



VOL. IV NO. 328 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

POUSH 9, 1401 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY DECEMBER 23, 1994

RAJAB 18, 1415 HIJRI

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM 861985

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

SC Prefers Not to Soil its Hands

Column: Between The Lines by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

International

Russian jets pound Grozny in heaviest bombardment yet

North Korea returns US pilot's body
Page 5

Business

Quasem Drycells makes Tk 39.42m profit, announces 17.5 per cent dividend
Page 6

Weekend Magazine

Megacity Dhaka: What Life Beholds; Amsterdam: A City Coming to Life by Night; PEN Mightier than the Sword; Distant Drum; Asian Diary; Creations Both for Gallery and Home; Viewing Video Pages 9-12

Rising Stars

Their Happiness; Footpaths In The Air; Let Us Build the Country As Per Their Dreams; The Ghost Plane
Page 16

Teens and Twenties

Guiding the Guitar Freaks; Dhaka City Under the Lime Light; They are Human Beings Not Human Targets
Page 15

Supplement

Special supplement on the Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan
Pages 13, 14

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A New Breed of Hawkers
Page 3

STOCK MARKET
DSE Index 845.85 (-0.03%)
Market capitalisation Tk 40.71 billion
Turnover in volume 14,902
Turnover in value Tk 2.37 million

NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas, Khaleda greet Akhito

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted Emperor Akihito of Japan on the occasion of his birthday today.

Anjuman's function today

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate a function marking the completion of the 50th Hijri year of the Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam at the Germany Memorial auditorium today. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain will attend the function as special guests, reports Star.

Opposition leaders charge at news briefing

PM has launched an 'undeclared war'

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament yesterday alleged that ruling party Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had launched an 'undeclared war' against them by making aggressive comments at this crucial moment.

The ruling BNP has chosen the path of confrontation. The Prime Minister has announced an undeclared war against the opposition parties instead of settling the present crisis amicably," Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim told a press briefing at Parliament building.

Nasim said that the language the Prime Minister used in her speech in a meeting on Wednesday clearly indicated that the government has decided to suppress the present movement through repression and confrontation.

"The opposition parties are ready to face the challenge thrown by the BNP," Nasim added.

Before briefing newsmen, the major opposition parties held a closed-door meeting with their parliamentary deputy leader Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

Senior leaders of the parties were present at the

meeting.

Nasim said, a four-member committee has been formed to draft a framework to hand over power to the caretaker government. The opposition Deputy Leader will head the committee with Moudud Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Maulana Abdus Sobhan as its members.

The committee will submit the draft framework at the next meeting of the combined Opposition scheduled for tomorrow.

The framework and a package of fresh action programmes would be announced at a public rally to be held at the Manila Mia Avenue on December 28.

He said that a letter has been sent from the Opposition requesting Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali to remain present at his office on December 28 to receive the resignation letters from the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

If the Speaker is not present at his office, several thousand people led by the Leader of the Opposition would march towards his residence to submit the resignation letters.

Nasim reiterated the Opposition's decision that the

Opposition members would resign en masse from parliament on December 28 if the ruling party failed to accept the demand for a caretaker government to supervise several future general elections.

All opposition members have been asked to remain present at a meeting to be held on December 27 evening at the Sangsas Bhaban.

The committee will submit the draft framework at the next meeting of the combined Opposition scheduled for tomorrow.

"We hoped that the elected Prime Minister would continue for another year to complete her full five-year term. But it is evident that she is interested to head a three-month government instead of completing her remaining year," Nasim added.

He said the opposition parties demand the provision for interim caretaker governments to make future general elections free and fair.

"We are going to make history. We are sacrificing our membership to establish an institution to make the national elections free and fair."

Earlier, the BNP Secretary General avoided a group of journalists who thronged his official Minto Road residence from midnight last night.

Pakistan wicketkeeper Rifaqat Ali about to take a catch off the bowling of Mohsin Kamal during the SAARC cricket tournament opener at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Hosts Bangladesh lost by the barest of margins. India play Sri Lanka today. **Details on Page 10**—Star photo

BNP leaders meet late into the night

By Staff Correspondent

Senior leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) held a lengthy meeting last night with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The meeting, held at the Cantonment residence of Begum Zia, discussed the political crisis and possible consequences of the threatened mass resignation by the Opposition MPs.

Details of the meeting, which continued till past midnight, were not available.

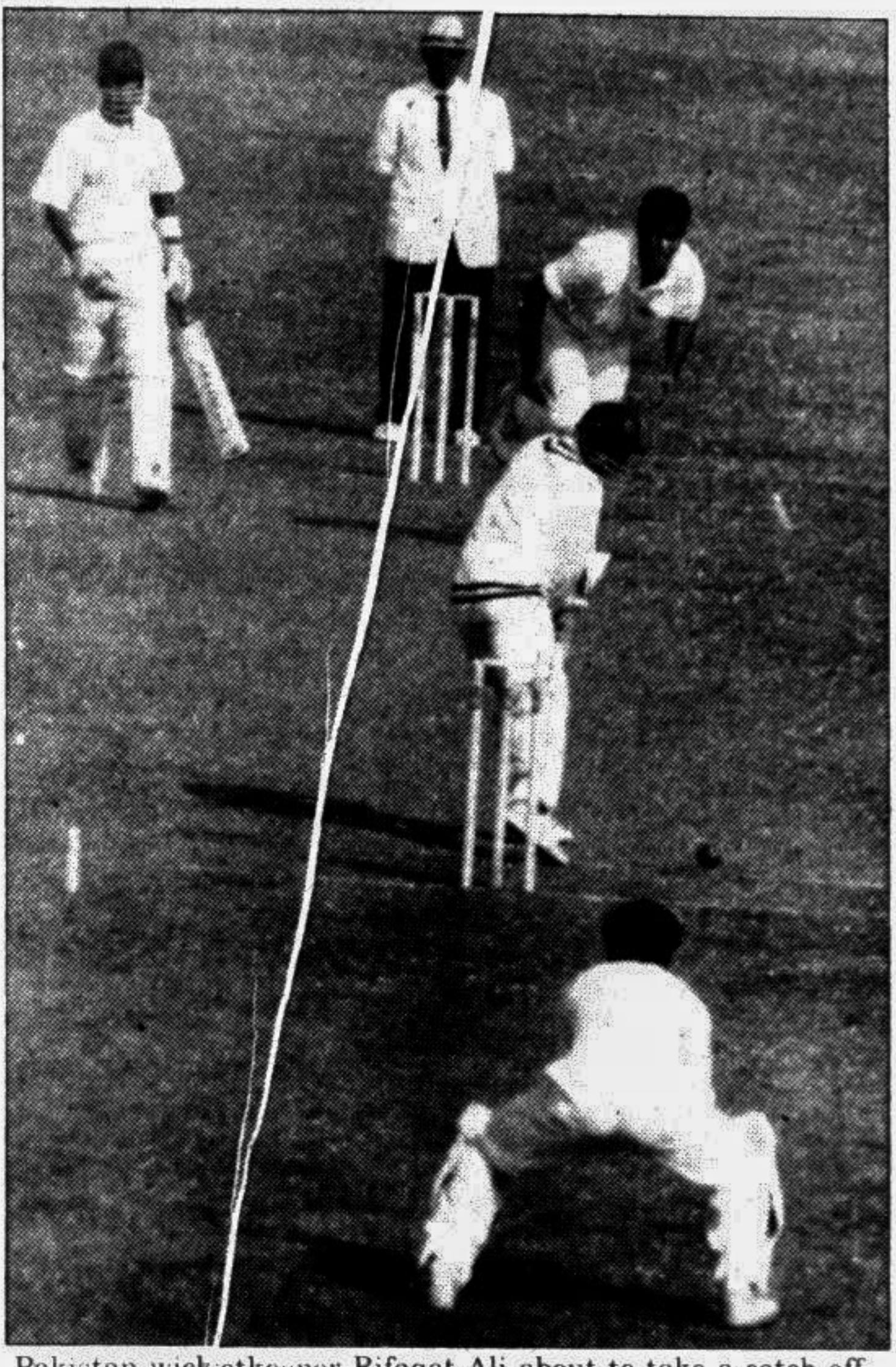
BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder declined to comment about the subjects of discussion by saying that "We have discussed a different matter which has no real news value."

"We have already made our position clear and the solution is not with us anymore," he told a reporter over telephone.

He said that it was a meeting of the 15-member party standing committee but Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali was also invited to attend the meeting.

Speaker Razzak Ali is reported to have undertaken a personal initiative to resolve the present political impasse.

Earlier, the BNP Secretary General avoided a group of journalists who thronged his official Minto Road residence from midnight last night.



Task force for tackling effects of droughts

The government will constitute a task force with the experts to determine action programmes for tackling the recurring drought problem, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in an interministerial meeting held at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday with Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M Majid-ul Haq in the chair.

The minister suggested that recommendations of the task force be made keeping in view the environmental and socio-economic aspects.

The task force is to submit its report to the government by January 15 next.

The meeting discussed the extent of damages due to drought in the northern region and ways and means to solve the problem.

According to experts, drought is the result of the Farakka Barrage. All rivers, river channels, haors, ponds and ditches of 16 northern districts become dry every year due to withdrawal of water at Farakka.

Consequently, trees are being destroyed, rainfall is decreasing and the level of ground water is going down. Production of foodgrains is also being hampered due to the drought.

While laying emphasis on adoption and implementation of an integrated plan to face the drought, the agriculture

See Page 8 Col 8

Blue panel wins DUTA elections

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Blue panel won the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) elections yesterday by securing nine out of 15 executive committee posts including those of the President and General Secretary.

Prof A T M Zakurul Huq of Economics Department and Prof S M Imamul Huq of Soil Science Department have been elected President and General Secretary respectively. Both are from the Blue panel.

Two other panels — White and Pink — shared the rest six executive body posts.

Three panels, Awami League leaning Blue, BNP and Jamaat leaning White and Left leaning Pink, participated in the DUTA polls held at the University Teachers' Club from 10 am to 2 pm. A total of 837 votes, out of nearly 1100, were cast.

Begum Zia alleged, the opposition agitation is designed

See Page 8 Col 3

Blue panel wins JUTA polls

By JU Correspondent

The entire panel nominated by Prof Khondakar Mustahidur Rahman swept the Jahangirpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) election yesterday.

The voting took place at the Teachers' Club from 9 am to 1 pm with Prof Sikandar Dara Shamsuddin as the returning officer.

Two panels contested the election to the 11-member JUTA executive committee. One panel was led by Prof Khondakar Mustahidur Rahman, the former president of the FBUTA and JUTA and the other was jointly led by Prof Mesba Us Salehin and Afzal Ahmed.

Professor Enamul Huq Khan of the History Department and AKM Shahneez, assistant professor of Archaeology, have been elected president and general secretary respectively. Prof Enamul Huq Khan, former president of the FBUTA, bagged 120 votes while the other con-

testant Prof Tajul Islam of

See Page 8 Col 5

One-point agitation after Dec 28: Hasina

san caretaker government.

The desire of the Prime Minister for sticking to power is pushing the country towards confrontation. The lust for power cannot do anything good to the country, said Hasina.

"We want to stop playing ducks and drakes with the voting right of the people," said Hasina, who, on the concluding day of her two-day mass-contact tour of the southern parts of the country, returned from Sandwip by a speed boat and also addressed some ten roadside gatherings on way to Feni.

Pointing out the reported comment of Prime Minister about running Parliament after resignation of the opposition MPs, Hasina reminded that in parliamentary democracy prime minister is not elected

See Page 8 Col 5

See Page 8 Col 5

Mustahid's panel sweeps JUTA polls

By JU Correspondent

The entire panel nominated by Prof Khondakar Mustahidur Rahman swept the Jahangirpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) election yesterday.

The voting took place at the Teachers' Club from 9 am to 1 pm with Prof Sikandar Dara Shamsuddin as the returning officer.

Three persons were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the rest were released after first aid.

The condition of Humayun Kabir (Milton), a second year student, was stated to be critical. He received injury in his left leg.

See Page 8 Col 4

3 Indian ministers quit over scandals

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 22: A three-member enquiry committee has been formed by the authorities of the MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital here to enquire into the incident in which surgeons kept a scissor inside the belly of a patient while performing an operation recently.

Editorial on page 4

The incident was detected yesterday and the committee was formed today.

Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Head of the Department of Surgery, heads the committee. The other members are: Dr Quamruzzaman, Head of the Department of Radiology and Dr Matin-ur-Rashid, Head of the Department of Pathology.

The seemingly endless infusion of money fuelled a price spiral and attracted hundreds of thousands of investors. When the irregularities were detected in April 1993, the market crashed and bankrupted the investors.

Food Minister Kalpanath Rai was widely blamed for the sharp rise in prices of sugar when he botched a 800 million dollar sugar import last year.

Health Minister B Shankaranand and Deputy Finance Minister Rameshwar Thakur were blamed by a committee of lawmakers for the 1.7 billion dollar financial scandal.

See Page 8 Col 4



Adhikary wins vote of confidence

KATHMANDU, Dec 22: The government of Nepal's communist Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikary won a parliamentary vote of confidence today. The Speaker of the House of Representatives said, reports Reuter.

An overwhelming total of 198 deputies voted in favour of Adhikary's three-and-a-half-week-old government.

No lawmakers voted against the motion and three deputies were absent.

"I hereby declare that the proposal put up by Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikary seeking the confidence of the house has been passed by the House of Representatives," Speaker Ram Chandra Poudel said after the vote.

Adhikary's communist United Marxist-Leninist (UML) Party controls 88 seats in the chamber and needed the support of the opposition to win the vote of confidence.

Addressing a huge public meeting at the Feni Pilot School ground, the Awami League President said her current agitation was to ensure people's right to vote and food and election of an accountable government through a free and fair election under a non-parti-

One-point agitation after Dec 28: Hasina

san caretaker government.

The desire of the Prime Minister for sticking to power is pushing the country towards confrontation. The lust for power cannot do anything good to the country, said Hasina.

"We want to stop playing ducks and drakes with the voting right of the people," said Hasina, who, on the concluding day of her two-day mass-contact tour of the southern parts of the country, returned from Sandwip by a speed boat and also addressed some ten roadside gatherings on way to Feni.

Pointing out the reported comment of Prime Minister about running Parliament after resignation of the opposition MPs, Hasina reminded that in parliamentary democracy prime minister is not elected

See Page 8 Col 5

Mustahid's panel sweeps JUTA polls

By JU Correspondent

The entire panel nominated by Prof Khondakar Mustahidur Rahman swept the Jahangirpur University Teachers' Association (JUT