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Barriade on 'Home Minister must come to JU campus, assure action'

From JU Correspondent
 The barricade put up by the students of Jahangirnagar University on the Dhaka-Aracha highway near the campus continued for the third consecutive day yesterday.
 The agitating students barricaded the road protesting an attack on a JU bus on Thursday by truck workers at Aminbazar in which some 50 students were injured.
 The students said they will withdraw the barricade only after the Home Minister comes to the campus and assured them that action will be taken against the persons responsible.
 They also demanded that the Truck Terminal be removed from Aminbazar.
 Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury advised the students to withdraw the barricade till December 16 for peaceful observance of the Victory Day programmes at the national memorial at Savar.
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One killed in BDR firing in Naogaon

NAOGAON, Dec 13: One person was killed and another wounded seriously today when BDR opened fire to disperse a mob at Sreerampur near Sutirhat in Manda thana of the district, reports UNB.
 The incident occurred when a BDR vehicle was attacked there by the angry villagers who blocked vehicular traffic following a road accident that left a child killed in the morning.
 At one stage the BDR personnel opened fire on the mob killing a man on the spot, witnesses said.
 The victim could not be immediately identified, but his body was brought to Naogaon Sadar Hospital by BDR men.
 They also brought injured Haroon, 27, son of Ayeenuddin from Sreerampur, to the Sadar hospital. Later, he was shifted to Rajshahi Hospital.
 Riot police were deployed in the area.

Arrest of Jubo League activist sparks violence in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
 KHULNA, Dec 13: The detective branch of police arrested Wazed Alam, 29, an activist of Jubo League from his residence at Banikhmer under Sonadanga thana at 11 am today.
 He was wanted in connection with various cases, including murder, extortion, rape and robbery.
 After his arrest, the supporters of AL, BCL and Jubo League went on rampage at Mollapota Square on Sher-e-Bangla Road and ferry ghat was terminal. They damaged 43 passenger buses, 12 autorickshaws and several roadside shops. They also exploded series of bombs and fired blank shots in presence of police.
 The situation took a serious turn when the transport workers launched a counter-attack by putting up barricades on roads at Mollapota and Shibirbari Intersection in which at least four persons were injured. Transport service in Khulna-Jessore route remained suspended till filing of this report.

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Lest we forget



The Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur— Star photo

By Staff Correspondent
 A grateful nation today pays homage to the celebrated sons of the soil who were brutally murdered by the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators at the fag end of the nine-month War of Liberation.
 Today is Martyred Intellectuals Day. This day in 1971, many leading intellectuals of the country were killed by the occupation forces and their local agents with the ulterior motive of making the emerging nation intellectually bankrupt.
 The infamous collaborators — Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Razakars — had picked up many teachers, writers, philosophers, doctors, poets, engineers, journalists and other intellectuals, mostly from their respective residences, and murdered them. They were tortured at various concentration camps and eventually butchered and their bodies were dumped at two places in the city — Rayerbazar and Mirpur. Their mutilated bodies, with hands tied behind

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PM opens 4-day 'Bijoy Utsab'

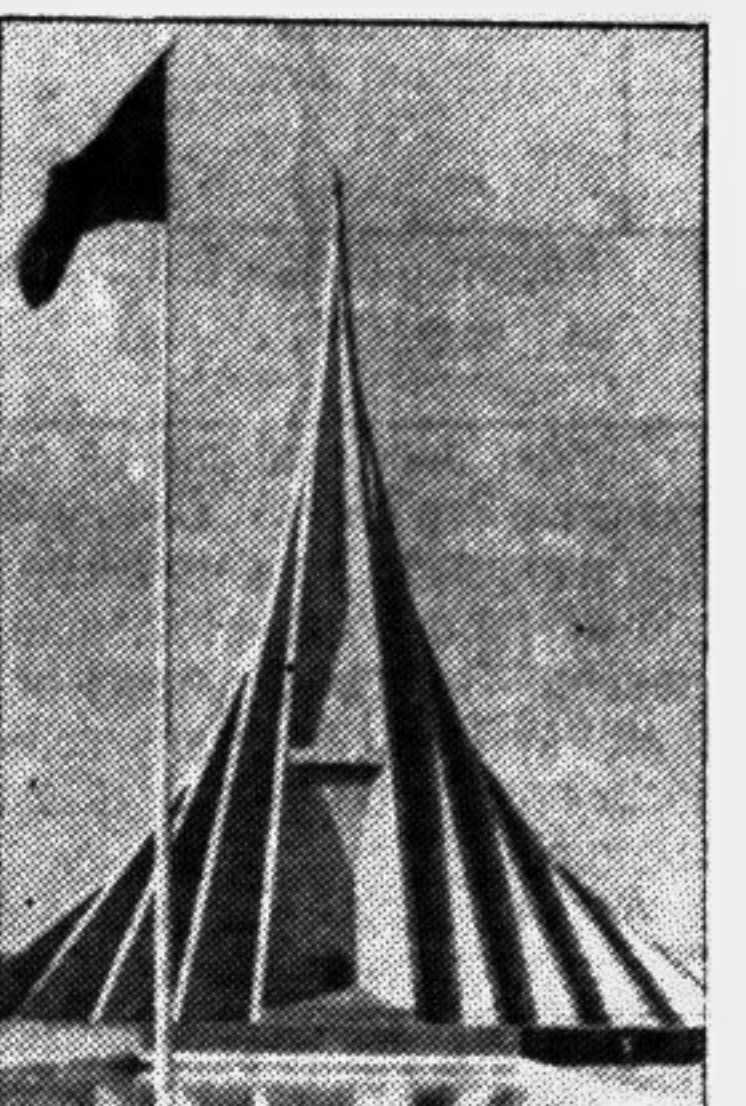
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the opposition parties to return to the way of peace shunning the path of creating unrest, saying the people want peace, not conflict, reports UNB.
 The bid to create unrest is disturbing their peace of mind at a time when the people are going to celebrate the victory festivals," she said addressing the inaugural function of the four-day 'Bijoy Utsab' (victory festival) at the Central Shaheed Minar.
 Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, the alliance of the cultural groups of the country, organised the function to celebrate the Victory Day.
 During the four days, the Jote will arrange drama, film and cultural shows in and around the Dhaka University campus to mark the Victory Day.
 Inaugurating the festival, the Prime Minister said certain quarters are opposing the peace when the government is engaged in solving problems one after another.
 "We thought we will get cooperation from all quarters as we're trying to fulfill the hopes and aspiration of the people," Hasina said and wondered

See Page 12 Col 8

BB unearths another fraud Water, in place of soyabean oil

By Inam Ahmed
 The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has unearthed case of alleged massive financial frauds involving a former member of the parliament and five commercial banks of the country.
 The alleged frauds include a case of importing soyabean oil under loan of a bank which later upon testing was found to contain mostly water.
 Through various means of alleged frauds, the former BNP MP Mohammad Ali had siphoned off crores of taka from the banks in the form of loans which he never paid back. His total defaulting loan amount now stands at Tk 122.51 cr.
 Mohammad Ali contested the February 15 parliamentary elections from Narayanganj-4 constituency and was elected an MP for seven days. He is currently a member of the executive committee of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI).
 The banks which have disregarded banking norms in sanctioning loans to Md Ali are: Sonali Bank, Al-Baraka bank, IFIC Bank, AB Bank and Rupali Bank.
 A Bangladesh Bank inspection team has found that officials of the loan giving banks were involved in most of these financial dealings in which they had grossly violated banking rules.
 The BB has already asked the banks' authorities to take actions against the officials who had assisted in the scam.
 Mohammad Ali, owner of Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd, had taken part of the loan in the name of importing soyabean oil. But later, the banks concerned had his soyabean oil tested in the laboratory. The result was stunning — the soyabean had proved to be mostly wa-

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Programmes at Shilpakala

By Staff Correspondent
 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organise a cultural function on the Victory Day on the academy premises.
 State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader will attend the function as chief guest.
 Artists including those of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra will render songs and

See Page 12 Col 5

Polls violence in 3 dists 5 killed, 2 of them in police firing

By Staff Correspondent
 At least five persons were killed and polling in 13 centres was cancelled due to electoral violence yesterday, the tenth day of the country's on going union parishad elections.
 Of them two people, including a woman were killed in police firing at a polling centre at Kurshabadagor union under Norka thana of Sherpur district, while two others were killed during electoral violence between the supporters of rival candidates in Furba Chandrapur union of Dagonbhuiyan thana under Feni district. The other persons were killed in Gopalganj-Sadar thana.
 According to EC sources, polling was cancelled in 13

Khaleda tells professionals Govt won't be allowed to implement CHT accord

By Staff Correspondent
 BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed her firm determination to prevent implementation of the CHT accord and called for a "mass uprising" before the "betrayal" government starts executing the 'unconstitutional' agreement.
 She was exchanging views on the accord with members of different professional groups at her Minto Road official residence in the city last night. The discussions lasted for more than three hours.
 "If the CHT accord is allowed to be implemented, revolts will take place in other parts, ultimately disintegrating the country," she viewed. "We'll have to hit the government before the disaster becomes inevitable."
 The former prime minister alleged that the government, by signing the accord, breached its constitutional obligation of protecting the country's sovereignty and called upon professionals to 'violate all directives'.
 She also called upon all "patriotic people" irrespective of their social and professional positions to participate in the agitation against the accord to "safeguard very existence of the country."
 Terming suggestions for

Over one lakh HIV carriers in Bangladesh feared

By Naimul Haq
 Bangladesh can be a high risk area and it is indeed an ideal place for an epidemic outbreak of HIV," Prof Nazrul Islam, Project Director of Bangladesh AIDS Prevention and Control Programme has said.
 "Since 1990, about 350,000 people have been screened serologically for HIV antibody in the country. The latest findings show 95 people have been identified with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and as many as 100,000 people may be carrying the HIV virus positively. But the figure could be much higher," he told The Daily Star.
 It is suspected that there are many cases which have been 'misdiagnosed or have not been reported' considering the patients' privacy. However, according to an estimate made in 1993, there are about 100,000 female commercial sex workers (CSW) in brothels in the country.
 A survey revealed that the typical customers of the brothels include truck drivers, rick-

Probe into killing of 8 intellectuals complete

As the nation pays homage to the martyred intellectuals today, police have completed investigation into the killing of eight of the brightest sons of the soil, reports UNB.
 The chargesheet of the case is expected to be finalised shortly, an official source said, adding that a copy of the findings of the investigation will be sent to the British government.
 The British government showed interest in the investigation as a documentary film unearthed that some of the alleged killers are now staying in London.
 The documentary, 'War Crimes File' by journalist David Bergman, identified three Bangladeshi 'war criminals' responsible for the killing of intellectuals. Bergman may visit Bangladesh again next week.
 The eight intellectuals were picked up by infamous Al-Badr

New laws on CHT being formulated

Experts and officials of the Law Ministry and the Special Affairs Division, now engaged in preparing the drafts of new laws on CHT, were learnt to have been advised to complete their job within a month, reports UNB.
 Sources said as many as four new laws would be formulated to give legal cover to the CHT peace accord, signed on December 2 between the government and tribal leaders.
 Three bills to amend the three hill districts (Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban) local govt councils acts of 1989 and one new bill on the proposed Regional Council will be prepared.
 The bills will be submitted for the Parliament's winter session which is expected to begin in the first week of January.
 After the passage of the bills in parliament, the sources said, government would take up other steps like formation of the Land Commission and interim Regional Council for the Hill Tracts in accordance with the provisions of the peace agreement.
 Meanwhile, preparations are also underway to make a list of the armed cadres of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and members of the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote observing one minute's silence in memory of the martyrs of Liberation War before she inaugurated 'Bijoy Utsab '97' at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

US investors keen to invest in oil, gas exploration

The American business delegation, which called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, showed keen interest in expanding business in Bangladesh, particularly in natural gas and oil explorations, reports UNB.
 The US team of investors, led by Frank G Wisner and David N Merrill, called on the Prime Minister at her official residence at Ganobhaban and discussed business prospects in the country.
 The Prime Minister told the delegation about the investment-friendly atmosphere in Bangladesh and referred to various incentives offered by the government to attract foreign investment in the country.
 Referring to the geographical location of the country, she described Bangladesh as the bridge between the East and West and suggested the members of the delegation to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by her government.
 She also called upon the US business leaders to tap the huge Bangladesh market of over 120 million people.
 Talking about the huge natural resources reserve, Hasina

Young man kills his elder brother in city

By DMC Correspondent
 A young man killed his elder brother at their house at Mirpur Section-1 in the city on Friday night.
 Md Shamim, 30, was fatally injured when hit by Altaf Hossain, 22, with a screw driver. He succumbed to his injuries at Suhrawardy Hospital shortly afterwards.
 Police said Altaf attacked his brother as Shamim criticised his indiscipline life style.
 Altaf was earlier charged in another murder case, police said, adding he often used to stay outside the house. Altaf was in hiding and returned to the country from abroad about a year ago.
 Police could not arrest Altaf. A senior police official, quoting Shamim's family, said Altaf came to their Mirpur house in an auto-rickshaw to collect money. After killing his brother, he fled using the same vehicle.
 Meanwhile, their step mother Shanti Begum filed a case with Mirpur thana accusing Altaf of the killing. Shamim's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Gas exploration 'Dhaka should meet local needs first'

By Sharier Khan
 Bangladesh should emphasise exploration and development of its oil and gas resources to cater to the local needs now and think about export of gas in the future on economic considerations, the chief executive of a leading foreign oil company says.
 Richard H Matzke, President of Chevron Overseas Petroleum Inc., USA, believes that the primary target for utilisation of natural gas should be power generation in Bangladesh as 85 per cent of its populations has no access to it.
 Matzke, now here on a visit, was talking to this correspondent yesterday.
 Local experts have been opposing the idea of exporting gas, a proposition which is being considered by the government now. They are saying that Bangladesh should first have a recoverable gas reserve of at least 20 trillion cubic feet.
 The present reserve is 10.8 TCF and gas export would not only affect the energy sector in the long term but also destabilise the political situation in the country, the experts say.
 "The question of utilising the gas should now be deciding how much gas should I have, before I decide to export," Matzke said adding, "Bangladesh must now plan and assess how fast it can develop the power and gas sectors and outline clearly what portion of gas should be preserved for local use and what portion could be exported."
 "There is tremendous gas potential in the local market" Matzke said.
 Chevron, a leading oil company working world wide, is participating in the second round of block bidding for oil and gas exploration with Texaco.
 Commenting on a recent debate whether it was proper for the government to open up all the blocks for exploration without considering the needs of the future, Matzke said, "Opening up all the blocks was a correct decision."
 He said if the government

Ruling party's bid to end CHT barricade

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: Road barricade programme at Rangamati was relaxed today for Union Parishad elections in some areas of the district, sources said.
 Movement of vehicles resumed at Rangamati today but the Parbatya Sarbadalyo Oikkya Parishad threatened to enforce the barricade programme there again from tomorrow, sources added.
 In Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts, small number of vehicles were seen plying despite the barricade programme.
 The bailey bridges, damaged by activists opposing the CHT peace accord, were repaired by the authorities and Army was put on alert in the three hill districts to prevent any untoward incident, official sources said.
 Tight security is being maintained in the CHT and a large number of police personnel, mostly in riot gear, have been deployed.
 Meanwhile, leaders of the ruling party have embarked on a campaign in the CHT to motivate the non-tribals for supporting the peace accord. Food

Nirmul urges DCC Arrange separate graveyard for war criminals

By Staff Correspondent
 Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at a meeting yesterday urged the Dhaka City Corporation to arrange a separate graveyard for war criminals, Rajakars and Al-Badars.
 The meeting, in a resolution also demanded that the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur be reserved only for freedom fighters, family members of the martyrs and the intellectuals.
 Presided over by Nirmul Committee convener Shamim Akhter, the executive council meeting was held at the city residence of Shaymali Nasreen Chowdhury, widow of a martyr, says a press release.
 The meeting called for re-naming of Khan-e-Sabur Road to Khan-e-Shaheed Mon-ayem Khan School' in Mymensingh after the names of martyred freedom fighters. It also expressed deep anguish at the naming of different roads, educational institutions and student dormitories after the names of Rajakars.

Letter to PM Clinton happy over ties with Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Dec 13: President Bill Clinton has expressed his 'great satisfaction' at the increasing economic relations between Bangladesh and the US and said he was excited about cooperation, specially in the gas and power sectors, reports BSS.
 In a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently, the US President said he has also noticed that a number of US companies are interested in investing in Bangladesh.
 Clinton expressed his agreement with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina about the positive state of US-Bangladesh relations and the evolution of democracy in Bangladesh.
 The US President said he was proud of the US Agency for international development role in supporting Bangladesh's economic and social development. He also lauded the partnership among foreign donors, Bangladesh government and NGOs to alleviate poverty.
 He said he would like to see the progress being made in this area.
 The US President also expressed his hope to see her (Sheikh Hasina) soon.

Sec 144 still in force: Minister Assures probe

HABIGANJ, Dec 13: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria today assured the local people of judicial enquiry into the Thursday's incident in Mashajna Bridge in which several people were killed and more than 100 injured, reports UNB.
 Exchanging views with the local MPs, divisional officials and local elite at the Habiganj Circuit House, the minister also announced Tk 50,000 compensation for each family of the victims.
 Kibria said a judicial body, headed by a district judge, will probe the incident and administrative measures will be taken after the enquiry.
 Meanwhile, the Section 144 imposed on Thursday within one mile radius of the spot still remained in force.