

What's on today.....

Film show: Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Parey* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium, Shahbag. Time: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Painting exhibition: Solo painting exhibition of Firoz will be inaugurated. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Exhibition: Shimul Khaled's fashion exhibition is going on. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Dress exhibition: The concluding day of Charu Chattagram's dress exhibition will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Human chain: Women For Women, a research and study group will form a human chain as part of the worldwide campaign for peace in the new Century by National Commission for Women and The Guild Service. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 11:30 am.

Fashion exhibition: An exhibition of fashion apparels by Avalon will be inaugurated. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Meeting: The Executive Committee of Jatiya Kabita Parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: Teachers lounge at TSC, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

Weather

Fall in night temperature

Mild cold wave may sweep over Rajshah, and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Satkhira, Chuadanga, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sitakunda during the 24 hours commencing from 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

Met Office said dry weather will prevail over the country during next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Weathermen forecast light or moderate fog over river basin in the early morning while slight fall in night temperature.

The country's highest temperature 28.2 degree Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazar and Bogra and lowest 9.8 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.3	12.2	71	51
Chittagong	28.0	16.2	74	73
Rajshahi	25.4	11.5	81	85
Khulna	28.0	11.6	78	71
Barisal	26.5	11.9	89	92
Sylhet	27.3	14.3	94	74
Cox's Bazar	28.2	18.0	74	62

HERE and THERE

Islamic Foundation

Bangladesh Islamic Foundation held *Quran khwani*, *milad* and *doa mahfil* seeking divine blessings for the martyred freedom fighters at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on Thursday, reports BSS.

Director General of the Foundation Mawlana Abdul Awal, officers-employees of the foundation and a large number of people participated in the function.

Special *munajat* was also offered for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

Pesh Imam of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Mufti Nooruddin conducted the *munajat*.

College teachers' appeal

By DU Correspondent

Teachers of government colleges at a meeting yesterday urged the authorities to start the procedure regarding the promotion of teachers under a proper code of conduct.

They also criticised the existing rules regarding appointment and promotion in the education cadre.

The teachers were addressing a meeting of BCS General Education Promotion Coordination Committee at the Science College in the city.

Presided over by Sadat Hossain, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Selima Khatun, Shah Sufian, Saiful Islam, Abu Yusuf and Abdur Rashid, Sahana Azim and Firoza Sultana.

DRU

A general meeting of Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting accorded a reception to BRCA president Farve Khan on his winning a prize for investigative reporting.

The meeting also congratulated its three executive members who were elected to the executive committee of the DRU.

The meeting also discussed the draft constitution of the Association and its activities.

Chaired by Mozaffar Hossain Manik, the meeting was addressed by Zakaria Milon, Mafizur Rahman and the association's general secretary Fakrul Alam Kanchon. An *iftar* party followed the meeting.

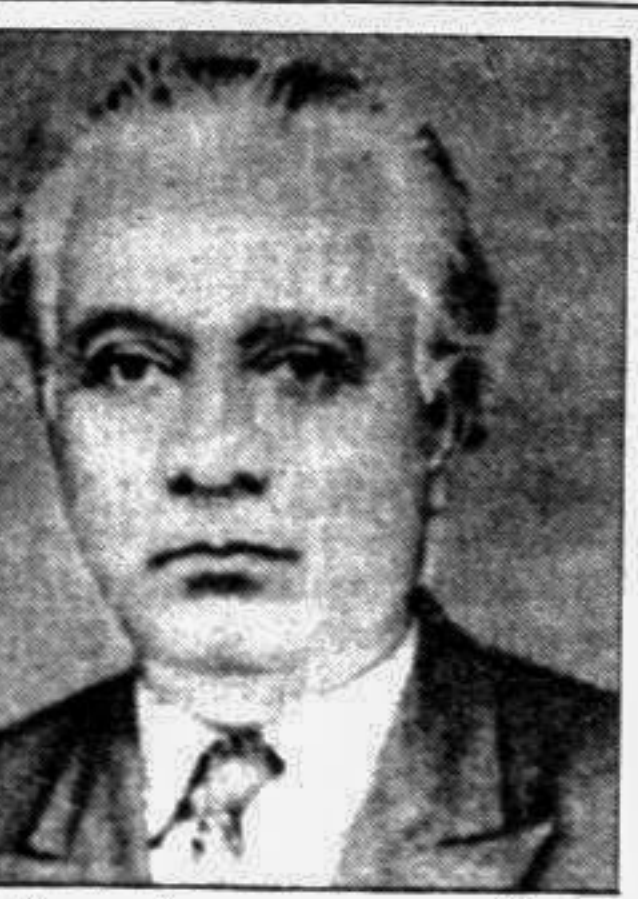
CHT students' council

By DU Correspondent

A 21-member Dhaka city unit executive committee of Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council (CHTHSC) was formed yesterday with Zatan Marna and Ukkasing Marna as president and general secretary respectively.

The committee was formed in the 10th council of Dhaka city unit of CHTHSC which was held at the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

Presided over by Ashok Kumar Chakma, the programme was addressed among others by Ushamoi Kheesa, Dharash Moni Chakma, Chaitali Tripura, Dhamai Tripura.



Anniversary of poet Abdul Qadir's death tomorrow

The fifteenth death anniversary of poet Abdul Qadir will be observed with due respect and solemnity tomorrow, says a press release.

To mark the day wreath will be laid and 'Fateha' will be offered at the 'mazar' of the late poet at Banani Graveyard, 'Quarankhwan', 'milad mahfil' and feeding of the destitutes will be held at the residence of the late poet's son tomorrow.

1810 arrested in combing operation

A total of 1,810 people were arrested and 34 illegal arms, 96 bullets and 25 bombs were seized in the last two days of countryside combing operation by police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar forces, reports BSS.

The arrested included 946 people who were wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Tk 592 cr project to build roads in 3 hill dists

RANGAMATI, Dec 17: The government has undertaken a master plan to construct 955 km roads in the three hill districts at a cost of Tk 592 crore, reports UNB.

Officials said upon completion of the five-year project, to be implemented by Roads and Highway Department, 111 union headquarters will be directly linked with 25 thana and three district headquarters.

Works on the project are expected to begin soon, depending on the availability of funds as pledged by donor agencies.

Meanwhile, Ranirhat Bridge over the Ichhamati River on Rangamati-Chittagong highway is being repaired on an emergency basis.

Appointment

Group Capt M Iqbal Hussain joined as the Chairman of CAAB recently, says a press release.

Capt Iqbal joined the Air Force in 1970.

He was the recipient of the first Sword of Honour. He has over 4000 hours of flying in his credit. He is a category 'A' pilot and a Flying Efficiency badge holder.

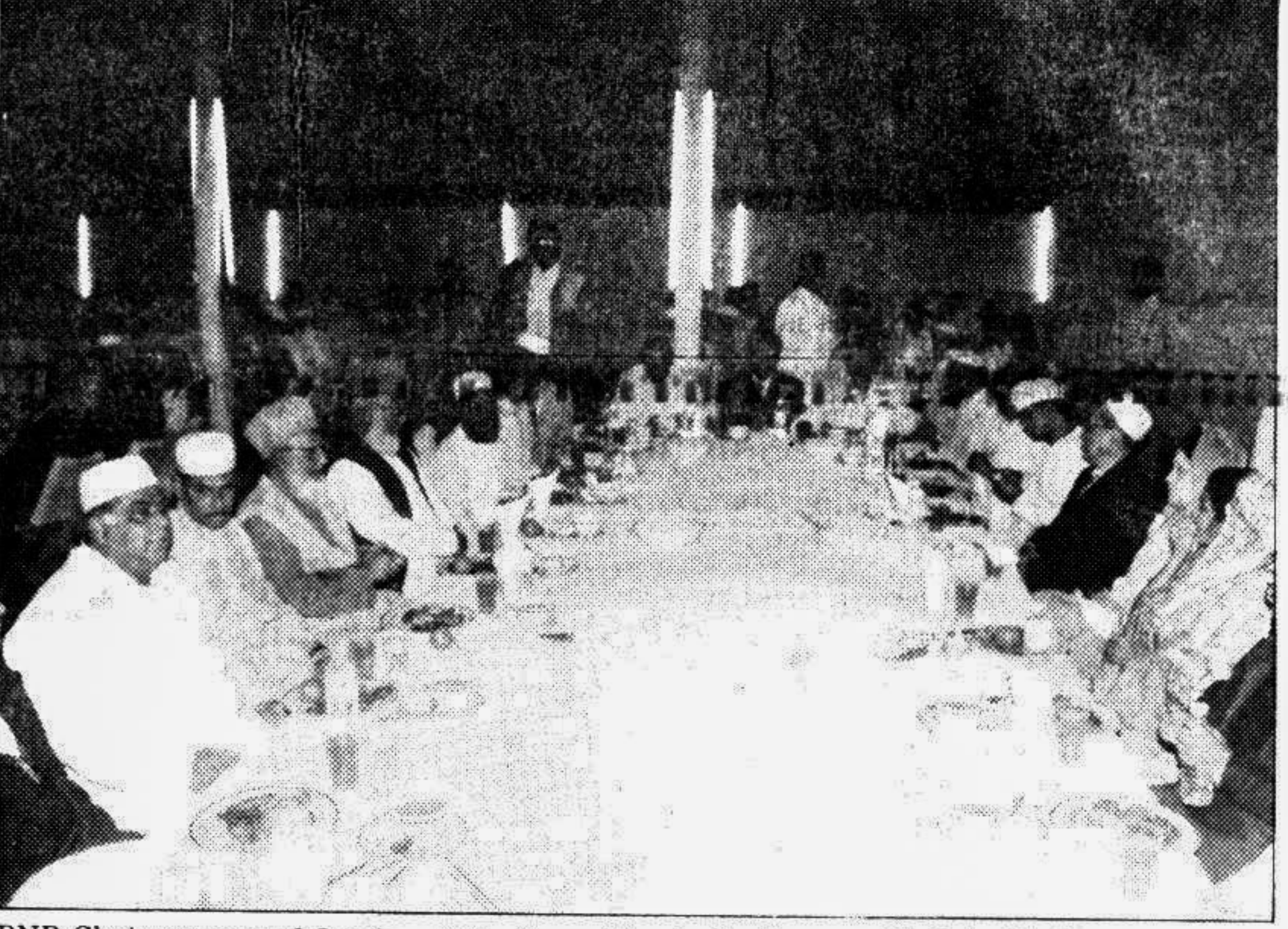
He is a graduate of Defence Service Staff Course and attended his National Defence University Course in China. Prior to joining as Chairman, he was Director of Training in the AFD of prime ministers office.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accompanied by other leaders of the Bangladesh Awami League placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar to mark the Victory Day on Thursday.

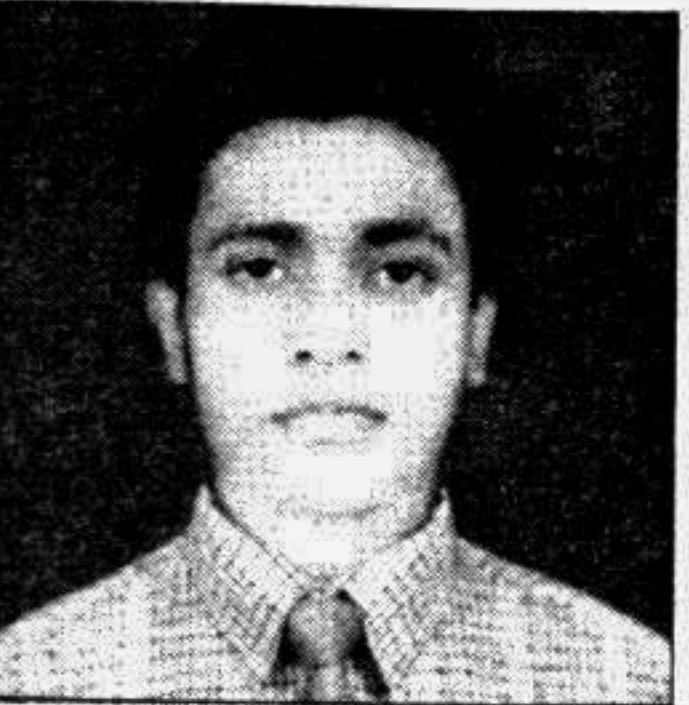


Combined flag contingent cruising round the parade ground to the rhythm of army band at the National Parade Square on the occasion of Victory Day.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party at her Minto Road official residence yesterday which was attended by leaders of different political parties.

Congratulations



Md Saiful Alam has stood 2nd class first in the BSS Honours (1997) examination in Political Science from Jagannath University College, held in 1999, says a press release.

Saiful is the youngest son of Md Shamsul Alam (Nilu Shikdar) and Monowar Alam of Choto Jilrunia village under Morolganj thana of Bagerhat district.

By DU Correspondent

Shaikh Mohammad Jobayed Hossain stood first class second in the M.Sc examination of 1996 (held in 1998-99) from the Geography and Environment department of Dhaka University, says a press release.

He also obtained first class second in the B.Sc honours examination from the same department.

He is the eldest son of Shaheb Ali and Jahura Ali of Anantapur village of Kumargao union under Phulpur thana of Mymensingh.

Milad mahfil

Jhenidah Ex-cadets Association (JEXCA) has organised a *milad mahfil* for the salvation of the departed soul of Brig Shabab Ashfaq tomorrow at 4:00 pm at Anur-Rumi Community Centre at 77 Satmasjid Road, says a press release.

Facts on Liberation War of Bangladesh
Pak newsman seeks publication of Hamoodur Rahman Commission report

Pakistanis, whose barbaric military troops let loose hell on the Bangladesh killing three million innocent people and raping two lakh women, now want to know what really happened in 1971, reports UNB.

They think the publication of the Justice Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report now can serve the cause of truth and fair play. The judicial probe into Pakistan war debacle was instituted by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on December 26, 1971. Its report however has remained a state secret.

Renowned Pakistani journalist Akhtar Payami echoed many of his sensible compatriots who are now inquisitive about what really they did in Bangladesh in 1971 and before, in an article in this week's magazine of *They Daily Dawn*.

"It would be suicidal to proceed with a wrong premise and arrive at false conclusions based entirely on distortion of facts," he concluded in the article titled "Make It Public, Please".

Payami, who also worked in Dhaka said in this quest for truth all avenues should be explored to understand the causes and the repercussions of the 1971 tragedy.

Mentioning the acceptance of Suhrawardy and Fazlul Haq to the large Hindu community as Chief Minister, he said most of the Bengalis in the undivided Bengal were secular, but that was not the factor behind the "alienation".

Payami quoted Pakistan's chief planning advisor during the military autocrat Ayub Khan regime, Dr Mahbubul Haq.

Dr Haq had said: "East Pakistan with 55 per cent of the total population enjoys at least 60 per cent less real income per head than West Pakistan, consumes very little besides rice and fish, has a poor infrastruc-

ture and a tiny industrial sector, and at least one-third of its labour force can be regarded as unemployed."

Bitterly criticising the Pakistani ruling cliques, Payami wrote: "Unfortunately, the rulers sitting pretty in the well-protected surroundings of West Pakistan failed to understand the psychology of the people of the then East Pakistan."

In this context, the columnist deflated a myth so carefully nurtured the rulers. "It would be a travesty of fact to think that the people of the then East Pakistan were inspired and instigated by the Hindus to sever their ties with Pakistan," he writes.

"Yes, there were a number of Hindu teachers and Hindu professionals in the then East Pakistan. But never was the Hindu influence of East Pakistan a decisive factor."

He further thinks it would be wrong to assume that the 1971 "crisis" came about suddenly. "The indefinite postponement of the National Assembly session in Dhaka was a major turning-point in the worsening political relationship between East and West Pakistan."

But, he said, that was not the lone factor. "The ground for separation of East Pakistan had been prepared several decades before the war." In this respect, he elaborately mentioned how the then eastern part of Pakistan was deprived in different ways.

Demanding publication of the reports of Hamoodur Rahman Commission and three other committees, Payami says if there are any sensitive details which cannot be revealed, the government may decide to make public only the relevant parts.

"But, by suppressing the truth and by distorting facts, nothing substantial can be achieved," he said.



BNP leaders led by Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar in observance of Victory Day on Thursday.

Amartya Sen arrives

By DU Correspondent

Nobel Laureate Economist Prof. Amartya Sen arrived in the city yesterday to attend the 40th general convocation of Dhaka University.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury along with other senior teachers of the university welcomed Sen at the airport.

Dhaka University will confer Honorary Doctorate degree on him for his outstanding contribution to human knowledge in general and to the discipline of economics in particular.

Amartya Sen, who is accompanied by his wife, will receive "Doctor of Science" degree.

In his brief arrival statement Dr Sen, a second Bengali to earn Nobel Prize, after Tagore, said: "Although I was born in Shantiniketan, my forefathers were the children of Bangladesh soil and they studied at Dhaka University."

He unveiled his plans to spend part of his Nobel Prize money for the education of Bangladeshi and Indian children.

Sen will leave Dhaka for Calcutta tomorrow.

Khoka undergoes surgery

By Staff Correspondent

City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, who is now in Sweden for treatment, was operated upon at City Akeuten Hospital on Tuesday.

Surgeons at the hospital removed pellets from Khoka's head and he is now improving, said a BNP press release yesterday.

Khoka and many others sustained bullet injuries when police opened fire during a hartal at Jatrabari on November 8.

Feni gunfight

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BCL leader Anwar made a counterattack on their rivals. BCL blamed JCD for the street battles saying that the Chhatra Dal activists swooped on them while going to an iftar party.

General Secretary of the district BNP Joyanal Abedin said the clash took place when the ruling party backed BCL leaders and activists attacked the villagers of Sultanpur, known as the fort of BNP, and Chhatra Dal men backed by the villagers countered them.

Police fired nine teargas shells to control the situation as troubles raged through the violence-ridden frontier town.

BNP put up barricades on Rampur point of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway disrupting traffic on the busy route. The barricades were not withdrawn till filing of this report.

Skid Ghat

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Following filing of two 'contradictory' cases against Ershad Shikdar on charge of stealing electricity from his ice factory at the Skid Ghat.

A press release issued by PDB public relations officer Abdul Khaleque said that a case has been filed against Shikdar and two others for stealing electricity worth Tk 47 lakh. The case (No 390/99) has been filed with the PDB's Magistracy court, the press release said.

But in another case filed by Sub-divisional Engineer Chand Mia with the same court, Shikdar has been accused of stealing electricity worth Tk 16,500 only from the same ice factory.

Executive Engineer Jktar Hossain, Sub-Inspector Alamgir Hossain and ASI Belayet Hossain of Khulna thana have been named as prosecution witnesses of this case.

Unocal

From page 1

located in Block 12.

Two wells have been drilled and completed at Moulvibazar by OBL. The Moulvibazar-2 was drilled to a total depth of 11,512 feet. It encountered 98 feet of gas-bearing sands in two zones between 7,074 feet and 7,225 feet.

On test, the wellhead flowed dry gas at a rate of up to 30 million cubic feet per day 30 mfd from the upper zone and 23 mmd from the lower zone," said the announcement.

"This Moulvibazar gasfield discovery will contribute significantly to the natural gas resource base of Bangladesh," said Terry Budden, president and managing director of Unocal Bangladesh Ltd.

Three party leaders

From page 1

the three parties, along with their deputies, sat for tea at Khaleda Zia's chamber at 5:45pm. They also talked to the IOJ chief Azizul Haq, by telephone and inquired about his health.

Party insiders said during the tea party, Khaleda Zia, Ershad and Golam Azam discussed the strategies to resist the CCC polls and agreed to 'do everything possible' to foil the polls and take necessary programmes to resist the 'one-party' election at any cost.

They also agreed to visit Chittagong and take part in the proposed mass contact programme to mobilise people's support against the CCC polls. Sources said though the date for their visit is yet to be finalised, they would, however, go to Chittagong and hold public meetings.

Sources said the chiefs of the parties at the meeting also instructed the Liaison Committee to take up massive programmes for an all-out resistance to the CCC polls.

Competent sources said the three leaders were unanimous about launching a 'militant movement' immediately after the Holy Eid-ul-Fitr to dislodge the Awami League government.

Leaders at the meeting strongly condemned and protested police action on the agitating students of Jatiyaatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, Islami Chhatra Shibir and Islami Chhatra Majlish, who called a 6-hour hartal today to protest against convocation at the Dhaka University.

They expressed their full support to the hartal call and urged the city dwellers to make it a success.

Golam Azam left the venue at 6:10pm while Ershad came out from Khaleda's office room at 6:20pm.

As soon as Ershad came out from the room, a close aide of the BNP Chairperson again took Ershad to Khaleda Zia's room when they had 13-minute exclusive talk. Details of their talk could not be known.

We have discussed a wide range of issues mostly relating to the current one-point movement and the CCC elections. We are determined to carry forward the movement," Ershad told newsmen emerging from Khaleda's office.

At the iftar, Khaleda Zia, HM Ershad, Golam Azam, Nazim Rahman Manjur, Matur Rahman Nizami, Begum Roushan Ershad, BNP leaders Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Oli Ahmed and Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, JP leaders Kazi Firoz Rashid, Dr MA Matin, Saifur Rahman, Maidul Islam and Tabur Rahman, IOJ leaders Muhiuddin Ahmed and ARM Abdul Matin, NAP (Bashani) leader Misir Ahmed Bhuiyan, Zaker Party Ameer Mostafa Amir Fayyal, Jamaat leader Abdul Qader Mollah, Jagpa President Shaful Alam Prohan, PNP chief Shawkat Hossain Nilu and NDA chairman Nurul Haq Majumdar sat in one table and had iftar.

Former PSO to the Prime Minister Major Gen (Retd) Muhammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan and Qader Siddique's representative Advocate Fazlur Rahman also attended the iftar.

Besides, a large number of leaders from BNP, JP, Jamaat, IOJ, Jagpa, NDA, PNP and some other smaller parties attended the iftar party.

Chaotic situation

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huge contingent of security personnel, these elements troubled the crowd comprising men, women and children proceeding towards the Soudha with flowers in their hands.

They also took away wreaths from many people and threw those away while police remained silent spectators.

"This is a holy day for the nation. If we intervene, it might result in a more chaotic situation," said a police official.

Mohammad Ali, 65, a Freedom Fighter, leaned on his crutches beside the ten unknown graveyards of the brave ones who sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberating the country.

With tearful eyes, Ali regretted for not being able to place the wreath he had made at home back in Brahmanbaria. The wreath was smashed as he was pushed aside by a huge crowd flocking at the foot of the memorial.

"I have realised, in twenty-eight years, the young generation has learnt nothing about the war. The chaos I witnessed today tells me that younger generation would never know how we highly regard the nation and for what reasons we fought," Ali told this correspondent.

Many people went back at around eight in the morning without placing the wreaths as they did not want to risk going near the foot of the memorial in such a chaotic situation.

"We deliberately came late expecting some discipline but the absurd situation has disappointed many people like us," said an old man leading a group of children from the capital.

Meantime, Jatiya Party activists led by party secretary general Nazim Rahman Manju arrived at the mausoleum at around 10 am.

Some of the activists holding club in their hands pushed aside those waiting in front of the memorial creating panic among the commoners.

They took control of the memorial site and started shouting vulgar words at those standing nearby.

During the panic a part of the huge crowd was caught in stampede and later went away from the spot.

Meanwhile, Zaker Party activists while entering the mausoleum at around 9:30 chanted religious slogans. They were soon chased out by another group of youths but no clash ensued between them. However, some commoners were mistaken for the Zaker Party activists during the chase and got assaulted.

Witnesses said that Zaker Party activists, led by Kaiser Hamid were chased away from the mausoleum. But they later came back and placed the wreaths without creating any more trouble.

Citizens refused access to Motijheel thana

By Staff Correspondent

Citizens were barred from entering the premises of the Motijheel police station last night after explosions of home-made bombs on the street in front of it.

Police refused to open its gates when a number of people went to visit the thana on business, some of them told the Star at 10:45pm.

At least 80 people were earlier hauled by police and detained inside the thana during demonstrations by opposition student groups protesting the honorary degree to be conferred on the prime minister today.

The visitors included their relations, political leaders, lawyers and some MPs. Even reporters were not allowed inside.

Attempts to reach the police station over telephone went in vein till filing of this report at midnight.

Benazir

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near the capital. Benazir is accused of ordering police to fire on a protest by members of the Islamic fundaz-e-talist Jamaat-i-Islami party in June 1996.

Benazir was dismissed by the president in November that year on charges of corruption and misrule and is now living in London.

The case was lodged by the leader of Jamaat-i-Islami, Maulana Abdul Jalil.

A spokesman for Benazir's Pakistan People's Party said it was an attempt to harass their leader.