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# The Daily Star

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**At the DSE Thursday**

DSE All Share Price Index	844.10007
Market capitalization Tk.	486531581.18
Turnover in volume	71807
Turnover in value Tk.	13612944.00
Total issues traded	61
Issues gained	21
Issues incurred loss	33
Issues undistilled	3

**Holiday Notice**

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on the occasion of the Victory Day today. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Saturday).

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Hony commission on V-Day**

Sixteen Honorary Lieutenants and 22 Junior Commissioned Officers have been granted Honorary Commission in the rank of Honorary Captain and Honorary Lieutenant respectively in the active list of the Bangladesh Army with effect from December 16, 1994, according to an ISPR press release in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

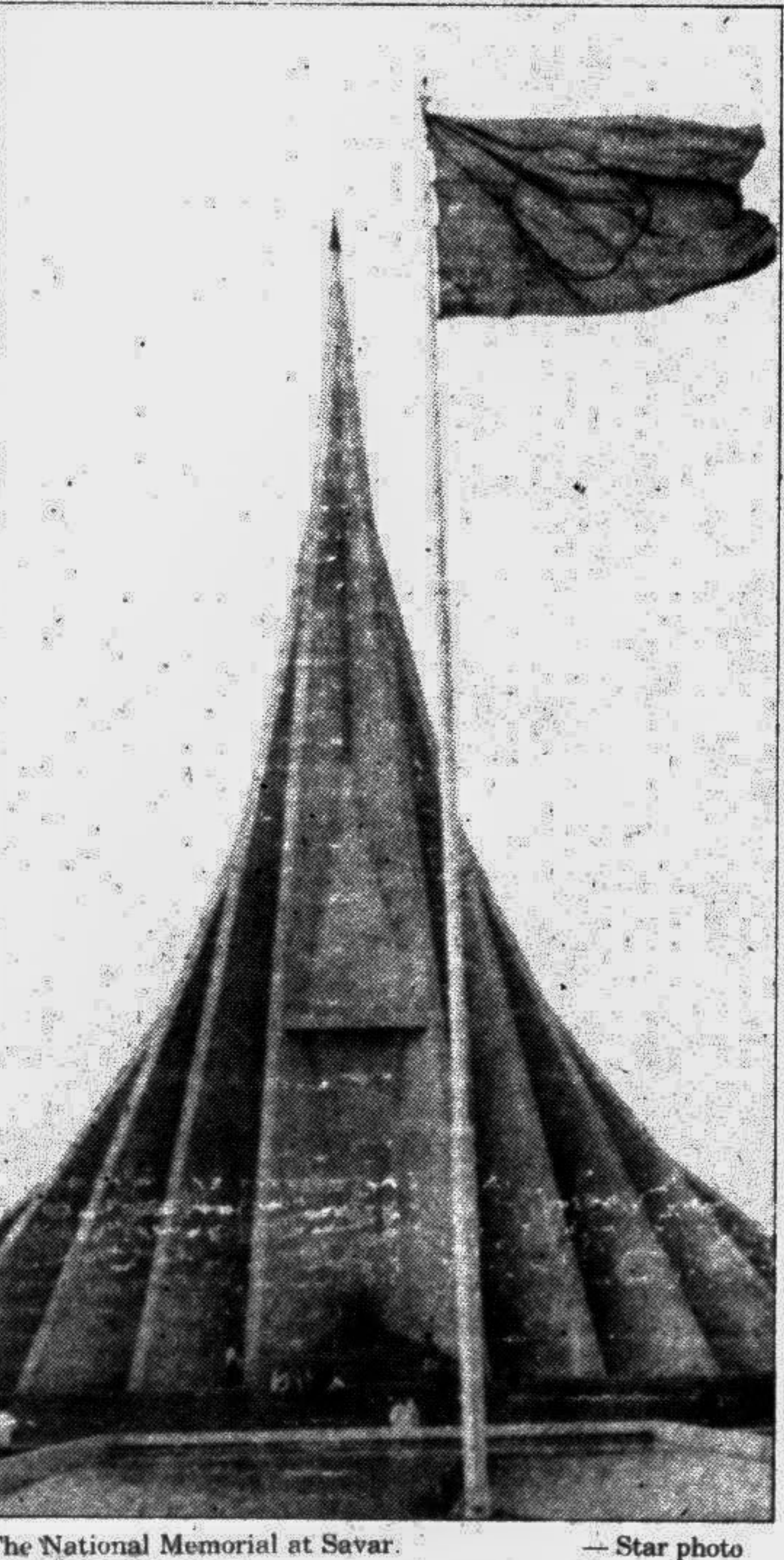
**Film on War of Liberation**

By Staff Correspondent  
 Aguner Parash Momi, a film based on the Liberation War written and directed by Humayan Ahmed is scheduled to be released in city cinema halls today. The film was made with government subsidy.

**96 to be released on Victory Day**

The government has issued order to release 96 imprisoned persons on the occasion of the Victory Day, reports BSS.

## Victory Day today



The National Memorial at Savar. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The nation celebrates the 24th Victory Day today with a renewed pledge to uphold the independence and sovereignty of the country and to translate into reality the ideals and spirit of the liberation war.

The supreme sacrifice of lakhs of shaheeds of the liberation war will be recalled on the day. The nation would vow afresh to materialise the dreams of the shaheeds and aspirations of the people for an exploitation-free and prosperous Bangladesh.

On this day in 1971, the occupation forces surrendered putting an end to colonial rule.

The formal instrument of surrender of the occupation forces was signed around 4 pm at the Ramna Race Course, now the Suhrawardy Udyan in the city.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message on the eve of the day, called upon all to renew the pledge for strengthening the national unity and integration to achieve the goals of independence.

He said the dreams of the martyrs were to build a prosperous Bangladesh. To transform their dreams into reality, he said, "We shall have to achieve economic self-reliance and build up a Bangladesh free from poverty and illiteracy."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a message, said the liberation war was aimed at establishing democracy and attaining socio-economic uplift. But that struggle has not come to an end, she added.

She underscored healthy democratic practices and values, honesty, sincerity and determination in consolidating the democratic process to lead the nation towards economic prosperity.

Leader of Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, in

### Unicef survey on Bangladesh Children growing shorter due to poor nutrition

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has one of the world's highest rates of iodine deficiency which causes cretinism and affects people physically and mentally. According to a UNICEF survey, seven out of every 10 people are affected by some degree of iodine deficiency.

The UNICEF report — The State of the World's Children 1995 — said children living in iodine deficient areas on an average have 10 IQ points less than those who are not iodine deficient.

While releasing the report to the press yesterday, Resident Representative of UNICEF in Dhaka Rolf C. Carriere said, unlike almost every other country, where children grew taller than their parents, Bangladesh today was unique in having a population which had actually grown shorter because of poor nutrition.

"By international standards, only 7 per cent of Bangladesh a

### 'Bangladesh can attain highest per capita income in three years'

Salman F Rahman yesterday stunned a businessmen's gathering by saying that Bangladesh could easily attain the highest per capita income in South Asia in only three years if political stability sets in, reports UNB.

The FBCCI President squarely blamed the politicians for spoiling the country's opportunity to develop fastest in the region.

"The country has all the potentials to develop excepting a congenial climate... I want to tell the politicians that if they allow us to do business uninterrupted, the country could achieve the highest per capita income in South Asia in three years," said the business community leader.

Expressing further optimism, the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) said stability would take the country to a development stage comparable to 1985, only two per cent

### Power sector: Tk 7300cr more needed to meet demand

The country needs about Taka 7,300 crore in the power generation sector to meet its additional demand of 2300 megawatt of electricity by the year 2000. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a seminar on "Power Sector Reforms and its Effect in National Economy" at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh (IEB), the energy minister said, "We have to increase our firm generation capacity to over 4000 megawatt from the existing firm capacity of about 1900 megawatt." The country has, however, installed production capacity of 2818 megawatt of electricity and its peak demand from 6 pm to 10 pm is about 1950 megawatt, he added.

With Arifur Rahman, president of the IEB, Dhaka centre in the chair, the inaugural session was also addressed by president of the IEB and Vice-Chancellor of BUET Dr Shah Jahan, Chairman of the DESA Amanul Islam Chowdhury, Chairman of REB Brig Enamul Hossain, Honorary Secretary of IEB Ibrahim Miah and

our country is now only 83 kilowatt per hour which is the lowest in the South East Asia. He informed that per capita power consumption in Sri Lanka was 196 kilowatt per hour in 1991, in India 303 kilowatt per hour (1990), in Pakistan 328 kilowatt per hour (1998) and in Thailand 758 kilowatt per hour (1990). He said only 14 to 16 per cent people are consuming electricity in our country.

Referring to the system loss in the power sector, Dr Mosharrar Hossain said combined system loss at present is 34.82 per cent which was 42.22 per cent in 1990. "We have reduced about eight per cent system loss saving the country Taka about 160 crore every year," he said adding that the present system loss is still alarming for the country because generation, transmission and distribution system loss should not be in any way over 25 per cent.

The energy minister referred to the power reforms package programme of the government and said it envisages to coordinate the efforts of the public sector and the endeavours of the private sector but not the privatisation.

### KAFCO starts trial production

By Staff Correspondent  
 The Karnaphuli Fertiliser Factory (KAFCO), the 450 million US dollar multinational joint venture, started trial production yesterday. A statement issued by the KAFCO office in the city yesterday.



A truck-load of furniture and household effects being carted away from Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina's official residence at 29, Minto Road in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Dhaka played a constructive role: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the 7th OIC summit in Morocco was highly successful as Bangladesh played a very constructive and effective role in it, reports UNB.

On her return from Casablanca last night, Begum Khaleda Zia said the summit called for a greater Islamic unity to face worldwide challenge and threat against Islam.

Bangladesh stressed the need for removing internal conflict to combat poverty and uphold the tradition of Islam.

Talking to the newsmen at the Zia International Airport, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh, at the summit, raised some important issues including adverse of Farakka on the economy, Myanmar refugees and suggested solution to the Jammu-Kashmir problem through

### Casablanca summit ends More NATO strikes on Serb positions demanded

CASABLANCA, Dec 15: Islamic leaders ending a summit here today called for more NATO airstrikes on Serb positions in Bosnia and a strengthened UN presence there, reports AFP.

Besides a tough and united stand on Bosnia, delegates said, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit approved for the first time a legal document aimed at curbing religious extremism.

Around 50 other resolutions were adopted on the image of Islam, Jerusalem, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kashmir, and the Israeli-Arab peace process at the summit, which ended with

### Dhaka to enjoy preferential trade access to EU

Bangladesh would for some time continue to enjoy preferential trade access to the European Community under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), reports BSS.

It was agreed at the 12th session of the European Union (EU) Bangladesh Joint Commission held in Dhaka Tuesday, a joint press release of the commission said yesterday.

It was further agreed that in view of the progressive reduction in tariffs and other trade barriers in world trade as a result of Uruguay Round negotiations, the current de-regulation policy and measures of the government are the best guarantee to ensure Bangladesh's long term competitiveness in the world markets.

Cooperation between the EU and Bangladesh was also agreed in order to prevent any further attempts to take undue advantages of the GSP and other trade privileges ex-

tended to Bangladesh. The session was chaired by A H Mofazzal Karim, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce who also led the 25-member Bangladesh delegation, Emillano Fossati, Director, Directorate-General for External Economic Relations, European Commission led the 16-member EU delegation which included representatives from the presidency of the council (Germany), the council secretary-general, the other member states and the European Commission.

UNB adds: Explaining its strategy for poverty alleviation, the government side argued that conventional approaches were not enough to deal with massive poverty in the SAARC region. It said delivery of services through government and NGOs would be ensured in order to achieve the target of eradicating hard-core poverty by the year 2002.

The need for functional autonomy of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU's) was discussed. Government side agreed to review further delegation of administrative and financial powers to project directors. The progress in EU assistance to the Bangladesh master plan for drug abuse control was discussed, and both sides agreed to enhance coordination in the implementation of the project. Progress in different projects under the EU complex scheme (Compensation for Export losses) for the tea and jute sectors was discussed and it was agreed that pace of project implementation would be geared up. The Joint Commission acknowledged the results achieved so far in economic cooperation including those under the ECIP (European Community Investment Partners) Cooperation, the EU's fourth framework programme was

### Furniture being shifted from Hasina's official residence

By Staff Correspondent  
 Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina who has reportedly decided to quit her official residence at 29 Minto Road yesterday shifted some furniture to the Dhanmondi residence of her scientist husband Dr Wazed Ali Mia.

A truck carrying furniture and some household effects left Minto Road for Dr Wazed's house at Dhanmondi Road No 5 yesterday afternoon.

Hasina had earlier decided not to avail of government facilities before resigning from Parliament to press for general election under a neutral and non-partisan caretaker government.

Sources say she could leave the house before December 28. See Page 5 Col 7

### Hasina a yet to reply to Emeka's message

By Staff Correspondent  
 Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is yet to reply to the message faxed to her by Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyawoku Friday regarding resumption of dialogue to end the persisting political impasse.

When contacted last night over telephone, Hasina's political adviser SA M S Kabir told The Daily Star that he could not prepare the draft of the reply due to his illness.

He, however, said the draft would be finalised by today (Friday) and is likely to be faxed to Emeka within a day or two.

Following the failure of the Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen's mission to

### Newborn's death: Probe body fails to submit report

By Staff Correspondent  
 The probe body concerning the tragic death of a just born baby, who reportedly died because of doctors' negligence of duty, failed to submit its report as was scheduled.

The four-member committee, headed by Joint Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry M Azizur Rahman, was given 48-hour to look into the incident and submit a report by noon yesterday.

Azizunnessa, 35, wife of night guard Rustam Ali of Jurain, gave birth to a baby late Saturday night at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The attending doctors declared the baby dead and sent it to the morgue issuing a death certificate. Miraculously, the baby was found alive in the morgue around 9 in the morning next day, and was again brought to the same hospital ward where it died later.

### 2 top Muktiyoddha Trust officials sued

By Court Correspondent  
 The Managing Director and an advisor of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust (MKT) were sued yesterday for 'defaming a section of freedom fighters'.

Khandkar Abdul Karim Jibon, member secretary of the Central Action Council of the MKT, filed the case with the Dhaka Magistrate against Brigadier (Retd) Mujibur Rahman and Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, Managing Director and an advisor of the MKT respectively.

Abdul Karim in his petition

### 4 pouro polls on Jan 22

The elections in the Chandpur, Sylhet, Barisal and Shidhanj purashabhas will be held on January 22 next, according to a press release of the Election Commission last night, reports BSS.

The Commission announced the scheduled of holding the elections through a gazette notification yesterday. According to the schedule, nomination papers will have to be submitted on December 26 to the returning officers, concerned scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on December 27 and the last date of withdrawal of nomination papers is January 2.