

## Road barricade at Pahartali 100 vehicles damaged during clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 8 Road communication between Chittagong and other parts of the country was disrupted for eight hours from 6 am today as some vehicle operators put up barricade at Pahartali on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The operators blocked the road in protest against the attack on their passing vehicles by a section of mill workers at Pahartali in the morning in which 100 vehicles were damaged, sources said.

At one stage, the agitating drivers aided by a large number of passengers chased the mill workers. They were locked in clash and exchanged brick-bats till the police force intervened, sources added.

Hundreds of vehicles com-

ing to and from Chittagong remained stranded at Pahartali till 2 pm causing suffering to the commuters.

Five platoons of police rushed to the spot and dispersed the mill workers. They forced the drivers to remove the barricade.

However, road communication resumed after 2 pm on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

Meanwhile, rail and road links between Chittagong and other parts of the country remained snapped for 48 hours till 6 am today as striking jute and textile mills workers put up barricades at Ispahani crossing and Sitakundu.

Train service resumed after 6 am today with the end of the barricade programme, Railway sources said.

## 9 parties won't join polls

By Staff Correspondent

Nine political parties yesterday reiterated their decision not to participate in general elections under a one party government.

Leaders of Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Muslim League, JAGPA, Islami Shashantanti Andolan, Pragatishil Jatiyatatabadi Dal, Ganatantrik Karmi Shibir, Jatiya Janata Party and Pragatishil Ganatantrik Shakti held a meeting at the residence of JP Presidium member Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday evening.

They demanded resignation of the Prime Minister, cancellation of the election schedule, and holding elections under a caretaker government.

The meeting was participated by JP leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju, Muslim League leader Kazi Abdul Kader, Muhammad Alnuddin, JAGPA leader Shaful Alam Proddhan, Pragatishil Jatiyatatabadi Dal leader Shaikat Hossain and others.

## FFs' leaders hurt in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 8: Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and Major (Rtd) Shah Alam, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Central Command of Bangladesh Mukti-juddha Sangsad were injured in a road accident this evening at Tarapara in Habiganj.

The Mukti-juddha Sangsad leaders were going Moulvibazar to attend a meeting on 'Liberation Day' of Moulvibazar.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident occurred when their micro bus overturned and fell into a roadside ditch at Tarapara on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway.

They were admitted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka.

UNB adds: At least eight passengers were wounded, three of them seriously, in a road accident near Satkhira Circuit House on Thursday, police and hospital sources said.

## Roh's assets frozen

From Our Correspondent

SEOUL, Dec 8: A South Korean court froze former President Roh Tae-Woo's assets today as prosecutors investigating kickbacks grilled him and his defence minister over a multi-billion dollar US weapons purchase, reports Reuter.

Prosecutors have been examining a decision during Roh's term to buy 120 F-16s from General Dynamics (GdN), reversing a plan to buy F-18s from McDonnell Douglas (MdN).

## BNP nomination Interview from Dec 12

From Page 1

Interview of candidates intending to contest the next general elections with BNP nomination will be held at the BNP central office from December 12 to 15, a party press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The interview will begin at nine in the morning every day.

Candidates of Rajshahi Division will be interviewed on December 12, Khulna and Barisal Division on December 13, Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions on December 14 and Dhaka Division on December 15.

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar has requested the candidates to be present in time on the scheduled date for the interview.

## 30 hurt

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11 persons from Bangabandhu Avenue and Mouchak Market areas witnesses said.

Witnesses said that several crackers and cocktails were exploded from afternoon till late in the evening in Bangabandhu Avenue, Mouchak and Panthapath areas.

The injured policemen are Sub Inspector Hamid and constables Sanullah, Mosharraf Hossain, Abdur Rouf and Anwarul. Besides, one Abdus Salam, 40, who received bomb injuries near the Secretariat in the evening, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## MQM chief's brother, nephew held

From Our Correspondent

KARACHI, Dec 8: Karachi security forces have arrested the brother and nephew of Altaf Hussain, chief of the city's opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), party officials here said today, reports AFP.

Nasir Hussain, 60, and his son Arif Hussain were taken from their house in central Karachi's Samanabad area by paramilitary forces and police early Thursday, an MQM leader Ajami Dehvi said.

Security forces also raided the house of Hussain's sister, Saleh Begum, and allegedly ransacked the premises, Dehvi said, adding that she was not in the house when the raid occurred.

Officials here who confirmed the arrest said Hussain's relatives were wanted by the police in connection with criminal cases. They gave no details.

## EC

From Page 1

The nomination paper will have to be submitted by the candidate himself or by his nominee or supporter on his behalf. Any voter of a constituency can propose the name of any eligible person as a candidate. A nominee or supporter can propose the name of any one candidate.

However, a candidate can submit more than one nomination papers for a constituency.

Each candidate will have to deposit Tk 5 thousand as security money. The candidate or his nominee can deposit the money to the returning officer during submission of nomination paper. The security money can also be deposited with bank, treasury or sub-treasury.

Security money deposited once will be enough for more than one nomination papers submitted on behalf of a candidate from one constituency. But in that case he will have to submit the attested photocopy of the bank or treasury chalan or receipt of the cash deposit.

No nomination paper will be accepted without security money.

## The Midnight File

### Israel to free 1000 Palestinians

EREZ, Gaza Strip, Dec 8: Prime Minister Shimon Peres announced today that Israel was to release 1,000 Palestinian prisoners after meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in a boost to the self-rule accords, reports AFP.

### PM submits

From Page 1

spective districts of Chittagong and Comilla.

State Minister for Forest Goyeswar Roy submitted two applications seeking nomination to contest from Keraniganj and Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur in Dhaka.

### MCCI

From Page 1

India in recent weeks.

Added the chamber: Enhancement of the interest rates in isolation will not check the inflationary pressure... in fact, it will fuel cost-push inflation and the country's foreign trade will be affected.

It attributed the current inflationary pressure primarily to higher prices of food items as a result of crop losses on 1.5 million hectares of land. A 1.4 billion US dollar import had led to the increased pressure on inflation, it said.

The review, however, added that inflationary pressure had been aggravated by credit expansion which had gone up by Tk 1670 crore during July-October, 1995 period compared to a decline by Tk 912 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### 6 DU halls

From Page 1

that the JCD activists looted the belongings the students and forced them out of the hall.

Meanwhile, the BCL condemned the JCD for attack on its activists in Surya Sen Hall.

At a rally, held in front of the DUS they said nobody could stop the ongoing march of the BCL by using force. They said fall of Khaleda Zia is now a matter of time.

The rally was addressed by BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim and DU unit president Bahadur Bapari.

### 72-hr hartal

From Page 1

elections without the participation of other political parties, there would be anarchy in the country," Tofael said.

"After this non-stop hartal, our next phase of agitation will begin on December 17 — the deadline for filing nomination papers. All major opposition parties have firmly decided to reject the election schedule announced by the EC," the AL leader asserted.

"The Prime Minister and her cabinet are now interim, but they are exercising power they were never vested with," Tofael added.

A central leader of the JP said "the three-day hartal might not be peaceful if excesses are committed by the ruling party through the state machinery and its front organisations."

### Crimes

From Page 1

to 61,909 in the following year. The number was 56,871 in 1981 and 56,619 in 1982 recorded crimes in 1990 was 61,354 which rose to 67,682 in the following year.

### Michael Jackson

From Page 1

said the star's personal physician, Dr Allan Metzger of California and Dr William Alleyne of the hospital. "He is in serious but stable condition."

"Jackson will require several days of critical-care monitoring and treatment for the following medical conditions: gastroenteritis, dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, kidney and liver function."

Jackson was rehearsing on Wednesday at the Beacon Theatre in Manhattan for a Home Box Office (HBO) cable television special when he fainted and was taken to a hospital by ambulance with "dangerously low" blood pressure and dehydration.

## Hasina's press confce

From Page 1

tion of a fresh voters' list and voters' ID cards are yet to be completed. They are doing farce in the name of elections."

UNB adds: Earlier in a written statement, Hasina renewed her demand for immediate resignation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and said that the prevailing crisis would have to be resolved through parliamentary election under a non-party, neutral caretaker government.

"We've tried all means — through letters and telephone calls — to reach an understanding to end the crisis," she said, adding: "But the Prime Minister closed all ways of understanding and meaningful discussion, pushing the country towards conflict and chaos."

The opposition leader said: "Except BNP, all political parties have decided not to join this 'election of blueprint'."

She said the people would resist by all means if the BNP resorted to "mockery" in the name of holding election unilaterally.

After the dissolution of parliament, Hasina said, the present government has be-

come an interim government.

"Begum Zia is no more the Leader of the House and she can only perform the routine works. But the government is foiling rallies and processions by using police in violation of the constitution."

She alleged that the government, in a planned way, had imposed restriction to spoil the opposition's scheduled peaceful rallies on Thursday. "This means, the Prime Minister abused her power denying the people their constitutional rights to organise rallies and processions," she said.

On Thursday's police action on the Awami League rally at Panthapath, Hasina said, shots, tear gas, hot water and bombs were aimed at her as she was half-way through her speech.

She said the first shots were fired from a white car which was parked near a police vehicle. "It seems that everything was pre-planned."

The Awami League chief said the Thursday's incident had a similarity to the Chittagong incident of January 24, 1989, which occurred during the Ershad regime.

## Share prices

From Page 1

shares and debentures worth Tk 10 crore 64 lakh 30,576 were traded last week as against a total of 9 lakh 97,987.6 shares and debentures worth Tk 19 crore 8 lakh 1617.50 in the previous week.

The daily average volume of trading decreased to 1.51 lakh shares and debentures last week from 1.95 lakh while the value of trading rose to Tk 2.66 crore daily from the previous week's Tk 2.30 crore.

The volume leaders of last week include Beximco Pharma (1,89,550 shares sold), Orion Infusion (42,000), Apex Weaving (over 20,000) BOC (over 20,000), Maq Paper (over 21,000), Eastern Housing (over 21,000) and Purabi Insurance (over 10,000).

Among the most active issues, the prices of Square Pharma fell by Tk 30, Apex Weaving Tk 18, Apex Food Tk 92, Monno Jutex, Tk 169, Singer Tk 27, Maq Paper Tk 8, Bata Shoe Tk 2, Beximco Textiles Tk 4, BTC and BOC fell by Tk 5 each and IDLC by Tk 74 in the week.

## JP tells press

From Page 1

termed the police as a 'BNP force' and said their action threatened the life of leaders and workers of the opposition political parties including Sheikh Hasina.

JP Presidium member Barrister Moudud Ahmed said the BNP government pushed the country towards a deep political crisis that could be solved through the resignation of the Prime Minister and meeting the opposition's demand for a caretaker government.

JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju vehemently criticised the ruling party for using administration to protect 'petty party interests' and said politicisation process must be stopped for the sake of democracy.

JP Presidium member Begum Rawshan Ershad, speaking the press conference, demanded that her ailing husband and former President Ershad be shifted to a hospital for better treatment.

Earlier, JP brought out a torch procession that paraded the main streets of the city in support of the oppositions' 72-hour hartal beginning from today.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam