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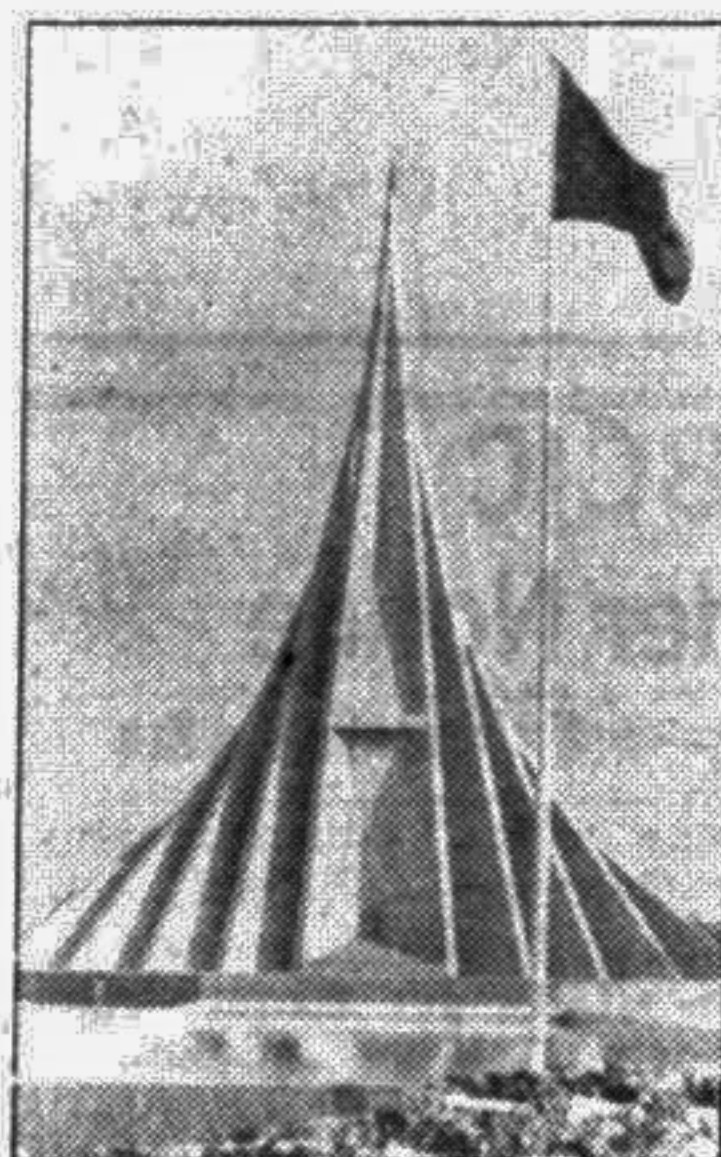
DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1999

23  
days to the  
3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 24, 1406 BS

SABAN 29, 1420 HJRI

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Memorial evening  
for martyrs

By Staff Correspondent  
Naripakkha has arranged a memorial evening for the martyrs of the Liberation War at the Central Shaheed Minar at 5:30 pm today.  
Candles will be lit in tune with the songs by Saadi Mohammad to mark the event.  
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## Inside Today

### Article

**Real Face of Vajpayee Government**

Column: Between the Lines  
by Kuldeep 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

## 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.

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 speeding vehicles on the road.

The patients who came to the outdoor went back without treatment.

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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 testifies to the elegy's glory.

—Star photo A K M Mohsin

## 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 Quamrul 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 Radul 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-

See page 11 col 7

## 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.

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

See page 11 col 5

## A day of pride for the nation

By Staff Correspondent

The nation yesterday celebrated international recognition to the Shaheed Day (language martyrs' day) through rallies, colourful programmes, patriotic songs, prayers and placing wreaths at Shaheed Minars in the city and elsewhere in the country.

From next year, February 21, the day in 1952 when valiant sons of the soil shed blood for declaration of Bangla as state language in the then Pakistan, will be celebrated throughout the world as 'International Mother Language Day' as per a UNESCO declaration on November 17.

Celebrating the day, people also paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the language movement and vowed to enrich the Bangla language and uphold Bangalee nationalism and the spirit of the Liberation War.

The official celebrations began with a grand rally at Paltan

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 madrasah 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 Barkats.

Portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were there.

After her speech at the rally, See page 11 col 8

## BNP to resist CCC polls

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has decided to resist any move by the government to hold the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls scheduled for January 3.

Leaders of the alliance said they will not allow the government to hold any election prior to the national polls and expressed their determination to take all 'necessary programmes' to resist the CCC polls.

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শতাব্দীর শেষ বছরে সবচেয়ে ভালোটি কিনুন

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ফ্যাক্স: ১৬৮৮৩০৮, ৬৮৮৩০৮, ৬৮৮৩০৮, ৬৮৮৩০৮  
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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 free, fair and peaceful way.

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

Instead, six joint secretaries of different ministries will visit the constituencies on behalf of the EC, they said.

The Rajshahi-5 and Sirajganj-7 seats fell vacant as JS membership of DR Mohammad Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan, elected from the two constituencies respectively, was cancelled by the EC for floor-crossing. Alauddin and Swapan were elected with BNP tickets but later joined the government of Sheikh Hasina as state ministers.

The Kishoreganj-1 seat fell vacant following the death of

See page 11 col 7

## 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 per cent devaluation of the taka against dollar on November 30 as a measure to discourage illegal transfer of money and promote official channel.

Deputy governor Khondkar 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.

See page 11 col 8

Grand Opening Today

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## 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-lillalhe-wa-inna-ilaihe-rajowen). 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 sown 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-

lion MT of food in the government's stock, enough to support all sorts of food aided development projects, he added.

Food should be released fast for infrastructure development under Food For Work (FFW) programme, those concerned suggested.

When contacted, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury said food was already being released for FFW programme.

Despite a very good stock position, she said, the government would go for paddy and rice procurement from the middle of this month. She thought that the farmers would get good price in the markets as well.

Reports from northern districts said wet Aman paddy was now selling at Tk 220 to 240 per maund (37.5 kg) in the markets. The paddy, when dried, would naturally sell at higher prices, the reports mentioned.

## নিজস্ব ভবনে কমফোর্ট

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কমফোর্ট নাসি  
ফোন (০২) ১০৮৮৮৮৮  
১০৮/বিল্ডিং জেড ফ্লোর ১২০৮ ১২০৮ ১২০৮ ১২০৮

## কমফোর্ট টাওয়ার

