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Sharjah, not Dhaka, to host WC cricket

CALCUTTA, Dec 9: The International Cricket Council will hold a special World Cup knockout tournament in the United Arab Emirates next year. ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya said today, reports AP. Nine Test-playing countries have been invited to the championship in Sharjah. Dalmiya told a news conference at the end of a two day meeting here. The championship will help raise money to popularise cricket throughout the world. The tournament will be held from September 26 to October 4 on a knockout basis and involve one pre-quarter final, four quarterfinals, two semifinals and a final. The ICC ruled out holding the meet in Bangladesh because it rains that time of the year. It also decided against Disney land in the United States because it lacks the necessary See Page 12 Col 3

BNP, allies call hartal in Ctg, CHT today, tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: BNP and its allies have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong and three hill districts tomorrow and day after tomorrow demanding cancellation of the CHT peace accord. Processions were brought out in the city for and against the hartal. Supporters of BNP and Jamaat brought out separate processions in the city this afternoon to drum up support for the hartal while Awami League organised anti-hartal procession. The garments factories have been exempted from the purview of hartal, BNP press release said. UNB adds: Bangalee Gano Parishad today brought out a procession in Bandarban town in support of the dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong and the three hill districts tomorrow and Thursday to protest the "so- See Page 12 Col 3

Hartal called to paralyse export, import: AL

Awami League has called upon the people to remain alert against conspiracy hatched by BNP-Jamaat clique to create anarchy, reports UNB. The call came from a meeting of the Presidium held yesterday at the Awami Foundation office at Dhanmondi with acting party president Amir Hossain Amu in the chair. Expressing concern at the hartal call for today and tomorrow in Chittagong and three hill districts, the AL Presidium observed that the hartal was called to paralyse the economic activities including export-import in the port city. The meeting said the BNP-Jamaat clique called the hartal on an imaginative, false and fabricated allegation against the CHT peace treaty which was widely acclaimed by the people at home as well as the international community. It said that the clique was trying to create anarchy by inciting confrontation between the tribals and Bangalees in the hill tracts. The AL Presidium urged the people, particularly the prohibition political, social and cultural bodies to remain alert against the "heinous attempt" of the BNP-Jamaat axis.

The Daily Star on the internet <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

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HC rejects plea for quashment

Trial of share scam cases to go ahead

By SC Correspondent

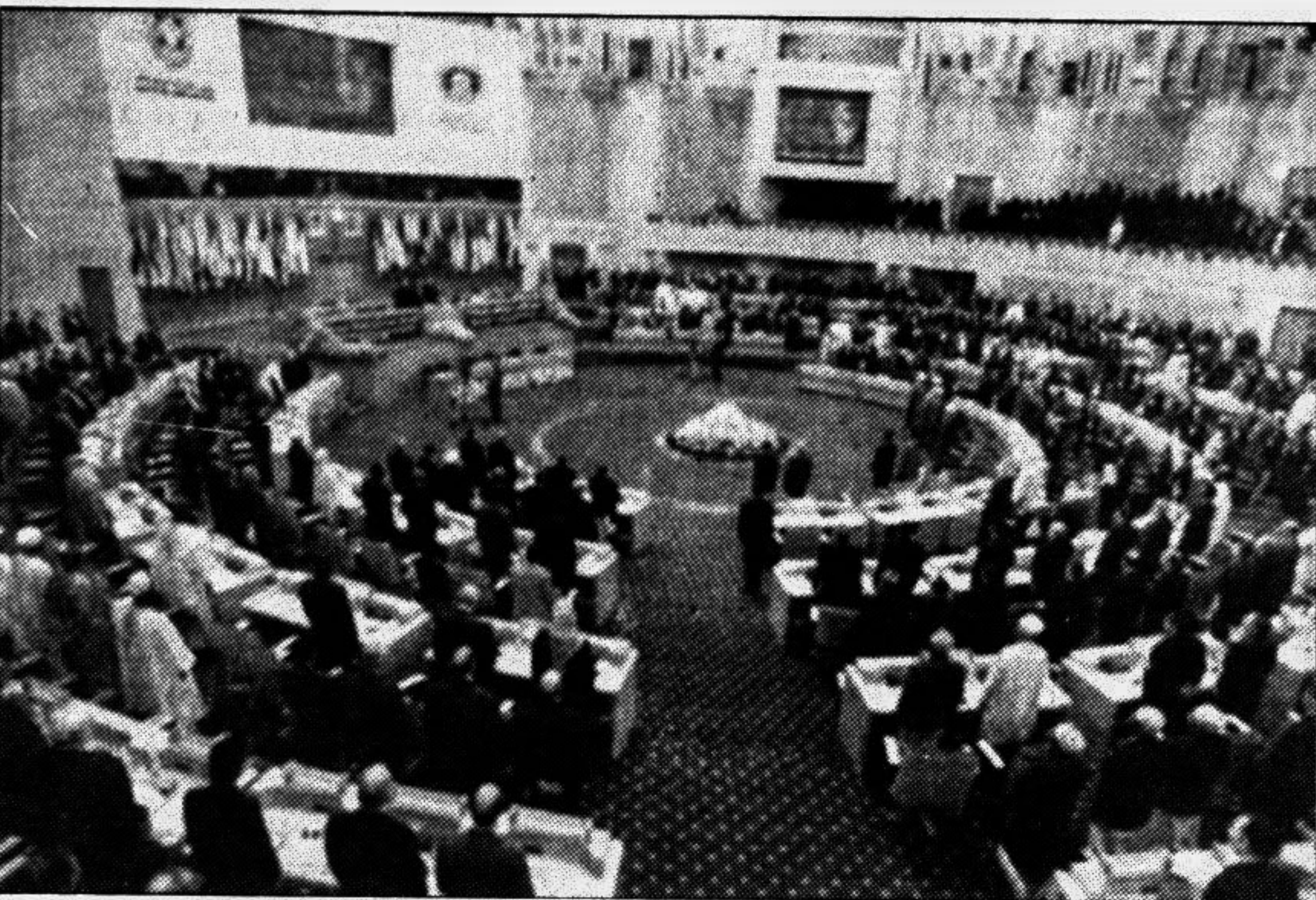
The High Court yesterday ruled that the cases against 42 people of 15 companies and brokerage firms accused of involvement in the country's biggest share market scandal last year would continue for trial. The trial of the sensational share market scam cases were on hold since June 1 following a reference sent by the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court to the HC upon petitions filed by three of the accused companies. A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haque in a verdict rejected the reference cases sent by the District and Sessions Judge, Kazi Golam Rasul. The petitions were filed by the Shine Pukur Holdings Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, and A K M Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities, calling for quashment of cases against them. They claimed that those were not properly filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC lodged the cases on April 2 with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, Dhaka against some bigwigs of the capital market accusing them of tailoring share prices, sending the market into dizzying heights leading to its collapse in November last year. It filed the cases following a lengthy probe by an independent committee after the bubble had burst, from which the market is yet to recover. Warrants of arrest against the accused were issued by the CMM after taking cognizance of the cases. They obtained ad-interim bails from the HC. Later the three companies filed three separate criminal revision cases with the Dhaka District and Sessions Court. Their counsel Serajul Huq See Page 12 Col 1



THE FIRST BITE OF THE WINTER: The quartet crouch at the verandah of the Mirpur Stadium, waiting for the drizzles to go yesterday. —Star photo

First bite of Winter

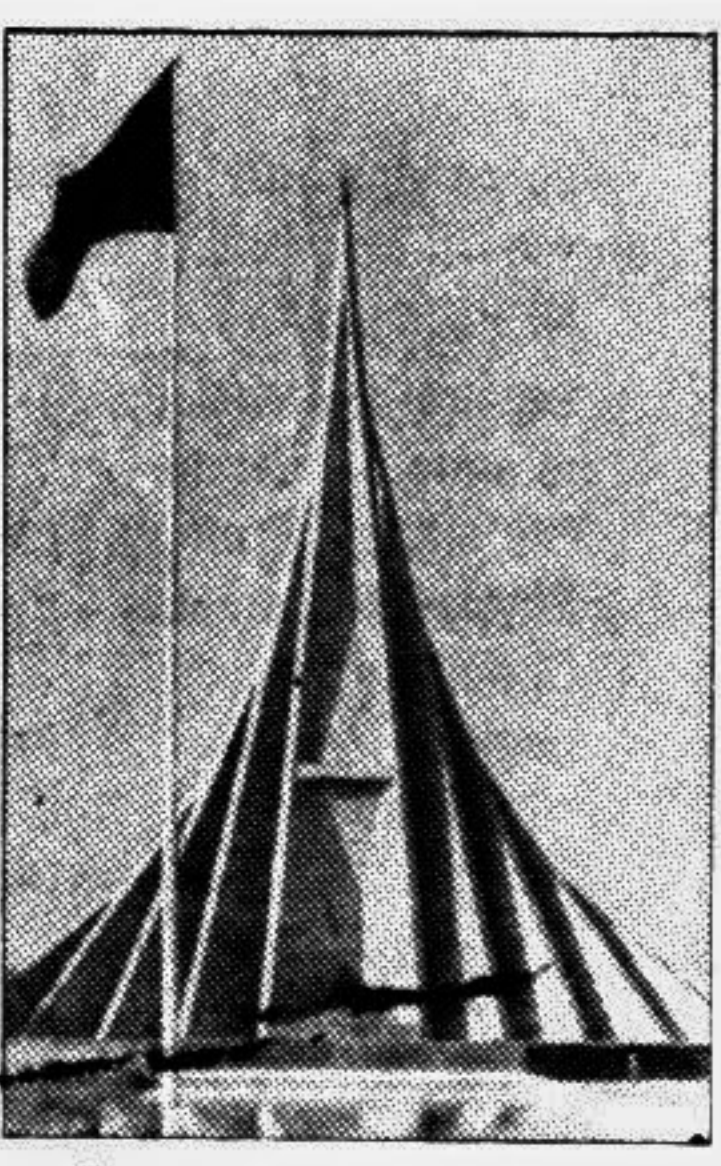
By Staff Correspondent City dwellers experienced the first bite of the winter yesterday. Day-long drizzles made the life of the poor labourers, beggars, push-cart men and rickshaw peddlers difficult. The drizzles, totalling 2 mm in the city, began after a misty morning that kept the sun hidden for the whole day. Resulting from a mating of Easterly and Westerly air flow, drizzles were reported from all over the country barring Chittagong, Noakhali and Barisal. In Jessore it totalled 4 mm. Srimangal 3 mm Mongla 2 mm and Sathkira 2 mm. The minimum temperature on the day was 13.5 degree Celsius in Rangamati. In the city it was 18 degree. The Met office have said the drizzles may continue today. The winter will settle down, after the drizzles. Director of Met office Sajedur Rahman said drizzles at this time of the year generally See Page 12 Col 7



Heads of state and delegates stand as they listen to the Iranian national anthem during the opening session of the 8th Islamic Conference in Tehran yesterday. —AP/UNB photo

Vote of thanks at OIC summit Foreign forces still active against Islamic world: PM

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today expressed her dismay as the Islamic world continues to be victim of malevolent designs of vicious foreign forces, reports BSS. "Palestinians and Arabs remain victims of flaming Zionist hatred, Bosnian Muslims under threat to Serbian attacks, Afghans embroiled in intolerant fraternal strife, Azeris faced with Armenian aggression, and Somalians steeped in poverty, hunger and disease," she said while proposing a vote of thanks on behalf of the member countries of Asia at the opening function of the OIC summit here today. She said the Muslim minorities in many non-Muslim countries continue to suffer from ignominious treatment, persecution and violence. The most ominous of all is the insidiously planned conspiracies against Islam, and the orchestrated malicious campaign mounted by malevolent un-Islamic forces, she added. Sheikh Hasina said the situation of some Muslim countries has been further aggravated by the evolving post-cold war international economic developments. The fast paced process of globalisation and liberalisation has marginalised the majority of the Islamic countries, particularly the least developed ones. All these malaise are of profound concern to the Islamic Ummah, and clearly reflected in the Iranian President's most See Page 12 Col 6



Sanskritik Jote begins 'Bijoy Utsab' Dec 13

By Staff Correspondent A four-day 'Bijoy Utsab' organised by the Sammilito Sanskritik Jote in observance of the Victory Day, 1997 will begin in the city on December 13. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the programmes at 3:30 pm at the central Shaheed Minar on the day, according to a press release. The slogan of the programme this year is "Ekattorer Bijoy Gantha Chhorite Dao Shobar Pranay." Ramendu Mojumder, president of the Jote, will preside over the opening ceremony while State Minister for Culture See Page 12 Col 1

Police allegedly dismantle JASAS pandal

Jatityatbadi Samajik Sanskritik Sangstha (JASAS) may not be able to begin its "Bijoy Mela" today due to alleged police intervention, reports UNB. JASAS, the cultural wing of main opposition BNP, had completed all preparations to organise the weeklong victory festival from today at the "Satayu Angan" in the Ramna Park. BNP leaders alleged that Ramna thana police yesterday evening dismantled the pandal erected for the festival with necessary permission from the Public Works Department. At a press briefing at the party central office, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan strongly protested the police intervention, denying See Page 12 Col 4

Mannan Bhuiyan's denial

By Staff Correspondent BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a letter, written in Bangla, to The Daily Star yesterday denied that he had any serious disagreement with party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia over the agitation programmes announced Sunday last. Referring to a part of the news item titled "Activities of Communal Groups in BNP: Khaleda, Mannan exchange hot words on policy matters" in Tuesday's issue of The Daily Star, Bhuiyan said: "The information that I had serious disagreement with party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia over the party's recent programme is untrue." He said: "The BNP adopts all programmes according to the decision of the honourable Chairperson of the party, although there is scope for others to propose any possible programme. Bhuiyan further said that the Chairperson makes the decisions following discussions with leaders at different layers of the party. Claiming that the BNP followed the said mechanism in adopting all the party programmes so far, Bhuiyan said: "There is, therefore, no scope for an altercation with the Chairperson over party programme."

Left out oil giants invited for talks

Star Report

The Negotiation Committee on block bidding for oil and gas exploration has invited the companies, including oil giants Mobil, Chevron-Texaco and Total for discussions which will continue till December 19, according to official sources. These companies had so far been left out of negotiations. The government now plans to wrap up the negotiations for the 12 blocks by the end of this month, instead of the much touted schedule of December 15, the sources said. Officials and petroleum experts hold their strong opinion that the government will not be able to sign any contract or make any dramatic progress in this regard. Energy Ministry officials and negotiators however contradict this view and believe that something can be attained by this month. Meanwhile, the government has shortlisted some companies which will be awarded five blocks on the basis of negotiations already held. Sources said that Tullow, three Irish company in this negotiation, would be given Block 9, US company Triton Block 7, Dutch company Maersk Block 19, Shell-Cairn Block 10 and Block 5, Enron-Oakland Block 6 and Pangaea Block 8. Discussions will be held with the US company Pangaea today and with another US company Hondo tomorrow. The Mobil-Petronas joint venture has been invited for discussion on December 14. Chevron-Texaco joint venture on Dec 15, US company Union Texas on Dec 17, US company See Page 12 Col 5

Malaysia to deport 3000 Bangladeshis

About 3,000 Bangladeshis, who are now in detention camps in Malaysia, are facing deportation as they have no legal papers, reports UNB. Sources said the Malaysian government is planning to deport about 10,000 illegal immigrants of different countries working there without any valid documents. When contacted, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said, "We have not yet received any official information about it. We're investigating this matter."

From polling centres in Jessore

From Morshed Ali Khan JESSORE, Dec 9: Men, women and children swarmed the small lane leading to Sheikh Hat Dakhil Madrassah centre under Noapara Union of Sadar thana. Young men in groups and women in colourful sarees made their way to the already crowded UP polls centre. "This is a contest between BNP and Awami League. Shahidul Islam Milon is being contested by AL and Serajul Islam by BNP," said a young man welcoming voters to his stall before they went inside the centre. He was manning the AL-backed stall for a candidate for chairmanship. Inside the centre disciplined voters formed long queues and waited patiently. Every class room of the madrassah was full of election officials and polling agents. Voters complained of slow progress as officials inside sweated to cope with the rush. See Page 12 Col 8

80 hurt in polls-related clashes Barricade in Bogra to protest killing of boy

BOGRA, Dec 9: Angry villagers put up barricade on the Bogra-by-pass and set fire to two restaurants and damaged eight shops protesting the Monday's killing of a schoolboy in election violence, reports UNB. Villagers of Horigari went on rampage at Telipukur following alleged refusal of burying of the killed school student Yunus by their rivals of Chhillimpur area. Protesting the incident, a procession from Horigari reached at Telipukur at about 11 am and put up barricade on the road, set fire to the restaurants and damaged the shops. Police and fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the situation and fire under control. The agitated people with the body Yunus also held a rally at Tinmatha crossing. However, they put off their barricade at 4 pm and buried Yunus at Telipukur. Meanwhile, the voting in nine other unions in Sadar thana held peacefully today. At least 80 people were injured in polls-related violence in Dhamrai, Feni and Myemensingh today. At least 50 people were injured in a post-election clash at Chandail village in Kula Union Parishad under Dhamrai thana today. Police said the clash occurred between the supporters of the chairmen candidates at the Pali polling centre in the afternoon. The injured were admitted to different local clinics. Two cases were filed with Dhamrai See Page 12 Col 8

EC orders addl forces in trouble prone areas

By Staff Correspondent Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday instructed the authorities concerned to deploy additional forces in the trouble-prone areas, where Union Parishad elections are being held. The instruction came at a high-level meeting that re- See Page 12 Col 8

Licence of top DSE broker suspended

By Staff Correspondent In the first such measure, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday ordered temporary suspension of the licence of a top DSE broker who once served as head of the bourse. The axe came on Hemayet Uddin Ahmed, DSE chairman for 1986 and owner of a leading securities consultancy firm, as part of the current SEC drive to clean up the system, beset with controversies and alleged manipulative practices, SEC and DSE sources said. Coming ahead of the DSE elections scheduled for December 18, the suspension was a result of a complaint lodged by one of his clients, a former military official who ordered purchase of shares worth Tk 10 lakh in October-November when the market was going through the bubble phase. A SEC official said this was a step as part of the regulator's bid to protect and ensure investors' rights. The complaint was that Ahmed had taken money from him but bought shares on his account. And, when demanded, he declined to give either shares or money to the investor. A SEC source said suspension See Page 12 Col 5

3 more under-trial prisoners fall sick

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Dec 9: Three more under-trial prisoners fell sick in the district jail here today, mounting tension among the inmates. Earlier, two under-trial prisoners fell sick in the jail and later died at Narayanganj Hospital, one on Saturday and the other yesterday. The deaths triggered violence in the areas the victims hailed from. Jail and hospital sources said, Sirajul Islam, 30, Premkumar, 22, and Monir Hossain, 22, were rushed to Narayanganj General Hospital (it is another hospital) soon after they fell ill at the jail. Later, they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, agitated people set fire to several grocery shops in Kashipur area last night. The shops included one owned by Sufia Begum, who filed a cheating case against Joyнал Abedin, an under-trial prisoner who died at hospital yesterday. Sufia and her relatives have deserted their houses in Kashipur. The agitated people of Kashipur also held a protest rally at the local Eidgah Maidan this afternoon, accusing police of 'killing' Joyнал. Local UP Chairman Dayemuddin Ahmed and his predecessor Shahabuddin Ahmed addressed the rally. In a related development, police arrested another person, Ismail Hossain, in connection with the attacks on Sonargaon thana complex following the death of under-trial prisoner Mazharul Islam Tuhin on Saturday, raising the number of arrests in connection with the attacks to 65. The situation at Sonargaon has now returned to normalcy. See Page 12 Col 5

World Human Rights Day today

By Staff Correspondent World Human Rights Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today. The day marks the 49th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Various legal and governmental organisations have taken up elaborate programmes See Page 12 Col 5

Ordinary people in CHT know little about peace accord

By Shehab Ahmed back from Khagrachhari

Details of the CHT peace accord are yet to be known to all, the ordinary folks from all ethnic groups for whom it matters most in the area. "We have heard about it," said Dulal Chandra Basak, a vendor who sells nuts and other savouries at the tribal-dominated Swanirvar Bazar, two km off Khagrachhari. Evening was setting on the valley of Khagrachhari. The high walls of Alootila, jutting out the Lusal range, guarding the entrances to the valley below, had hidden the fading sun, leaving a haze of approaching dusk. Dulal, in his forties, had been doing a brisk business but found time to answer our queries. He had heard that an accord had been reached on December 2 between the government and the 'Shantibahini' (the military wing of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS). His clients had been saying so in the bazar. The bazar, two kilometres off Khagrachhari, is like any other bazar in Bangladesh, with the only difference that it is a market where tribesmen and settlers do business, trading their goods. It was through the word of mouth the news about the accord had reached him. But he had no details of it. A settler from Rangunia in Chittagong, Dulal Chandra Basak comes to the bazar regularly since 1991, selling snacks on his cart. He lives with his wife, two See Page 12 Col 2



Faces of ignorance: At Swanirvar Bazar in Khagrachhari, from right are Latu Miah, Solaiman and Jamini Tripara. —Star photo by S K Enamul Huq

Tk 1022.06 cr govt loan repaid to BB

The government has repaid a loan of Taka 1022.06 crore to the Bangladesh Bank during July and October, reports BSS. From October 20 to October 30 the government has repaid an amount of Taka 307.05 crore and did not take any fresh loan during this period, a BB press release said yesterday. The press release said that attention of the BB has been drawn to a news item published in a section of newspapers yesterday that in the last 10 days of October the government had taken Taka 76 crore as loan from the BB. But the government did not take any loan in the last 10 days of October.

A bank director's clarification

By Staff Correspondent A Director of the Pubali Bank, Shafi A Choudhury, whose name appeared on the list of defaulting directors in a clarification yesterday, said he had never taken any loan either from Bangladesh Shipa Bank (BSB) or Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB). However, The Daily Star's story on 35 defaulting bank directors was based on a Bangladesh Bank report in which his name appeared.