



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, along with senior party leaders, placing wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Bangladeshi cultural festival in Calcutta from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

An exhibition of contemporary art and photography will be held in Calcutta tomorrow, says a press release of the Shilpakala Academy.

A four member delegation left for Calcutta to attend the festival being held as part of a Bangladesh cultural festival in India.

The delegates are Subir Chowdhury, Director of the Fine Arts Department, Shilpa-

## 2 Moulvibazar JCD leaders shot

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 14: Two JCD leaders including VP of Moulvibazar Government College Students Union received bullet wounds and were admitted to the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The JCD Moulvibazar district unit says in a press release VP Mizanur Rahman who is also the organising secretary of the JCD district unit and another JCD leader Moulvibazar Rahman, while returning from the residence of district secretary of the BNP at Baharmordan village last night, were shot and injured seriously by some armed miscreants.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the district unit of the JCD held this afternoon took a decision to expel two JCD leaders from the party. They are said to be secretary of JCD, Mizanur Rahman Mizan and member Tajuddin Ahmed Tai. The meeting also decided to suspend the activities of its thana unit.

## Dhaka's call to OIC states

From Page 1 Col 5

ate and unconditional ceasefire and resolution of their differences through dialogue within the framework of accords.

Bangladesh, she said, also supports the initiative of the OIC Secretary General to protect the rights of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries.

Reiterating the consistent stand of Bangladesh on the issue of Jammu-Kashmir, the Prime Minister said simmering tension between India and Pakistan over this issue remains a cause of concern to all Bangladesh, she said, has repeatedly urged both the parties to exercise restraints and seek peaceful solution of the basic problem that underlies the present situation.

Begum Zia told the OIC summit that Bangladesh is committed to develop close and friendly relations with all her neighbours on the basis of justice, mutual benefit and respect for international law.

Referring to the objectives of launching the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), she said, as the current SAARC chairperson, Bangladesh shall sustain the momentum of SAARC not only to promote socio-economic goals but also to create a climate for broad-based confidence building.

On the issue of bilateral relationship of Bangladesh with immediate neighbours, she referred to enormous socio-economic and environmental burden imposed on Bangladesh by the exodus of 2,50,000 Myanmar refugees since 1991. Though the rate of repatriation has been slow, she hoped that it will pick up to enable more refugees return to Myanmar soon.

Dwelling on Bangladesh's relations with the largest neighbour India, the Prime Minister said, relations on the issue of return of Chakma refugees have shown some improvement.

She said the critical issue of

sharing of the Ganges water still remained unsolved.

The Prime Minister hoped that India would agree to a fair share of the common rivers including the Ganges.

She hoped that our common friends would recognise the seriousness of the situation and encourage efforts for an early and equitable solution.

The Prime Minister emphasised the need for further intensifying all round cooperation among the OIC countries, nearly half of whom are least developed countries (LDCs).

Begum Zia said the LDCs should receive special care and attention in the OIC plan of action.

Referring to complementarities in economies of OIC countries for mutually beneficial cooperation, the Prime Minister called for a concerted joint plan of action to help each other through investment in the commercially viable projects, a rationalisation of tariff structure and introduction of preferential trading arrangement among the OIC member countries.

She referred to attempts of anti-Islamic forces seeking to identify terrorism, fundamentalism and intolerance with Islam. She said endeavours should be made to make it clear to the world once again that Islam is the religion of enlightenment, peace, tolerance and moderation. The Prime Minister proposed that the OIC secretariat may urgently commission a special study by Islamic experts in order to present Islam to the world in its correct perspective.

Referring to acute financial difficulties being faced by the ICTVTR in Dhaka due to non-payment of mandatory contribution by member-states, Begum Zia urged member countries to make the centre financially viable.

Bangladesh, she said, has also submitted a proposal for the establishment of a centre for advanced medical training and research in Dhaka.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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## PM phones chief of Bangladeshi troops in Bihac

CASABLANCA, Dec 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today talked with the battalion commander of the Bangladesh contingent of the UN peacekeeping force at Bihac, Col Selim Aktar over telephone from here, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister enquired about the overall situation of the Bangladesh contingent in Bihac enclave of Bosnia. She also enquired about the treatments of the injured soldiers.

Meanwhile, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic today regretted and condemned the killing of one Bangladeshi soldier by the Serbs in Bihac. He made the condemnation when he called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia this morning at her VVIP villa here.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and President Alija Izetbegovic discussed the latest situation in Bosnia. Begum Zia told him that Bangladesh would continue to support the cause of the Bosnian Muslims and help them.

The Bosnian President appreciated the role of Bangladeshi troops in Bihac and thanked the Bangladesh Prime Minister for supporting the cause of Bosnian Muslims.

## Appeal to solve political crisis

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-nine noted citizens of the country in a joint statement yesterday appealed to the government and the Opposition to find a solution to the existing political crisis through discussions in line with their previous experiences in handling such situation.

"Any failure in doing so would definitely push the nation to a disaster," they warned and hoped the leading citizens of the country would be willing to help with their mature counsel should both the sides so desire.

Terming the present political situation as extremely critical they said, "We as conscious citizens are deeply worried and apprehensive at the trend of events. The present state of affairs poses a serious threat to democracy."

"Still we are inclined to believe that all chances have not yet been exhausted for saving the country from plunging into a disaster," they said and reminded the political leadership of their responsibilities.

Signatories to the statement include Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Prof Harunur Rashid, KAA Kamrudin, Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Yeazuddin Ahmed, KMA Munim, Barrister Mohammad Zahir, Ataus Samad, Dr Abul Ahmed Chowdhury Col (Retd) Masudul Hossain, Wing Commander (Retd) AMM Enayetullah, Ahmed Reza, Obayedul Haq and SM Nurul Alam.

## Chechnya pulls out of talks

GROZNY, Dec 14: Chechnya's defiant President angrily withdrew his delegates from peace talks with Moscow on Wednesday as Russian planes opened machine-gun fire on the region's capital and bombed its outskirts, reports AP.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev urged the people of his separatist republic to fight Russian soldiers to the death. "The soil must burn under their feet," Dudayev said on national television. "It's a war for life or death. The current Russian regime hasn't left any other options to the citizens of Chechnya."

Later Wednesday, five Russian SU-25 fighter planes made an air strike on the outskirts of Grozny and opened machine-gun fire on the center of the city, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.



Senior leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party laying wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Vow to realise martyrs' dreams

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and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina arrived at the Memorial, leading a procession of leaders and workers of the party, placed wreaths and offered prayers.

Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Johra Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed and Abdul Jalil were among the AL central leaders present there.

Jatiya Party leaders, Moudud Ahmed, Khaledur Rahman Tito, Shah Moazzem Hossain and others placed wreaths afterwards.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif, accompanied by different ward commissioners, placed wreaths.

Rashed Khan Menon, Nirmal Sen, Mujahidul Islam Selim, A F M Mahbubul Haq, Sharif Nurul Ambia and Bimal Barua and others of the Left Democratic Front also placed wreaths.

Wreaths were also placed by Bangladesh Ganatantri Party led by Ahmedul Kabir, JSD led by A S M Abdur Rab, Gano Forum led by Saifuddin Ahmed, Jatiya Janata Dal led by K Mobaydur Rahman, Gano Azadi League, National Awami Party, Jatiya Janata Party, Jatiya Muktiyoddha Party, Ganotrik Biplobi Jote and many other political parties.

The other organisations which placed wreaths included Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Bangabandhu Bidya Niketan, Bangabandhu Law College, Dhaka

Autori-ckshaw Sramik Union, Prajanma 71, Bangladesh Medical Association Jatiyatabadi Bastuhara Dal, Bangladesh Truck Drivers Union and Sramik Federation Amra Naba Prajanma, Doel Shishu Kishore Mela, Katha Natya Sampraday Samity, Muktiyoddha Super Market.

At the Dhaka University, a discussion meeting was held at the TSC auditorium with Vice-Chancellor, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair. The discussion was participated by, among others, DUTA president Prof Shahdat Ali, Prof Dr Abul Kalam Manzoor Morshed, Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman and Dr ATM Anisuzzaman.

The students, teachers and employees of the university brought out a silent procession on the campus at 6.45 am and paid tribute to the martyrs.

The DUTA held a discussion in the evening which called upon the government to uphold the true history of the nation since it was being 'distorted by different anti-independence forces'.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy held a discussion with its director General Mobarak Hossain Khan in the chair at the academy in the evening. It was followed by a cultural programme.

The Bangla Academy held a discussion at the academy premises with DG Prof Harunur-Rashid in the chair. The discussants highlighted supreme sacrifice of the intellectuals.

The National Museum in the morning brought together

at its premise some near and dear ones of the martyred intellectuals who gave an eye witnesses' account of the killings. The function was presided over by DG Md Moslem Ali.

The Sammilita Sangskritik Jote held a discussion at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the evening. It was presided over by Fayed Ahmed and participated by Ataus Samad, Asaduzzaman Nur, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yusuf and Golam Qudus. A cultural function followed it.

Discussion meeting was organised in the city by Sylhet division movement and development council, presided over by advocate Abed Raja.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong reports: Different political and socio-cultural organisations observed the day through various programmes including placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Rallies and discussions were also organised by different organisations.

In Rajshahi, people from all walks of life paid glowing tributes to the memory of the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Discussions, special prayers for the salvation of the martyrs' souls and cultural functions were the other highlights of the day.

In Khulna, most of the political parties and other organisations marked the day by visiting the graves of martyrs at Golamari and holding discussion meetings.

## Razzak

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nalised first. Nasim stressed that the chief of a caretaker government must be a neutral person acceptable to all parties.

Shaikh Razzak Ali, Abdus Salam Talukdar and Rashed Khan Menon were not available for comment.

A member of the Speaker's family told The Daily Star around 1 am "he phoned about an hour back and said he will be late."

Someone who received the phone call at Salam Talukdar's house said "he was not feeling well had gone to bed early around 9-30 pm."

None responded to phone call at Menon's house.

Nasim told The Daily Star that he had talks with the Speaker around noon (yesterday) and he explained the position of the combined opposition.

"I told him that the opposition parties accepted half of Sir Ninian's proposal — a combination of five from each side in the interim cabinet. But the chief of the cabinet must be a neutral person," Nasim said.

The Opposition Chief Whip said he urged the Speaker to persuade the ruling party to accept the demand before the 'deadline'.

The major opposition parties have given an ultimatum to the government to accept their demand by December 27 otherwise the opposition MPs would resign en masse on December 28.

## 5 hill students arrested

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Police arrested five Pahari Chhatra Parishad activists on charges of toll collections from trucks on the Khagrachhari-Chittagong road in Matiranga thana today, reports UNB.

## 29 Minto Road

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computers and fax machine from Minto Road to the Awami Foundation Office at Dhanmondi Road No. 6/A.

"It's useless staying in a government house when she and her party have decided to resign from Parliament," an aide said on condition of anonymity.

He indicated that Hasina might shift to the ground floor of her scientist-husband Dr Wazed Ali Mia's house at Dhanmondi Road No. 5.

## The Midnight File

### Pak parliament agrees to end Karachi violence

ISLAMABAD, Dec 14: Pakistan's ruling and opposition parties temporarily put aside their bitter squabbling today to agree on a concerted effort to try to end the violence in Karachi which has killed at least 93 people in two weeks. The National Assembly unanimously decided to set up a special committee to investigate the causes and propose remedies to solve the ethnic, sectarian and political violence in Pakistan's commercial capital, reports Reuters.

### EU parliament okays Uruguay Round trade accord

STRASBOURG, France, Dec 14: The European Union's assembly on Wednesday approved the Uruguay Round world trade agreement, removing another barrier to EU ratification of the 123-nation accord by a Jan 1 deadline. With a 325-62 vote and 12 abstentions, deputies in the 567-seat European Parliament approved the accord, which would lower barriers to global trade in manufactured goods, textiles and a host of other areas, reports AP.

## Country in deep crisis

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Rayer Bazar Killing Ground premises, where she went to pay tributes to the martyred intellectuals.

The Awami League President said the 11th Amendment was passed unilaterally in national interest to legitimise a neutral and non-partisan caretaker government. "Now why the Constitution will not be amended for national interest, necessity of the country and for establishment of people's voting rights?"

In this context, she mentioned that Zia brought the 5th Amendment to legalise his "illegal power and fulfil his personal interest." Justice Sarwar passed the 6th Amendment and Ershad passed the 7th Amendment to the Constitution.

"Still there is time... concede to the demand by December 27. Otherwise, the BNP and its leader Begum Zia will be responsible for any consequences," warned Hasina.

### BSF to withdraw camp from Nirmal

CHAR AREA SOON

RAJSHAH, Dec 14: A flag meeting at the battalion level between 57 BSF 20 Rifle Battalion, BDR, Rajshahi and 57 BSF Battalion Commandant, Murshidabad, India was held at no man's land of Polladanga, Godagari on Tuesday evening, reports BSS.

The meeting decided that the cash crop "kakai" in the disputed area will be harvested by the Bangladesh farmers. The BSF also agreed that the temporary camp set up by the Indian side in the area will be withdrawn shortly.

It was also decided that the present working boundary between the two sides will be maintained, at all cost for peace and tranquillity in the area.

The two sides also discussed cross border trafficking including narcotic smuggling and decided that each side will cooperate in this regard.

### Islamic activists start march from Ctg to Dhaka

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Thousands of Islamic fundamentalists today started their march for Dhaka from the port city to drum up support for establishing Islamic rule in the country, reports UNB.

The marchers first assembled at the Laldighi Maidan and after holding a meeting boarded on buses, trucks and cars from Pahartali at 2 pm.

### Earning target

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5.77 per cent lower than that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

Meanwhile, sources at the Commerce Ministry said a significant mismatch between its own records for garment exports and statistics being supplied by the Customs authorities had recently been revealed, causing unprecedented delay in routine compilation of export earnings.

They said record of the EPB and the US Customs showed the export figure in the first quarter of the current fiscal much higher than what has been supplied by the Chittagong Customs.

A group of EPB and Customs officials is now reexamining the figures, pending the routine compilation of monthly export performance. The EPB depends on Customs for data on exports.

### OIC vice chairman

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name of Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as the vice chairman of the Conference from the Asian group at the inaugural session of the Seventh Summit yesterday evening.

Yasser Arafat of PLO and President Kote of Guinea were also made vice chairmen of the Conference from Arab and African groups respectively.

The AL chief said politics of killing, coup and conspiracy was patronised with the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975. Following this trend in politics, the country was ruled by Ershad for nine years denying people's voting right.

In 1990, the Ershad regime was toppled and a neutral non-party caretaker government was set up. "But Begum Zia had entered into clandestine entente with Golam Azam before and after the elections to capture power destroying values and spirit of Liberation War," Hasina told her audience.

She also blamed Begum Zia's government for sacrificing the interest of Bangladesh by signing a treaty with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Paying tributes to the martyred intellectuals killed just before the victory of Liberation War, the Opposition leader called for taking fresh vow to restore the spirit of the Liberation War and ensure people's right to vote and food.

### Legality of ban

From Page 1 Col 3

Reuters. Muslim foreign ministers have submitted a resolution to their leaders questioning the legality of a UN arms embargo on Bosnia and hinting at unilateral action to lift the ban.

The 7th summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opened Tuesday with several leaders urging the international community to allow Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves against the militarily superior Serbs.

The Casablanca summit is totally united on the Bosnia issue. We speak with one voice and we will call for a strongly worded resolution calling for UN troops to remain and asking for the lifting of the arms embargo..." Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told Reuters in an interview.

Bhutto said that any western country participating in the UN protection force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia which did not approve of lifting the arms embargo while their troops were on the ground could leave and be replaced by Muslim peacekeepers from countries like Pakistan.

A special committee on Bosnia met before OIC leaders met in closed session at the moorish Royal Palace in Casablanca. A delegate said the committee agreed to renew an offer made by the OIC's contact group in Geneva earlier this month to send in more Muslim peacekeeping troops to Bosnia.

### More EPZs

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set up and operate export processing zones, industrial parks and other industrial facilities.

Dr. Barton said joint ventures with foreign companies for export processing zones can help attract investors. Subsidised loans should be avoided and broad-based financial sector reforms to enable businesses to have access to capital at internationally competitive rates are the key, he stressed.

Mahbub Jamil said red-tapism and mismanagement are the main barriers to development of the country.

### Foreign students

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sometimes they could not allot seats to fresh students due to shortage of rooms.

A number of foreign students also come to stay in this hostel as guests of the resident students. The number was increasing day by day, sources concerned said.

Fifty-eight rooms out of the 76 at the hostel have been allotted to the foreign students. Some teachers and officers of the university and their families are using the rest 18 rooms.

The foreign students studying in some other educational institutions — Dhaka Medical College, Dental College, BUET and IPGMR — also reside in this hostel. The hostel was established with assistance from the World University Services (WUS) for foreign students studying in Dhaka.