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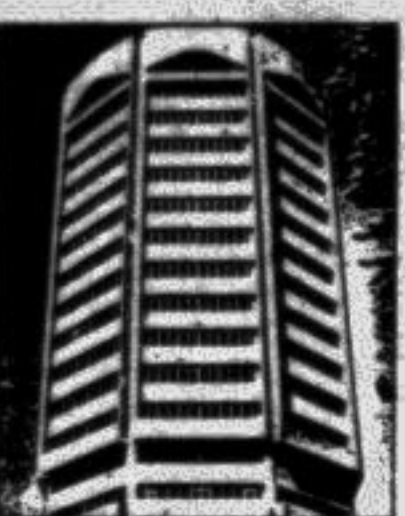
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NEWS BRIEFS

Christian team meets Hasina

A delegation of the Christian community headed by Siril Sikdar yesterday met with Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina and exchanged X-Mas greetings with her. The delegation presented an X-Mas cake to Hasina who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, reports UNB.

Snake bites JU student

SAVAR, Dec 25: A student of the Jahangirnagar University was bitten by a venomous snake in his dormitory at the Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall this morning. Md Moniruzzaman Roni was admitted to the varsity medical centre in critical condition. The attending doctors there referred him to the CMH. After the incident, a number of students left their dormitories in fear of snakes, reports UNB.

Arafat goes to Cairo today

CAIRO, Dec 25: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit Cairo tomorrow to see Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a day before Israel and the PLO are to resume peace talks in the city. Arafat and Mubarak would discuss problems blocking implementation of a peace accord granting self-rule to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, reports Reuter.

Gunshots rattle Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Dec 25: Bombs and bullets ushered in Sarajevo's second Christmas Day under Serb siege, while fighters across Bosnia ignored a truce that was supposed to bring a holiday respite from war, reports AP.

Shooters, boxer earn 3 more golds Hosts' best showing yet

Sports Reporter

Games got a tremendous boost on Friday with Bimal Chandra Taradair winning the status of the fastest man of South Asia. That feat was all the more re-

1987 in Calcutta.

On Friday Taradair actually set a new SAF record to boot in the men's 100m dash, eclipsing Indian Natarajan's timing of 10.68 in the Islamabad Games.

With Bimal initiating a strong rally by the hosts, sustained sensibly by the shooters and a boxer yesterday, Bangladesh had put up their best performance on record as far as gold medals are concerned. Bangladesh have already garnered 11 golds, two more than the nine won in the Second Games in 1985, the year Dhaka staged the SAF Games for the first time.

deeming for the hosts because Bangladesh got a gold in athletics after a gap of four long years with the late lamented Shah Alam having won the last gold for Bangladesh way back in

Indian minister in city to witness SAF Games

Indian State Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mukul Wasnik, arrived here yesterday to witness the current Sixth SAF Games.

State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain and president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Oias Kamal Chowdhury received him at the airport. Sports officials and officials of Indian high commission were also present.

Wasnik told BSS at the airport that he would witness the on-going games during his two-day stay here and this experience would be helpful in staging the next SAF Games in Madras in 1995.

Asked about the infrastructural facilities in Madras for the games, the Indian minister said the facilities there are adequate for the games.

A massive stadium was built in Madras in recent years and other facilities will also be fittingly good for the games.

Asked about the performance of the Indian contingent in the current SAF Games, Wasnik said it is too early to make any comment since the games are still on but added that he has reasons to feel happy about the showing made so far by India in different disciplines.

Also arrived here yesterday PP Laxman, general secretary of the All India Football Federation.

MEDALS TABLE

The medals table after Saturday's competitions in the Sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games: (Tabulate under gold, silver, bronze and total).

	G	S	B	Total
India	53	39	29	121
Shri Lanka	21	20	33	74
Pakistan	18	20	17	55
Bangladesh	11	18	30	59
Nepal	0	6	15	21
Bhutan	0	0	0	0
Maldives	0	0	0	0
	103	103	124	330

ADP implementation seriously slow

By A Special Correspondent

The government's investment programme for the current financial year is facing serious implementation problems. Official review of implementation performance of foreign-aided projects in the annual development programme (ADP) has called the picture frustrating.

The budget that Finance Minister Saifur Rahman presented to Parliament last June was based on a projection of 6 per cent growth in gross domestic product during the current financial year. Minister Rahman had assured that this higher growth would be achieved through an increase in the level of public investment and proposed an ADP of Taka 9750 crore for 1993-94.

The current projection is that the actual investment level will fall far short of expectation.

According to estimates by the Economic Relations Division (ERD), utilisation of foreign aid during July-October 1993 was Taka 1032 crore. Foreign aid utilisation during the same period last year was Taka 1284 crore. The ERD has called the 32 per cent decline in aid utilisation on a year-to-year basis alarming.

The government's expectation was that 18 per cent of the planned ADP outlay will be in the agriculture and the irrigation sectors. Realised investment in both sectors during the first four months of the current financial year is particularly low. Of the agricultural sector investment programme, which includes investment projects under implementation by the Ministries of Agriculture, Fish-

See Page 12 Col 3

Christmas celebrated

By Staff Correspondent

The Christian community of the country yesterday celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ amid calls for global peace.

The country's three lakh Christians, as elsewhere in the world, decorated Christmas trees in their homes and offered prayers at the churches in Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban, Sylhet, Barisal, Panchagarh and other places.

They set up replica of cowsheds in their houses, community centres and hotels recalling the birth of Christ at a cowshed in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

In the capital, the Christmas programmes began from Friday night. Believers attended special Mass at the city churches.

Many dressed up as Santa See Page 12 Col 3

Excess liquidity cuts banks' profits

By Inam Ahmed

The excess liquidity situation of the country's banks has taken a new turn with a number of banks unable to meet their capital adequacy requirements.

Deposits in the banks have been bulging over the years under the safe nets of the Bangladesh Bank, but the banks themselves find little scope to utilise the money, resulting in a dwarfed profit situation. This has contributed to the present situation of the banks failing to meet capital adequacy, banking sources said.

But the capital adequacy is viewed as a major way of strengthening the basis of the commercial banks.

According to the advices of the Bank for International Settlement situated in Switzerland,

the commercial banks are to maintain five per cent of their total liabilities as paid-up capital. This is usually done from the share of the profits made by the banks.

In Bangladesh, the nationalised commercial banks had never attached any importance to this measure because they felt secure by their government status.

However, with the infusion of capital into these NCBs through government treasury bills, the NCBs have been able to raise their paid-up capital to a high level. The total paid-up capital of the NCBs is now estimated to be around over Tk 900 crore.

However, the problem arises with the private commercial banks which started their shops with the approved level of Tk 20 See Page 12 Col 6



Assaduzzaman MP dead

By Staff Correspondent

Veteran Awami League leader Mohammad Assaduzzaman, MP, breathed his last late Friday night at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was 58.

Late Assaduzzaman, elected from the Magura-2 constituency, had been suffering from various ailments, including a heart problem.

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Hasina tells juvenile rally Liberation War history in text books false

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the young people to be imbued with the spirit and ideals of the Liberation War and build themselves with a high moral character to take up the country's future leadership, reports BSS.

"Equip yourselves with proper education, learn the real history of the Liberation War and study the life and struggle of Bangabandhu who led us all toward achieving independence," she told a well-attended juvenile rally at the first central conference of the Bangabandhu Shishu-Kishore Mela here.

Sheikh Hasina, also the Leader of the Opposition in Par-

liament, was the chief guest and poet Shamsur Rahman, former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain and journalist M. Anisuzzaman were special guests at the conference. Mela's president Biman Bhattacharya inaugurated the conference.

Central leaders of the Awami League and its MPs, advisors of the mela and representatives from 216 units of the country and abroad attended the function.

Sheikh Hasina called upon all to forge a strong resistance against the distortion of history of the Liberation War and asked the members of the mela to See Page 12 Col 8

Azam sees bright prospect of Islamic revolution

By Staff Correspondent

Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said that the prospect of an Islamic revolution was bright in Bangladesh and the Jamaat would be in state power in the future.

"We have been assigned to prepare the ground. If Almighty Allah endorses our activities and intentions, He will put us in power," Golam Azam told several thousand party workers during his first public appearance in the city in seven years.

The city unit of the party organised the rally at the Golapbagh playground near the Sayedabad bus terminal to See Page 12 Col 4

Indo-Bangla JEC may focus on trade gap

By Staff Correspondent

The huge trade deficit against Dhaka, currently running at over 330 million US dollars, is likely to figure prominently in the Indo-Bangla Joint Economic Commission meeting due to begin in the capital on Tuesday.

Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee is expected to arrive in the city tomorrow to lead his country at the two-day meeting. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman will lead the host delegation at the talks.

However, Mukherjee's arrival is still uncertain in the backdrop of the resignation by Indian Finance Minister Manmo-

BNP has breached promises: Mizan

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury today said the BNP government had no right to stay in power after "breach of commitments" to the electorate and failure to run the country, reports UNB.

"BNP breached its promises after going to power by bluffing the people," the acting JP chairman told a public meeting at Kaliganj in the district this morning.

Presided over by Abdus Sattar, the meeting was also addressed by Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Khaledur Rahman Tito, Nitai Ray Chowdhury and Korban Ali.

The JP leader said BNP had totally failed to run the country due to its inexperience and See Page 12 Col 6

CAB survey on road accidents Trucks are the main killers

By Staff Correspondent

Reckless driving and inefficiency of the drivers cause most of the road accidents in the capital and speeding trucks are the main killers, a survey revealed yesterday.

Wide media campaign to increase awareness among the people and strict enforcement of the traffic laws could reduce road accidents to a great extent, it suggested.

The Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) conducted the survey on road accidents in the capital to ascertain the

causes and remedies of continued road accidents that claim many lives every year.

Most of the respondents, all passengers of different modes of vehicles, said that they were ignorant of the Motor Vehicles Act but suggested tough enforcement of the law to the offenders.

Some of them suggested uniform to the drivers for easy identification and sealing off the steering-side door so that the drivers could not escape after accident.

Some of the passengers also

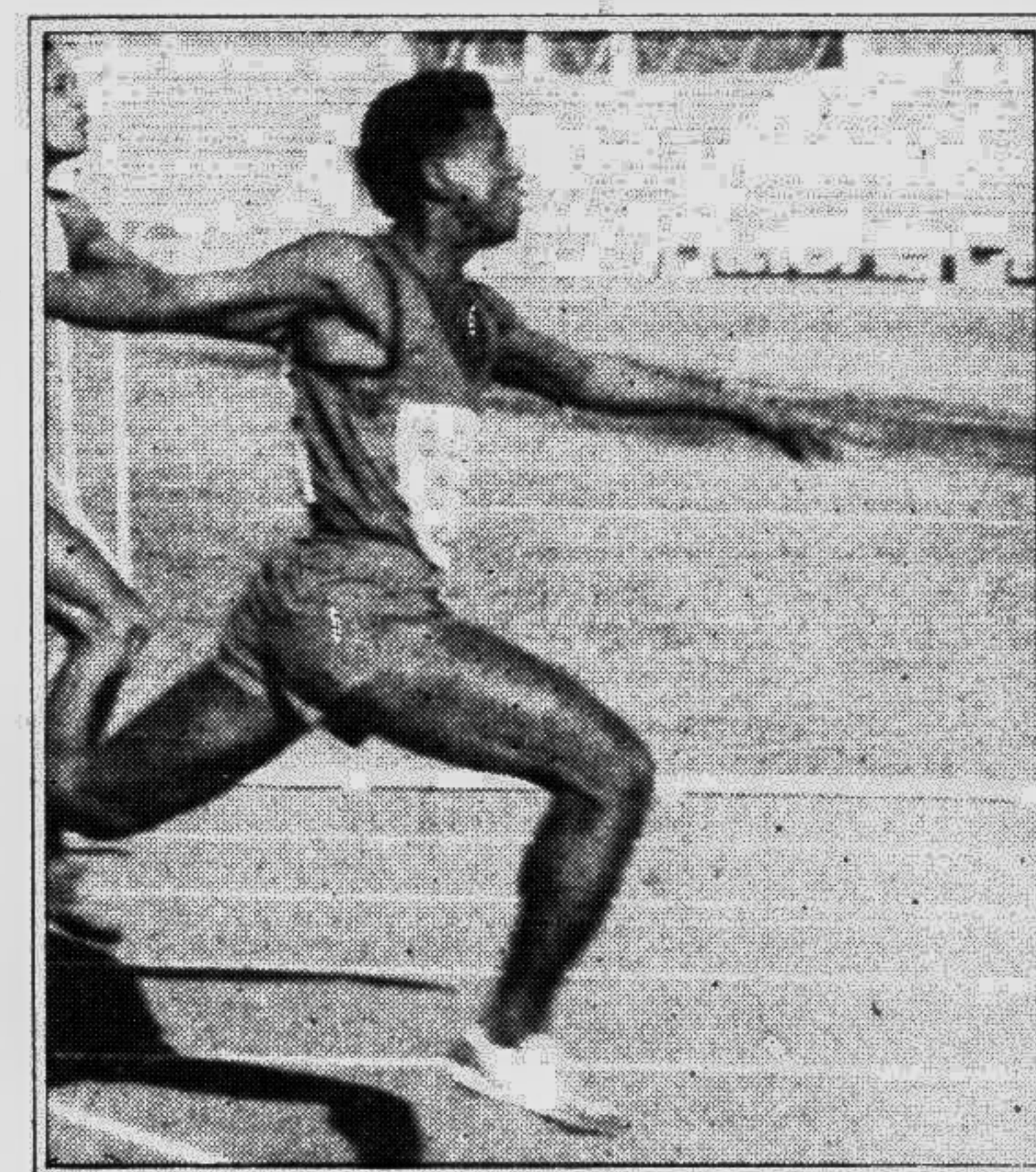
expressed their resentment against indecorous manners shown to the passengers by the drivers and their helpers.

The survey found out that 65 per cent of the city road accidents occurred due to recklessness of the drivers.

The survey revealed that 73.67 per cent of the road accidents were caused by the trucks and 15.55 per cent by the buses and minibuses.

Giving opinion on present rate of transport fare, 74.66 per cent See Page 12 Col 4

জুলে উঠলো ফুলিঙ্গের মত বাংলাদেশ



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বাংলাদেশের সর্বাধুনিক ডায়াগনস্টিক কমপ্লেক্স কমপ্যাথ লিমিটেড এর পক্ষ থেকে জানাচ্ছি আন্তরিক মোবারকবাদ। দেশের এই কৃতি সন্তান বিমল চন্দ্র তরফদার ও তাঁর পোষ্যদের জন্য রইল কমপ্যাথ লিমিটেড এর সম্মানসূচক আজীবন বিনামূল্যে রোগ নির্ণয়ের চিকিৎসা সেবা।

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