

Inside Today

Article

Primary and Mass Education: Management and Accountability by Kazi Fazlur Rahman Page 4

International

Bosnian Muslims, Croats agree on Christmas cease-fire

Chinese delegation arrives in Taiwan for historic talks Page 5

Business

Poor states unhappy over GATT deal

World Bank sees Third World benefit from rising debt Pages 6, 7

Supplement

A two-page supplement on the National Day of Bhutan Pages 8, 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



"Our Lips are Sealed"
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Reception at Bangabhaban

By Staff Correspondent President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Khaleda Zia hosted a reception at Bangabhaban Thursday afternoon to mark the 23rd Victory Day.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, ministers, members of Parliament, leaders of different political parties, editors and senior journalists of national dailies, leading industrialists, cultural organisations, university teachers and elite of the city attended the function.

Bhutanese envoy hosts reception

The Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka T Tobgyel yesterday evening hosted a reception at the Hotel Sonargaon here on the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan. Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, editors and senior journalists, among others, attended the reception, reports BSS.

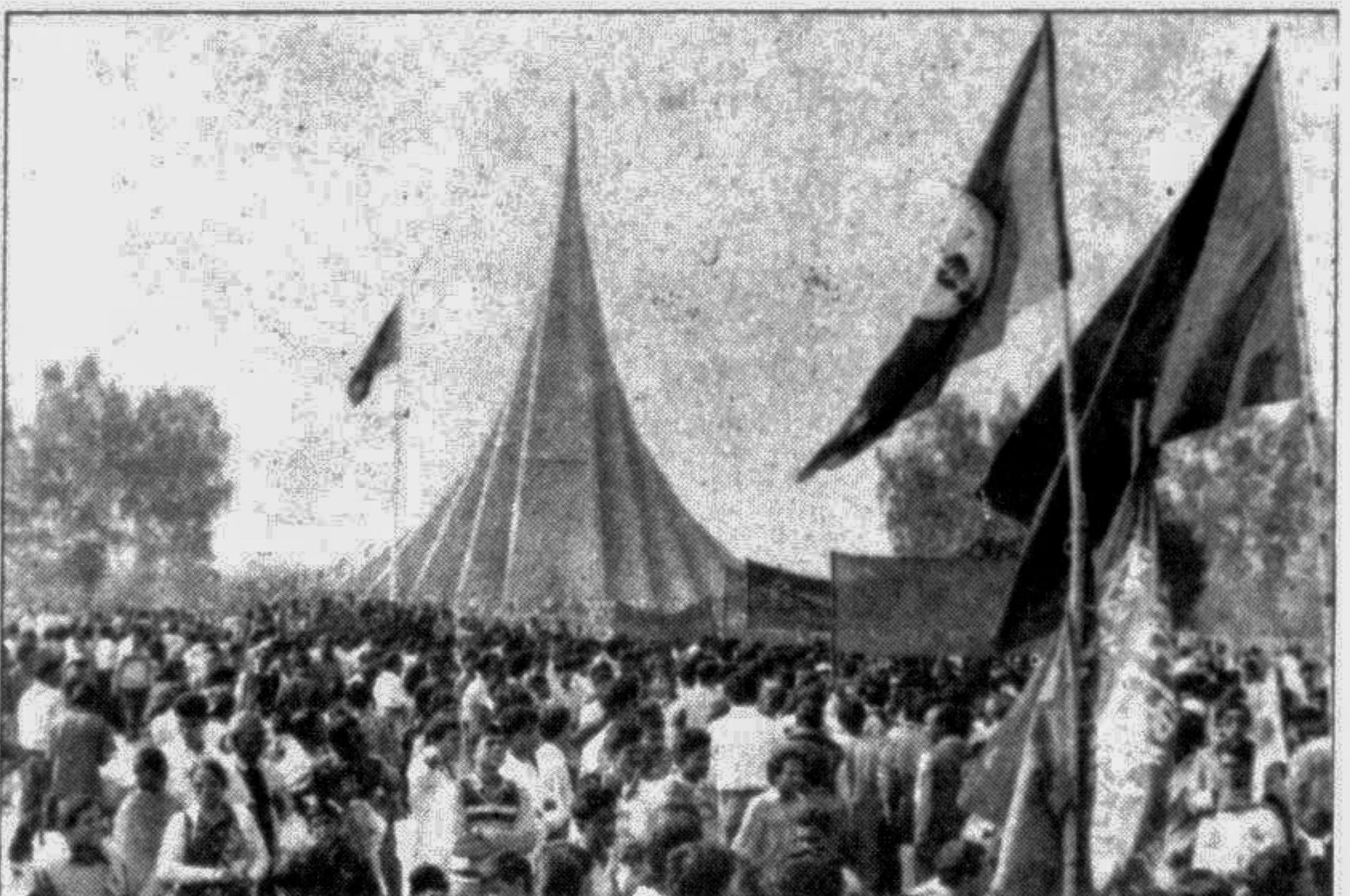
BDPA team meets PM

A 25-member delegation of the Bangladeshi Diploma Pharmacists' Association (BDPA) called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office yesterday evening. During the meeting, the BDPA leaders put forward various demands and suggestions to the Prime Minister and requested her to consider those in the interest of the pharmaceutical industry. Begum Zia gave them a patient hearing and said that their logical demands would be looked into, reports BSS.

Fire at Khulna jute mills

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Dec 17: A fire broke out in the Eastern Jute Mills at Fulbari Gate at 3.30 am Friday. The fire gutted the jute wastes of the mill. The damage is estimated to be around two lakh.

Fresh vow to revitalise spirit of Liberation War



People from all walks of life paying homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War at the Savar National Memorial (top) and school girls performing physical drills at the Mirpur Stadium in the city on the Victory Day Thursday (above). — Star photo

BNP nominee for Ctg mayorship

Dispute ends as Khaleda intervenes

From Staff Correspondent the Chittagong City unit of the BNP and the other by Ekramul Karim.

After the split in mid-1991, the splinter faction had formed a rival city committee with Humaun Kabir as the acting president. Kabir, husband of Rosy Kabir, the only lady MP from Chittagong, supported the opposite group led by Noman.

The Chittagong chapter of the ruling party split in 1991 following by the election in the Doublemooring parliamentary constituency here, vacated by Begum Khaleda Zia.

The BNP Chairperson, during her Wednesday's visit to Chittagong, called Ekramul Karim and asked him to support Mir Nasiruddin in the January 30 mayoral election in line with the party decision instead of vying for the post, the sources said.

A press release issued here by the BNP unit says Ekramul Karim has agreed to support Mir Nasiruddin in the January 30 mayoral election in line with the party decision.

Of the two BNP factions here, one is led by Minister Abdulla Al-Noman, president of

Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, editors and senior journalists, among others, attended the reception, reports BSS.

However, the Ekram group is reportedly enjoying indirect support of Industries Minister Zahiruddin Khan and Communication Minister Oli Ahmed, party insiders said.

The race for the party ticket among the BNP leaders here reached such a stage that it became almost a bruising 'pre-election' primary. All the three aspirants from BNP including Mir Nasiruddin, Ekramul Karim and Advocate Badrul Anwar, the acting president of the BNP city Committee representing the Noman group lobbied frantically for the party ticket.

Besides the supporters of Ekramul Karim frequently brought out processions in the city and organised rallies demanding nomination of Ekram instead of Mir Nasiruddin for mayor.

The other aspirant, Advocate Badrul Anwar, also held meetings with the leaders of the divisional Sramik Dal to drum up support for his nomination.

Sources say, Ekram's failure to get the party nomination has caused simmering discontent among his supporters.

Varsity officers begin 10-day strike today

By DU Correspondent

The administrative officers of seven universities in the country will observe full-day strike for ten days from today demanding implementation of its two-point demand.

The officers demands include amendment of down graded pay

See Page 12 Col 5

See Page 12 Col 5

Brawl in UP Assembly leaves fifty MPs injured

NEW DELHI, Dec 17: A wild brawl on the floor of the assembly of the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh left at least 50 legislators injured, newspapers reported Friday, says AFP.

MPs from the ruling Socialist Party-led alliance battled members of the Hindu opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the floor of the House for about 20 minutes on Thursday, they said.

Legislators hurled microphones, water glasses and shoes at one another and a number of MPs were dragged bleeding from the chamber, the Hindustan Times and other newspapers said.

The BJP had ruled the state until December 1992, when the BJP government was dismissed by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao for failing to prevent the destruction of the Babri Mosque, located in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya.

Police were called in and eventually restored order but not before 50 MPs and three security guards had been injured. Twenty persons suffered injuries that required hospitalisation in the state capital, Lucknow.

The three-day Congress, organised by the Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh (SOSB), is being participated by some 500 surgeons, allied professionals and experts from Japan, Pakistan, India, Singapore, United States and Bangladesh.

A 17-year-old girl, Yesmin

knows.

Both parties accused the other of starting the brawl.

"It's a black day, something never seen in a legislature anywhere in India," former BJP Speaker Kesarinath Tripathi said from his hospital bed.

The Governor should dissolve the assembly. The ruling partymen have behaved like criminals," said Tripathi, who suffered a head injury.

The Socialist Party-led alliance upset the Hindu revivalist BJP in state assembly election held in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, last month.

The BJP had ruled the state until December 1992, when the BJP government was dismissed by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao for failing to prevent the destruction of the Babri Mosque, located in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya.

Injured BJP MP Ram Prakash Tripathi. — AFP photo

By Staff Correspondent

Amid great festivity, the nation Thursday celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the Victory Day with a fresh vow to revitalise the spirit of the Liberation War.

Political and socio-cultural organisations across the country organised rallies and cultural programmes to mark the day.

In the capital, the V-Day was observed with an added fervour and enthusiasm. Several colourful processions were brought out in the capital swarming with thousands of joyous people. Resounding salvos at the crack of dawn greeted the day. At the National Martyr's Memorial at Savar, the guns boomed for 31 times to herald the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas was the first to lay a wreath at the memorial at 6:14 am. The President stood in solemn silence for a while to pay his tribute to the heroes of the war.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was next to pay homage to the martyrs whose sacrifices brought victory for the nation after a bloody war. Ministers, government officials and foreign diplomats were present during the laying of wreath by the President and the Prime Minister.

Soon after the departure of the President and PM, hundreds of people poured into the mausoleum complex some 33 km from the capital, to pay tribute to the war heroes.

The main wreath laying altar was heaped with garlands and bouquets even before the wintry fog could fade away.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina went to the memorial at about 9:30 am accompanied by her party colleagues.

A momentary agility was witnessed when the supporters of deposed president Er-

See Page 12 Col 4

BRRRI to introduce flood, salinity tolerant rice

By Inam Ahmed

The country's high-profile agriculture research institution — the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI) — hopes to introduce salinity and flood tolerant varieties of rice over the next few years.

"These varieties would be a major breakthrough in rice cultivation," Nur Mohammad Miah, head of plant breeding at the BRRRI said. "The annual crop loss because of the floods could be substantially brought down with the new varieties."

Two deep-water rice varieties of rice are now under test cultivation at Gazipur, Habiganj and Mirzapur. These varieties grow in up to five meters of water and are resistant to the 'usra' disease.

However, these two million hectares of low land have been reduced only to 0.9 million hectares under rice cultivation currently because the farmers in most places have stopped planting deep-water local varieties. Instead, they have switched over to irrigated high-yielding variety (HYV) rice.

But with the introduction of

See Page 12 Col 8

VIJAYA GAMES 1993
 Indian, Bhutanese teams due today

Contingents of India, Bhutan and the rest of the teams from Sri Lanka and the Maldives will arrive in the capital today to take part in the seven-nation 6th SAF Games beginning December 20 at the Dhaka National Stadium, reports UNB.

A four-member advanced Nepalese team headed by its Chef de Mission and NOC Secretary General Raj Bahadur Singh arrived here yesterday. The remaining contingent of Nepal is expected here tomorrow.

President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Ahmed Al Sabah will arrive here on December 23. The Director of

See Page 12 Col 7

Improve investment environment : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday laid paramount importance on further improving the environment for investment, both foreign and domestic, to boost production, create more employment and accelerate the pace of industrialisation and development, reports BSS.

"We must have to maintain a very congenial climate for attracting huge foreign investments into the country to create more job opportunities, raise output, set up more industries and enterprises and help increase income and alleviate poverty," Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the labour leader of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Tongi unit, here yesterday evening at her Sugandha office. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Sramik Dal President

See Page 12 Col 4

Prokrichi-govt talks yield no results

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday held talks with the leaders of the country's professionals and urged them to end their agitation.

Meeting sources said three members of the Special Cabinet Committee held a meeting with the central leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council.

The nearly-three-hour meeting, held at the residence of the Establishment Minister Barrister Aminul Huq yesterday night, however, ended inconclusively, they said.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan were also present.

Meeting sources said that

No polls can be fair under BNP govt : Hasina

See Page 12 Col 7

terminated from their jobs, she added.

She demanded arrangement of alternative employment for the retrenched industrial workers and setting up of new industries.

The rural people are facing untold miseries due to exorbitant prices of essentials and low prices of agri-products, the opposition leader said.

She said the Finance Minister had admitted that a huge amount of foreign aid was left unutilised.

If Awami League is voted to power, it will ensure an exploitation-free society by fulfilling the basic needs of the common man, Hasina told the meeting.

"Awami League has announced its economic policy for the betterment of the people," she said, assuring that it will ensure education, and health for all by formulating people-oriented programmes.

Hasina said not a single industry was set up during the two and a half years rule of BNP. Instead, several thousand mills and factories were closed down and lakhs of workers

See Page 12 Col 7

AL, Sangskritik Jote bring out processions

By Staff Correspondent

The capital witnessed two huge and colourful processions on the nation's Victory Day Thursday.

The Awami League (AL) and the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, an alliance of 22 cultural organisations, brought out separate processions to mark the 23rd anniversary of the nation's victory against the Pakistani occupation forces.

The occupation army of Pakistan surrendered to the joint commands of the country's freedom fighters and its allied Indian troops on December 16, 1971 after a nine-month Liberation War waged by the people.

The AL brought out its procession in the afternoon while the Sangskritik Jote rally paraded through the street in the morning.

Sheikh Hasina, the AL chief

See Page 12 Col 1

5 murdered in city in 2 days

By DMCH Correspondent

Five people including two young girls were murdered in the capital during the last two days.

Three murders were committed in the areas under Lalbagh Police Station while two others at Cantonment and Demra.

The three-day Congress, organised by the Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh (SOSB), is being participated by some 500 surgeons, allied professionals and experts from Japan, Pakistan, India, Singapore, United States and Bangladesh.

A 17-year-old girl, Yesmin

See page 12 Col 1

SOSB congress