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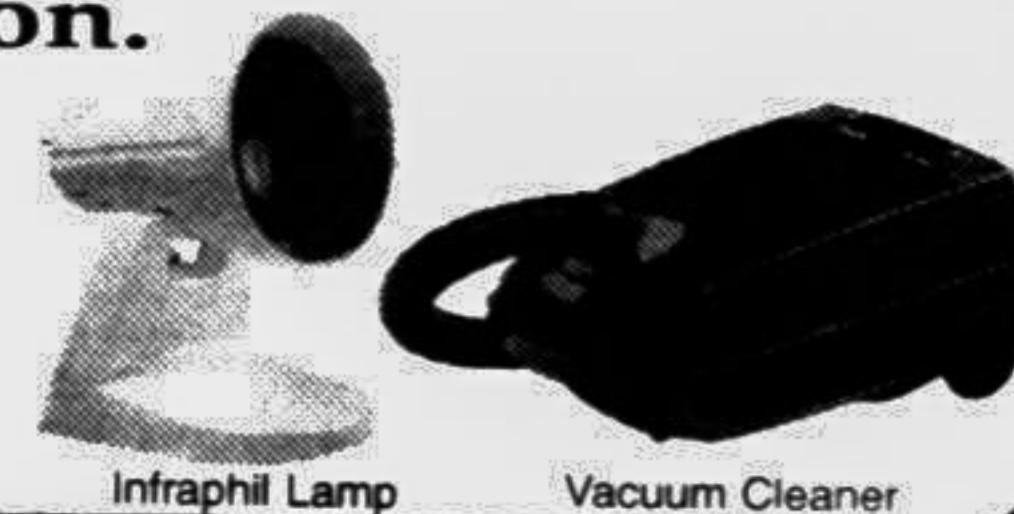
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One shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent
A 34-year-old man was gunned down in front of the American Express Bank at Dilkusha adjacent to gate number four of Bangabhaban yesterday evening, police said.

The dead was identified as Din Islam alias Nishan, son of Danesh Sardar, a resident of KM Das Lane in Tiktak, police and hospital sources said.

The incident took place when Nishan was sitting beside a road in front of the American Express Bank after taking iftar at about 5:45 pm, sources said.

Two previously known persons of the victim — identified as Harun and Mukhles — called him and started talking with him in front of the bank.

The assailants numbering about eight arrived on the spot on board a micro-bus and fired on Nishan indiscriminately. At least six bullets hit his body including eye, face and chest, hospital sources said.

He died on the spot and the killers drove off. Relatives of the dead identified seven of the alleged killers as Milon, Javed, Tipu, Nahid, Karim, Sardar Babu and Jahangir — all belong to Asif group.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

HC rule on central bank

By Staff Correspondent
The High Court has issued a rule upon the central bank regarding its "no objection" letter allowing loan reschedule to Islam Brothers Properties Ltd.

The High Court also asked the Bangladesh Bank and others to explain why its no objection letter issued on November 17, 1999, shall not be declared to have been made and issued without any lawful authority, according to a press release of Hug and Company received by fax and signed by Barrister Rafige-ul-Huq said.

"On behalf of the petitioner it was submitted that as per BBRD circular No. 07 dated August 5, 1999, the period of repayment of loan of a borrower in which a director of the bank is involved in no case can be renewed, nor the period of repayment can be extended," the release said.

"Even the Bangladesh Bank has no discretion to extend the existing period of repayment," it said.

"Manzurul Islam is the chairman of the borrower company and also chairman of the said bank. On behalf of the borrower company he applied for re-schedule, even without a deposit of 10 per cent in cash before applying for reschedule, which is mandatory as per another circular of Bangladesh Bank," the release added.

DU convocation

Student bodies call hartal in city Saturday

By DU Correspondent

Opposition-backed student organisations have called an eight-hour hartal in the city on Saturday, protesting Dhaka University authorities' decision to confer Honorary Doctorate Degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a general convocation of the University.

Honorary Doctorate degree will also be conferred on Novel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen at the convocation ceremony.

The decisions were taken by the DU authorities earlier.

The convocation will be the first at DU since independence. JCD, student front of the opposition BNP, announced the hartal programme at a press conference at the BNP's central office yesterday.

"We are going to enforce hartal as the DU authorities did not pay heed to our call to withdraw its decision to confer the degree on Hasina," JCD General Secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pinto said.

Jatiya Party-backed Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Jamaat-supported Islami Chhatra Shibir also called an eight hour hartal in the city on Saturday protesting the DU decision to confer degree on the Prime Minister.

Barisal attack

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"The naked attack by the government party terrorists on a discussion meeting on the martyred intellectuals is a betrayal to the bloods of the martyrs of Liberation War," she said.

Nominations

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for 41 Ward Commissioners were cancelled while four of the 42 nomination papers for the 14 reserved seats for women were found invalid.

Nine nomination papers were cancelled for failing to fill up them properly, said a source in the election office.

The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is December 18.

Preferential access to US market Dhaka must open EPZs to unions, says Holzman

By Rafiq Hasan

Preferential access to US market will be a tough sell at home until Bangladesh opens its export processing zones to the U.S. ambassador said Monday.

John C. Holzman made the statement during a meeting with Tofail Ahmed, minister of commerce and industry, according to sources.

The government decided recently not to allow trade union in the zones, bowing to investors' concerns.

Commerce ministry sources said the government will meet with zone investors next Sunday to discuss the issue. Holzman and Ahmed are also expected to attend.

The dispute over zone trade unions comes as the govern-

ment prepares to build four new zones in Mongla, Syedpur, Ishwardi and Comilla.

The government considered a plan to allow trade unions to operate in zone factories after mounting pressure from the International Labour Organisation and the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations.

The AFL-CIO wants the U.S. government to cancel Bangladesh's preferential access to the market, granted by the Generalised System of Preference (GSP). The AFL-CIO said Bangladesh violated worker's rights when it suspended labour laws in the zones.

Before the government set up the Chittagong Export Processing Zone in 1980, the govern-

ment passed the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority Act.

The act formed the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and suspended certain labour laws, including the worker's right to unionise, in zone factories.

The ILO and AFL-CIO argued the suspensions were a gross violation of a worker's fundamental right.

However, the Bangladesh government argued it had the best interests of zone employees at heart, even though it imposed restrictions on unions.

For example, the authority set the minimum wage of a non-skilled worker at \$20 per month and provided guidelines

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and senior ministers pray for the martyred intellectuals after unveiling the plaque at Rayerbazar mausoleum yesterday.

—Star photo

Tribute to martyred intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

In addition to the events at Rayerbazar and Mirpur, the Bangla academy organised a discussion meeting on "Martyred Intellectuals and Bangladesh Perspective" at its auditorium, chaired by Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury.

The participants said the spirit of the War of Liberation, symbolised by the intellectual martyrs, was now at stake.

People in their thousands carrying flowers queued for hours to pay their respects to the martyrs.

The Prime Minister officiated the opening of the sombre, symbolic structure at Rayerbazar, the site where countless teachers, journalists and other professionals were massacred by Pakistani collaborators on Dec. 14, 1971.

Dubbed one of the worst crimes in human history, retreating forces designed the operation to render the newly-independent state intellectually bankrupt.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, flanked by senior party colleagues, garlanded the portrait of the nation's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman early yesterday morning at Bangabandhu Bhavan in the city.

The Prime Minister also placed wreaths at the Mirpur Memorial. Buglers played the last post and a military contingent gave a gun salute when she stood in solemn silence for a few minutes.

Hasina then went to Rayerbazar and unveiled the plaque of the new memorial.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia, accompanied by party leaders and activists, went to the Mirpur Memorial and placed wreaths.

Fatik murder Chargesheet likely within a week

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 14: The ASP of CID, Dhaka left Khulna today after completing investigation in the sensational Advocate Fatik murder case.

The team of CID officials interrogated Ershad and his two armed cadres Idris 'Jamai' in connection with Fatik Murder Case. Ershad's chief body guard Noor Alam was also questioned by the team.

It is learnt from CID source that Ershad's first wife Khodeja will not be spared from being one of the chargedheeted accused in Fatik murder case.

There are evidences that Advocate Fatik was killed in her presence for having illicit connection. Ershad tortured Fatik on February 21, the great Language Day of the Bengalees, at the international level is the proof.

Referring to UNESCO's declaration of International Mother Language Day on February 21, she said the Bengalees are getting back their honour. Recognition of February 21, the great Language Day of the Bengalees, at the international level is the proof.

Candidature for Indian polis

Proposal to enact two-child norm put into cold storage

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: A proposal to legislate two-child norm for candidates for elections to parliament and state assemblies in India was opposed at an all-party meeting here.

Meeting sources said, representatives of most of the parties contended that the proposed legislation might block opportunities for women to join electoral politics.

Some representatives said it would go against personal rights of Muslim candidates, the sources said.

Women's rights bodies as also some parties representa-

PM: Mausoleum

From page 1

spoke on the occasion. Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury, wife of martyred intellectual Dr. Abdul Aleem also spoke on behalf of the families of martyred intellectuals.

Ministers, MPs, political leaders, intellectuals, members of the martyred families, representatives of professionals groups, cultural activists, high officials and local people attended the function.

After the opening, Fatare and special *mangal* were offered for eternal peace of the martyrs' souls.

The Prime Minister also placed wreaths at the foot of the 'mourning tower' and stood there in solemn silence for some times as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyred intellectuals.

Members of Projama '71 also placed wreaths. Hasina also planted a sapling of Palash and signed the visitor's book, opened yesterday.

Earlier, members of Projama '71 staged a brief demonstration protesting the sitting arrangement for the wives of martyred intellectuals and for not mentioning the name of Projama '71 in the booklet published by the Ministry of Works on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said Bangabandhu had once said none would be able to suppress this nation. That came true. The real history of the nation has been established again and people of this country have raised their heads again.

Referring to UNESCO's declaration of International Mother Language Day on February 21, she said the Bengalees are getting back their honour. Recognition of February 21, the great Language Day of the Bengalees, at the international level is the proof.

Three alleged smugglers shot dead

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Three alleged smugglers were killed and 17 others arrested after an hour-long exchange of fire between Coast Guards and smugglers near Sandwip Coast on Monday night, reports UNB.

Contraband goods worth Tk 1.31 crore were recovered from three engine boats.

Sources said, with the approach of coast guards, smugglers from the engine boats opened indiscriminate fire. The smugglers were unloading contraband goods, including foreign cigarette, from a ship.

The Coast Guards returned fire in which three unidentified smugglers were killed.

Some 17 smugglers with 468 master carton cigarettes and three boats were taken to custody. They were handed over to the Port police.

A case was filed in this connection.

Defying a directive from the Prime Minister, the Directorate of Health Services is not allowing doctors, nurses and technicians of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases to go for overseas training, NICVD sources said.

Director of NICVD Prof M A Zaman said in this regard he wrote to Line Director of training service in health directorate Prof Shah Munir Hossain last year, but has not yet received any response.

Techniques of cardiac (heart) intervention and surgery are developing almost every week through research.

We lack such facilities at home, so we badly need training abroad," Prof Zaman said.

He went on, "We have enough advanced equipment, required

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NICVD docs, nurses barred from overseas training

By Naimul Haq

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while visiting the NICVD last year, assured necessary funds for the training and asked officials concerned to release it immediately, the sources said.

Director of NICVD Prof M A Zaman said in this regard he wrote to Line Director of training service in health directorate Prof Shah Munir Hossain last year, but has not yet received any response.

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He went on, "We have enough advanced equipment, required

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Death of Ruma
Gulshan police ask Army EME Wing to hand over Maj Ashraf

By Staff Correspondent
Gulshan police yesterday asked the Commandant of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) wing of Bangladesh Army to hand over Major Ashraf Haider for questioning in connection with the alleged suicide of his wife Qamrunnahar Ruma.

The request was made after police gathered some important information about Qamrunnahar Ruma, who was earlier reported to have committed suicide. Autopsy report given by DMCH, however, was a case of "provocative suicide."

Qamrunnahar Ruma, the wife of Major Ashraf Haider, had allegedly committed suicide inside a room of her army staff quarters residence at Bani in the city on December 6.

Gulshan police recovered the body of Ruma and sent it to DMCH for autopsy the following day.

Effigies of 3 leaders burnt

By DU Correspondent
Three effigies of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party leader HM Ershad and Jamaat Amir Golam Azam were burnt at the Teacher-Students' Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday night.

Witnesses said a group of masked youths brought the effigies in front of the Milan Square at TSC and set them on fire at about 7 pm.

They identified themselves as "The Soldiers of Shaheed Zia, tortured during the Anti-Autocratic Movement" and said that the reason behind the burning of the effigies was the recent polarisation of Khaleda Zia with autocrat Ershad and Razakar Golam Azam.

The youths, however, left the spot quickly, witnesses said.