



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting yesterday at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city in observance of the Democracy Day. — Star photo



The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) brought out a procession in the city yesterday marking the Democracy Day. — Star photo

## The Midnight File

### NATO troops arrive in Croatia

ZAGREB, Dec 6: NATO troops arrived in Croatia today to establish a temporary forward operations base for the deployment of 60,000 alliance peacekeepers in Bosnia, reports Reuter

### One beaten to death in Comilla

COMILLA, Dec 6: A young man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of his co-villagers at Goshnagar village in Burichang thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

### Teacher stabbed

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Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Muggers stabbed one Jahangir aged about 20 and snatched Taka about 3,500 at Motijheel area yesterday afternoon. Jahangir was admitted to the DMCH.

### Opposition

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to protect the autocrats. Mohammad Nasim of Awami League, Anwar Hossain Manju of JP and Maulana Matiuir Rahman Nizami of Jamaat said, it is a democratic and constitutional right of the citizens to hold demonstration and procession. This cannot be obstructed by any illegal order, they said.

Two young men, Yar Mohammad (25) and Shahid (22), were injured when a bomb exploded at Amligola in Lalbagh. They were admitted to the DMCH. One source claimed that they were injured while making bombs.

A minor girl Shurma Begum (9) daughters of one Chand Miah was injured when two groups of musclemen clashed and exploded cocktails near Jatrabari bus stand. She was admitted to the DMCH.

A housewife, Sultana alias Panna was admitted to the DMCH with serious burn injuries she suffered from her alleged attempt to torch herself at her residence at Aurkun, Tongi.

### 3 killed in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent  
At least three persons were killed in separate road accidents in the city and Tongi yesterday.

A pedestrian identified as Mohammad Nurul Islam was killed when a speeding truck knocked him down in front of the TV Bhaban in the city yesterday morning.

Nurul Islam, 28, was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

In another road accident an old man was killed when a speeding bus ran over him in front of Uttara Housing State at Tongi yesterday.

The victim aged about 70 died on way to the DMCH. An unidentified man aged about 55 was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Darussalam under Mirpur police station yesterday afternoon.

He died at the DMCH.

### Lalbagh

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9:30 am created panic in the area and people ran for safety and shopkeepers downed their shutters.

At one stage, activists of both the faction also clashed with police who intervened to quell the violence.

The ward commissioner of the area who is harbouring the local mastans is responsible for all the violence in the area for last six months," one of the injured persons who resides in the area told this correspondent at the DMCH.

"Armed clashes have become a regular phenomenon in Lalbagh area," said another injured person.

A case has been filed with Lalbagh thana in this connection with the clashes.

## 200 piracies committed in Padma, Jamuna last year

ARICHA, Manikganj, Dec 6: At least 200 piracies were committed in different routes in the rivers Padma and Jamuna in six thanas of Manikganj, Rajbari, Pabna and Sirajganj districts last year, reports UNB.

According to police, press reports and local people, the pirates looted goods worth about Tk 20 million and cash 10 million from boats, launches and trawlers. At least 200 people were injured by the dacoits.

The pirates are active in Harirampur, Shibhalaya and Daulatpur thanas in Manikganj district, Goalunda thana in Rajbari district, Bera thana in Pabna district and Kazipur thana in Sirajganj district.

Police said a strong gang of pirates, organised in the char areas of the Padma-Jamuna confluence, as it is an important place, that links the country's northern and southern parts to other regions including the capital, are engaged in committing the dacoities.

Fazlu, one of the 'gang leaders' of the pirates, was arrested in March this year. He confessed to police that he along with his accomplices had committed more than 10 piracies in the area.

The pirates use mostly lethal weapons and conduct their operation by mechanised country boats. They loot goods from cargo and passenger boats and launches.

Local businessmen and farmers carry goods including jute, paddy, rice, wheat, fish, vegetables, cattlehead.

### EC: Army role

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vigil against any terrorism during the elections.

Earlier the EC on Monday directed not to transfer the officials connected with the election within 15 days of the announcement of the schedule of the polls.

The directive came in a letter to all secretaries of the ministries and divisions, chiefs of the directorates and departments, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Election Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Thana Nirbahi Officers and District Election Officers.

It was stated in the letter that under the Representation of the People Order of 1972 the judicial officials below the district judges, deputy commissioners, police super and their subordinate officials cannot be transferred within 15 days of the announcement of the polls schedules without permission of the Election Commission.

criticisms about lack of people participation and environmental sensitivity by promising a "national water plan" but in their final FAP report, which was published in September last, the basic style and the approach of the "water-bureaucracy" and the related donor-culture have not changed much, the study report observes.

The study report was based on an in-depth analysis and review of FAP related documents, interview of key personnel, technical evaluation of pre-FAP and FAP projects and elaborate field survey. The researchers were led by Dr. Atiur Rahman, senior research fellow of the BIDS. The six-month field survey focused on people participation, environment, gender issues, agriculture, fisheries, resettlement, compensation and other related social aspects.

## Hasina

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three-party joint declaration once she gets elected. But she never kept her promise," Hasina noted.

"Why should people sacrifice their lives to cast a vote independently? Why does not Khaleda Zia want the people to exercise their voting rights freely? Give people a break. Let them choose their leader," the AL chief said.

Awami League leader Abdur Razzak pointed out that the Prime Minister's recent proposals of forming a national government or her proposed resignation one month before the election were not within the framework of the Constitution.

"If she can make such proposals (which are not in the Constitution) then why can she not accept the idea of the caretaker government instead of making an excuse saying that the Constitution does not have a room for such concept?" Razzak asked.

The meeting also addressed, among others, by AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Anu, Mohammad Nasim and Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

The Awami League President called on the people to make the Opposition's agitational programmes from today an all-out success to free the country from the 'neo-autocrats'.

Opposition parties have planned march towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat today and a 72-hour country-wide hartal from December 9 to press for the caretaker government issue.

### Kidnapped boy released

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: Kidnappers today released a teenage boy five days after his abduction.

Yusuf, son of a timber trader was kidnapped on Friday evening from Hatazari area, police said.

The kidnapers demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh from his father. They were forced to release Yusuf in the face of vigorous police drive.

### SAPTA

From Page 1  
regional para-tariff and non-tariff barriers, widen and deepen the tariff cuts and expand the list of products, the sixth meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation has mandated that the second round of trade negotiations should begin.

SAPTA proposes to gradually lower tariffs on a broader range of goods and eventually building a trade block known as South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA). A proposal to set up a South Asia Development Fund for this purpose is now under consideration.

The second round of inter-governmental meeting on trade liberalisation negotiations will be held in Sri Lanka early next year.

## 3000 trucks stranded at Nagarbari

PABNA, Dec 6: Some 3,000 trucks loaded with perishable goods remained stranded at Nagarbari ghat for the last four days due to disruption in ferry services, local sources said today, reports UNB.

The trucks, with more than 10,000 drivers and workers, were stranded in nearly three kilometres of the road from Nagarbari ghat to Kashinathpur. Perishable goods in about 500 trucks were feared damaged.

District administration sources said the ferries could not carry vehicles according to their capacity due to drastic fall in water level of the Jamuna and emergence of shoals in the river.

Shahjalal Ferry which ran aground at a char on Tuesday could not be salvaged till this afternoon.

Truck drivers at the ghat said no police were deployed for their security.

### LP gas crisis

Another report from Sirajganj says, unabated disruption in ferry services across the river Jamuna has intensified the LP gas crisis in 16 northern districts.

Local sources said a section of dishonest traders of the region taking the advantage of the situation were selling the LP (liquid petroleum) gas at an exorbitant price.

They said the gas was now being sold at Tk 400 per cylinder as against its previous retail price of Tk 204.

It's a crisis caused by the traffic congestion at Aricha-Nagarbari ghats.

Meanwhile, prices of some other essential commodities like rice and soyabean oil shot up in the local markets due to communication disruption between the capital and the country's northern region.

Newspaper subscribers also alleged that they were being deprived of getting their national dailies due to disruption.

### Anti-dumping rules

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effective remedial measure in absence of a specific law.

According to official sources, Bangladesh Tariff Commission has been made the designated authority to execute the anti-dumping rules.

## BNP procession on Democracy Day

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and its front organisations yesterday brought out a procession in the city in observance of the Democracy Day, reports BSS.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar led the procession which began from the BNP Naya Paltan office premises and dispersed in front of the National Press Club.

Ministers, former Jatiya Sangsad members and central leaders were among the thousands of participants in the procession.

They included State Minister for Social Welfare, Fazlur Rahman, Mahila Dal President and State Minister for Women's Affairs Mrs Sarwar Rahman, BNP student affairs secretary Amanullah Aman, Chhatra Dal president Fazlul Huq Milan, former city mayor and Juba Dal President Mirza Abbas.

The processionists chanted slogans affirming their full commitment to uphold the hard-earned democracy in the country.

### Time for seeking BNP nomination extended

By Staff Correspondent  
The ruling BNP has extended by two days the time for submitting applications seeking the party's nominations for the next general elections, scheduled for January 18.

Office secretary of the BNP, Nazrul Islam Khan, issued a notice yesterday refixing the deadline for collecting and submitting application forms tomorrow (Friday).

Until last night, over 3,000 persons including ministers, members of the just-dissolved Parliament, businessmen and student leaders collected applications. Of them, about 1,000 have submitted their forms, party sources said.

The five application forms earlier collected for the BNP chief and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, were not submitted until last night.

The application form collected for Begum Zia's eldest son, Tarek Rahman, was not submitted yesterday, while her elder sister Khurshid Jahan's application was submitted on the day.

Former army chief Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Nuruddin was among those for whom forms were collected yesterday.

The Naya Paltan central office of the BNP crowded by the nomination-seekers and their supporters of the third day yesterday.

The application forms are being sold for Tk 300 while Tk 6,000 has to be paid during submission of the forms.

**Government of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Savar PWD Division, S B Nagar  
Dhaka

## Notice

This is notified for information of all concerned that "The National Monument for Unknown Martyrs" at Savar, Dhaka will remain close for visit to general public from 13-12-95 to 15-12-95 as some maintenance and cleaning works of the Monument will be in progress in connection with "The Victory Day Celebration". The temporary inconvenience thus caused is regretted.

**Executive Engineer**  
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## EC: Bank loan defaulters

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source. An ordinance promulgated by the President on Sunday last amended the Public Ordinance 1972, and made provision to debar bank loan defaulters from participating in general elections.

Clause 1 of Article 12 of the Ordinance says that being a loanee, other than someone who has taken any bank loan for construction of a house for residential purposes, defaulting in payment of any loan or instalment on the day of submission of nominations, will be disqualified.

This also applies to a director or a partner of a firm or a director of a financial institution which has defaulted in repaying the loan or instalment on the day of submission of nomination paper.

But the source at the EC said that there was no scope for the EC to take measure to verify the candidate's position regarding bank loan. Moreover, the time allocated for the scrutiny was too short to carry out such a job.

But the source said that if it was proved any time after the nomination or even after the election that the candidate was a defaulter at the time of submission of the nomination paper, his or her election will be immediately declared cancelled. In any case, legal action will be taken against the candidates for violating the law.

As the Ordinance does not specify anything on the defaulters' rescheduling their loans in arrangement with the banks, there is apprehension that many defaulters may reschedule their loans, as most are influential people, and obtain a clearance certificate before submission of the nomination paper.

Under the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 which has four clauses, the pre-election expenses of each candidate has been fixed at a maximum of Taka 3 lakh. A candidate

must open separate account with a scheduled bank for the purpose of making payments for the election expenses, as required by the Ordinance.

BSS adds: The Ordinance entails upon the election commission to publish in official gazette any irregularities of the contesting candidates. The Election Commission Committee for this purpose shall have the powers of a civil court while trying a suit under the code of civil procedure in respect of enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath of affirmation and compelling the production of documents and material objects.

The commission, for the purpose of ensuring free and fair election, will formulate code of conduct not inconsistent with the provision of the Ordinance. Violation of code of conduct shall be considered as pre-poll irregularity.