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Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day



Nation recalls martyred intellectuals today

By Staff Correspondent

The nation today recalls with reverence the intellectuals of the country who were killed on this day by the collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War in 1971.

Days before the victory, the collaborators, known as the 'Razakars' and 'Al-Badr's', massacred the intellectuals as part of a conspiracy to cripple the emerging nation.

The Razakars and Al-Badr's, backed by the then pro-Pakistani Jamaat-e-Islami, picked up teachers, doctors, writers, journalists, poets and cultural activists who supported an independent Bangladesh for their homeland and killed them in groups at the marsh land in Rayer Bazar, Mirpur and other places on December 13, 14.

The decomposed bodies of the intellectuals were later discovered, while bodies of

Bangladeshi soldier hurt in Bihac dies

One of the five Bangladeshi soldiers injured on Monday in Bihac, succumbed to his injuries yesterday, BSS quoting ISPR said last night.

The Bangladeshi peacekeepers, including a junior commissioned officer were injured while a Bangladesh battalion (Banbat) armoured personnel carrier (APC) was fired on near the Valika Kladusa logistic base in Bihac.

The Banbat personnel injured in the incident are Risaldar Niranjan Kumar Bhounik, lance naik Md Anisur Rahman, Lance Naik Md Shafiqul Islam, sepoy Md Ismail Hossain and Sowar Md. Mahbubur Rahman.

All of them were immediately evacuated to hospital for proper medical treatment.

Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to bring back home the body of sepoy Md Ismail Hossain of East Bengal Regiment.

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Nepali parliament convenes today

KATHMANDU, Dec 13: Nepal's freshly elected Parliament convenes tomorrow amid furious efforts by the new minority Communist government to survive a looming vote of confidence, reports Reuters.

Members of Parliament gather for the first time since they were elected in general polls held on November 15.

The communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) party won a plurality of 88 seats in the 205-member House of Representatives, falling 15 seats short of an outright majority.

New Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikary, UML's leader, will need the support of either the Nepali Congress, which lost its three-year grip on power in the polls, or the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) to survive a mandatory vote of confidence, which must be held before the end of the month.

OIC summit opens in Casablanca

CASABLANCA, Dec 13: Leaders of Islamic countries began a summit meeting here today aimed at adopting a united stand on stopping Serb attacks against Muslims in Bosnia, reports AFP.

Kings, presidents, prime ministers and senior officials took their places inside the Moroccan Royal Palace for the Seventh Summit of the 51-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

They were to adopt more than 50 resolutions not only on Bosnia, but on other conflicts in Afghanistan, Kashmir and Somalia, as well as on a plan to combat Islamic militant groups.

Some heads of state held talks earlier today about the fighting in the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya although it was not on the agenda, an OIC official said.

requesting anonymity.

"The thinking here is that perhaps there will be contacts with Moscow," he said.

"Chechnya is part of Russia. But when a Muslim community is in difficulty, we seek mediation and try to calm things," he said.

An eight-page document calls for urgent action to help the Muslim-led government in Bosnia fend off advancing Serb forces.

It called for the 23,000-strong UN protection force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia to be increased and reinforced with heavy artillery.

OIC states have offered to commit more troops to UNPROFOR.

The document also called for an end to the international arms embargo on Bosnia.

A dispute between the PLO and Jordan over a resolution on the future of Jerusalem still had to be settled.

BSS adds: Bangladesh has played a very significant role at the pre-summit OIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting here in the formulation and adoption of the resolution on poverty alleviation to disaster affected countries and greater economic cooperation among OIC countries with a view to building an Islamic common market.

The meeting of the OIC foreign ministers yesterday also formulated and adopted resolution on food security among the OIC member countries and adopted the upgradation of ICTVTR into an Islamic Institute of technology.

Participating in the deliberations, Bangladesh Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman expressed Bangladesh's full support to Bosnia.

PM discusses Bosnia, other issues with two leaders

CASABLANCA, Dec 13: Three leaders of the Muslim world today underlined the need for taking up combined effective political decisions to help save the Bosnian Muslims from the persecution of the Serbs, reports BSS.

The three leaders — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Egyptian President Hosne Mubarak and Turkish President Solaiman Demirel — were holding bilateral meetings separately at the VVIP villa.

The three leaders, who came here to attend two-day seventh OIC conference, expressed identical views that joint action should be taken by the OIC countries to find out ways on how to help the Bosnian Muslims face the Serb aggression.

They also said that the OIC should take concrete steps to face the formidable challenges confronting the Islamic world.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating 'Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Avenue' at the centre of the Moroccan capital Rabat yesterday. The Governor of Rabat is seen on her left. — PID photo

Avenue in Rabat named after Zia

RABAT (Morocco), Dec 13: An avenue in the centre of the Moroccan capital of Rabat has been named after President Ziaur Rahman in a tribute to the late Bangladesh leader, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally opened the 700-metre long President Ziaur Rahman avenue here yesterday evening by unveiling a plaque.

President Ziaur Rahman had worked closely with King Hassan as a member of the Al-Quds Committee and contributed to strengthening the unity, solidarity and development of the Muslim world.

The Governor of Rabat and Sale, Ben Chems, other dignitaries of the Moroccan government and elite of the city were present during the formal naming ceremony.

Reciprocating the gesture of the Moroccan government Begum Zia said, a road will be named after King Mohammad V in Dhaka.

Boycotting MPs received Tk 2cr as salaries, etc.

By Nurul Kabir

The Opposition MPs boycotting Parliament sessions have so far received over Taka two crore as salaries and allowances during the period of their absence in the House since March last, Parliament Secretariat sources said.

Besides, while enjoying other benefits and entitlements as legislators, they have drawn large sums of money as allowances for attending parliamentary standing committee meetings during the first few months of the boycott of Jatiya Sangsad (JS) proceedings.

Meanwhile, the High Court in a judgement Sunday, said the receipt of the salaries, allowances and other benefits by the boycotting members for the period of their 'unauthorised absence' was 'illegal'. The court also said the salaries, allowances and other emoluments drawn by the boycotting MPs, without the leave of Parliament, was 'recoverable by the appropriate authority upon due process of the law'.

However, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Monday granted the Opposition appeal seeking a stay of operation of the High Court verdict until January 15 next year.

As many as 153 Opposition MPs remained absent during all the 66 sittings of present Parliament, spreading over five sessions, since March 1 this year. The Opposition has been boycotting the JS proceedings to press home its demand for holding next general elections under a non-partisan caretaker government.

However, of the 153 opposition MPs, three — HM Ershad of the Jatiya Party and Akhtaruzzaman Babu and Hemaet Ullah Auranga of the Awami League — had not been allowed by authorities to draw their salaries and allowances on legal grounds. The JP legislator, convicted by court, has

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DCCI against public meet in Motijheel

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) expressed concern over the holding of public meetings in the Motijheel commercial area by political parties, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, DCCI President A Rab Chowdhury said public meetings paralyse road communications, and business environment in the area, the hub of the country's economy.

He urged all political parties and organisations not to organise any rally and procession in the area in the interest of economic development of the country.

He also urged the Dhaka City Corporation authorities not to give permission of meetings and rallies in the commercial areas of the capital.

At the DSE Tuesday

DSE All Share Price Index	870.24664
Market capitalisation Tk	41890453234.90
Turnover in volume	83450.50
Turnover in value Tk	12267052.50
Total issues traded	68
Issues gained	23
Issues incurred losses	38
Issues unchanged	7

NEWS BRIEFS

President approves five more bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas gave assent to five bills passed by the just concluded 17th session of the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday. The bills are the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1994, the Electoral Rolls (Amendment) Bill, 1994, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1994, the Bangladesh Shishu Academy (Amendment) bill, 1994 and the Coast Guard Bill, 1994, reports BSS.

UNICEF Children Report tomorrow

UNICEF will release its State of the World's Children Report 1995 at a press briefing tomorrow. The report deals with the recent progress in health, nutrition, education and sanitation in developing countries around the world, reports UNB.

SWAPO sweeps Namibian polls

WINDHOEK, Dec 13: Namibia's ruling SWAPO party won the country's first post-independence election with 72.72 per cent of the vote, the South African Press Association (SAPA) reported today. SAPA quoted the chairman of the electoral commission, Judge Johan Strydom, as giving the figure. He said the main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance obtained 20.4 per cent in the poll held last Wednesday and Thursday, reports Reuters.

Retd govt employees lottery Dec 30

Draw of the Retired Government Employees' Welfare Society Pension Lottery will be held on December 30 at 9:30 am. The draw will take place at the association's Satmasjid Road office at Dhanmondi, reports UNB.

Russian gunships attack village near Grozny

GROZNY, Dec 13: Helicopter gunships and jets attacked a village outside the capital of the breakaway republic of Chechnya today. Stunned villagers wandered the streets, scattering when they heard an aircraft approach, reports AP.

"They're killing innocent people!" wailed Vera Cheborbayova, whose neighbour was carried away on a stretcher after being wounded by a rocket blast in the Russian helicopter assault on Pervomayskoye. Another woman was reported badly wounded.

Russian officials issued their first casualty report, saying nine servicemen were killed and 14 wounded since 40,000 Russian troops poured into Chechnya over the weekend to end its move to secede from the Russian Federation. There was no comparable report on Chechen losses.

Late today, a Russian armoured column halted its advance some 30 kilometres west of the Chechen capital.

Grozny when 500 peaceful demonstrators blocked them in the village of Dovidinko. One protester's sign read: "Russian Soldiers Stop — Don't Spill the Blood of the People."

A rising death toll could create more political problems for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is already facing opposition at home for his decision to dispatch soldiers to the region some 1,500 kilometres southeast of Moscow.

The State Duma or lower house of parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution criticising the government's efforts to resolve the crisis were "unsatisfactory." One of the few backers of military intervention was ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who said: "If you have gangrene, you have to amputate the limb."

But Moscow was not backing off. According to an ITAR-Tass news agency report citing a military source, Russian troops were ordered to seal off Grozny by the end of the day today.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev told reporters in Moscow that if Chechen units did not disarm, Russia "will be forced to use as much force as necessary to establish law and order," ITAR-Tass said.

Russian and Chechen delegates meeting for a second day in Vladikavkaz, just outside Chechnya, said both sides wanted an agreement but remained at odds over Russia's demand that Chechen forces put down their weapons. Chechnya insists Moscow withdraw its forces first.

The fact that the Russian and Chechen sides are at the negotiating table at all is positive, said Vyacheslav Mikhailov, leader of the Russian delegation.

The Chechen delegation leader, Taimaz Abubakarov, said late Tuesday he had no idea how long the talks would last.

Chechnya, a mostly Muslim

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AIDS in Bangladesh-III Possible impact 'undiagnosed'

By Masud Hasan Khan

What is the cost of AIDS treatment in Bangladesh? What would be the economic loss to families when their bread-earners die from AIDS? And what would be the economic impact of an AIDS epidemic on the nation? None can say for sure because there has been no study on these so far.

An AIDS consultant to Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), Edwin Arco, estimated that a Bangladeshi patient would have to spend Taka 16,00,000 (roughly US dollars 40,000) for his lifetime treatment.

The figure is 20,000 dollars less than the estimated cost of AIDS treatment in the western countries, considering less expensive treatment and medicine available in the country.

Health Ministry officials, pressed for an estimate, counted that roughly Taka one lakh (around 25,000 dollars) would be required for a Bangladeshi AIDS patient to treat his AIDS-related complications.

According to the EPI model of the World Health Organisation, between 1,47,000 and 7,03,000 Bangladeshis might contract HIV by the end of the century.

The difference in the two figures would vary depending on how urgently and effectively anti-AIDS programme gets started in the country.

Of the estimated patients, between 16 thousand and 62 thousand will have developed symptoms of AIDS or died from the disease, the model predicted.

This implies that Bangladesh would have to spend about Taka 1.6 billion if 16,000 people develop AIDS by the year 2000. And for the 62,000 people, total estimated expenditure would cross Taka 6.2 billion — 70 per cent of the current allocation for all activities in the country's health sector, according to an AIDS briefing document prepared for the Bangladesh media.

"Whatever be the cost of the treatment, our people will be unable to pay the money," said Shahnaz Ahmed of UNDP's HIV/AIDS Programme.

"Money or not, you have to have adequate facilities to treat these patients in the hospitals," she said, "...and we cannot afford a hospital exclusively for the AIDS patients — at least not now."

At present, there is no specialised treatment options for the patients except 10 beds reserved at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali in Dhaka.

Members of the National AIDS Committee (NAC), however, said that all the medical college hospitals in the country could treat the AIDS-related cases.

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AIDS : 3 doctors sued for wrong diagnosis

By Court Correspondent

A businessman, Habibur Rahman, yesterday sued three doctors alleging their wrong diagnosis that identified him as an AIDS patient.

Rahman lodged the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka, claiming Tk 12 lakh compensation for crippling him socially with the wrong diagnosis.

The doctors are Jahangir Alam, Managing Director of Dhaka General Hospital, Mostafizur Rahman, Managing Director of Popular Diagnostic Centre and Samir K Saha, Assistant Manager of the same diagnostic centre.

CMM Shahiduddin fixed January 12 for hearing of the case and ordered that the doctors be produced before the court.

The plaintiff, Rahman, claimed that the wrong diagnosis by the Popular Diagnostic Centre had damaged him socially and politically.

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