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VOL. V NO. 333 REGD. NO. DA 781 PAUSH 13, 1402 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1995 SABAN 4, 1416 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

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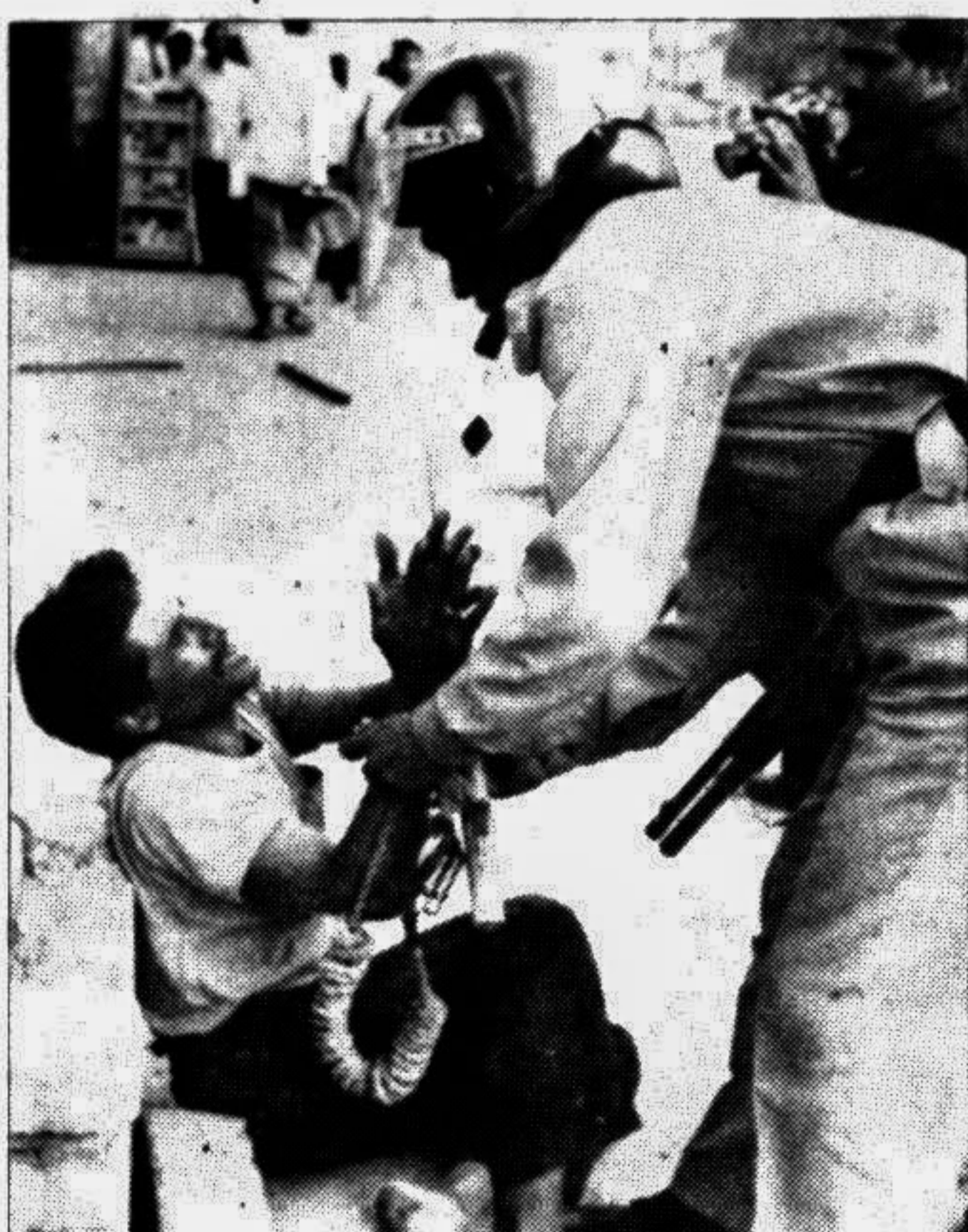
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Autorickshawmen play hell for second day

By Staff Correspondent
 Autorickshaw drivers and owners continued their rampage in the city for the second day yesterday damaging at least 100 vehicles and fought running battles with police leaving over 10 persons injured.



Police picking up an autorickshaw driver at Motijheel (L) and autorickshaw drivers beating up a traffic police at the Danak Bangla crossing in the city yesterday.



Police beating up a traffic police at the Danak Bangla crossing in the city yesterday.

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Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse stick-wielding demonstrators who raised road barricades at Jatrabari, Rampura, Mahakhali, Sheorapara, Khilgaon and some other areas, exploded bombs and damaged vehicles.

Call for transport strike today

By Staff Correspondent
 The Autorickshaw Samik Union has called a dawn-to-dusk transport strike today in the capital to press its demand for implementing the 1992 agreement.

The advisor of the union, See Page 12 Col 4

Deportees arriving at Chittagong say House-to-house search for illegal expatriates in KSA

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: The Saudi government has stepped up its drive including house-to-house search to deport illegal expatriates, said some of the 1911 Bangladeshi deportees who reached here this afternoon.

The fourth batch of Bangladeshi deportees arrived in a Honduran flag carrying vessel Al-Madina chartered by the Saudi government after a 16-day journey.

Rahmat Ali (55) who went to Saudi Arabia with a Haj-visa last year spending Taka 54,000 said "Saudi police has now started a massive search throughout the coun-

try against the illegal expatriates. They have launched house-to-house search, he said adding, "it is very difficult to stay back there with Omra-visa or any weak visa documents."

"I was caught when I went out of my residence to offer prayer," said Rahmat who hailed from Sylhet.

Jahangir Alam (26) said "I was picked up from my residence at dead of night by Saudi police who cordoned our colony in Daman."

"I was sent to jail on November 24 as my work permit (Ekama) expired three months earlier," said

Jahangir who hailed from Sunamganj.

"I asked my sponsor (Kopil) to renew my Ekama several times, but he did not pay heed to my appeal" added Jahangir who worked there as an oil company cleaner.

"Such a house-to-house search has panicked all the Bangladeshi expatriates now," he added.

One Nurul Islam (30) said that he was also rounded up on the night of November 24 and taken to jail. Islam alleged that some Rohingya people having Ekama who went there with Bangladeshi

Fight for soccer gold today

From Al-Amin

MADRAS, Dec 26: Bangladesh football team will venture into the last stage of their campaign to capture the much-dreamt-of maiden SAF Games football gold today when they take on hosts India in the seventh edition of the regional extravaganza amid much controversy here at the Nehru Stadium.

The much-awaited encounter kicks off at 1 pm local time (1.30 pm BST) and can be seen live via satellite on Doordarshan. Radio Bangladesh is likely to broadcast running commentary.

Bangladesh reached the title-deciding stage by pipping Sri Lanka in a spine chilling sudden-death penalty shootout in Monday's first semifinal while the hosts blanked holders Nepal 3-0 in the second semi the same day.

This is the third time Bangladesh will be appearing in the final of SAF football. They had reached the finals of the second Games in Dhaka in 1985 and the fourth Games in Islamabad in 1989, failing to return with gold on both occasions.

The last time the two premier footballing nations met was in the 1985 final in Dhaka. Bangladesh won 1-0 (semi-final).

Advisory council BNP discussing with legal experts

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP is discussing with constitutional experts various legal aspects of the proposed advisory council under the President in case the Prime Minister resigns before the parliamentary elections.

Information and Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam yesterday talked to Dr Kamal Hossain of the Gano Forum at his Hare Road official residence in the afternoon. In the evening, Shamsul also talked to two other constitutional experts who are also leaders of the Gano Forum, sources in the ruling party said.

However, details of their discussions were not available.

Meanwhile, negotiators of the BNP and the Awami

5th Wage Board for newspapers, agencies formed

The government yesterday constituted the Fifth Wage Board with Justice (ret) Anwarul Huq Chowdhury as its chairman to make recommendations for determining the wages, allowances and other facilities for the journalists, press workers and general employees of newspapers and news agencies, reports BSS.

Prof Majidul Islam, president, Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP), A M M Bahauddin, Editor, Printer

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Indian police storm Golden Temple

NEW DELHI, Dec 26: Indian police stormed the Golden Temple in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in an overnight raid to flush out the alleged killer of a top Sikh politician, officials said today, reports AFP.

The raid on the Sikh religion's holiest shrine was the first major police action there since May 1988 when army commandos shot dead a 36 Sikh separatists in an 11-day siege of the complex.

Officials in Amritsar said police entered the Golden Temple in an attempt to capture the alleged mastermind of the August 31 assassination of Beant Singh, the Sikh chief minister of the northern state of Punjab.

But city police chief SS Chhina said no arrests were made after a search of the white marble shrine.

The raid came three days after three Sikh separatists were arrested in Punjab for plotting to kill Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.

Police said two of the "hardcore terrorists" arrested on Friday were also involved in the slaying of Beant Singh, credited with a stamping out Sikh militancy through a relentless drive in the state.

The police say the three suspects were involved in a "Pakistani-aided conspiracy" to assassinate Rao and the chief minister of adjoining Haryana state, Bhajan Lal.

One of the three suspects, Jagtar Singh Hawara, reportedly told officials their ring leader was staying in the Golden Temple, police said.

Hawara was a member of the Babbar Khalsa Sikh militant group and one of the main conspirators behind the assassination of Beant Singh by a suicide bomber which left 16 other people dead.

Deadline expires but graffiti remain on city walls



WARNING GOES UNHEEDED: Leading political parties have not heeded to the directives by the Election Commission to erase graffiti from walls even after expiry of the deadline Monday.

By Staff Correspondent

Although the deadline to erase all political graffiti and remove multi-coloured posters from the walls expired Monday, those are still on the city walls.

There is hardly any drive to clean the walls. However, no fresh attempt was seen to put up graffiti or posters.

Majority of these graffiti and posters seen in most areas of the city are written in favour of the ruling BNP. One graffiti says "La-t-laha illallah, Dhaner Shishey Bismillah (La-t-laha illallah, vote for paddy sheaf)" while a multi-colour poster with a photograph of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia simply says, "ganotantra enecht, ganotantra rakhbo" (I brought democracy, I will safeguard democracy).

All these graffiti and posters were put on the walls at least few weeks ago.

However, some arches erected at different parts of the city by BNP party workers earlier this month have been dismantled.

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday instructed police at thana and district levels to take legal actions against persons or organisations putting up graffiti or multi-coloured posters on walls.

The EC directive also bars erection of arches or pandals bigger than 400 square feet.

According to Sections 73 and 44 (b) of the People's Representation Order of 1972, the violators can be arrested without any warrant and are punishable with minimum two years RI with fine or maximum seven years RI.

Stabbed DU teacher dies

By DU Correspondent

Nuban Ahmed, 35, a lecturer of the Department of Economics of the Dhaka University DU who was stabbed by some muggers on December 17, succumbed to injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Ahmed, son of late Prof Sirajul Islam of the Department of Geography of the DU, joined the university as a teacher in 1993.

He left behind his wife, mother, one brother, two sisters, and a numbers of admirers.

He got married only two years ago and his wife Sohana is a student of MSc of the department of Physics of the

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PM distributes Rokeya Award

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday distributed the newly introduced Begum Rokeya National Award at a simple ceremony at her office in the city, reports BSS.

Begum Shamsunnahar Mahmud (posthumously) was awarded this year in recognition of her unique contribution to education, literature and the social development of the women community.

On behalf of late Begum Mahmud, her grand daughter Dr Zeba Mahmud received from Prime Minister Begum Zia the gold medal, a cheque for Taka 10,000 and a citation.

Begum Zia said that it would be given every year to immortalise the unparalleled contribution of Begum Rokeya to women awakening.

Zahid Hossain Chunu dead

Zahid Hossain Chunu, Convener of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), died of a heart failure at the Asad Avenue in the city Monday night. He was 36, reports BSS.

According to family source, a gang of hijackers intercepted the rickshaw of Chunu when he was returning home from a clinic along with Emran Saleh Prince, president, Dhaka metropolitan unit of the JASAS. He collapsed immediately after jumping from the rickshaw. He was rushed to the Suhrawardy Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his deep shock and profound

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Jubo Dal leader chopped to death in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A leader of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was killed by armed miscreants at Rampura in the city on Monday night.

Chowdhury Anwar Noor, 28, president of Ward No. 10 unit of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, and a contractor of Public Works Division, came under attack by some armed men at around 10:15 pm.

The attackers chopped him with machetes near Commissioner Road at Rampura when Anwar, son of Ab

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Last respect to Abdul Haq

By DU Correspondent

Thousands of grief-stricken people of different shades of opinion and socio-economic tiers gathered at the TSC road island of the Dhaka University yesterday to pay their last homage to communist leader Abdul Haq.

The body of the veteran communist leader was brought to the DU campus at about 10 am in a procession that paraded different streets of the city and was kept there decked with flowers under a specially erected tent till 3 in the afternoon.

Abdul Haq, 75, died Friday night after a year of illness at a city clinic.

Several hundred people including workers of left parties came from different parts of the country to pay last respect to their beloved leader. They were seen thronging the TSC area with

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13 missing as boats sink in Brahmaputra

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 26: At least 13 people were missing since late last night after two boats capsized in the river Brahmaputra here. A small boat carrying seven persons including a sub-assistant engineer of a dredger capsized near Kala Sonar Char and another boat with some 70 persons on board capsized near Golna Char after a collision with MV Meer Jumla, a fail-wagon ferry.