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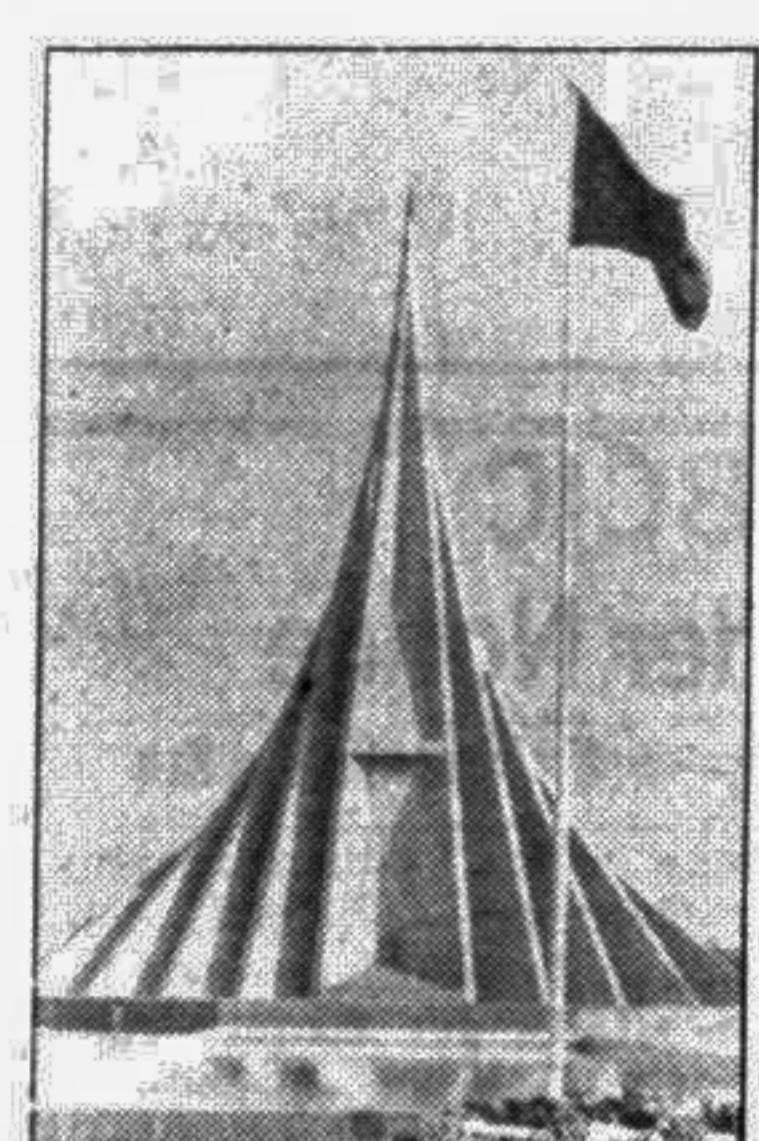
DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1999

23 days to the
3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 24, 1406 BS

SABAN 29, 1420 HIJRI

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Doctors at Ctg go on indefinite strike

Gunmen attack CMC teacher

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 7: Medical services collapsed in the city as doctors went on an indefinite strike today protesting attack on a professor of Chittagong Medical College, Dr Nilkanta Bhattacharya, by unidentified terrorists.

Dr Nilkanta was attacked last night by two gunmen who stormed into his chamber near Chittagong Medical College Hospital, witnesses and police said.

He received injury in his head during the attack and was admitted to CMCH.

Protesting the attack, the doctors and students of Chittagong Medical College stopped all outdoor services except emergency at the hospital from this morning.

The doctors held a protest rally on the hospital premises and announced suspension of private practice at the chambers and clinics from today. They also decided to continue the strike until the attackers of Nilkanta were arrested and punished.

During the rally, barricades were put up on the road in front of Chittagong Medical College Hospital, witnesses and police said.

The agitating students of Chittagong Medical College torched a pick-up van and damaged some speed vehicles on the road.

The patients who came to the outdoor went back without

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People converge on the Shaheed Minar, celebrating the global recognition of our valiant sons' glorious sacrifice 48 years ago. The site marks the exact spot where the students fell when bullets struck them. The Minar in the background

Star photo A K M Mohsin

Inside Today

Article

Real Face of Vajpayee Government

Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayar
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Prayer Timings

| December 8 | | |
|------------|-------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 5:15 | 5:45 |
| Zohr | 12:45 | 1:15 |
| Asr | 3:42 | 4:00 |
| Maghrib | 5:18 | 5:23 |
| Esha | 7:00 | 7:30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

PDB men withdraw 'mass leave' programme

By Sharier Khan

Officers and engineers of the Power Development Board (PDB) power units yesterday withdrew their agitation programme following successful negotiations between them and the higher authorities.

"The officers have withdrawn the agitation programmes," PDB Chairman Quam-

rul Islam Siddique told The Daily Star upon reaching an agreement with the Power Generation Officers' Association (PGOA) at around 9.45 pm last night, and commented "It was a tough negotiation."

Under the banner of PGOA, the officers and engineers of the Ashuganj power units yesterday began a three-day "mass leave" programme to press home their five-point demands. Ashuganj units are the largest cluster of power generation system which provides 750 megawatts of power against a total country-wide power production of around 2500 MW.

PGOA leaders sat with the State Minister for Energy Prof Rafiqul Islam, Power Secretary GM Mondol, the PDB Chairman and other high officials from 5.30 pm at the Secretariat. Prior to this meeting, the PDB Chairman and the Association had held a day-long meeting at PDB for the fourth consecutive day to resolve the crisis.

The Association was de-

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Worst traffic jam

By Staff Correspondent

The city, emerging from two successive days of hartal, went through one of the most terrible traffic jams in recent times due mainly to a government rally in the heart of the city yesterday.

The rally was organised to celebrate the recognition of February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

Traffic movement was severely disrupted as the rally road map, announced earlier, was not followed properly. In most areas the situation was chaotic, blocking roads for several hours.

Traffic flow from Topkhana Road to Shaheed Minar came to a halt due to the rally, which was attended by hundreds of people including the prime minister.

The worst affected parts were: Farmgate-Shahbagh stretch, Motijheel, Dilkusha, Banani-DOHS crossing to Mohakhali inter-city bus terminal, Maghbazar crossing of Mouchak to Malibagh, Paltan

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A day of pride for the nation

By Staff Correspondent

Maidan in the city in the morning, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was the chief guest at the function where thousands of people including women and children gathered with banners, festoons and placards.

People including students, intellectuals, political leaders, freedom fighters and cultural activists streamed into the Paltan Maidan from all directions to join the rally. School, college and madrassah students marched to the venue singing patriotic songs to the tune of music by band parties. The whole Paltan area took a festive look.

Language Movement veterans, high government officials and diplomats also attended the grand rally. A large pandal covering almost half of the field was erected with a big stage decorated with the portraits of language movement martyrs Salam, Rafiq and Barkat.

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Byelections today 6 jt secys instead of acting CEC to visit centres

By Staff Correspondent

By-elections in Sirajganj-7, Rajshahi-5 and Kishoreganj-1 parliamentary constituencies will be held today amid apprehension of violence as the BNP-led four-party opposition alliance boycotted and vowed to resist the polls.

Election Commission sources said yesterday all preparations have been made and a massive security cover ensured to hold the by-polls in a fair, fast and peaceful way.

But neither acting Election Commissioner Mushtaque Ahmed Chowdhury nor Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman will visit any of the three constituencies, the sources said.

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BB plans crackdown on hundi traders

Bangladesh Bank is planning stern action against the banks involved in illegal transaction through hundi, a clandestine money market now having a boom.

"We're preparing the strategy on how to deal with the offenders. We're still working on it," BB Governor Mohammad Farashuddin told UNB.

He, however, did not elaborate the measures to be taken, saying any disclosure would pre-empt the mission.

The governor cited three percent devaluation of the taka against dollar on November 30 as a measure to discourage illegal transfer of money and promote official channel.

Deputy governor Khondaker Ibrahim Khaled said, "We're warning the banks."

The central bank so far could not take any action except warning them and serving showcause notices for violation of exchange-control rules.

A central bank investigation last month unearthed that roughly Tk 1100 crore was transferred into Bangladesh by seven foreign and private banks between January 1997 and September 1999.

Two foreign and five local private banks have been found thriving on the illegal deals concerning individuals and NGOs.

A central bank official said further investigation was on and that the amount of illegal transfer would be much higher than what has been detected initially.

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Grand Opening Today New Jarwa House

Banani Branch



8th December
Wednesday
at 11 am

NEW JARWA HOUSE PVT. LIMITED
Iqbal Centre (1st Floor), Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka
Telephone: 8812491

WE MOURN



MR. MORAD WAIZ (65), S/O. Late Prof. Abu Hena, eminent scholar of the sub-continent and former treasurer of Dhaka University, breathed his last at 4:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 7th December '99 at his Uttara residence (Inna-lillahe-wa-inna-ilahe-rajewoon). He was a former Director of BCIC, BSEC, BPC, BHB, BADC and Chairman of Ciba-geigy. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and only son.

His Qul-Khani will be held on Friday, 10th of December '99 after Asr prayer at House No. 5/C, Road No. 13, Sector-3, Uttara, Dhaka. All his relatives, friends, well-wishers and colleagues are requested to attend his Qul-Khani and pray for his departed soul.

— The bereaved Family Members

Aman production may cross 10 million MT

By Reaz Ahmad

Production of Aman paddy is expected to hit a record of over 10 million metric tonnes (MT) in the current season, official sources said referring to primary field reports.

Now that over 50 per cent of Aman paddy is harvested, there are indications that the total output would surpass 10 million MT. Late sowed Aman is still being harvested in the southern region of the country, said a senior official of Agriculture Ministry.

In 1996-97, Aman production totalled 9.6 million MT, the highest so far. Production stood at 8.8 million MT in 1997-98 and 7.8 million MT in 1998-99.

Meanwhile, the government has fixed the procurement price of Aman rice at Tk 12.50 per kg. We will buy 2.5 lakh MT this time to give price support to the peasants, an official said.

At present, there are 1.4 mil-

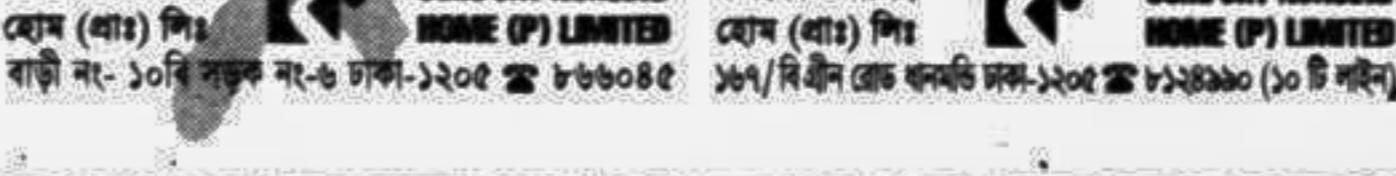
নিজস্ব ভবনে কমফোর্ট

নববর্ষ ও নবশুভাবী
শুভেচ্ছা

আপামুৰি শতাব্দীৰ প্ৰযোজনৈ আৰম্ভ

বাতুৰ আশিকে বাতুৰ আশিকাৰ

আমাদেৱ বৰ্তমান ঠিকনা



কমফোর্ট টাইপ্যার

