported the democratic forces to oust the autocratic regime.

Earlier, the JS witnessed a heated debate on the role of the political parties while MPs

during the debate recalled with gratitude the contributions of the martyrs in hastening the fall of the autocracy.

The opposition members accused the government of not fulfilling the election pledges. They criticised the government for its 'reluctance' to implement the joint declaration of the then three major political alliances.

The opposition MPs pointed out that the government was yet to fulfil the commitments of the joint de-

See page 12 Col 1

## Tk 421cr sanctioned in 5 months

# Industrial lending falls behind target

By S Y Bakht

The four nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) sanctioned Tk 421 crore as new industrial credit during the first five months of the current fiscal year against an annual target of Tk 1300 crore, according to official figures.

The total figure, observers pointed out, falls far short of the government's announced plan to expedite industrial lending for jump-starting the country's sagging investment rate. They also noted the difference between sanctioning and disbursing loans by the banks.

Bangladesh's investment to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio stood at 12.7 per cent last year, which is one of the lowest in the South Asian region, while the target for 1993-94 is set at 14.15 per cent.

According to Finance Ministry figures, all banks and financial institutions operating in the country, including private and foreign banks have set a target to disburse Tk 1720.36 crore as industrial credit for new investment projects in 1993-94.

Of the total, the NCBs along with five other government-owned financial institutions, BSB, BKB, RAKUB, BASIC and Eastern Bank, have targeted to disburse Tk 1525 crore as industrial credit during the year.

While the 11 private banks and financial institutions have set a target to disburse Tk 125 crore and only two of the six foreign banks plan to disburse Tk 46.36 crore as new industrial credit during the current

See Page 12 Col 2

## Bill on workers' wages passed

The Jatiya Sangsad passed last night a bill to materialise the decisions on the wages and other benefits of the workers in the public sector in the light of the National Wages and Productivity Commission's recommendations, reports BSS.

Piloted by the Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the Manufacturing Nationalised Industrial Enterprises Workers (service condition) Bill, 1993, will be deemed to have come into force on July 1, 1991, giving legal cover to the ordinance, promulgated in October this year.

Earlier, the House rejected the resolutions moved by the Opposition members for disapproval of the ordinance. Some of them urged the Speaker to reconsider his ruling, given last Thursday that the promulgation of any ordinance giving retrospective effect by the President was not

See page 12 Col 3

## Jamaat for polls under care-taker govt

Jamaat leader Abbas Ali Khan yesterday reiterated the demand for a constitutional provision for holding general elections under a care-taker government, saying that "it is essential to ensure neutrality of polls and consolidate democracy," reports UNB.

He also suggested the introduction of identity cards for the voters to check false voting.

Khan, a senior Naib-E-Ameer of the party, was addressing a public meeting at the northern gate of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, organised by its Dhaka city unit in observance of the 'Downfall of Autocracy Day', marking the ouster of the Ershad regime by a mass upsurge in 1990.

Jamaat Secretary General Motiur Rahman Nizami, Kamruzzaman, Advocate Jasmuddin and Shaiful Islam Khan Milon also spoke at the meeting.

Dwelling on the present political situation, Khan blamed both the BNP and Awami League for undermining the

See Page 12 Col 6

## Series of blasts across India: 3 killed, 27 hurt

NEW DELHI, Dec 6: Bombs exploded across India in five trains, a bus and in the capital city, killing at least three people and injuring 27 others, police and railroad officials said Monday, reports AP.

No one claimed responsibility for the blasts that occurred Sunday night and Monday morning, but the timing suggested religious extremists. A year ago today, Hindu radicals destroyed a disputed mosque in Ayodhya, which set off two months of riots across the country that left at least 2,000 people dead.

The Railroad Ministry ordered commandos and bomb disposal squads to board important passenger trains Monday after it was obvious that trains were the main target of attack.

In New Delhi, a grenade exploded Monday in the poor neighbourhood of Najafgarh, killing a soldier and his 11-year-old cousin, police said.

Police spokesman Jagbir Singh said it was unlikely that the blast was related to Ayodhya protest.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city on the 'Democracy Day' yesterday. — Star photo

## Force BNP to pass bill for polls under care-taker govt: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday that her party was bringing a bill in the Jatiya Sangsad to seek constitutional amendments for holding the next general elections under a neutral government.

"You will have to launch a movement to force the ruling BNP to pass the bill", the AL chief told a huge public meeting in the capital.

The meeting, attended by a large number of people stretching from the Stadium Gate to Nawabpur Road, was organised to mark the third anniversary of the downfall of Ershad's autocratic regime.

Demanding immediate elections under a care-taker government, Hasina said, "People will be able to vote freely in such a poll."

She also called upon the people to work for making the hard-earned democracy, mean-

ingful.

Chaired by Hasina, the meeting at the Bangabandhu Avenue was also addressed by Awami League central leaders including Abdul Mannan, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Sajeda Chowdhury, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Nasim, SAMS Kibria, ATM Shamsul Haq and, Fazlur Rahman.

## Democracy Day observed

The third anniversary of the fall of autocracy and restoration of democracy was observed here yesterday by various political and socio-cultural organisations with a call to give the hard-earned democracy a firm footing, reports BSS.

On this day in 1990, the then President Lt. Gen Ershad was forced to resign from the

See Page 12 Col 8

For SAMS Kibria, a former Foreign Secretary and Executive Secretary of the ESCAP and ATM Shamsul Haq, who served the CIRDAQ as Executive Director and retired voluntarily as Secretary of the Food Ministry recently, it was the first public meeting they addressed after their joining the AL.

In her 20-minute speech, Sheikh Hasina catalogued a list of 'failures' of the BNP government in various fields, accused it of indulging in corruption on a large scale, blamed it for unproductivity, labour unrest and terrorism and pledged to resolve all national problems in a well-planned manner if her party was voted to power.

In support of her demand for immediate transfer of power, she contended that 'production' and investment

See Page 12 Col 4

## Breast-feeding adds \$500m to GDP

By Staff Correspondent

In economic terms, the mothers in the country contribute about US 500 million dollars annually to the national GDP by breast-feeding their babies.

UNICEF country representative Rolf Carriere yesterday informed the International Parliamentary Conference on 'Population, Poverty and Life Styles' that breast-feeding was amazingly more effective than contraceptives in order to promote birth spacing.

About family planning, Carriere said, family planning directly fought poverty, improved health and reduce maternal deaths among others.

The number of maternal deaths is around 28,000 in Bangladesh annually, he said, adding that effective implementation of family planning programmes can reduce this number by 30 per cent.

He further said about 22 women die every day during abortion in Bangladesh and 40 per cent babies are born with low weight.

## Contract for Barapukuria Project being delayed

By Special Correspondent

Finalisation of the contract between the Petrobangla and the Chinese consortium for the implementation of Barapukuria Coal Mine Project is being delayed due to differences over some details including the loan repayment schedule.

The negotiation between the two sides for finalising the turn-key contract began in Dhaka in the first week of November on the basis of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in Beijing last December.

According to the MOU, the 227.52 million US dollar project would be implemented by the consortium of three Chinese companies which will provide 124.84 million US dollar as suppliers' credit. The rest of the cost will be borne by Bangladesh government for the project to be implemented in five years.

Informed sources said that during the negotiation both the sides reached consensus on major points of the contact de-

spite differences on a few minor points like mode of loan repayment.

The MOU stipulates repayment of loan in eight years with five per cent interest with a grace period of three years.

The way of fixing instalments for loan repayment is yet to be worked out since the two sides differ on this point, said the sources adding that the period of test run and trial production, in the mine is another point on which the parties are still negotiating.

After being finalised by two sides, the contract will be scrutinised by the higher authorities of the Petrobangla and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. The final contract, which also needs approval from the ministries of law and finance, will be signed later, and the whole process might require some more months for completion, said an official source.

"It is still uncertain whether the implementation of the pro-

See Page 12 Col 8

## Crimes claim 62 lives in Nov

By Farid Ahmed

Deaths in crime incidents further went up in the Dhaka Metropolis in November.

Crimes like murders, suicides and road accidents claimed 62 lives in November while the figure was 58 in October and 42 in September.

Road accidents alarmingly increased in the city during the last month compared with the previous months of the year. In November, 44 people fell victims to traffic accidents. In October, 33 people fell victims to reckless driving in the city while in September the figure was 31.

Officials say amendments to the relevant laws reducing punishment mainly caused the reckless driving and road accidents. In many cases, the persons responsible for road accidents escaped punishment taking advantage of the loopholes in the prevailing laws of the country they added.

As per Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC), Section 304, severe punishment, even capital punishment, could be meted out to the persons responsible for road accidents before 1983. But during the regime of

Students went on the rampage in the city after the death of Rumana Parveen, a student of the Sir Salimullah Medical College, who was killed under a speeding truck near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on November 15. On the previous day, the Dhaka-Chittagong highway was blocked to traffic for five hours after a road accident near the Shanir Akhra left a college student dead. Angry people set fire to several vehicles.

However, the number of murders declined in November compared with the previous month. But number of suicides last month was same as in the previous month. Eight people, most of them women, committed suicide last month.

In November, ten people were murdered in the capital while 12 people in October.

Ansars who were on duty in a passenger train killed two persons — Fazlul Haque and Mohammad Jasim — shooting them dead in a skirmish over taking bribe from the passengers travelling without tickets

See Page 12 Col 7

## Import of coal exceeding 1pc sulphur banned

By Special Correspondent

The government has banned the import of coal containing more than one per cent of sulphur.

The relevant clause of the Import Policy (1993-95) has been amended accordingly and a public notification in this regard was issued giving effect from December 5.

According to the notification from the office of the Chief Controller of Import and Export (CCI & E), a new sentence has been added to Clause 27.01 and 27.04 of the policy which is the highest amount of sulphur in coal to be imported should not exceed one per cent.

Before this amendment, the Clause only said that the pre-shipment inspection certificate from an internationally

See Page 12 Col 7

## JCD-BCL clash Barisal medical college closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 6: The Sher-e-Bangla Medical College here has been closed sine die following a three-hour long clash between the student activists of the Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the pro-Awami League Chhatra League this morning.

The college authorities have directed the students to leave their halls by 5 pm today.

The Academic Council of the college has taken the decision to avert further clashes.

According to sources, the clash began at about 10:30 in the morning centering on the display of a wall magazine on the campus. The magazine was put on display by the students of the 24th batch of the college.

Witnesses said, 15 students, including a journalist of The Daily Khabar, a Bengali news daily, were injured during the clash.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Cabinet approves proposal to amend agri research instns' ordinances

The cabinet has approved a proposal to amend the existing ordinances relating to seven agricultural research institutions, including the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, reports UNB.

The approval was given yesterday at the regular cabinet meeting at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The amendment is aimed at the development of efficiency and effectiveness in the field of agricultural research. It will also help ensure the sustainability of the results of agri-research and strengthen the co-ordination of research programmes in the field.

Prior to the cabinet meeting, the Health and Family Welfare Ministry made a presentation on the success and strategies of family planning programmes.

The Cabinet also approved the amendment of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Act of 1989.

## Bangladeshis in UK demonstrate for due share of Ganges water

LONDON, Dec 6: Several hundred Bangladeshis living in the UK staged a march in central London yesterday demanding Bangladesh's rightful share of the Ganges water, reports BSS.

Organised by Farakka Action Committee, UK, the marchers carrying placards raised slogans denouncing India for denying Bangladesh water during the dry season as a result of a barrage constructed at the upstream of common river Ganges.

They also submitted memorandum to British Prime Minister John Major at his 10 Downing Street official residence. Another memorandum to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of India, was also handed over to the Indian High Commission, London. The memorandum urged Prime Minister John Major to use his good office to prevail upon India to provide Bangladesh its due share of the river.