

Inside Today

Article

Does Anybody Know What's Going on?

Column : The Third View
by Mahfuz Anam
Page 4

Focus

People cry for peace and progress; Unfavourable trade balance with India: Narrowing the gap; Floods wash the smile off the tiger's face
Page 5

International

Pro-Rabbani forces launch massive attack on Taliban

Supreme Court strikes down Bombay Court ruling that threatens Joshi
Page 8

Business

Dhaka book fair begins in Calcutta Dec 14

French PM opens talks with union leaders
Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Phobias and Fascinations
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

9 killed in Saudi road accident

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: Nine people, including seven school girls, were killed Sunday when a commuter bus and a car crashed face-to-face in southern Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Reports from Riyadh said the tragic accident occurred due to foggy weather. Seven girls, the bus driver's assistant and the car's driver were killed immediately. Another school girl was seriously wounded, reports Xinhua.

SUST admission tests Dec 14, 15

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 11: Admission tests for the first year honours classes in the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) for the session '95-96 will be held on December 14 and 15. As many as 6490 candidates will sit in the written examination for 570 seats in 13 subjects.

PVC wire seized

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Dec 11: Kotwali police recovered 400 kgs 200 gms insulated 110 kgs 400 gms non-insulated and 40 kgs of PVC wire (insulated) worth Taka one lakh fifty thousand from a unshed of a semi factory at Sva Road in the town area this afternoon. Police also arrested one Anwar Ali Howlader from the spot. A case was filed with Kotwali police in this connection.

Woman's body recovered

By DMCH Correspondent
Police recovered a body of an unidentified woman aged about 40 from near Doel Chatter, in front of the Curzon Hall of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon. The body was handed over to Anjuman-e-Moftul Islam for burial, police said.

Donors to observe post-polls govt policies

Paris Aid Club meet deferred till July

Star Special

The Bangladesh Aid Club meeting in Paris will now be held in the second week of July instead of its usual April schedule as the donors would like to wait for the post-election government, well-placed sources said yesterday.

The total aid pledge at the meeting to be chaired by the World Bank (WB) in its European headquarters in Paris, will be determined only after the donors learn about the agenda of the new government after election and "take account of its policies and priorities," government officials said.

The work on the Bank's Country Economic Memo-

randum (CEM) which will contain recent economic development as well as proposed reform agenda has not yet taken off and will presumably start from January, WB officials said.

"The date has been fixed ... so that the new government gets time to prepare its position," said Pierre Landell-Mills, WB chief in Dhaka. The donors are waiting for the polls to see the policy outcome of the winning party as a basis for deciding their aid strategy for fiscal 1996-97, he said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is witnessing a low level of foreign assistance commitment this year because of — as the

donors put it — "the declining aid climate."

Until November, only 360 million dollars were committed as against 521 million dollars during the same period last year.

The total pledge in the Paris meet for fiscal 1995-96 was 1.95 billion dollars.

This year's commitment included 106 million dollars from Germany and 159 million dollars from ADB, according to a government count.

Two major donors to Bangladesh, the WB and Japan are expected to commit around 200 million dollars later, Finance Ministry. See Page 12 Col 3

Iraq-Kuwait war UN to settle claims of 14000 this month

The United Nations Compensation Commission is expected to settle by current month the claims of 14,000 people affected by the Iraq-Kuwait war, reports BSS.

Executive Secretary of the Commission Carlos Al Jamore informed Secretary, Labour and Manpower, during a meeting held in Geneva recently that of the 31,000 individual claims falling under 'A' category, cases of 14,000 will be settled by this year. The decision on the remaining cases is expected by next March, a PID handout said.

A total of 71,222 claims were filed under five cate-

gories seeking compensation from the UN Compensation Commission.

Form "A" which deals with individual compensation has the maximum 62,352 claims, the handout said. It mentioned that out of the 63,303 persons who returned from Kuwait and Iraq in the wake of war, 22,000 have already gone back with employment.

Till last month, the commission accepted 68 out of 97 petitions of claims for seriously injured or dead and so far sanctioned 287,500 US dollars. The amount has been deposited with a bank. See Page 12 Col 7

Malaysia will take 20000 workers soon

More than 20,000 Bangladeshi workers will be allowed to join their respective assignments in Malaysia soon, reports UNB.

The approval for intake of the Bangladeshi workers will be issued by this month.

The assurance came from the Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Dato Maga Junid when the Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, now in Malaysia, called on him yesterday.

The Malaysian Home Minister expressed concern at the present level of intake from Bangladesh, said a PID handout. See Page 12 Col 6

4 injured as Minister's escort hits rickshaw

By Staff Correspondent

A police van escorting a minister's car rammed a rickshaw near the Mathya Bhaban leaving at least 4 persons injured during the hartal hours yesterday.

One rickshawpuller, two passengers and a police constable were injured when the police escort microbus collided with the rickshaw in front of the Mathya Bhaban, near Ramna Park's Star gate at around 11:40 am, according to witnesses.

Jamiruddin Sircar, Education Minister and Aminul Huq, State Minister for Establishment, were going to the Secretariat on board the escorted car.

Of the injured three were released after being provided with first aid at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while the injured police constable driver of the microbus was rushed to the Police Hospital.

Passengers robbed

A group of muggers hurled cocktails at a tempo and robbed its passengers of cash and valuables worth about Tk 50 thousand at Miztuzi of Shiddhirganj thana under. See Page 12 Col 8



Police trying to prevent a clash between supporters of the BNP and the Awami League at Abul Hasnat Road in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

A gesture of kindness

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday donated a rickshaw to a rickshawpuller whose vehicle was set on fire in the city on Saturday by hartal activists, reports UNB.

The plight of the rickshawpuller touched the Prime Minister when she read in newspaper that he had gone to the Jatiya Press Club with his burnt rickshaw asking the journalists how he would get redress.

Begum Zia called Abdul Barez, the rickshawpuller, to her office yesterday afternoon and inquired how his rickshaw was burnt.

Barez informed her that despite repeated appeals, a group of militant pro-hartal. See Page 12 Col 8

Agitation will continue: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has congratulated the people for what she said making the 72-hour hartal a success.

Hasina in a statement last night, also condemned and protested the 'attack' on Opposition activists at different places in the country by terrorists and police during the hartal period.

The hartal was called in demand for immediate resignation. See Page 12 Col 8

President urged to arrange Hasina-Khaleda meeting

By Staff Correspondent

Civic Watch Bangladesh has urged President Abdur Rahman Biswas to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to resolve the political impasse.

The Civic Watch urged the President to urgently seek the advice of the Supreme Court on the Constitutional options to solve the crisis.

Chairman of the organisation Muehsuddin Ahmad and. See Page 12 Col 1

40 hurt on third day 72-hr hartal ends

By Staff Correspondent

At least 40 people were injured, 25 in the city, as rival political activists clashed on the third and last day yesterday of the Opposition-called 72-hour country-wide hartal.

Police picked up six persons from different parts of the city for picketing.

The hartal ends at six this morning, Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami called the hartal demanding immediate resignation of the Prime Minister, holding of elections under a caretaker government and cancelling of the elections schedule.

Some 25 people including. See Page 12 Col 4

two policemen and a photojournalist of a Bengali daily were injured in a gun fight between the activists of BNP and Awami League at Abul Hasnat road in Lalbagh in the city around 2 pm.

The clash which lasted for about two hours from noon ensued when some Awami League activists reportedly stopped a rickshaw carrying a local BNP leader. The clash soon spread in the area and rival activists traded gun shots and exploded homemade bombs. Some shops adjacent to the Central Jail were also ransacked and looted.

Armed youths clash at Palashi, Nakhalpara

By DMCH Correspondent

At least 15 people, including two police personnel, were injured in an armed clash between the local youths of Palashi and Azimpur areas yesterday afternoon.

In another armed clash between two local groups at Nakhalpara area yesterday afternoon at least five people including a rickshawpuller received serious bullet wounds.

More than 50 rounds of gunshots were fired while. See Page 12 Col 3

dozens of home-made bombs were blasted, creating panic in Palashi. A mob ransacked at least 10 shops and stalls, and damaged rickshaws in the area at about 2 pm, witnesses said.

Of the injured four persons including a woman who received bullet or bomb injuries were identified as Liton, 18, Parveen, 30, and two police constables - Abdul Ali, 30, and Abdul Motin, 31, hospital sources said. Others who received minor injuries were taken to city clinics, locals said.

Starting at around noon, the clash continued for more than two hours. It began following an assault on a local youth reportedly belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the Palashi crossing earlier, witness said.

Later, in the afternoon, the clash spread in the area and a gang from Azimpur, armed with fire arms and crackers, attacked the local youths at Palashi. The feud at the next stage centred on the murder of an orphan boy of Salimullah Muslim Orphanage in Azimpur a couple of months ago, locals alleged.

Meanwhile, the feuding groups at one stage clashed. See Page 12 Col 7

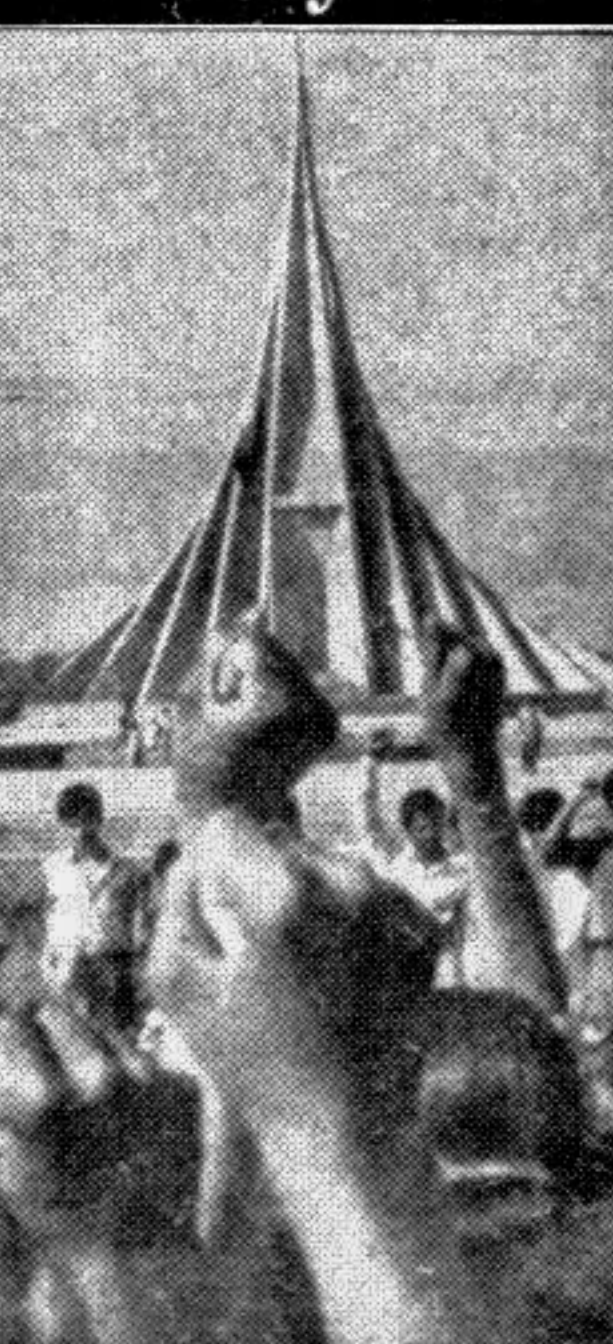
Feni land office ransacked

FENI, Dec 11: Unruly youths attacked the land office in Sadar thana and ransacked its furniture during hartal hours today, reports UNB.

Police said a group of armed youths attacked the Office in the afternoon and exploded at least four home-made bombs. Assistant Commissioner (Land) was in the office during the attack.

Police dispersed the mob and picked up five youths - Babul, Rasel, Imam Hossain, Selim Chowdhury and Shari-ful Islam — from the scene. Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of the district. See Page 12 Col 3

This day in '71



By Staff Correspondent

When a brigade of the allied force paratroopers landed at different places around greater Dhaka district this day in 1971, the birth of Bangladesh was only a matter of days.

As the freedom fighters closed in and Pakistani soldiers retreated towards Dhaka, allied radio stations repeatedly broadcast cast announcements asking the occupation forces to surrender.

Another brigade of allied forces started for Tangail by. See Page 12 Col 1

Govt employees allowed to cast votes by post

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced that the government officers and employees who, despite being voters of their respective constituencies, would be staying outside on work during the general elections can cast their votes through postal ballot, reports BSS.

The commission in a handout said, wives, husbands and children of these government officials and employees who will be staying with them can also cast their votes if they are enrolled in voters list of their respective areas.

Besides, persons detained under the law at any place of the country can also cast their votes by post if they are enlisted in the voters list in their areas.

The handout said these persons, if they intend to cast votes, will have to send written applications to the returning officers of their respective constituencies. See Page 12 Col 6

Interview of BNP nomination seekers from today

The interview of the nomination seekers from the BNP for the forthcoming parliamentary polls will begin today at 81 Kakrail instead of party's central office, a party press release said last night, reports BSS.

The time schedule is as follows: Rajshahi division — December 12; Khulna and Barisal divisions — December 13; Chittagong and Sylhet divisions — December 14; and Dhaka division — December 15.

The interview will be held from 9 am everyday.



Indian nurses wore traditional Indian dress instead of white uniforms yesterday to protest their portrayal in a popular television comedy "Dil Ka Doctor" (Doctor of Hearts). APP/UNB photo

Dil Ka Doctor Indian nurses discard skirts

NEW DELHI, Dec 11:

Thousands of Indian nurses are replacing their white uniforms with traditional dress in a campaign against the portrayal of the profession on a popular television show, reports AFP.

The television comedy "Dil Ka Doctor", or Doctor of Hearts, has sent the temperatures of nurses across the country soaring with its scenes of buxom nurses cavorting around hospitals in tiny skirts.

In response, thousands of government nurses here have discarded their white knee-length skirts for tan-coloured sarees and have asked colleagues in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other large Indian cities to do the same.

"The response has been fantastic", said Ourdarshah Kadir-Khuraou, President of the All India Nurses Federation. See Page 12 Col 8

Fresh blasts around CMC, 22 sent to jail

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: The situation at Chittagong Medical College campus remained tense as a series of cocktails rocked the area today, campus sources said.

Supporters of Chhatra Shibir brought out processions and held rallies at Anderkilla crossing demanding cancellation of date for holding students' union election. The rally was held under a heavy cordon by police and BDR.

At the college campus also large number of police were deployed to prevent any outbreak of violence.

Meanwhile, 22 persons out of 100 held during the police raid into the college hostel on Sunday, were sent to the Jail today and rest were released.

Police cracked down on the campus and hostels on Sunday to avert an impending clash between Shibir and Chhatra Dal activists. The college was later closed sine die.

The resident students vacated the hostels before 8 pm yesterday as ordered by the authorities.

UNB adds: Campus sources said some youths this morning manhandled Mam-taz Uddin, driver of the college Principal. At least 10 rooms of the main hostel of the college was ransacked.

Chhatra Shibir blamed the JCD activists for the ransack. In a statement, JCD city unit urged the authorities to immediately reopen the college and hold the Students' Union election.