

সাদা সিমেন্ট, মোজাইক, সিংক ও পাডল  
আকর্ষণীয় ও কমমূল্যে  
সাদা সিমেন্ট, জাপান, মালয়েশিয়া  
মার্বেল চিপস, পাকিস্তান, চায়না, ভারত  
কিচেন সিলিং সিংক, পেন, সুইজারল্যান্ড  
সোসেম, পাডল, ইংল্যান্ড  
মার্বেল ও ব্রোকেন মার্বেল, পাকিস্তান ও মালয়েশিয়া  
মাস্টার, মাস্টার ও সার্বিস, মাস্টার ও সার্বিস  
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## At the DSE Saturday

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| DSE All Price Index      | 84,161.616    |
| Market capitalisation Tk | 4060850497.62 |
| Turnover in volume       | 30602         |
| Turnover in value        | 8757997.50    |
| Total issues traded      | 54            |
| Issues gained            | 20            |
| Issues incurred losses   | 25            |
| Issues unchanged         | 9             |

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Essential service period extended

The government has extended the essential service period of all categories of officers and employees of the Bangladesh Bank for another six months from December 14, according to an official hand-out here late Thursday night, reports BSS.

### Sec 144 in Nabiganj

**From Staff Correspondent**  
SYLHET, Dec 17: Section 144 was imposed in the thana headquarters of Nabiganj under Habiganj district from 2:30 pm today following a clash of students and people with the transport workers. At least forty people were injured in the clash took place over a road accident in which 20 persons were injured.

### Teacher's body found

**From Staff Correspondent**  
SYLHET, Dec 17: The body of Bishnu Prasad Acharya, an assistant teacher of the Mirpur Public High School of Jagannathpur thana under Sunamganj district was recovered from a graveyard of village Adua Thursday morning. Police sent the body to the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination. The body bore marks of injury. Police suspected it as murder. The victim hailing from Noakhali had been in the employment of the school for the last eight years.

### Jatiya Krishak Samity council today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The two-day central council of the Jatiya Krishak Samity will be held from today in Paksey under Iswardi thana in Pabna district. Some 20 thousand workers and supporters from 600 villages, 150 unions and 100 thanas are likely to participate in the council that begins at 2 pm today, says a press release.

### 500 FFs join AL

More than 500 freedom fighters and prominent persons led by AKM Jounal Abedin, BP, joined the Awami League yesterday. They met Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence and expressed allegiance to her leadership, reports UNB.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating Victory Day rally at the National Stadium in the city Friday. — Star photo

## Fanfare, fresh pledge on V-Day



Students of Bharateshwari Homes staging physical display at the National Stadium in the city Friday. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Fanfare and jubilation swept Bangladesh as the nation celebrated its 23rd Victory Day Friday.

Pledges were renewed on the day to complete the unfinished tasks of those who had made supreme sacrifice for liberating the country in 1971 and translate into reality the cherished dreams of the people of the country.

On December 16 in 1971, Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign nation on the global map, wresting independence after a nine-month liberation war with Pakistan.

The Pakistani occupation forces which tried in vain to suppress the inevitable birth of the nation surrendered on this day. The instrument of surrender was signed at the Ramna race course, now known as Suhrawardy Uddyan, in the city.

The programmes of the Victory Day began with a 31 gun-salute. The national flag was hoisted atop all private

and public buildings.

Apart from the government programmes, different political, social and cultural organisations observed the Day holding discussions, symposia, rallies, victory fairs, cultural functions, sessions of patriotic songs and book exhibitions projecting.

In the morning, thousands of people thronged the Jatiya Smiriti Soudha (national memorial at Savar) to pay their homage to the martyrs of the independence war.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas was the first to place wreath at the memorial. He stood there for sometime in solemn silence as the army band played requiem.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, accompanied by other ministers and senior party leaders, laid wreath at the memorial.

The Prime Minister, who is Chairperson of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party

## PM opens rally at stadium

## Smiles on faces of all children our objective

Children from across the country staged a colourful rally and enthralled thousands of spectators with dance and physical displays at the Dhaka National Stadium Friday marking the nation's 24th Victory Day celebration, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the rally by hoisting the national flag as a BDR band played the national anthem.

She released balloons and pigeons as fireworks exploded spreading colourful papers in the air amidst clapping and applause from the audience of the jam-packed stadium.

The Prime Minister reviewed the parade of a smartly turned out contingent of children and took salute.

Addressing the children,

Begum Zia said the Victory Day is a happy occasion for us, but our objectives will be achieved when we will be able to bring smile on the faces of all children and ensure their education.

She said the victory was achieved 23 years ago in 1971 through nine months of war in which a lot of sacrifices was made. Therefore, the Victory Day is a day of happiness and at the same time it is a day to show respect to those who laid down their lives for the independence of the country, she said.

The Prime Minister said the martyrs had dreamt of a happy, prosperous and poverty-free country which will ensure education and food for

See Page 12 Col 4

## Speakers parley for dialogue continues

Star Report

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali still continues his move for resumption of the Government. Opposition talks to resolve the persisting political impasse.

His efforts, however, could not yield any positive result until yesterday.

According to sources in the ruling BNP, the Speaker has already discussed his fresh move with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia after her return from Morocco and briefed her on the latest situation.

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon had a meeting with the Speaker Friday when they discussed in detail the possible ways of ending the deadlock. This was Menon's second meeting with the Speaker since Wednesday.

Sources concerned said that the Speaker was also supposed to hold talks with

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## Hasina may leave official residence by Dec 21

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is likely to vacate her official residence at 29 Minto Road before leaving on a three-day tour of Chittagong and Feni on December 21, informed sources said.

The Awami League Chief's shifting from the Minto Road house by that date is subject to completion of renovation of her scientist husband Dr. Wazed Ali Mia's Dhanmondi Road No. 5 residence where she would be living, they said.

The sources, however, confirmed that the AL leader would no longer live at the official residence after December 27, the deadline set by the Opposition for the gov-

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## Moni urges Khaleda, Hasina to hold talks

By Staff Correspondent

Nurul Islam Moni MP, in a statement yesterday, urged the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in parliament to sit at the negotiating table with an open mind to rid the country of the present "crisis and confrontation".

Moni's membership of the BNP had been suspended recently for issuing a press statement contradicting the party line on the caretaker government issue.

Welcoming Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali's move for a fresh

See Page 12 Col 6

## Doctor beaten up by colleague at Shishu Hospital

By DMCH Correspondent

A doctor attacked his colleague at the Shishu Hospital in the city Friday night.

Dr Enayet Hossain, a medical officer, who was the convener of the hospital's Victory Day Celebration Committee was reportedly beaten up by an honorary doctor of the hospital and his six to seven accomplices at 9 at night.

According to witnesses, the honorary doctor wanted to participate in a Victory Day games competition but Dr Enayet, as convener, did not

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## Death of newborn Probe report tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Medical College Hospital enquiry committee set up to probe the death of a newborn, reportedly due to negligence, will submit its report to the hospital director tomorrow.

According to an enquiry committee source, although the investigation ended last Thursday, the report could not be submitted as the director is on leave till Sunday.

Azimunnessa, 35, wife of a night guard Rustam Ali at Jurain, gave birth to the baby around midnight December 10 in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The attending doctors declared the baby dead and sent the body to the morgue after issuing a death certificate. Miraculously, the

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## Oil exploration by US co PSCs may be placed for approval Tuesday

By Sharier Khan

Two proposed Production-Sharing Contracts (PSC) with US oil company Occidental for exploring oil and gas in the Sylhet region are likely to be placed before the Cabinet Sub-Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs Tuesday for approval.

Previously, these PSCs were sent to a meeting of the Sub-Committee on November 11 last but those were not discussed.

## 2 accords with UK during Hurd's visit likely

Bangladesh and Britain are expected to sign two agreements on financing projects in communication and energy sectors during Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's forthcoming visit to Dhaka, diplomatic sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Douglas Hurd is due to arrive in the city January 3 on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

The visit will provide an opportunity to the two ministers to exchange views on the

See Page 12 Col 2

cussed because the meeting, chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, had to take important decisions on some other matters. Energy Ministry sources said.

The US company signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Bangladesh government in September 1992. But due to bureaucratic tangles and slow pace of negotiations between the two sides, October 11 finalised the contract.

The contract was signed in April last while the government counter-initiated those another two months later, on July 9. Occidental submitted two PSCs — one for exploration in Petrobangla's block No 12 and the other for Blocks 13 and 14. Block 12 covers some areas of Netrokona district and adjacent Sylhet while Blocks 13 and 14 cover the rest of the greater Sylhet region.

Besides, representative of another American company — Rexwood Oakland arrived in the city to negotiate with the government on gas and oil exploration, sources concerned said.

Meanwhile, the much awaited seismic and gravity survey to locate gas and oil re-

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## DU teachers firm to hold exams as students call strike today

By DU Correspondent

A group of final year Honours and Masters degree students of Dhaka University has called a day-long strike on the campus today to press home their demand of shifting examination dates.

The Honours and Masters final examinations are scheduled to begin on January 14.

The protesting students damaged window panes of the office and some class rooms at

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## 2 JCD leaders arrested

Police yesterday arrested two leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) allegedly for looting quilts from a shop at Nilkhet in the city and seized a pistol from them, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Rafiqul Hasan Bipu, President of JCD's Zahurul Haq Hall unit and Sheikh Shahidul Islam Shahid, General Secretary of S M Hall unit.

Shopkeepers of the area caught them when they were leaving with the quilts they had snatched from the shop at about 9 pm.

Police seized the pistol along with three rounds of bullet from

## SAARC chamber meet in Kathmandu today

South Asian business leaders will sit in the second executive committee meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) beginning in Kathmandu from today to draw up plans for promoting intra-regional trade, reports UNB.

A five-member Bangladesh delegation left for the Nepalese capital Friday night to attend the two-day moot which is expected to endorse a SCCI programme for the promotion of trade among the member countries.

The delegation is led by former FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman who is Vice-President of the SAARC Chamber. Other team members are Latifur Rahman, Alhaj Muhammad Akram Hussain, ATM

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## Carter due in Bosnia today on fresh peace mission

SARAJEVO, Dec 17: Bosnian Serbs allowed a UN plane carrying what sources said was an advance team for former US President Jimmy Carter to land at Sarajevo's airport on Saturday, reports AP.

Carter, invited by the Serbs to negotiate a new initiative to end the 2 1/2-year war, is expected to arrive in Zagreb, Croatia tomorrow and then travel to Bosnia, diplomatic sources and government officials in Zagreb said.

Three civilians got off the plane, the first to land at the airport in nearly a month, but said nothing before leaving in a US Embassy car. Sources at the airport said it was an advance team for Carter.

Bosnian Serb leaders, trying to encourage Carter to come to Bosnia and mediate a new peace mission, promised on Thursday that they would allow the airport to reopen. A second plane arrived later.

Jozo Curic, spokesman for Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, said Tudjman expected to meet Carter on Sunday.

The arrival of the two planes represented a very limited success because Bosnian Serbs were insisting on new conditions for resuming the vital humanitarian airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital.

Two planes were expected Saturday at the Sarajevo airport.

As the first plane landed, violence in the besieged Bosnian capital continued. Witnesses said a woman who was walking with her young son in the city was shot and killed, apparently by a sniper.

Three flights schedule to land Saturday had been cancelled because the United Nations had not received clearances from the Bosnian Serbs, but apparently clearance was

later given.

Sources in Sarajevo, requesting anonymity, said the airlift operation has now undergone a subtle but significant change, with the United Nations asking for Serb clearance of each flight.

Reuters adds: The United Nations today postponed an attempt to reopen Sarajevo Airport for the first time for almost a month when Bosnian Serbs refused clearance they had promised for two military test flights, a UN spokesman said.

"Bosnian Serb authorities will not provide clearance for our two aircraft due to land at Sarajevo this afternoon," spokesman Thant Myint-U told Reuters.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Wednesday issued what he called a peace proposal including the restoration of movement for UN personnel and reopening of Sarajevo Airport.

"We had hoped it would go all right. But it seems the Serbs had now gone back on their promise," Myint-U said.

"It is just another indication that there is no real improvement for the freedom of UN movement despite their (Serb) recent and public promises."

No UN flights were planned until further notice, he added.

## Gunshots at White House again

WASHINGTON, Dec 17: Gunshots were fired at the White House this morning and at least one round landed on the ground near the rear of the building, President Clinton was asleep upstairs at the time and "was never in any danger," reports AP.

Agents said the incident occurred about 2:05 am and that witnesses reported hearing four to six shots fired from

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina leading a party procession in the city to mark the Victory Day Friday. — Star photo