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VOL. IX NO. 319 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 1999

17 days to the
3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 30, 1406 BS

RAMADAN 5, 1420 HIRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 6.00

JS winter session summoned

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday summoned the winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad on January 1, the first day of the millennium, at 10 am at the Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

This will be the 16th session of the seventh parliament.

President Shahabuddin will address the House on the opening day, highlighting the development programmes of the government.

The last session of the Jatiya Sangsad, which had begun on November 1 and was prorogued on November 12, was boycotted by the Opposition BNP and its allies.

Parliamentary sources told BSS yesterday that the ruling party would make special request to the main opposition BNP and its allies to join the coming session on the first day of the millennium.

The coming session would be very significant as the most coveted bill separating Judiciary from the Executive will be introduced before the House. Besides, a bill for setting up a Human Rights Commission, and another bill for adopting the Admiralty Act are likely to be introduced before the House in the session.

The winter session is likely to be a lengthy one as the members would take part in the discussions on a vote of thanks to the President for his address, besides transacting legal and other businesses, JS Secretariat sources said.

Docs continue strike at two Ctg hospitals

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: Doctors continued their strike for the third consecutive day today at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Chittagong General Hospital.

Doctors went on strike at hospitals protesting attack on Chittagong Medical College teacher Dr Nilkanta Bhattacharya by a group of armed terrorists.

They demanded immediate arrest of the terrorists. See Page 12 Col 8

Five killed as bailey bridge collapses in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 13: Five people were killed and two injured when a bailey bridge collapsed under the pressure of a loaded truck at Baroshotila of Goimara Thana here today, reports BSS.

The truck fell 300 feet below the road. Guimara police said the truck was over-loaded with timber. Five of the seven people sitting on the vehicle died on the spot as they fell under the timber.

The dead were identified as Md Shahid, 28, M Hanif, 30, Nawab Ali, 30, Nurul Huq, 27 and Nurul Islam, 32.

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
5	14	—	5:17
6	15	5:09	5:17
7	16	5:09	5:18

Prayer Timings

December 14		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:46	5:52	
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:42	4:00
Maghrib	5:16	5:22
Tarabi	7:00	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Martyred Intellectuals Day today

Nation remembers its worthy sons

By Staff Correspondent

The Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Rayer Bazar in the city will be opened by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

A grateful nation will observe the Day with a renewed pledge to materialise the ideals for which these worthy sons of the soil had made supreme sacrifice.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday termed the brutal killings of intellectuals immediately before the independence as a black chapter in the national history.

Paying rich tributes to the departed souls he said, the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators at the end of the Liberation War in 1971.

University teachers, doctors, poets, writers, journalists, engineers and many others were rounded up and killed. The killings were part of a blueprint of the occupation forces and their collaborators to make the nation intellectually bankrupt.

Among the dead were Dr GC

Hasina has called upon the nation to unitedly resist the killers and communal forces who have again forged an unholy alliance to bring a disaster for the nation.

She called upon the people to fight the forces hostile to humanity to keep high the national independence and its spirit.

The memorial at Rayer Bazar has been built at the site where many leading intellectuals of the country were brutally killed by the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators at the end of the Liberation War in 1971.

University teachers, doctors, poets, writers, journalists, engineers and many others were rounded up and killed. The killings were part of a blueprint of the occupation forces and their collaborators to make the nation intellectually bankrupt.

Dev. Prof Munir Chowdhury, Prof Jyotirmoy Caha Thakurata, Shontosh Bhattacharya, Dr Mofazzal Haidar Chowdhury, Prof Muniruzzaman, Prof Anwar Pasha, Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Dr Alim Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Mortaza, Dr Mohammad Shafi, Shabidullah Kaisar, Shirazuddin Hossain, Nizamuddin Ahmed, SA Mannan Ladu Bhui, Khondokar Abu Taleb, ANM Golam Mostafa, Shahid Saber, Nazmul Haq, Altaf Mahmud, Nutun Chandra Singha RP Shaha, Abul Khair, Rashidul Hasan, Sirazul Haq Khan, Abul Bashar, Dr Muk-tadir, Faizul Mahi, Dr Sadeq, Dr Aminuddin and Saydul Hasan.

Bodies of many martyrs were recovered from different killing grounds at Rayer Bazar and Mirpur after the occupation forces surrendered on December 16.

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Face of fear

Hartal enforcers play their game at the expense of a poor rickshawpuller near the BNP headquarters in the city yesterday. His crime: plying his bread-winning three-wheeler during hartal hours. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Govt bans import of single pack disposable syringe

Government has banned import of single pack disposable syringe which posed severe threat to public health with high risk of contamination of deadly diseases like AIDS and viral hepatitis.

Sources in the Ministry of Commerce told BSS yesterday that the government will only allow import of "blister" and "ribbon" pack syringe.

According to the new order, the 'blister and ribbon' pack syringe can be imported after fulfilment of the conditions laid down in Import Policy Act 1997-2002 and with permission from the Drug Administration.

Necessary measures would be taken against misuse of disposable syringe by banning sale of single pack syringe and strict enforcement of mandatory use of 'blister and ribbon' pack syringe, the sources said.

Drug administration sources said that it had imposed restriction on sale of single pack syringe long before. But as this item was included in the import list it was difficult to effectively and strictly enforce the ban on sale of single pack syringe in the market.

The single pack syringe, having easy scope to be reused, are being sold at random in the

market by the unscrupulous traders.

More alarming was the illegal import of such used syringe from foreign countries which might contain germs of various deadly diseases, sources said. The dishonest traders are indulged in importing such used syringe in bulk quantity and later sell it in the local market.

Besides, used syringes are being collected by the 'lokais' and dishonest traders and sold in the market. The cost of a machine for making single pack syringe is only Tk 400 while polythene packaging in various

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Amendments to Bank Company Act okayed

Star Report

The Cabinet yesterday approved amendments to the Bank Company Act (BCA), 1991, and the Financial Institutions Act, 1991, allowing a person to become directors of more than one financial company simultaneously.

It also agreed to amend BCA to allow loans to a company, having defaulted loans with any of its sister concerns.

Currently, the law bars a director of a financial company from becoming a director in another company. One, however, can become director of another financial company not similar to the one in which he is holding the post, according to the amendment.

For example, a bank director cannot become a director of another bank, but he can be on the board of an insurance company," said an official of the Finance Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Ministry, which controls the insurance companies, has been asked to bring amendments to its laws to allow dual directorship.

On the other hand, currently a company having a loan defaulting sister company is not entitled to fresh loans to banks. When the new amendments will come into effect, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) will determine the amount of a company's stake in its defaulting sister concern. The BB will fix a matrix and accordingly allow companies having small stakes in defaulting companies to get fresh loan facilities.

50 hurt as police, pickets clash at Ctg: 71 held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: Sporadic clashes between police and pro-hartal activists here today left at least 50 people including a policeman injured, according to police and witnesses.

The injured were admitted to different private clinics as doctors at the government hospitals were on strike. Wounded in a carter explosion, the cop was admitted to the police hospital.

Police arrested 71 people from different trouble spots in the city during hartal hours.

The BNP-led opposition al-

liance began enforcing a 36-hour hartal in the city today, the last day of filing nomination papers for the Chittagong City Corporation scheduled for January 3 next year. The hartal aims to resist the CCC polls.

Elsewhere in the country, it was a nine-hour shutdown, ending at 3pm.

About 2,000 policemen and seven platoons of paramilitary BDR were on duty in the port city during the shutdown. A large number of policemen, mostly in riot gear, were deployed around the local BNP of-

fice at Nur Ahmed Road. Police barred the opposition activists who gathered in front of the BNP office from bringing out any procession.

Police were also on guard around the Jamaat office at Chandanpura in the city.

Due to obstruction by police, the opposition activists failed to hold their planned public rally at Lalighi Maidan near the Zila Parishad building where a temporary election office functioned to receive nomination papers for the CCC. See Page 12 Col 7

Meghnaghat plant Handing over of project site delayed again

By Sharier Khan

Uncertainty looms over the Meghnaghat power plant, since construction delays have again postponed plans to hand the 100-hectare project site over to the developer.

The Power Development Board was supposed to ask AES, the plant's developer, to test the site on October 15. It would then hand over the land on November 15.

However, the board asked AES to test the site on Decem-

ber 3, since the site developer's work progressed slower than planned. Testing should be complete by January 3.

"If the land testing results are positive, AES would take over the land and the project would move forward," said a source. "But if there are major flaws in the land site development, the situation would become totally bleak."

If there are more delays, the

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3 dacoits beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 13: Three alleged dacoits were killed and two others critically injured in a mob beating when they were committing dacoity at a house in village Mohirul under Bagherpara thana last night.

According to reports, when a gang of about 15 dacoits were committing dacoity at the house of one Sirajul Islam, inmates of the house raised a hue and cry. Villagers rushed to that house, caught five of the dacoits and beat them severely.

One of the dacoits died on the spot. He was identified as Monjur. Another, identified as

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Victory festival begins

By DU Correspondent

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) yesterday began a four-day 'victory festival' to mark the Victory Day on December 16.

The programme of the SSJ was inaugurated by Sarder Fazul Karim, while Prof Anisuzzaman was present as the special guest at the Central Shaheed Minar in the afternoon.

As part of the festival the SSJ selected nine different spots within the DU campus from the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) to the Central Shaheed Minar area.

Drama, music, poetry recitation, folk festival, film show, photographic exhibition and book fair will be held simultaneously at the different spots in the area from today to December 16.

At the Central Shaheed Minar sessions of songs, dances, recitation of self-composed po-

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PCJSS activist shot dead

RANGAMATI, Dec 13: The activists opposing the CHT peace accord allegedly gunned down a member of Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) at Bangaltali in Baghaichhari thana here last night, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Manin Chakma, 37, alias Tarjon, son of Laxmi Chandra Chakma.

A group of 7-8 armed anti-peace accord activists encircled the house of the victim and opened fire, a PCJSS press release said. The victim was shot dead when he attempted to flee to safety.

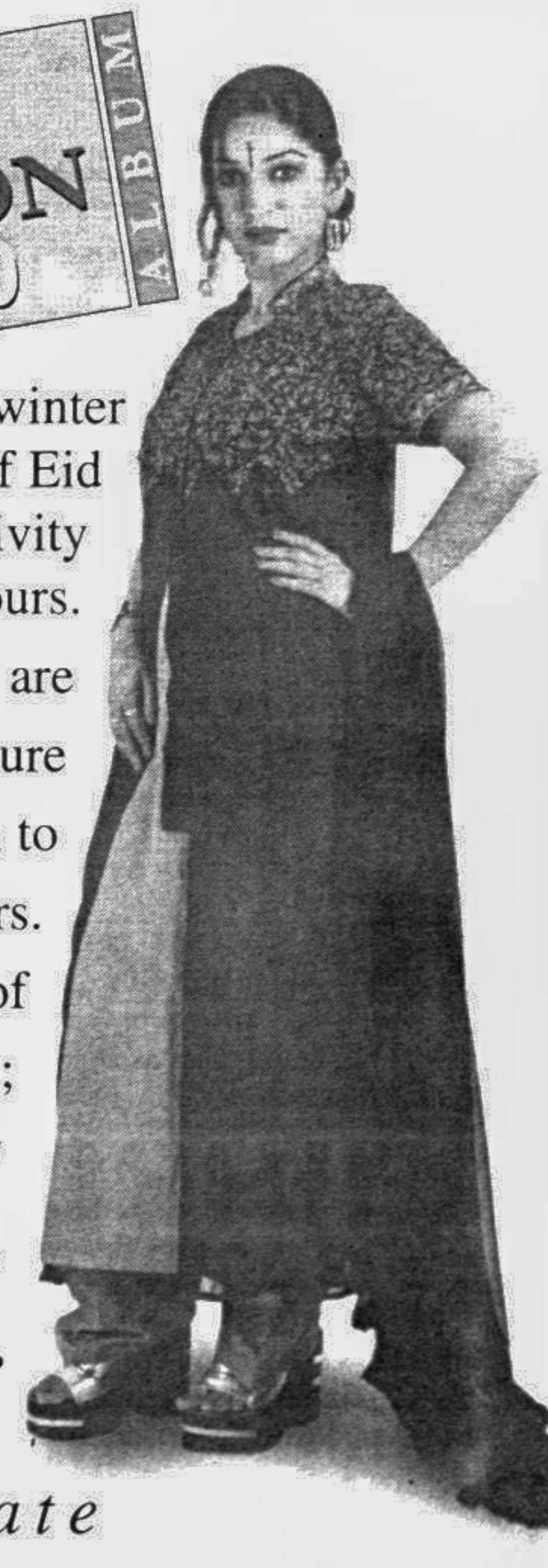
Eid brings colour to our ordinary life

Star FASHION 2000

while winter adds freshness to it. If Eid coincides with winter, festivity wears thousand colours. Fashion and festivity are intimately married in our culture and Eid is the best occasion to slip into your fashion wears. Follow the fashion trend of the new millennium; follow

The Daily Star Eid Fashion Album.

Watch for the date



Singing the glory

A four-day Victory Day celebration organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote began yesterday at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city. — Star photo

Filing of charges against Sharif delayed

KARACHI, Dec 13: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court delayed bringing charges against deposed Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday after disputes over transcripts of evidence, reports AFP.

The accused were due to be charged with treason, hijacking, kidnapping, criminal con-

spiracy, attempted murder and collecting arms to wage war against Pakistan.

But Judge Shabbir Ahmed adjourned the hearing until next Monday to allow time for the defence to be provided with full copies of transcripts of audio tapes from the aviation authorities.

Let the defence be provided with copies of the related documents and transcriptions and after that charges will be

framed," the judge told the court.

Lawyers said they now did not expect Sharif and his co-accused would be charged before December 27.

The former prime minister has been in detention since he was ousted by army chief General Pervez Musharraf in a military coup on October 12.

At the start of Monday's hearing, which was held in the

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