

## Inside Today

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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Opposition parties meet today

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition parties in Parliament will be holding a series of meetings today, a day ahead of their planned resignation.

The parliamentary groups of three Opposition parties, the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami, are scheduled to sit separately at 4 pm at the Sangsab Bhaban.

Later, at 6 pm, a combined meeting of the Opposition parties will be held at the Sangsab Bhaban premises where all the MPs will be present.

At 11 am today, an extended meeting of the Awami League's executive committee will be held at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue with Awami League president and leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

#### Sec 144 imposed

Section-144 has been imposed within 200 yards of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute and Tejgaon Women's College to ensure fair holding of Diploma Engineering examinations yesterday. The restriction on gathering of more than four people in the areas was imposed by the DMP Commissioner and will remain in force until the examination is over, said a DMP press release, reports UNB.

#### 87 fundamentalists jailed in Turkey

ANKARA, Dec 26: The state security court today sentenced 87 Muslim fundamentalists, accused of carrying out a massacre, to prison sentences ranging from three to 15 years. The court also acquitted 37 other people tried in connection with the burning alive of 37 people in Sivas last year. The court rejected prosecution demands for death sentences against 29 of the 124 defendants, judging them for homicide rather than "crimes against the state," reports AFP.



TEARS OF JOY: Man-of-the-match Aminul Islam Bulbul (second from right) rides on a wave of ecstatic emotion minutes after Bangladesh pulled off an unforgettable one-run victory over India in yesterday's SAARC cricket tournament encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Cricketers do us proud

Sports Reporter

The penultimate ball with the second string Indian national team stranded a run short of Bangladesh's 172 collected earlier in the day.

Cricket became the converging point of diverse affiliations and opinions of a country caught in a welter of political chaos as thousands of spectators — the biggest attendance of the meet so far — flooded the ground to hug and have the feel of their heroes who displayed exemplary team spirit to register the first victory against India in any competition at the international level.

From *sajda* to hysterical sobbing and dancing in the background of streaming, uncountable national flags made the ground look like a moving microscope.

Although the memorable victory, which almost powered

**Scoreboard and other details on Pages 10, 11.**

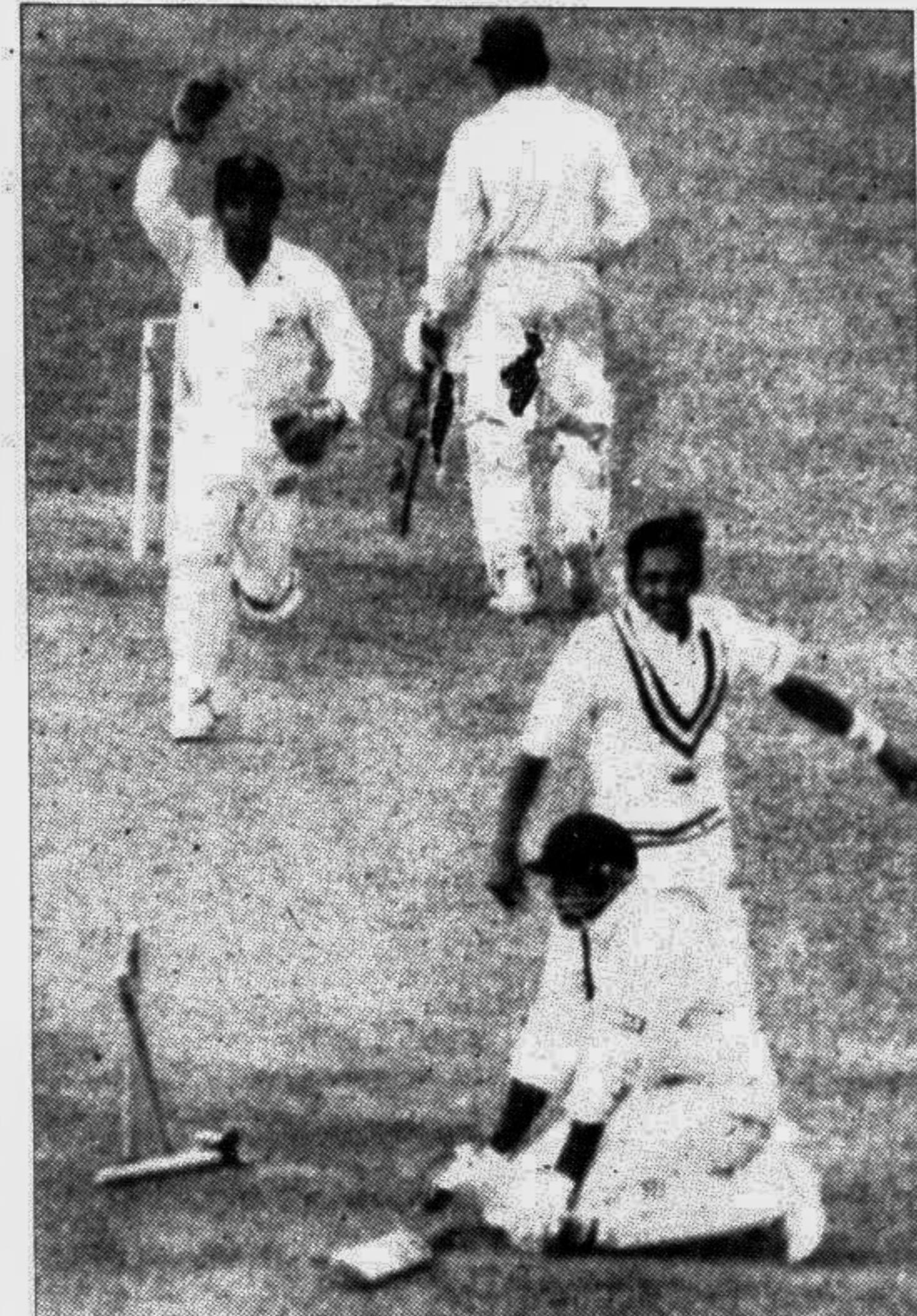
Bangladesh to the final of the four-nation meet to design yet another battle with the tournament favourites India in the final on December 29 was a team effort than anything else, man-of-the-match Aminul Islam, medium-pacer Anisur Rahman and skipper Akram

Khan produced something they would love to live with for the rest of their lives.

The dark and dapper Aminul Islam, better known as Bulbul, got the topscore of the tournament so far. His 64 off 120 balls embellished with four boundaries was the mainstay of Bangladesh's innings once the Indian captain, Test discard Praveen Amre opted to field first after winning the toss.

Left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman, who so unluckily missed the attention of the selectors for the ICC Trophy

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Dishevelled wickets, a dejected Prashant Vaidya and delighted Anisur Rahman and Jahangir Alam say it all. The fall of India's seventh wicket in yesterday's SAARC cricket tournament encounter against hosts Bangladesh at the Dhaka Stadium. Bangladesh won by the narrowest margin — just one run.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Leaders hopeful of an amicable settlement

By Asiuuzzaman

Senior leaders of both the ruling party and the Opposition yesterday hinted that they were close to reaching a consensus to resolve the persisting political impasse before the opposition members' planned resignation.

The chances are fifty-fifty now," an opposition leader requesting anonymity said.

A senior leader of the ruling party also expressed the hope that something would be worked out today or tomorrow.

Both sides are learnt to be negotiating a formula under which the President would head an interim government during the general elections. The Prime Minister would resign on the date of submitting her nomination papers, along with her cabinet colleagues and would decline any request

## Opposition calls 8-hr hartals on Dec 29, Jan 2-4 if ...

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament have called eight-hour hartals on December 29 and on January 2, 3 and 4.

Opposition Chief Whip Moham

## GF proposes govt of national consensus'

By Staff Correspondent

Gano Forum has proposed amendments to the Constitution provide for a 'government of national consensus' to end the persisting political stand-off.

The proposal was made at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The GF said that such a national government should be formed for the next two terms of Parliament (10 years), proportionately represented by all the parties in Parliament with the prime minister from the majority party in the House and the deputy prime minister from the second largest party.

About the formation of the proposed national government, the forum said each party in Parliament should be offered one cabinet post for every 10 MPs and the parties should

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Suppose it is our proposal. See Page 12 Col 7

Suppose it is our proposal. See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 3

## We want solution thru' discussion: PM

the BNP.

The Prime Minister said as per its commitment to respect the people's verdict the BNP government would take all necessary steps to maintain the democratic process and uphold the Constitution.

Reiterating her stance to solve all problems within the constitutional framework, the Prime Minister said that the BNP government would continue to respect the people's verdict and perform its due responsibilities.

Begum Zia said that the BNP government had shown much tolerance because it believes in democratic practices and had given the Opposition enough opportunities to help strengthen the democratic process.

Calling upon the Opposition to refrain from destructive acts.

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## Hajj policy approved

The Cabinet yesterday approved the Hajj policy for 1995 with provisions allowing up to 1.5 lakh pilgrims from Bangladesh to perform next Hajj, reports UNB.

The approval was given at the regular weekly Cabinet meeting held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair. The government has arranged accommodation for 3,232 Hajis near the Haram Sharif. The total cost of performing Hajj under government management will remain the same as that of last year at Tk 83,815 per head.

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## Ceasefire in CHT extended till Mar 31

From Staff Correspondent DUDUKCHHARI (Khagrachhari), Dec 26: The Shantribhumi leaders and the government agreed to extend the ceasefire in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) until March 31, 1995, in an effort to continue the talks for resolving the long-standing tribal problem. The true now in force there is due to expire on December 31.

The agreement came at the talks held today between the leaders of Shantribhumi and the parliamentary sub-committee.

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## Shahjahan Siraj joins BNP

Gano Forum leader Shahjahan Siraj MP joined the ruling BNP yesterday, pledging to undo any conspiracy to destroy the hard-earned democracy and to work for implementing BNP's people-oriented programmes, reports UNB.

Amidst thunderous applause of about 10 thousand people in the premises of the Prime Minister's official residence at Hare Road, he expressed his allegiance to the leadership of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.

He presented a bouquet to Prime Minister Begum Zia who attended the function as chief guest as the cheering BNP supporters greeted him with welcome slogans.

"I'm joining the BNP not only for political reasons but also for fighting the forces who are disrupting the country's economic development by means of their undemocratic activities," said the former JSU leader.

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### Commentary

## An appeal to our leaders

By Mahfuz Anam

We appeal to our two leaders — Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina — not to throw the country, and its 120 million peace-loving and simple people into a severe political and economic crisis. We know you both love

for either of you. Leaders in other countries inspire, enthuse, energize, encourage and take forward their people. In our country you both seem to frighten, impede, discourage, demoralise and push us backward. If there was a

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Sheikh Hasina

## Withheld results of Dhaka Board HSC exams to be published today

By Masud Arif

The withheld results of nearly three thousand examinees of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations of the Dhaka Board are to be announced today.

Seven new names are likely to be added to the three separate combined merit lists, an official source said last night.

The results of these students were withheld due to some faults in the tabulation process when the results were released on December 20.

A government announcement yesterday said the examinees can have their results from their respective colleges at 11 am today.

However, the withheld results of many others of the three education boards — Comilla, Jessor and Rajshahi — are yet to be finalised.

Many of the examinees whose results were withheld are learnt to have secured star marks.

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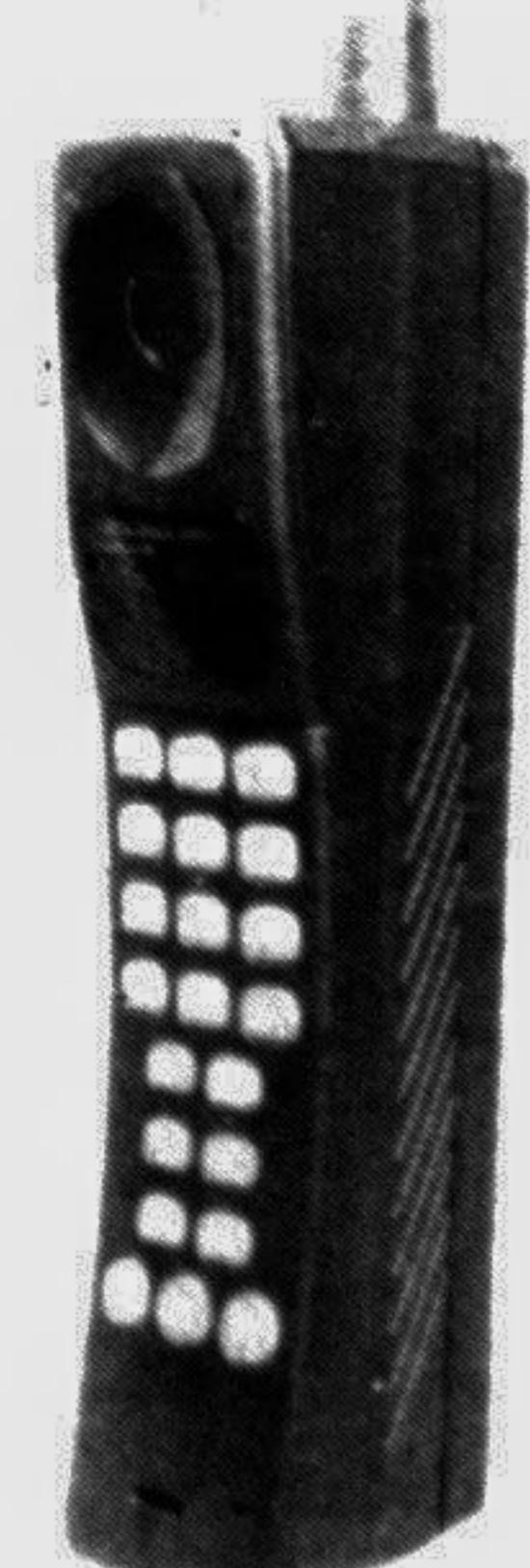
## Why resign to non communication?



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the body out of the plane, and also directed gunfire at the control tower, apparently triggering the assault which began on Christmas Eve when Islamic gunmen commandoed the plane in Algiers.

Dramatic television footage showed security forces storming the plane at 5.20 pm (1620 GMT), setting off an explosion amid an exchange of gunfire.

Live television showed two white flashes followed by smoke coming from the rear of the jetliner, hijacked by Islamic gunmen. Fire engines and ambulances rushed to the plane as it stood on the tarmac of Marseilles' airport.

The hijackers killed a tourist hostage and dumped

slip away in the confusion. Sixty-five passengers had been freed in the course of the drama that began Saturday. Three people, a Frenchman, a Vietnamese and an Algerian policeman were killed since the start of the hijacking.

France announced that it has suspended all sea and air links with Algeria because of the hijacking. Transport Minister Bernard Bosson said the move was temporary but gave no other explanation.

The hijackers, at least one of which belongs to the radical Armed Islamic Group, had demanded earlier Monday a news conference in exchange for liberating passengers.