



Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and senior party leaders placing wreath at the National Memorial at Savar Friday. — Star photo

## 10 killed, 30 hurt in 2 road accidents

Ten people were killed and 30 injured in two separate accidents across the country in two days, report agencies.

On Thursday night, six people were killed and 10 injured when a Khulna-bound night coach hit a truck parked at Tepra bus stand in Shibabala on Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Witnesses said the coach 'Diganta' hit the on-load truck which stopped at the spot for repair works on its way to Dhaka.

Onion traders Jahar Ali, 26, his brother Fazul Haq 32, and their brother-in-law Bazlu, 25, of Chardiar village in Daulatpur thana of Kushtia district and Fakir Ali Mandol, 50, of the same area, who were travelling to Dhaka by the truck, died on the spot.

Two passengers of the coach were killed in the accident. One of them were identified as, Syed Zafar, 24, of Ghorstand road in Kotwali thana of Barisal district. Identity of another victim aged about 60 could not be known. The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Pongu Hospital and Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Police seized the bus and the truck, but the coach driver escaped. The bodies were sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue.

## Death of newborn

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A baby was found alive in the morgue the next morning. The baby was again brought to the hospital where the baby died Monday morning.

Following the incident, the DMCH authorities and the Health and Family Welfare Ministry formed two enquiry committees but they are yet to file their report.

According to a source, the probe body formed by the ministry failed to submit its report Thursday due to 'personal reasons' of the director of the DMCH who is also a member of the committee.

A Joint Secretary of the Ministry, M Azizur Rahman told The Daily Star, "We've done our job. Now it is just a matter of compiling and submitting the report."

## White House

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The grassy Ellipse behind the White House. No suspect was in custody and no one was injured, agents said.

The one bullet that has been recovered landed on the ground "near the South Portico of the White House," said Secret Service spokesman Eric Harnischfeger.

"It doesn't appear to have impacted the building as it ran out of gas before it got there," said Secret Service spokesman Carl Meyer.

## Doctor beaten

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allow him on the ground that the was not a hospital staff.

Later, the honorary doctor, along with his accomplices, allegedly went to the hospital quarters by a microbus, called Dr Enayet out of his flat, took him to a nearby playground and beat him up mercilessly.

When the attackers tried to take the unconscious body of Dr Enayet to the microbus, some employees of the Shishu Hospital drove them away. Dr Enayet was later taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In protest, the doctors and employees of the Shishu Hospital yesterday observed a two-hour strike.

The doctors concerned could not be contacted for their comments.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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## Hasina firm to pull down govt

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed her determination to pull down what she called autocratic government and secure the people's right to vote and food through agitation, reports UNB.

"Without agitation right to vote and food will not be established... We will realise the people's demand for polls under a caretaker government at any cost," Hasina told a discussion meeting at her party office premises in the afternoon.

Dhaka city AL President and Mayor Mohammad Hanif presided over the meeting, organised in celebration of the Victory Day.

Hasina said a caretaker government was sought for ensuring peaceful transfer of power through ballot. "But free and impartial voting will not be ensured until one gives up the fascination for the chair."

## Sepoy Ismail's janaza held

The namaz-e-janaza of the late Sepoy Md Ismail Hossain was held at the Dhaka Cantonment Central mosque in the city yesterday, reports BSS. His body was brought back home from Zagreb Friday.

## Clinton shocked

UNB adds: President Clinton has expressed deep shock at the killing of a Bangladeshi soldier at Bihac in Bosnia-Herzegovina in Serbian attack.

## Speaker

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Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad yesterday. But, Awami League sources did not confirm holding of any such meeting between them. Both Shaikh Razzak Ali and Abdus Samad Azad were not available for comment.

When contacted, Rashed Khan Menon confirmed his meeting with the Speaker and said that he reiterated Left Front's stand on holding elections under a caretaker government headed by the President. The Speaker, however, proposed again resumption of talks from where the Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen ended.

Meanwhile, the draft of Sheikh Hasina's reply to the fax message of Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku has been prepared and is likely to be despatched soon, AL sources said last night.

"It was mentioned in the reply that the Opposition is ready to resume talks only if the ruling party accepts the concept of caretaker government and agrees to amend the Constitution accordingly," said the sources.

## Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8

ernment to accept its demand for national polls under a non-party caretaker administration. The Opposition parties had already announced they would resign from Parliament on December 28 if the demand was not accepted.

Earlier, on Thursday, Hasina started sending her furniture and household effects from the Minto Road house to the Dhanmondi house.

Hasina's move to quit the official residence is reportedly part of her decision not to avail of government facilities after resigning from Parliament.

## Oil exploration

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serves in the Bay of Bengal near Cox's Bazar-Sandwip by the Cairn Plc of Scotland and the Holland Sea Search of the Netherlands may begin by the end of this month.

Some preliminary studies by these foreign companies have already started and they have received clearance for bringing survey ships and necessary equipment, a Petro-bangla source said.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and senior party leaders laying wreath at the National Memorial at Savar Friday. — Star photo

## Fanfare, fresh pledge on V-Day

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(BNP), also placed wreath at the mazar of party founder late president Ziaur Rahman at Zia Uddyan in the capital.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina along with her party colleagues placed wreath at the memorial.

She also garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his Dhanmondi residence.

One of the day's attraction was a colourful children's rally at the national stadium in Dhaka. Begum Zia, witnessed the rally and took salute.

The day was a public holiday.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put up special programmes while national dailies brought out special supplements highlighting the significance of the Day.

Tens of thousands of people came out on the streets to take part in the Victory Day celebrations as processions, beating drums and waving colourful banners, placards and festoons paraded the streets.

The capital wore a festive look with the main streets and traffic islands decorated with the national flags.

Colourful gates were erected in different parts of the city while important public buildings were illuminated in the evening.

Improved diet was served at the hospitals, jails, orphanages and children's homes.

Special prayers were offered at all the places of worship seeking divine blessings for the continued peace and progress of the country.

Army, Navy and Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles, Police and Ansar-VDP played bands at important places in the capital while naval vessels remained open to members of the public on the day at Sadarghat, Chittagong, Narayanganj and Barisal IATA terminal.

Chowdhury and Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Mohammad Abu Solaiman Chowdhury.

Another report from Bogra adds: Begum Zia Saturday asked the students to take education as their main mission to prepare themselves for future leadership of the nation.

"There is no other way than education to face the global competition in knowledge, science, literature and culture," she told them.

The Prime Minister was addressing a function arranged on the occasion of awarding Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Memorial Scholarship 1994 to meritorious students of Bogra district.

Some 60 top students, who passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination this year, received the scholarship — cash and a crest — from the Prime Minister.

## Nepal's communist

govt loses

Speaker's seat

KATHMANDU, Dec 17: The Nepali Congress (NC) party today won the influential Speaker's seat in parliament with a clear majority over the ruling Communist Party's candidate, parliamentary sources said, reports AFP.

## DSE transactions decline

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Market capitalisation during that week also fell from Tk 4,240 crore at the opening of the week to Tk 4,065 crore on Thursday last and it stood at Tk 4,060.86 crore at the end of trading yesterday.

DSE officials said that the present decline was a temporary phenomenon and attributed the slow pace of transactions to the availability of a large volume of primary shares in the market and also to the usual slowdown during the year end.

"The transactions usually remain low during the end of the year, when the investors remain comparatively less active as they have to balance their books," said one DSE broker. "The market will continue to remain weak upto the first week of January."

Presently, there are three primary issues in the market with shares worth Tk 24 crore, which are perhaps pulling some of the investors away from the secondary market, he added.

The three primary issues are: Square Pharmaceuticals with shares worth Tk 18 crore, Maq Paper Industries Tk three crore and central insurance with shares of Tk three crore.

Market operators pointed out that another reason the market remained dull is the absence of any foreign institutional investors over the past week or so.

The market capitalisation at the DSE crossed the one billion US dollar threshold earlier on November 19, buoyed by some 170 million dollars in foreign investments during the past year. On November 30, the market capitalisation stood at Tk 4,296 crore while the share price index was at a high of 892.45.

SAARC chamber

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Wajidullah and AKM Shamsuddin who are also members of the regional trade body's executive committee.

The SCCI meeting will be followed by a regional seminar on SAPTA which is the last of a series of seminars on the same subject.

Delegates from other SAARC countries — India, Pakistan, host Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan — will take part in the seminar and the executive committee meeting.

In all cinema halls, documentary films were screened for the children to mark the Day.

BNP and Awami League brought out separate processions in the city.

In the evening, President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Hosne Ara Biswas hosted a reception at the Bangabhaban.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, ministers, MPs, political leaders, diplomats, judges, lawyers, freedom fighters, chiefs of the three services, high civil and military officials and elite of the city were present.

Reports of observance of the Victory Day in a befitting manner were also received from Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Jessore, Pabna, Bogra, Tangail, Patuakhali, and other districts.

## V-Day programmes cancelled in Khalishpur

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 17: All Victory Day programmes were cancelled at Khalishpur Industrial belt in protest against the killing of Shajahan Sarder, 23, a casual worker of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills in an armed clash on Thursday midnight.

According to police, the fierce clash began on Thursday night between two groups of PJJM workers in which hand bombs and machetes were used indiscriminately killing Shajahan Ali and injuring five others.

## Moni

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dialogue Moni said, "It will be a matter of pride for the nation if the Speaker's efforts result in resolution of the present deadlock". He also requested all Members of Parliament to cooperate with the Speaker in his initiative which, he said, might bring the two top leaders together for talks.

Moni criticised the Commonwealth envoy's involvement in domestic political issues and said, "Let's prove we ourselves can resolve our problems".

## DU teachers

From Page 1 Col 4

the Arts Faculty building yesterday morning, according to eye witnesses.

The students brought out a procession on the campus yesterday morning to protest the decision of the university authorities and chanted slogans saying that examinations could not be held during the Ramadan.

The students also demanded that incense examinations of some departments were yet to be completed.

The university authorities in a press release yesterday said that the examinations will begin as per schedule.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Enajuddin Ahmed met the Deans, Chairmen and senior teachers of different departments to discuss the matter yesterday.

But the authorities have planned to change some timings of the examinations scheduled for the month of Ramadan.

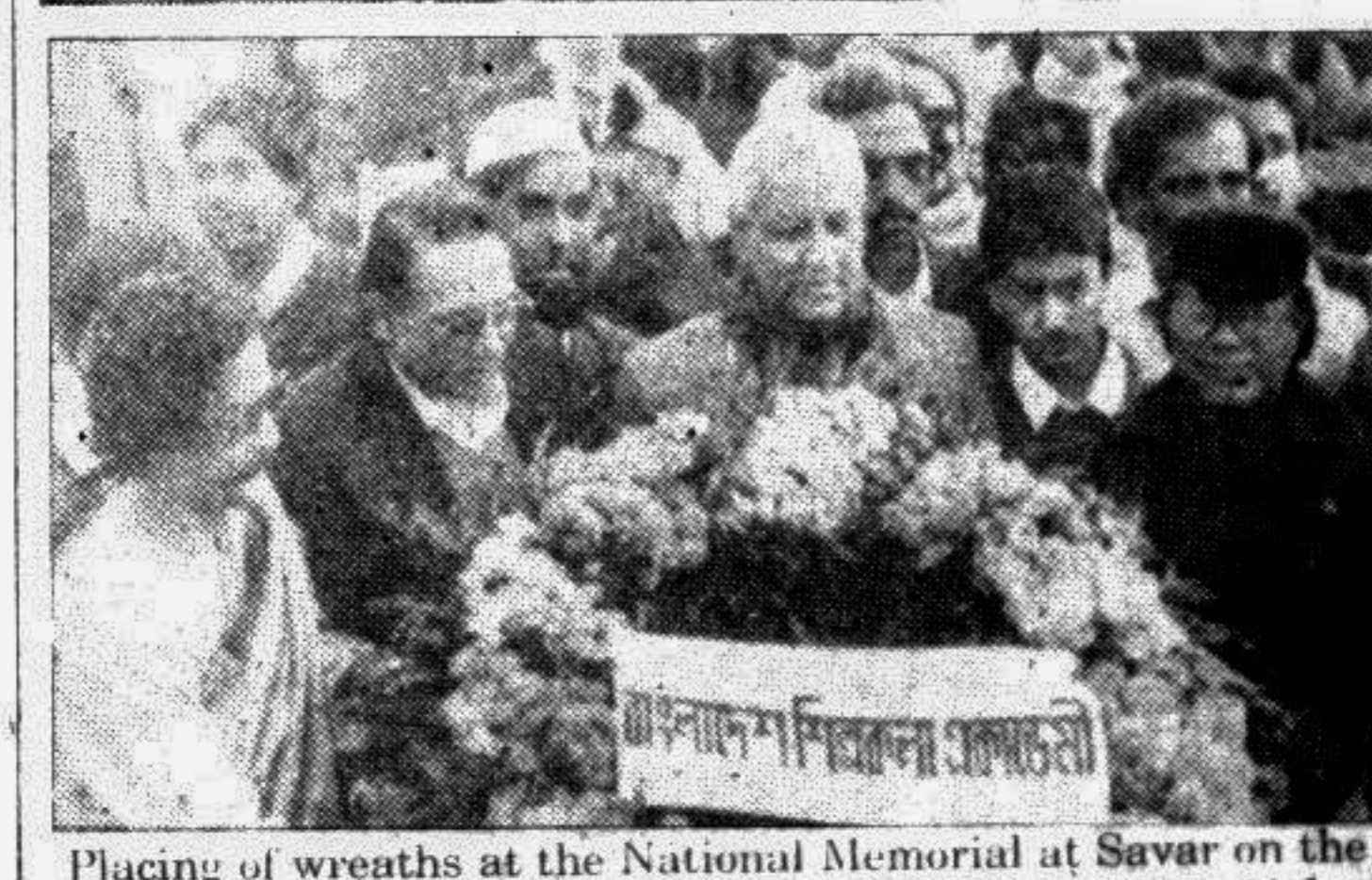
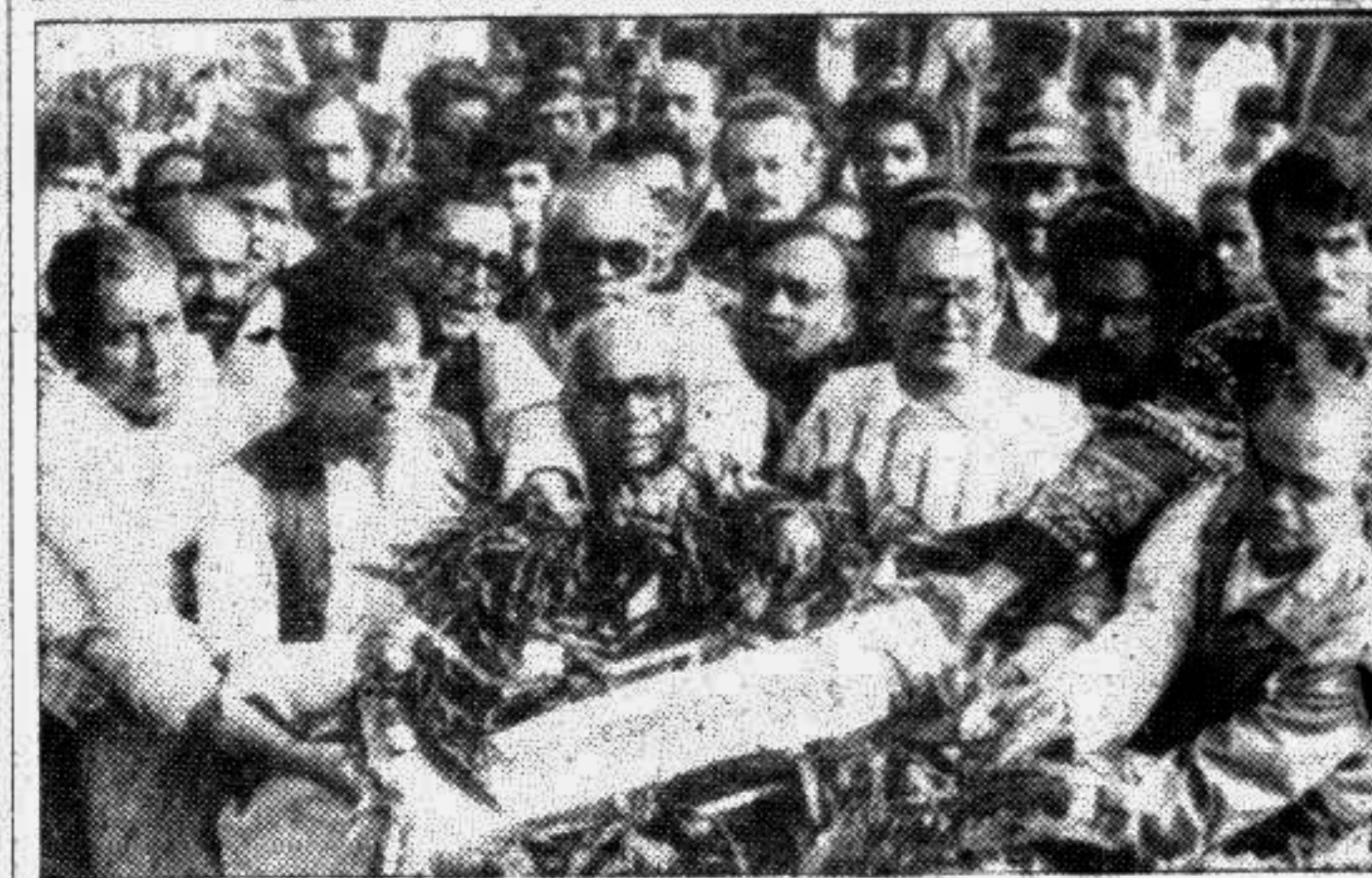
UNB adds: A welcome move, on the other hand, came from the Honours and Masters examinees of Mass Communication and Journalism Department. They submitted an application to their Chairman demanding that the examinations be held as per schedule.

"We don't want our academic life to be lengthened and our future spoilt being stuck up in session jam," said one of them after submitting the petition yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, the students at a rally at the TSC roadcrossing criticised the university authorities.



Placing of wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar on the occasion of Victory Day Friday: (From top) President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Dhaka University Sector Commanders of the Liberation War, Bangla Academy, Jatiya Party, Left Democratic Front and the Shilpakala Academy. — Star photos



A colourful Victory Day procession by the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Friday. — Star photo