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NEWS BRIEFS

Seminar on 'Safe
Mother' today

A two-day national seminar on "Safe Motherhood" begins in the city today. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the seminar at the International Conference Centre (ICC) at 10:30 am. Executive Director of UN Population Fund Dr Nafis Sadik will be the special guest at the inaugural function of the seminar organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, reports UNB.

**Workshop on monetary
cooperation today**

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day workshop on "Payments and Monetary Co-operation in the South Asian Region" begins in the capital today. Organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the workshop will be inaugurated by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman. Some 16 participants from host country Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are taking part in the workshop to be held at the Sheraton Hotel.

**Young girl burnt
to death**

By Staff Correspondent

A 15-year-old girl was burned to death in a fire at a slum at Shalbari area under Pallabi Police Station yesterday morning. The victim, Begum daughter of one Ashraf Ali was sleeping when the fire originated from their kitchen gutted several houses. Police and local people extinguished the blaze. Police sources said goods worth about Tk ten thousand were destroyed.

**Housewife beaten
to death**

SIRJGANJ, Dec 2: A young housewife of Char Goja village in Ullapara thana died today of injuries allegedly sustained from beating by her husband and in-laws for dowry. Police and medical sources said Hafiza Khatun, 26, wife of Abdur Rashid of Char Goja, was admitted to the Sirjganj General Hospital in critical condition on Thursday night. She died at 9 am today, reports UNB.

BNP may not attend FBCCI-arranged meet

Star Report

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is unlikely to attend any meeting with the Opposition tomorrow at the office of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). BNP sources hinted yesterday.

"We are not ruining business by calling hartals frequently. The business community should tell them (opposition parties) not to go for frequent hartals," a senior minister and BNP leader told The Daily Star.

He also said "We are aware of the problems of the business community and appealing to the Opposition to shun the type of agitation which ham-

pers the economic activities."

The minister, who attended the meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on special affairs last night, said "The FBCCI issue was not even discussed by the party or at the meeting."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia chaired the meeting at her Tejgaon office. It was attended by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Irrigation Minister M Majid ul Haq and Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman.

The meeting was adjourned till today.

Meeting sources said the

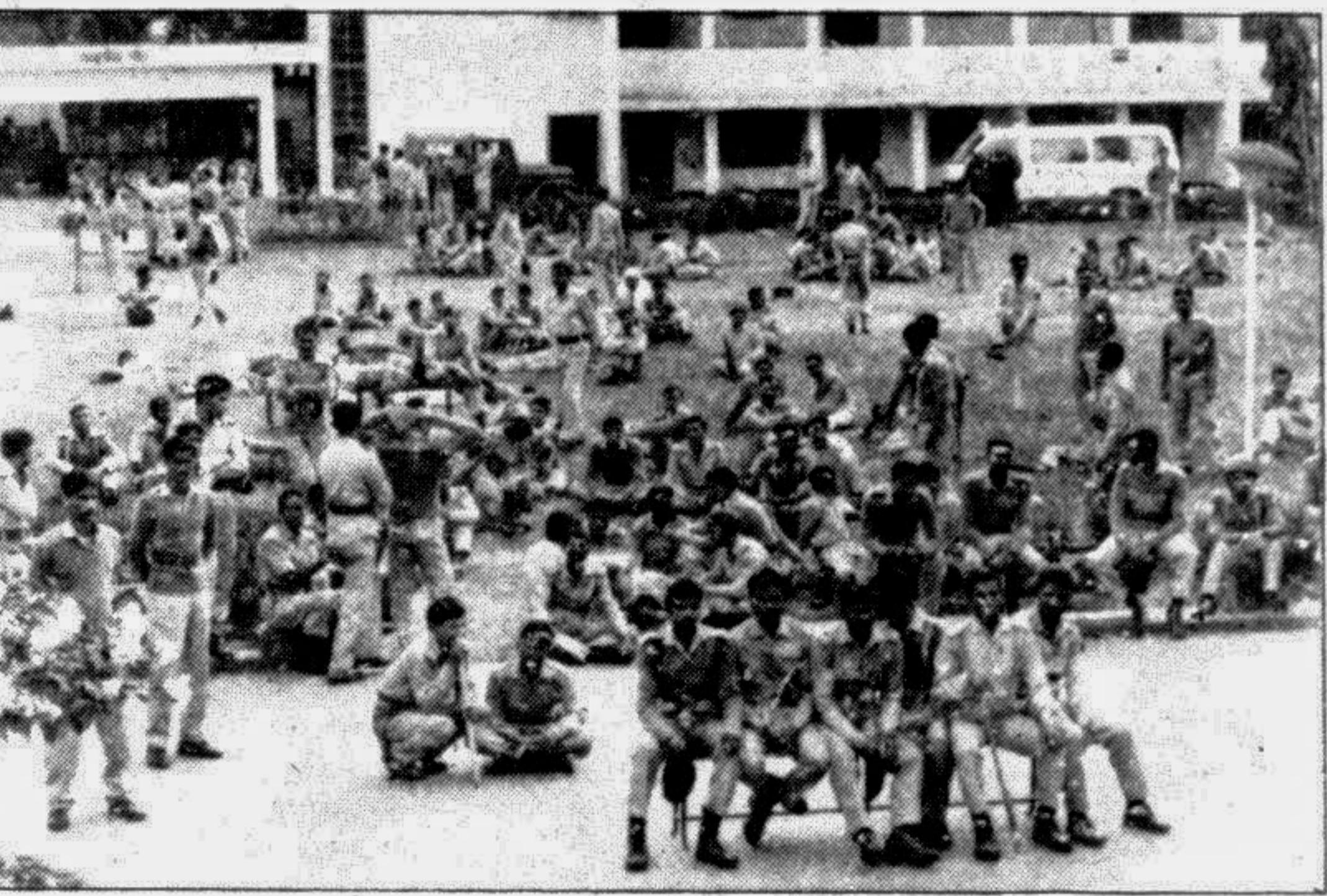
Cabinet sub committee discussed the latest situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Prime Minister held a separate meeting with high officials of the Home Ministry regarding the Ansars issue, the sources said.

The officials were scheduled to visit the Ansars Academy for negotiation following the meeting with the Prime Minister.

When contacted over telephone, BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder said they did not yet take any decision on attending a meeting called by the FBCCI. He declined to say whether or not they would attend the

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Ansars constables seen lounging in front of their Headquarters at Khilgaon in the city yesterday afternoon. — Star photo

Rockets hit Bosnian presidency bldg

SARAJEVO, Dec 2: Three anti-tank rockets hit the Bosnian presidency building in Sarajevo minutes before UN envoy Yasushi Akashi and peacekeeping commander General Sir Michael Rose arrived for talks today, report Reuters.

There were no casualties but one missile hit the office of parliament president Miro Zalovic, a Serb.

Information of the incident was given by a UN peacekeeping official.

The UN has blamed the Serbs would follow a meeting Thursday between Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and the UN commander for Bosnia, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose.

Akashi, on a mission to end detention of hundreds of peacekeepers and win freedom of movement for UN convoys, hoped to have more success with the Serbs than his boss, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali.

Boutros-Ghali was rebuffed

trying to meet with the Bosnian Serbs on Wednesday, and afterwards said intransigence by the warring sides in Bosnia might lead to the end of the

UN mission.

Akashi arrived this morning in Sarajevo for meetings with Bosnian government officials, and was to continue on to the Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale later in the day. He left the presidency briefly and the missiles hit the building just before he returned for meetings.

On Thursday, Serbs fired two anti-tank missiles at the Interior Ministry, wounding four people.

Akashi's talks with the Serbs would follow a meeting Thursday between Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and the UN commander for Bosnia, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose.

A UN source said Karadzic promised to try to help, but added that such promises often are empty.

Spokesman Thant Myint-U

said Akashi wanted to discuss fighting around the government enclave of Bihać with Karadzic, as well as an end to restrictions on the movement of UN troops.

The victim, Salim, received bomb splinter injuries and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Salim alleged that a group of toll collectors demanded money from his brother Mo-

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FFs clash in city : 7 injured, 3 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven disabled freedom fighters were injured in a clash between two groups at Mukti Joddha Kallan Trust office at Shalbari under Pallabi thana in the city at about 7:00 am yesterday.

The injured freedom fighters are — Idris Ali, 45, Abdulla, 45, Saifuddin, 45, Wazed, 24, Abdul Malek, 45, Hemayet Uddin, 56, and Mohammad Salayman, 45. They were given first aid at a hospital.

Sources said the freedom fighters clashed over the rehabilitation of the disabled freedom fighters. Police arrested three freedom fighters — So-

layman, Wazed and Hemayet.

Another report says, one person was injured when a group of extortionists exploded bombs in Chankharpur area yesterday evening.

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Int'l Day of Disabled today

The International Day of the

Disabled will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today with a call for ensuring their rights and equal participation in the society, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the eve of the day underscored the need for involving the disabled in the mainstream of national development.

"We are pledge-bound to make it easy for the disabled to enjoy the fruits of development," he said, adding that the disabled people are part and parcel of family and the society.

He urged the voluntary organisations to extend their whole-hearted support alongside the government efforts to ensure a better future for the disabled.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in another message stressed the need for taking a vow to make themselves self-reliant through united efforts of all.

She urged the affluent persons to come forward in aid of the disabled and the develop-

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Adhikary confident
of winning vote
of confidence

KATHMANDU, Dec 2: Ne-

pal's minority government is confident of winning the vote of confidence when Parliament meets in two weeks, the prime minister said Friday.

Dhamsona, which compared with Joydevpur and Savar, scored the highest since it is a flood-free zone but has less valuable agricultural land. On economic criteria and concurrence with trend, both Dhamsona and Savar scored the highest, said the report.

The evaluation report in the Structure Plan of the DMDP has been prepared recently to make a recommendation based on a consistent application of the same criteria to each location, though the judgement on each criterion is subjective. No weighing has been given to the criteria, though some are certainly more important than others, sources concerned pointed out.

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The main opposition Nepali

Congress (NC) also said it will not fail immediately.

AFP adds: The NC today

unanimously elected Sher Bahadur Deuba as its parliamentary leader after being toppled from power in polls two weeks ago, state-run radio announced.

Seven other NC members of

Parliament initially contested

the position. Including former

Prime Minister Girija Prasad

Koirala and NC President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, all but

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Ansars continue to agitate

By Farid Ahmed

Ansars sepoys agitating for increased pay and facilities who took control of their headquarters and barracks continued their protests for the second day yesterday.

The trouble broke out at the Shafipur Ansars Academy in Gazipur district around 11 in the morning Thursday spread to other districts.

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