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# The Daily Star

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VOL. V NO. 337 REGD. NO. DA 781

PAUSH 17, 1402 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1995

SABAN 8, 1416 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index 804.73 (-0.25%)  
 Market capital Tk 5350.21 cr  
 Transactions in volume 106525  
 Transactions in value Tk 1.82 cr

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On the Death of a Teacher  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**39 investigation centres to be set up**

The government has decided to set up 39 investigation centres in different parts of the country to beef up the machinery engaged in maintaining law and order. Officials said yesterday the centres, some sort of police outposts, would be under the supervision of superintendents of police of the districts concerned.

## Rail-road barricade: Train derails at Tongi Communications severely disrupted

By Staff Correspondent

Rail and road communications across the country were severely disrupted and a passenger train derailed near Tongi station, leaving at least 20 people injured yesterday as the Opposition observed a barricade programme.

The train mishap was an 'act of sabotage,' said a preliminary probe report.

The three major opposition parties agitating for resignation of the Prime Minister and elections under a neutral caretaker government had earlier announced the rail-road-waterways barricade programme to realise their demands.

In Rajshahi, a Nawabganj-bound train came under attack from pro-barricade activists yesterday morning. A railway employee was injured in the incident.

During the 12-hour programme, no vehicles plied on the inter-district roads. River vessels, however, operated almost normally with relatively less passengers. Inter-city train services were also disrupted.

In the city, movement of motorised vehicles was affected by the barricade programme.

The Dhaka-bound train Noakhali Express derailed at Nimali, one km off Tongi station, at around 4:30 am.

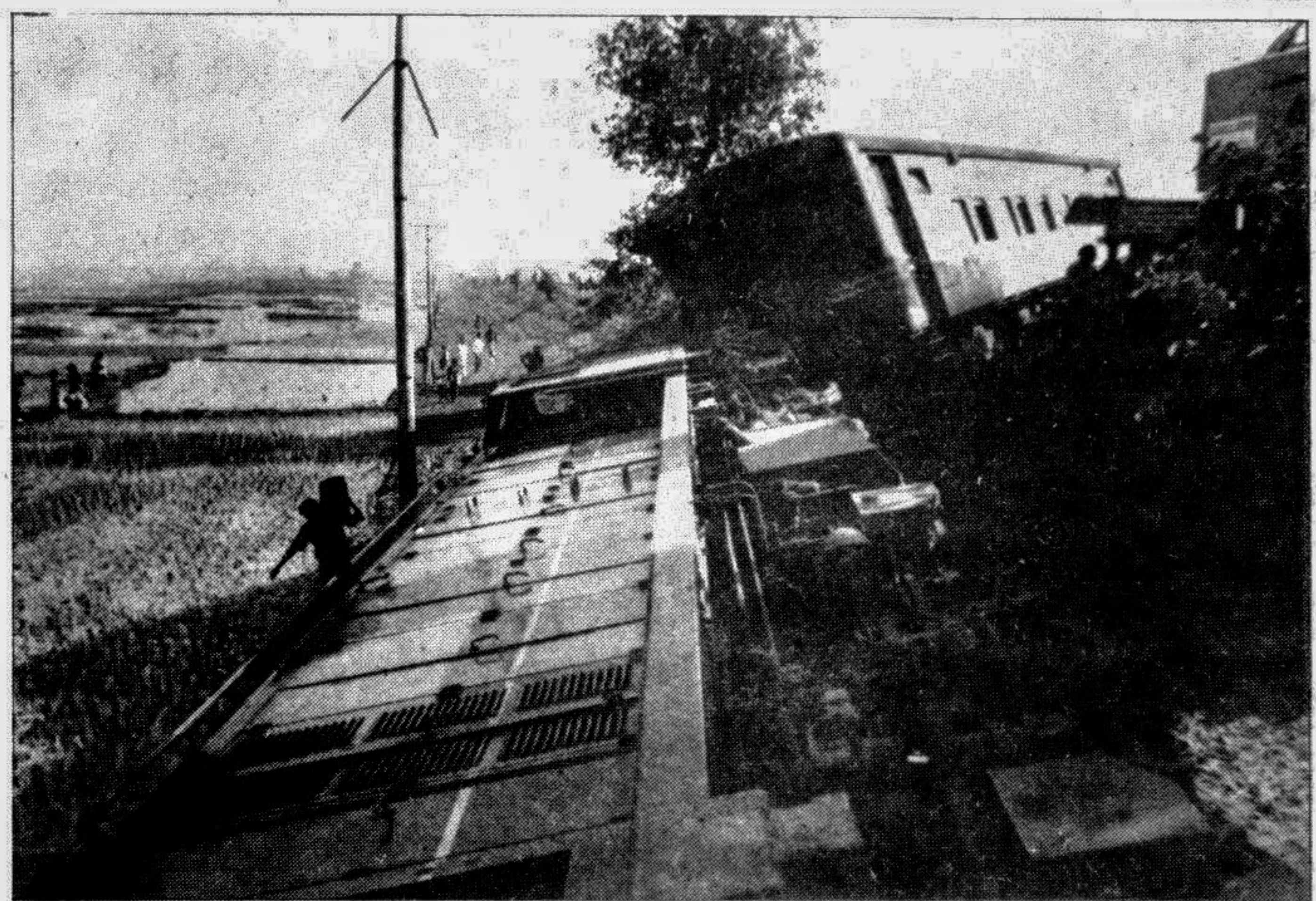
Derailing of the engine and three bogeys of the train snapped train communication between the capital and Chittagong, Sylhet and Noakhali for almost 12 hours.

Those injured in the mishap included driver of the train Sona Fakir. He was taken to the Railway Hospital

in the city. A four-member departmental probe body—consisting of a senior inspector, train engineer, traffic inspector and line inspector—in a preliminary report said that derailment of train was an act of sabotage caused as a result of dismantling two pairs of fish-plate by unidentified miscreants.

Railway officials at Tongi said the engine of the express train slipped off the track and fell in a paddy field. Besides, a first class coach, a second class compartment and guard room also skidded off the line.

Station Master of Tongi Ahmad Ullah, told this correspondent that train communication in the route was restored after about 12 hours.  
 See Page 12 Col 6



The Dhaka-bound intercity train Noakhali Express derailed near Tongi yesterday.

— Star photo

### Country heading towards grave crisis: Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of trying to mislead the people by speaking of understanding on the present political crisis reports UNB.

In a statement, she said the country is heading towards a grave crisis because of the obstinacy and lust for power of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who is going to follow the footprints of the deposed autocrat by holding a farcical election.  
 See Page 12 Col 8

### Opposition likely to stop back-stage talks

Star Report

The Opposition is likely to sit today to decide whether it would continue the behind-the-scenes talks with the ruling BNP, sources concerned said.

They pointed out that since the talks yielded no positive results, the opposition was thinking of abandoning such efforts.

Opposition sources said that Secretary General of Jatiya Party Anwar Hossain Khan had a meeting with Awami League Chief Sheikh

Hasina and other senior AL leaders yesterday.

The meeting held at the Dhanmondi residence of the AL President discussed the latest position as regards the government-Opposition negotiation and the last offer from the Opposition for a televised dialogue with the Prime Minister, they said.

AL General Secretary Zilur Rahman, Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Amir Hossain Ahsan were present at the meeting.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

### Speed up arms drive, CEC asks law enforcing agencies

The Election Commission (EC) reviewed the latest progress of recovery of illegal arms and asked the law enforcing agencies to speed up the operation ahead of the general elections, reports UNB.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque made the request, during a meeting with the chiefs of Army, Navy, Air Force and BDR, and officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the EC Secretariat yesterday.

The CEC also stressed immediate starting of combing operation to recover all illegal arms in the country and to arrest the illegal arms holders as well as miscreants, extortionists, terrorists.  
 See Page 12 Col 4

### 'EC may defer polls if there is consensus'

Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadeque yesterday hinted that the parliament election could be deferred further if all parties wanted so, reports UNB.

The Election Commission may consider it if all the parties come up with such proposal, he told a group of reporters when pressed for his view as to whether there is any possibility of changes in the election schedule.

But the CEC made it clear that he cannot go beyond February 21, as it is the constitutional obligation for the Commission to hold fresh elections within 90 days of the dissolution of parliament.

"There will be a constitutional breakdown if election is not held within the time schedule," he said. "I am taking all-out preparation for the coming election, and I

will have to conduct the election in the stipulated time," the CEC said.

Justice Sadeque was talking to the reporters at the Jatiya Press Club where he went to attend the publication ceremony of a book by Jahangir Alam, a Freedom Fighter.

The Chief Election Commissioner said none surrendered illegal arms as there is no political consensus.

In this context, Justice Sadeque said during Acting President Justice Shahabuddin's regime, unauthorised arms were surrendered as there was a political consensus among the major parties.

He lamented that he was making "the best bargain in the worst situation."  
 See Page 12 Col 6

### Malaysia to recruit 2980 Bangladeshis

Malaysia will recruit 2,980 workers from Bangladesh, said an official handout, reports BSS.

The Malaysian foreign task force has sent a requisition for the workers to the Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited, the lone government recruiting agent.

Malaysia had earlier promised to recruit 20,000 workers from Bangladesh following a meeting between Labour and Manpower Minister Mif Shaukat Ali and his Malaysian counterpart during his visit there.

### Pro-AL Blue panel sweeps DUTA polls

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Blue panel swept the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) election held yesterday securing 12 of the 15 posts of the Executive Committee including those of the President and the General Secretary.

Prof ATM Zahurul Huq of the Economics Department, the incumbent president of the DUTA, was re-elected with votes against 345 scored by Dr Jinnatunnessa Begum of Botany from pro-BNP White panel. General secretary-elect Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism got 436 votes against 340 of his Blue panel contestant Dr Sayed Rashidul Hasan of Marketing.

Other office bearers elected from the Blue panel are: Vice-President—Mohammad Mohibur Rahman (Chemistry) with 412 votes, Treasurer—Dr Iftekar Ghani Chowdhury (IBA) with 453 votes and Joint Secretary Dr Shaheed Akhtar Hossain (soil science) with 394 votes.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

### Four Western hostages sighted in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (India), Dec 30: Four Western tourists seized by Muslim militants in Kashmir have been sighted for the first time since their abductors fought a gun battle with Indian troops this month, police said Friday, reports AFP.

The foreigners were seen by locals on December 23 in the mountainous village of Hakura, nearly 55 kilometers (34 miles) south of here, along with 20 or 30 gunmen, police sources quoted villagers as saying.

The gunmen included both foreign mercenaries and Kashmiri militants, the sources said, adding that the four abducted men—two Britons, an American and a German—appeared to be in good health.

It was the first time the Westerners were sighted since the Al-Faran group which is holding them claimed December 11 that three of the foreigners had been taken away by Indian troops a week earlier.

### Economic performance reviewed 23pc ADP funds used in 5 months

The performance of various economic sectors during the first five months, ending in November, of this fiscal was reviewed at a meeting, held in Dhaka yesterday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the sector-wise performance in terms of revenue collection, ADP implementation, export and import growth remittances and foreign exchange reserve position, inflation and ADP growth.

Regarding revenue collection, the meeting was informed that during the first five months of the current financial year, Tk 4,249 crore was collected against a projected target of Tk 4,176 crore, registering an increase of 1.7 per cent. The non-tax revenue collection target was also on track.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the progress of the Annual Development Programme (ADP). It was informed that during the pe-

riod, 23 per cent of the allocated fund was spent, compared to 16 per cent during the corresponding period in 1993-94 and 24 per cent in 1994-95.

The meeting observed that the rate of the ADP implementation is satisfactory despite adverse political situation, marked by frequent hartals.

About inflation, the meeting observed that the inflation which showed an upward trend because of rise in food prices both at home and abroad had stabilised in recent months.

On the basis of consumers price index of the middle class family in the Dhaka city, which has been used since 1973-74 for calculating inflation, the rate of inflation in September this year was 5.77 per cent.

It was told in the meeting that the export growth in the last five months was 13.5 per cent while the imports registered a growth of 30 per cent.  
 See Page 12 Col 1

### Jatrabari bus fire Arrested persons make important disclosure

Star Report

Statements by two of the persons arrested in connection with the December 4 bus fire incident at Jatrabari in the city might lead to finding some clue to the incident, police said yesterday.

Six persons were arrested in connection with the incident in which 12 people died.

The two persons gave some vital information regarding the incident, police said, but did not disclose for  
 See Page 12 Col 8

### Two unions clash at Biman office

By Staff Correspondent

Two employees unions of the Bangladesh Biman clashed in its head office at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

Some furniture, glass panes and doors were partially damaged in the clash, witnesses and Biman employees said.  
 See Page 12 Col 6

Regarding "Dhaka International Trade Fair, 1996" organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion Bureau.



**NOTICE**

- Venue : Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
- Date : 2-20 January, 1996
- Inauguration : January 02, 1996 at 11-30 AM, to be inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia
- Special guest : Hon'ble Commerce and Information Minister Mr M Shamsul Islam
- Time of the fair : 02 January '96: 4 PM-9 PM  
 for the public 03-20 January '96: 10 AM-9PM
- Cultural function : Every Thursday and Friday during the fair. Time: 6.30 PM-8.30 PM

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Fair Authority

**Announcement**

The Daily Star will publish a 12-page New Year Special tomorrow along with the normal 12-page issue of the day.

This special issue will contain interviews and articles by eminent scholars and specialists.

Price of this 24-page New Year Special has been fixed at Tk. 7.00 only.

Ask your hawker for your copy tomorrow.

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