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The Daily Star

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NEWS BRIEFS

Changes in V-Day programme

The juvenile rally as part of the Victory Day programme will now be held at 9 am on December 16 instead of 8:30 am at the Mirpur National Stadium No 2. The colourful programmes including march past and physical demonstration are expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 9 am. The programmes are open to all, reports BSS.

Time-limit for house rent in Makkah

The government has decided to extend the time-limit to January 15, 1994, for depositing advance house rent amounting to 16,000 taka with any scheduled bank for hiring houses at Makkah by intending Hajj pilgrims. The government will not be held responsible for hiring houses at Makkah for those who will not deposit money in advance upto January 15. In any case the time-limit will not be extended beyond 15 January '94, reports UNB.

Postage stamps on intellectuals

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a set of ten commemorative postage stamps valued at Taka two each in one sheet in commemoration of Shaheed Intellectuals Day today. Two first day covers valued at Taka five each will be issued and a special cancellor will also be used. A souvenir valued at Taka six containing short life-sketch of 10 shaheed intellectuals will be issued on the occasion, reports BSS.



Nation recalls martyred intellectuals today

The nation observes the "Shaheed Buddhijibi Dibash" (Martyred Intellectuals' Day) today to pay tributes to those bright sons of the soil who were murdered by agents of the Pakistani occupation forces on this day on the eve of their surrender on December 16. The occupation forces brutally killed the leading scholars and professionals of the country under a blueprint to decimate the best brains of the nation at the fag end of the nine-month-long war of independence in 1971. Barely 48 hours before the death knell of the occupation forces, their notorious agents, Al-Badr and Al-Shams razakars, blinded by religious and political bigotry, killed the finest talents of Bangladesh in the dark of night. The Al-Badr and Al-Shams gangsters, along with Pakistani secret agents, raided the houses of the prominent journalists, teachers, writers, poets, physicians, engineers and others in Dhaka between December 9 and December 14 and took them away at gun point and blind-folded. None of them ever returned home. On Victory Day — December 16, 1971 — when the Pakistani forces surrendered, the bodies of some of the kidnapped intellectuals were found in the marshlands of Rayer Bazar in the city. Later, the people discovered another killing field in Mirpur, where a Memorial has been built in their memory. The martyred intellectuals included Prof Munir Chowdhury, Shahidullah Kaiser, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, Dr G C Dev, Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr Fazole Rabbi, Anwar Pasha, Sirajuddin Hossain, Altaf Mahmud, Dr Sirajul Haq Khan, Abdul Muktadir, Dr Abul Khayer, Dr A N M Muniruzzaman, Dr Fazlur Rahman, Dr Shaadat Mahe, Ataur Rahman Khadim, Anuddaipayan Baheerjee, Rashidul Hassan, S Banerjee, Sharafat Ali, Dr Abdul Karim. See page 12 Col 1

Govt to take tough line against professionals

The government yesterday decided to pursue a tough line against the agitating civil servants and the professionals including engineers, agriculturists and doctors (Prokrichi). Meanwhile, the leaders of the professionals and government officials once again expressed their determination to go ahead with their scheduled action programmes to press for the implementation of their 17-point charter of demands. The special cabinet committee — a seven-member body headed by Communications Minister Colonel (Retd) Oli Ahmed — met yesterday evening to decide on the strategies for dealing with the non-administrative government officials and Prokrichi members. Sources close to the cabinet committee said the members agreed not to yield to the 'intimidation' of the agitating officials and professionals. The committee felt that a tough line would definitely help the government resolve the administrative crisis arising out of the current agitation of the non-administrative officials. Replying to a question, one of the committee members told The Daily Star, on the condition of anonymity, that the government would talk to the Prokrichi leaders and convey its position to them. On the other hand, the officials and professionals who completed their three-day mass holiday yesterday, are now scheduled to campaign for mass resignation from tomorrow. Dr Mushtaque Hossain, a member of the central action committee of the agitating officials told this correspondent last night that they would complete the collection of resignation letters by the 31st of this month. Expressing their determination to continue with their programmes, Dr Mushtaque said that their next course of action would be announced on the first day of the new year.

DCC elections in Feb likely

The Election Commission (EC) is likely to decide the date of holding the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) elections after the publication of a government gazette on restructured and reorganised city wards within a day or two, official sources said. The EC announced on Saturday a list of the freshly demarcated wards, the number of which has been raised from 74 to 90 under fresh delimitation of boundaries. The EC secretariat is now preparing to announce the date and schedule of the DCC polls by the next week, sources said, adding the DCC polls might take place in early February next. They, however, ruled out

PM lays foundation at Rayer Bazar today

By Staff Correspondent
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will lay the foundation stone of the memorial for the country's martyred intellectuals at Rayer Bazar in the city at seven this morning. On this day in 1971, the Pakistani occupation army and their collaborators — the Al-Badr and Al-Shams, killed many leading professionals in Dhaka. The Pakistan army and their collaborators picked up the intellectuals from their houses and took them to the killing fields of Rayer Bazar. The bodies, mutilated and decomposed, were discovered a few days after the Liberation on December 16. To preserve the history of the Liberation War and to keep the future generation informed about the nature of the war that ravaged the country in 1971, the government recently decided to acquire 3.5 acres of land at Rayer Bazar to build the memorial.

Cabinet okays State Acquisition Act amendment, housing policy

The Cabinet has approved the draft of the State Acquisition and Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1993, which aims to restore the land formed by recession of sea or river to the original owners, reports UNB. The right was ceased by the Presidential Order No 135 of 1972. The Amendment will meet the long standing demand of the affected people who lost their land due to erosion of rivers. The approval was given yesterday at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair. The Cabinet also approved the proposal of the Ministry of Information to relay BBC World Service Radio programme for about 10 hours a day in the morning to 11:15 at night. The kilowatt FM (frequency module) transmitter, now at Shahbagh, Dhaka, will be used for the See page 12 Col 8

Prokrichi drafts letter for mass resignation

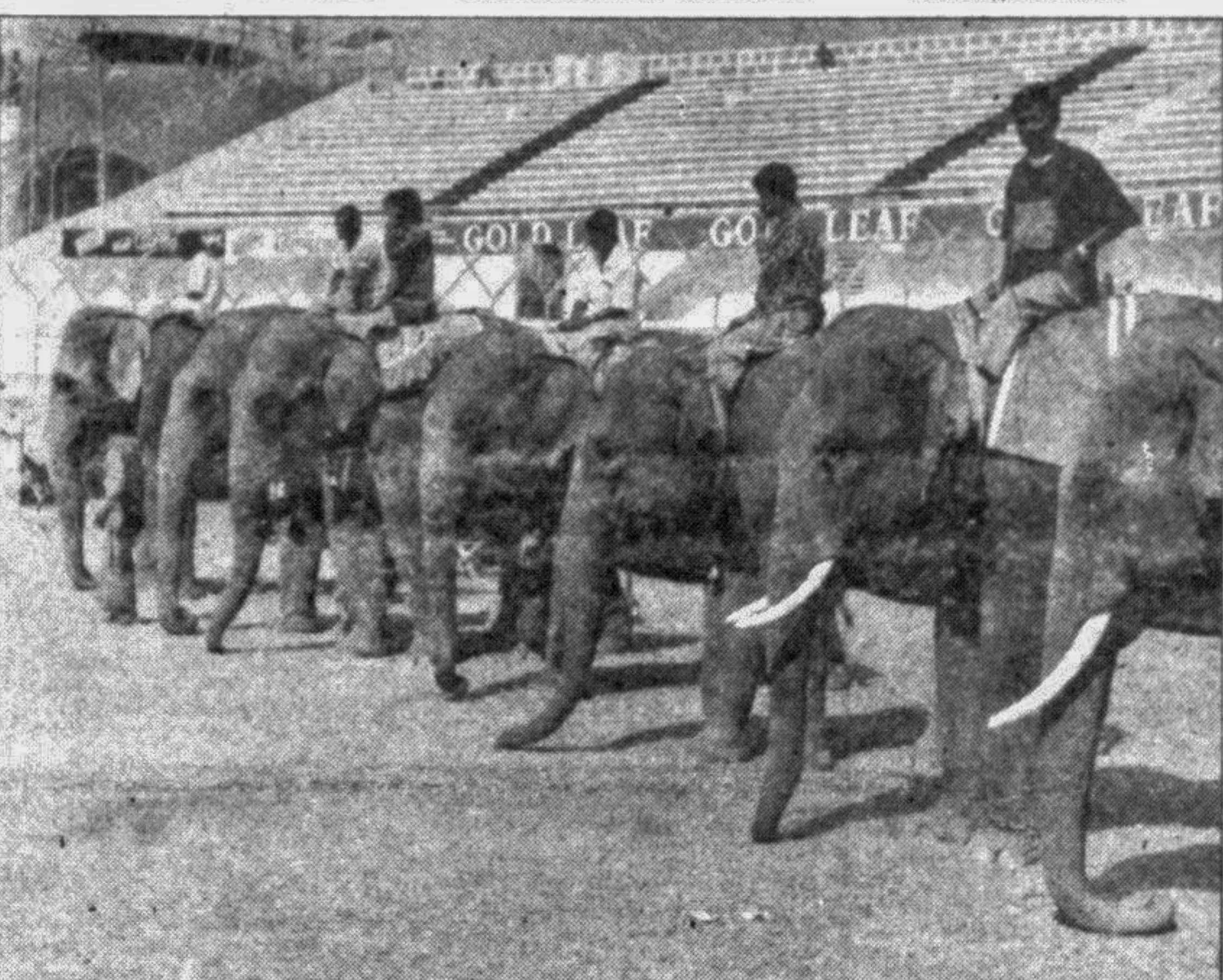
By Staff Correspondent
 The Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council has drafted a proforma resignation letter for their members, to be submitted en masse if negotiations with the government fail to realise their demands. The letter cites an "anarchist situation" created by the members of "a certain cadre," usurpation of political power and violation of the Prime Minister's directives as the main reasons compelling them to quit their jobs. The situation created by that cadre (the administrative cadre) has caused "grave dissatisfaction and utter frustration" among the members of 26 civil service cadres and functional groups, the draft letter observes. Addressed to the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the letter points out that the Prime Minister's specific instructions could not be implemented because of "the bureaucratic conspiracy" by See page 12 Col 6

New law won't affect EPZ investors

The investors in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have nothing to be worried about the proposed law for control and prevention of monopolies, restrictive and unfair trade practices, since the law would not be applicable for the undertakings established in the EPZs. According to sources, the proposed draft of the law also exempted some other business undertakings from the application of provisions of the 'unreasonable monopoly' clause of the act. Those include the undertakings owned and controlled by the government, except the public sector corporations which are engaged in similar activities as are open for the private sector, the undertakings which produce goods based to See page 12 Col 6

All preparations complete SAF Games matter of nat'l prestige: PM

All preparations have been completed to hold the Sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, the biggest sports extravaganza of the region, here from December 20-27, reports UNB. The president of the organising committee, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman informed the meeting that all preparatory measures had been completed to hold the regional sports meet. He also presented Begum Khaleda Zia with the SAF Games crest. Begum Zia said the government has provided all necessary financial support and cooperation for constructing necessary infrastructures for the Games considering that it would have a positive impact on our sports. State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain, who is the president of the SAF Games steering committee, told the meeting that participants from the seven SAARC countries would take part in 11 events. A total of 1,459 players and officials from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Bhutan will arrive here to participate in the Games, he said. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Olympic Association president Gias Kamal Chowdhury also addressed the See page 12 Col 7



Seven pachyderms stand in formation during rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the VI South Asian Federation (SAF) Games at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The games begin December 20. — Star photo

Russians want strong presidential republic but oppose reforms

MOSCOW, Dec 13: Russian voters gave President Boris Yeltsin the strong presidential republic he wanted but seem to have rejected his reformist policies by voting heavily for communists, conservatives and extreme nationalists, reports Reuter. Officials predicted today that results would show a contradictory vote in Sunday's elections — Russians narrowly passed Yeltsin's new constitution but shattered his dream of a like-minded parliament with which he could work. "We have to prepare for the parliamentary session now," presidential administration chief Sergei Filatov told reporters. "The worst thing is that the country will see that it is split." Particularly disturbing for Yeltsin, for Russia's neighbours and for the West in general, was the success of radical nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR). There were no official results by midday today. But partial unofficial returns indicated a heavy defeat for the pro-Western market reformers who have steered Russia away from communist economics since the Soviet Union broke up in 1991. "It is clear that the conservative part of parliament will be twice as big as that of the reformers," a senior Kremlin official forecast. "We have got a parliament that is no better than the old one." Yeltsin overrode the Soviet-era constitution and sent tanks to dissolve the old parliament in October. Sunday's referendum was partly a verdict on his action. Some 60 per cent of those that voted supported the new constitution, according to the Central Electoral Commission. But the turnout was a meagre 53.2 per cent, barely above the 50 per cent required to make it valid. An AFP report said: The ultra-nationalist party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was in first place in 24 out of Russia's 89 regions in

Peace process in danger: Arafat

THE HAGUE, Dec 13: Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat said today the delay in the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho showed there were serious problems with the peace process, reports Reuter. "Definitely there are serious problems, otherwise why the delay for 10 days?" Arafat said at a news conference. On Sunday, a Palestinian delegation in Cairo reluctantly agreed with the Israelis to a delay of at least 10 days for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. Arafat in the Hague for talks with Dutch officials, said a further delay would be damaging to the chances of coming to a settlement between the two sides. "The credibility of the peace process will be damaged. No doubt," Arafat said on Monday. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres earlier told Reuters in Jerusalem the negotiations had reached a serious crisis. Earlier Israel and the PLO missed the first big deadline of the historic peace accord they signed in September, failing to reach agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by December 13. PLO leader Yasser Arafat looked crushed when he emerged from a last-minute summit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and confessed he had agreed to a delay See page 12 Col 1

Morshed Khan to become PM's special envoy

By Staff Correspondent
 Morshed Khan, a leading industrialist, is being appointed as a special envoy of the Prime Minister with the rank and status of a full minister. The official announcement is expected to be made shortly. A source at the Prime Minister's Office said that Morshed Khan will act as an emissary to different countries at the behest of the Prime Minister from time to time. "He is a special envoy who could also be described as a roving ambassador or ambassador at large," the source said. The post is designed to add a new thrust in the sphere of Bangladesh's international business. The Prime Minister had recently spoken of "economic diplomacy." The appointment of Morshed Khan as a special envoy is the first of its kind. Sources indicated that more such appointments may be made later. See page 12 Col 7

Osmany joins as Foreign Secy

By Staff Correspondent
 Muflehur Rahman Osmany yesterday took over as Foreign Secretary. Osmany succeeds Reaz Rahman who has been appointed the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to his new appointment M R Osmany was the Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. Born in Sylhet on February 6, 1940, Osmany graduated as a civil engineer in 1961 and later joined the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1964. After serving in important positions in the government, he was appointed a Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1971 and continued in that position till 1975. He served as a Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1978 to 1982, during which period he also worked as the Director General of External Publicity. He served as the Chairman of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation in 1982-83. He was appointed Principal, the Foreign See page 12 Col 8

14 bankers retired

The government has sent into retirement five general managers and nine deputy general managers of public sector banks and financial institutions, reports BSS. The forced retirements were ordered as per Clause 9 (2) of the Public Employees' (Retirement) Act, 1974. All the retired officers have completed 25 years of service. The general managers who have been retired are Mirza Abdur Rashid of the Agrani Bank, Enamul Hoq Chowdhury of the Janata Bank, Bijoy See page 12 Col 6

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR COMPUTER SPECIAL

THE NEXT ISSUE OF MONTHLY The Daily Star COMPUTER SPECIAL WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SUNDAY, 19 DECEMBER 1993.

FORUM MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING COMPANY NEWS AND PRODUCT NEWS BY TOMORROW, 15 DECEMBER, 2 PM. DUE TO 16TH BEING A HOLIDAY, WE REQUEST ALL MEMBERS TO RESPECT THE DEADLINE.