V-Day back with call

across the country, people from all walks of life are to pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs and take a fresh vow to resist evil forces unitedly.

achieved the final victory against the Pakistani occupation forces under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a long movement for autonomy, nine-month long struggle for independence and, above all, an armed war for liberation

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina have greeted the countrymen on the auspicious occasion.

President laiuddin Ahmed was to lead the nation in paying the homage at the National Mausoleum at Savar in the early hours, followed by the prime minister and her cabinet colleagues.

government and semi-government offices as well as public and private buildings. The capital and other cities national flags and festoons. Special prayers will be offered at

mosques, temples, churches and other worship places, seeking divine

taken strict security measures to avert any terror incident on the day. All the venues including the National Mausoleum at Savar. Bangabandhu Stadium and Bangabhaban have been put under tight security.
Police, Rapid Action Battalion and

other law enforcement agencies have

been directed to keep round-the-clock vigilance at the programmes of the national day, home ministry sources

V-DAY PROGRAMMES CURTAILED

Leaders of the organisations that have curtailed their victory day celebration programmes said they have cut their programmes considering the mounting public insecurity with the government failing to ensure safety of people's lives in the face of militant attacks.

Every year, varieties of programmes including discussion, film show and exhibition of documentaries on the Liberation War, musical soiree, drama, dance and recitation at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital and elsewhere in the country generally begin the celebration from the first day of December. These programmes highlight the spirit of the war and recall the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs for the liberation of the motherland.

This year, however, such ogrammes are not being held as yet. Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ), a leading cultural body, has taken up a three-day programme this year

instead of its regular 15-day arrange-

ment due to the rising militancy in the

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Projanma Ekattur, Amra Muktijoddhar Santan, Bulbul Lalitakala Academy and Progotishil Chhatra Jote also curtailed their programmes.

BREAKING UP WITH SECULARISM

The hard-earned independence was for the emancipation of the Bangalees as it was based on their own cultural heritage which is basically secular in nature

It is a matter of soul searching why Bangladesh has moved away from its base of building a secular state and

The proposal was chiefly made by

Chairman of Press Council Abu

Sayeed Ahammed who finds it "very

failed to bring economic freedom of its

One reason may be the killing of the war heroes. Killings of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the four national leaders who supervised the Liberation War in 1971 and the four sector commanders have been great loss for the country. These great fighters had been killed in the first decade of the country's independence which obviously created opportunity for those who did not want

Bangladesh to emerge. The erosion began following the assassination of Bangabandhu with the change in the 1972 constitution when military rulers scrapped the secular nature of the state and later declared Islam as state religion. Such moves facilitated establishment of the fundamentalists, like Jamaat-e-Islami, politically and socially, and finally won for them share of the state power.

On the rising militancy, many pro-

But, hopes never die. In 1971, it was a unique time when Bangalees were united in one dream, irrespective of their political or other affiliations. The nation defeated the heavily equipped Pakistani military forces. They are now determined to be united once again to eliminate the religious militants who

Press curbing law planned

necessary" for the sake of greater PowersAct. "Realising its necessity and urgency, I took the proposal to the information minister. He suggested getting the proposal approved at a meeting of the council. Later, the council approved it," he told The Daily Star yesterday over telephone.

The chairman could not remember instantly when the meeting was held and who were present in the meeting. Asked if there was any opposition,

he said: "Mahbubey Alam (president of Supreme Court Bar Association and a member of the council) strongly opposed it and submitted a note of

On the necessity of the amendent, he said: "We need to strengthen the law to stop misuse of press freedom. We need to make it more effec-

"One Bangla newspaper carried a news and I sent a letter to its editor, making queries about it and asking the reporter to meet with me. They neither pay need to my letter nor the reported met me," he said.

The Press Council chairman however said newspapers "which are not involved in such journalism," have no reason to be worried.

On whether newspaper leaders have consented to the proposal, Abu Sayeed said he invited them for discussion but only a few of them turned up. "I want to hold talks with journalists but they do not respond," he told The

"I felt it very urgent to amend the section 12(1) after studying the Press Council Act, its application, hearing 2/3 cases and discussing with my officers and employees," Abu Sayeed wrote in a Press Council report published on

"I discussed the matter with the president, prime minister and information minister who also expressed their

opinion for changing the act," he wrote. Talking to The Daily Star, Mahbubey Alam said, "I think such move needs to be stopped at any

Gias Kamal Chowdhury, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, also is of the opinion of modernising the act.

"We don't want to see misuse of press freedom. We, at the same time, do not believe in oppression. But we need to modernise the act as some socalled newspapers carry out heinous acts sometime utilising the freedom."

After finalising the proposal at the council, Abu Sayeed Ahammed signed it on October 4 before sending it to the president and information

The members of the council are ruling BNP lawmakers Major (Retd) Monjur Kader, AKM Selim Reza Habib and Salahuddin Ahmed (also editor of the daily Desh Janata), Barrister Mainul Hosein, Editor of the daily Sangram Abul Asad, Editor of the daily Inqilab AMM Bahauddin, Editor of the daily Dinkal Kazi Sirajuddin Ahmed, Editor of Chittagong based daily Istehad Moinuddin Kaderi Shawkat, Assistant Editor of the daily Inqilab Munshi Abdul Mannan, Executive Editor of the daily Samachar Azizul Haq Banna, Prof KM Mohsin and Prof Abul Mansur Muhammad Abu Musa.

During the rule of Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad, newspapers were run according to government dictate. No matter what happened in a day, the information ministry decided what would be published in newspapers the following day. Although newspapers owners and employees agitated in the

BACKGROUND

liberation forces and freedom fighters are now pointing finger to Jamaat for patronising the militants. The extremist forces have targeted pro-liberation forces for their attacks, from political rallies to cultural programmes to celebration of Bangla New Year. The same forces that had killed hundreds of thousands of people during the Liberation War in the name of saving Islam, are now allegedly carrying out similar massacre in the name to establishing the rule of Islam.

have become a threat to the country.

streets opposing this, they did not have the opportunity to write anything about that in their newspapers due to

certain provisions in the Special

After Ershad's fall in 1990, the law was repealed at the initiative of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad. However. the then BNP government attempted to put control on newspapers by the end of 1995 when the demand for handing power to caretaker government was getting strong. The information ministry sent a proposal in this regard to the law ministry but the attempt failed due to the opposition of the then law minister Mirza Golam Hafiz. The four-party alliance's attempt to

reign in the media became evident immediately after the coalition took over. Several minister and lawmakers raised voice for it at different platforms including parliament. Several MPs made the demand in the House in presence of the prime minister. The Speaker also stressed strengthening the law to control so-called 'vellow iournalism'

After the rise of militancy and bombing across the country, the government invigorated the move and the Press Council sent the proposal. MIXED REACTION

The matter has triggered mixed reaction in the ruling party. One group believes such provision of punishment is tantamount to controlling the press. which is not right. Late president Ziaur Rahman revoked the black law that forced closure of all the newspapers excepting four and allowed greater freedom to the media. But the proposed act will tarnish BNP's image as the party that supports media free-

The other camp however is of the opinion that different newspapers are publishing negative and biased news. and that the proposed amendments were necessary in such a context. It is ellow journalism that has been going on in the name of free media.

In the last parliament session, seven BNP lawmakers including a cabinet minister and state minister criticised the media and demanded enactment of laws to reign in the media. A large section of the government's policy makers believe that it would not be right to gag the media by enacting laws. It will only make the media enemy of the party.

JMB trainer

FROM PAGE20

The police arrested Mohiuddin, joint secretary of a faction of Khulna city IOJ, on December 6 in Khulna after they learnt about his links to the August 17 blasts from a JMB cadre arrested in Barisal on the same

Locals in Mohiuddin's home village Agoiljhara said a former leader of the Harkat-ul Jihad, he was also involved with Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the Jamaat.

The police hurriedly submitted the charge sheet of the case to the court on December 12, saying no proof in support of the allegations against Mohiuddin was found.

A police source, however, said the charge sheet was submitted only to arrange his release.

The hearing of the case was held the next day with a special public prosecutor although a junior lawyer was named in the vocalatnama of the hearing.

When contacted Superintendent of Police of Barisal Mainur Rahman Chowdhury refused to say anything on this "without the permission from the police headquarters".

Call of duty

the finale when the Pakistan army surrendered to the allied forces on December 16, 1971. That's how the first newspaper of an independent Bangladesh came into being. That's how the frustrations and elation of the newspersons translated into a news-

The Dhaka war theatre proved too uncertain for them and they covered the most dramatic event in the history of the nation without being assigned. Still, they did it because they were all

can once again breathe freely in a

"Gen. what's your comment?" "Comment? You need it?

Nothing," that's what Hedayet Hossain Morshed got from Lt Gen AKA Niazi, the man who waged the most ferocious genocide in history in the then East Pakistan that was later to become Bangladesh after much of blood and fire

answer that came from a droopyfaced Niazi after he put down his rank

from the moment the Indian army had arrived in front of Hotel Intercontinental, now Dhaka Sheraton. Only, his rolls finished just after taking the last picture -- Niazi putting his signature on the instrument of surrender.

Away in Bangshal, the news editor of Dainik Pakistan, later to turn into Dainik Bangla, Fauzul Karim Tara, waited anxiously inside home as chaos and confusion marked by staccato gunshots echoed around the locality on that winter afternoon. For him, the first working day in independent Bangladesh began actually a day later, for his newspaper office did not open on December 16.

to be the most glorious day of his life as Tara turned the key on the iron vault. He reached out and with all the care fished out the 'mast' -- 'Dainik Bangladesh' written above a crossed-out 'Dainik Pakistan' headpiece -- that he had prepared months before the grand day came. His hands trembled, his heart thumped, for he had been waiting for this day to

the day did not deter Morshed from coming out to the streets on December 16 morning.

"We knew victory is at the door," Morshed recalls the day almost dim Azmi and I decided to go out.

Ferdous had a white Fiat car. They made a Bangladesh flag -green and red with a golden Bangladesh map in the middle -- and hit the road

corners. But no cars on the empty asphalt roads. A strange barrenness, rather a sadness enveloped the city. People looked at our car in confusion and consternation."

Around the same time. Aftab took out his Italian Vespa and sputtered around the city and then headed for

Bangla Betar and Akashbani on December 15 night the Indian ultimatum to Pakistan army to surrender by next day. On December 16 morning, Akashbani said General Jacob is coming to Dhaka around 12 o'clock and the Pakistan army would surrender. I thought something must happen in the cantonment," Aftab recollected. "But as I reached near the place where today's Sonargaon Hotel is, I saw a convoy of cars crawl-

Aftab pulled his Vespa by the railroad that used to run through there and let the convoy pass, and then tailed it to Hotel Intercontinental.

When Morshed reached Race Course, later renamed Suhrawardy Udyan, because he vaguely caught some conversations between the Pakistan army and Indian troops on a powerful FM radio and got the hint that the Race Course might be the

Course, he saw some people aimlessly moving around. Confused. Morshed went away to see more of the city and then returned to the Race Course where some people were trying to set an iron table on the

"I probably saw some Indian troops. But no one could actually say whether the surrender ceremony was going to be held there," said

So, he went away to see more of About the same time, Aftab was

standing on the bonnet of the jeep of an Indian brigadier at the corner of Intercontinental to snap the cheering crowd. The people were embracing the Indian troops. Suddenly, the Paksitan army

started firing from nowhere. There were raw panic and confusion. The Indians were firing too. "We jumped onto the ground and

lied low," Aftab describes the moment. "Everything was in confusion. I took some snaps, but could not care to focus. As the shots stopped, I found the brigadier dead in his ieep, bodies of Pakistani soldiers and revellers littered the

As order was returning to the scene. Aftab saw choppers flying overhead, he knew it's time to head for the Race Course again

"I saw Aftab in the Race Course, Morshed chips in. "I just said hi and edged towards a place already circled by troops.'

The choppers hovered above the ground and more troops slid down to

the ground by rope. And then I saw the troops walking fast in our direction -- Niazi, Haider Aurora and others. I started taking shots." Aftab continues.

The heroes and villains are still

held in suspended animation. Niazi, head down, taking long strides beside Aurora. A defiant Haider looking ahead with a puffed up chest. A contingent of Indian soldiers

stood still. Two of them stepped forward and stood beside Niazi to walk him down the row for a guard of 'The two soldiers started walk-

ng, but Niazi did not. He stood still,

like a statue. A nice shot for a pho-

tographer," Aftab's eyes looked

dreamy.
"Finally, Aurora put his hand on Niazi's shoulder, his long-time friend, his foe for the past nine months. The soldiers sat down," savs Morshed 'As a reporter, my instincts bristled. devoured every moment. I drank every fraction of the scenes,'

Morshed's voice grew thick. The instrument of surrender was signed. And Aftab's camera clicked once again.

"The light was really bad. The winter sun was fading and I was so tensed that hardly could I focus or set

the aperture right," says Aftab. It was time to lay down the arms. But Aftab's camera won't click any more. He has run out of film.

"For a few seconds, I could not believe my bad luck," said Aftab. " was bewildered and panicked. rushed out of the park and jumped on my scooter. I headed for the stadium, hoping to get a film before it is too late. And I finally got it at a cigarette shop near the stadium. But when returned, everything was over. I could not take the final shot.

Around the same time. Rashid Talukder who worked for Sangbad as photographer came out on his blue Vespa and Roliflex 120 camera as it was talked all around that Pakistan is going to fall any moment.

'I was loaded with all the rolls I would need to cover the day," said Rashid, "As I reached Fakirapul, I saw some Pakistani soldiers fleeing towards Razarbagh police line, firing blank shots to protect themselves from the wrath the Bangalees." He saw some bodies littered on

the road near The Bangladesh Observer office. "People were looting the central

bank and the governor's house now called Bangabhaban," he recalls. "At Tikatuli, I saw an Indian tank. The Indian troops asked me to show the way to the airport. It was around noon. I escorted them all the way to Teigaon and then headed back to

fighters had gathered.' He was taking snaps. And then news came that the Pakistan army is in the Race Course to surrender.

Shaheed Minar where some freedom

"As I was about to go, one of my neighbours came panting and told that my studio assistant Shahjahan, has been shot by a stray bullet from Pakistan army near Fakirapul. Someone said my eightmonth old daughter who was in Shahjahan's cradle has also been

In a panic, Rashid scooted off to home to find a bleeding Shahjahan. "My daughter was unhurt. But Shahjahan was in a critical condition with a bullet wound in the neck. I took

him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 4:30pm. Rashid knew he is missing the most glorious moment for Bangladesh. But he could not leave Shahjahan, the little boy of 13 lying in

In the hospital. Rashid came to know that the surrender ceremony was over. With a heavy heart he

came out and headed for home. "I know my life as a photographer remained unfulfilled because I could not cover the best event in my life. It is like committing suicide," Rashid's voice arew thick.

That night Shahjahan died. Rashid later renamed his studio 'Studio Shahjahan' that still stands at Purana Paltan.

But Morshed's luck was better. much better he would say today. As soon as the ceremony was over, he grabbed the chance of asking Niazi:

four years back, there was less dust in the air and the closing lights looked rather bluish, not the yellow hue of In that blue late afternoon, Tara

wondered what has been going around as intermittent gunshots reverberated in the narrow alleyways of Bangshal. He knew a nation has been born. But he still was not sure whether it was safe to go out. The night came with an eerie feeling. I thought of my colleagues. I

Wednesday. was an impossible time. Nothing was sure, everything surreal. I knew it was not possible to bring out the paper that night and that I have to wait until the next day." only 3.4 percent.

number of large letters of credit have surrender ceremony. But other papers started office

torched soon after the Pakistan army cracked down on March 25 night. He did not know if he has the iob. whether it meant anything in a devastated office with his news editor Sirajuddin Hossain killed by the

Razakars and Al-Badrs who collaborated with the Pakistanis. Still he knew he has to go to office and submit his pictures.

In his small studio at Shahjahanpur, he developed the pictures and then went to office in the

Morshed went to Dainik Pakistan office in the evening of December 16 but found nobody to work. There was a Beluch quard who opened the gate: he went to his desk and wrote the report. The next day, he went to office again around 11 in the morning with

"There were already some journalists and employees in the office,' recalls Morshed.

"Everybody was cheering and nbracing each other. We could not hold back tears," recalls Tara.

"But then it was time for work. None of us were assigned to cover the event, none to write it, none to edit. But we knew it was our duty. Tara goes on. "I opened the safe and brought out in trembling hands the head piece that I had asked our artist Kalam Mahmud to prepare about two months back.

"I dropped the report on the news editor's table and then went out." says Morshed. "I had a huge job ahead. I had to look for my freedom fighter friends, friends who went missing, comrades."

Babar sees end

FROM PAGE 20

He was talking to the journalists after inaugurating a workshop on Prevention, Protection and Prosecution Interventions in Addressing Trafficking in Persons'. International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised the daylong workshop at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. The state minister said militancy

is not an issue that can be solved overnight, but fanatics will ultimately turn back from their ideology. He said the cases against the

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB) cadres under trial will be settled and the culprits will be punished for their misdeeds. Asked about the recovery of huge quantity of arms and ammunition. Babar said the government

believes there are many JMB arms depots still to be traced out. On the arrest of JMB commander Ataur Rahman Sunny, brother of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman. he said it is no doubt a great achievement but the law enforcement agencies will have to work harder still to arrest the remaining

JMB cadres. On the rumoured arrest of the JMB chief, the state minister said, "He has not come to our hand vet but it's now a matter of time that we'll be able to give you the good news."

BTV to cover

FROM PAGE 20 (Bangladesh time) at the People's

Sports Complex Stadium. However, every possibility is there that the news at eight will interrupt the live broadcast and the BTV will show the missing part's recording immediately after the news.

The state-run television had earlier turned down a free of cost offer for live coverage of the tournament from a private company saying that the timing was coinciding with it's 8 o'clock news.

Defending champions Bandladesh earned their place in the final with a 1-0 victory over hosts Pakistan in the second semifinal while two times champions India booked their seat with an identical win over Maldives on Wednesday.

Dollar turns

FROM PAGE 20 some more import bills of the BPC to

the tune of \$1 crore very shortly. Besides, this month Sonali Bank had to make a part payment of a \$2.2 crore bill for import of fertiliser by the government and will have to pay the rest soon. The bank is also due to pay another \$3 crore on December 19 for the aircraft hired to carry hajj pilgrims.

A few months back, the banks in the country deferred some import bills on advice of the central bank in the face of a huge leap in import volume. They now have to pay those dues. As a result, some private banks that used to sell dollars previously are now forced to stop supplying dollar to the inter-bank forex market. Facing a shrinking forex reserve.

Bangladesh Bank has also stopped supplying dollar to the market. The reserve which was over \$300 crore in June stood at \$241 crore on A widening trade gap created by

accelerating import growth and Again, over the last few days, a

telecom and power sectors. And, with the year-end approaching, the multinational companies are sending their profit home. These are also contributing to the dollar shortage, foreign bank sources said.

Ctg JMB chief tells

Arrested on Tuesday with huge explosives and bombs at Kattali, Mohammad said the JMB has close links with al-Qaeda and its top leaders maintain regular contact with the terrorist outfit from JMB chief Abdur Rahman's hideouts

Some Rab officials tried to intervene when Mohammad was divulging information about the involvement of Jamaat-Shibir with JMB. Rab Chittagong region chief Lt Col

Hasinur Rahman shouted at the reporters, "Why don't you ask him about Indian intelligence agency RAW and his visit to India instead of asking him about Saidee?' The Rab seized from him some

audiocassettes that contain religious speeches by Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saidee and books published by Jamaat-backed publishing houses. A number of the cassettes belong

wings of Shibir. **NEXT TARGET** Mohammad said they were to target

Sunny held a secret meeting at the polytechnic institute in Dhaka to finalise the next course of action

Tuesday.

Admitting his and many other JMB activists' past involvement in Jamaat politics. Mohammad said he had joined JMB four to five years ago. Satisfied with his performance,

JMB chief Abdur Rahman and JMJB suppress the outlaws [sarboharas].

this connection, Mohammad told After the success at Bagmara, Mohammad was first appointed as JMB Chittagong regional commander.

Chittagong divisional commander

"A huge quantity of explosives and bombs was smuggled into the country through Chapainawabganj border before August 17 and disbursed to JMB leaders and activists by SA Paribahan courier service, Mohammad said. He added that all bomb attacks were carried out at the diktat of Rahman Mohammad said he once entered India to go to Afghanistan for higher training from al-Qaeda militants but failed to cross the India-Pakistan

JMB CHIEF DISTRIBUTED BOMBS Mohammad told the reporters Rahman himself had distributed explosives among divisional chiefs just a week before the August 17 blasts, reports UNB.

He however could not say about the source of JMB fund, saying only

Rahman knows everything about it.

Mohammad also could not say the quantity of explosives distributed at divisional levels, as each divisional chief was given the explosives sepa-

ARRESTS

Following his confessional statement, the Rab held three other JMB militants in separate raids across Chittagong and Cox's Bazar between Wednesday night and yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Chittagong district commander Rafigul Islam .lahed alias Roman, 22, deputy commander for Cox's Bazar Manirul Islam Manir, 24, and Cox's Bazar regional leader Mashiur Rahman Milon, 23. **HUNTFORBOMB EXPERTS**

The law enforcers are looking for five JMB bomb experts, who are highly skilled and have the technical knowhow to manufacture sophisticated bombs for its suicide squad. following the Tuesday's double arrest. our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong

charge of Chittagong Division, and Osman, based in North Bengal. Five students of chemistry department at Dhaka University are also involved in manufacturing bombs.

The Rab and police gathered

details about two of them -- Mizan. in

Voter list

After hearing both sides, the division bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice M Rezaul Haque, re-fixed the

The two writ petitions - one filed by Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil and another by AL lawmakers advocate Rahmat Ali and Asaduzzaman Noor -- will be heard on that day as public interest litigation.

is usual practice endorsed by the election laws and rules, the counsel submitted adding that the motive of

Amir-UI Islam appeared for the petitioners while Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP stood for the

Cattle market

scene, sources said.

vention of the constitutional mandate Officials of the DCC's Estate Department sold schedules only on They argued that the appointment by the government as well as the Wednesday. But they were seen surrounded by the ward commissiondecision for preparing an electoral roll ers and BNP men inside their office. afresh instead of revising and updating

The DCC authorities however The appointment of three lakh staff showed that 211 tender schedules were made bypassing the objections from the majority election commis-

ere submitted. in collaboration with the party in power has made the selection of the staff, mostly from the ruling party, which is The CEC's unilateral decision, they submitted, tends to usurp the role of

the EC in contravention of the basic tenets of the constitution. The CEC's action can easily be abused for manipulating the election in favour of any particular party, they pointed out.

The CEC's activities have already raised concern among the conscientious section of the people regarding the role of the EC in holding a fair

Appointment FROM PAGE 1 Advocate Saidur Rahman Khan.

The government formed the threemember ACC, a corruption watchdog, on November 21, 2004 with former HC

The petitioner's counsel MK Rahman submitted that the commission was formed ignoring the prescribed list of eligible persons recommended by a selection committee for

the appointment of commissioners.

Judge Justice Sultan Hossain Khan as

He said the name of Miah was also not on the prescribed list of eligible

election, they further submitted

Opposing the petitions, the counsel for the CEC and the secretary of the FC submitted that the petitions were filed merely based on press reports, which have no basis. Referring to the EC's decision on

a full body meeting of the commission took the decision in this regard The writ petitions were filed by suppressing facts, the counsel said. Preparing a new voter list is nothing new ahead of any general election as it dent while Election Commissioners

Dr Kamal Hosain and Barrister M

The DCC invited bids for the makeshift markets on December 2. but no tender schedule was sold until

As a result, no intending bidder dared the existing electoral roll was also to go there to buy schedules. inconsistent with the article 119 of the

> were sold but only 54 schedules were Sources said only two schedules-

The deadline for submission of tender was 12:30 pm yesterday and the tender box was opened after 3:00pm on the day.

bidders' this week The offers for the 15 cattle markets total around Tk 1.50 crore.

These include Tk 70 lakh for the

Tanpara, Tk 1.10 lakh for Jhigatala-Hazaribagh ground, Tk 18.80 lakh for Golapbagh ground, Tk 1.2 lakh for Rahmatganj playground, Tk 1.4 lakh for Dhupkhola ground, Tk 20.50 lakh for Hussaini Dalan Road (from Chankharpul crossing to Bakshibazar traffic signal) and Tk 2.20 lakh for Balur Math at

Sector 12, Tk 1.50 lakh for the open space near Taltala bus stand, Tk 1.7 lakh for the open space in Agargaon slum area. Tk 4.75 lakh for the open space near Alam market at Postagola, Tk 1.5 lakh for Sunrise playground, Tk 1.5 lakh for Meradia Bazar and Tk 5 lakh for Tejgaon truck

However, despite the panicky situation

On this day in 1971, the nation

President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed,

The national flag is hoisted atop all have already worn festive looks with

blessings for peace and progress of the country. Television channels and Bangladesh Betar are airing special programmes while newspapers have brought out supplements on the day. Meanwhile, the government has

Hosein, chairman of the editorial board of the daily Ittefag, there is no representative of other major newspapers in the 14-member council. Sources said Barrister Mainul opposed the move to amend the act

Editor of daily Ingilab AMM

Bahauddin, who was also a member.

resigned from the council after Justice

Abu Sayeed Ahammed took over as

the chairman on May 26 this year to

replace his predecessor. BNP lawmaker Justice Mozammel Hag. A well-placed government source, however, said there is a dilemma within the government about the proposed amendment. The ruling party policymakers are also divided on

Information Minister M Shamsul

Islam told The Daily Star yesterday

that they would examine the proposal

He however said the government has

the issue.

always been working to safeguard the media's freedom and the media has enioved the greatest freedom under the present government. When a group of journalist leaders met the prime minister to discuss the militancy issue on Wednesday, the

mier not to take any decision to control **AMENDMENT PROPOSAL** Section 12(1) of the existing law says the council will have the authority to

warn, admonish and censure after

investigation if a newspaper or news

and some journalists urged the pre-

agency violates the ethics of journalism or present news against the public taste, or if an editor or a journalist commits any professional misconduct. The proposed amendment says the council can fine a newspaper, news agency, editor and reporter Tk 5,000 to Tk 20,000 if they are found guilty. If the same fault is committed

thrice, the Press Council can direct the

proper authorities to cancel the publi-

cation of the newspaper concerned at

however, specifically says that the

publication can be cancelled for a day.

The Bengali version of the draft,

The fine will be realised in 30 days

of the verdict. Half of the fine will go to the complainant as compensation while the rest to the council's coffer. In case of non-payment within the stipulated time, the fine will be realised through a proceeding under Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913. "Excepting the judgements and orders passed in the cases on trial, in

case of violence or disobedience of

any other order or orders of the press

council, Contempt of Courts Act shall

be applicable," the proposed amend-The Press Council has also proposed amendment to section 12(2) of

The section, as exists, says: "If the council is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient in the public interest so to do, it may require any newspaper to publish therein, in such manner as the Council thinks fit, any report relating to any inquiry under this section against a newspaper or news agency, and editor or a journalist working therein, including the name of such newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist.'

The council proposes for adding to

the section 12(2): "The delinquent

newspaper shall publish the report/judgement/order of the Press Council within seven days of its receipt and in case of failure, the Press Council shall direct the concerned authority to stop the action of declaration of the delinquent newspaper till the date of publication of the report/judgement/order of the Press

VERSION OF PRESS COUNCIL

That's how the journalists covered

professionals to the core. On that chilly winter afternoon, the journalists were the least prepared for the curtain to drop on a ninemonth brutal war that saw a nation torn to bitten with the massacre of 3 million. Still they could feel the anticipation in the air -- that freedom is just round the corner, and that the people

It was perhaps the last and only

And Aftab's 120mm double-reflex lens Yashika camera went on clicking

But then on December 17 proved

come through the thick of the night-But the risks and uncertainties of

in the memories of many. "And we had prior information from sources that the Pakistan army is going to surrender today. At around 11 in the morning, a friend named Ferdous

"I saw people grouping around the

the cantonment "I heard on the BBC, Shwadhin

ing towards Shahbagh.

place for the curtain to drop. Somewhere near the Race

a shock, life slowly bleeding out of

Gen, what's your comment? It was already getting dark. Thirty-

wondered if I would get them together to bring out the paper," Tara said. "It

On December 17, only Ittefaq was published, just a one-pager, without any photograph. Aftab who worked for Ittefaq cannot remember how the paper came out on the 17th. He says he submitted his photograph to the office on the 18th. The 19th issue of the Ittefaq carried his snap of the

from December 17. Aftab's office, Ittefaq, had been decelerating growth of export has also contributed to the deepening dollar crisis. In July-August, import grew by 16 percent and export by

been opened for import in the

to Simoom Shilpi Goshthi and Ronagan Shilpi Goshthi, cultural

NGOs and the country's intellectuals in their next attacks

He said Sunny could not evade arrest as police and Rab raided a dormitory of the institute, but he managed to flee to his Chittagong hideout. But the Rab eventually arrested him on Tuesday night

JAMAAT LINKS

Operations Commander Bangla Bhai took him to Bagmara in Chapainawabganj in April, 2004 to The local lawmaker and adminis-

tration had cooperated with them in

JMB Military Commander Ataur Rahman Sunny, also arrested in

Dhaka on Tuesday, later made him the

The CEC has been made respon-

AK Mohammad Ali and M Munsef Ali

oro-forma respondents in the peti

the validity of appointments of over

three lakh enumerators, supervisors,

assistant registration officers, registra-

tion officers and upazila election

officers by the Election Commission

(EC) secretariat for preparing the voter

information at grassroots level in the

new year with a target to publish the

submitted that the CEC's unilateral

move to prepare the fresh electoral roll

and subsequent recruitment of over

three lakh staff were made in contra-

sioners and in a non-transparent

The secretary of the EC secretariat

final voter list on June 1, 2006.

vesting the power on the EC.

constitution

manner, they said.

contrary to law, they said.

The EC will begin collecting voter

The counsel for the petitioners

The AL lawmakers also challenged

not served to the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the EC secretar-

hearing date at January 2, 2006. preparing a fresh electoral roll, the counsel submitted that on August 7

> filing the writ petitions was to thwart the normal election process.

CEC and the EC secretary.

FROM PAGE 20 A syndicate, headed by an influential city BNP leader, controlled the entire bidding process from behind the

Tuesday in gross violation of rules.

one each for two cattle markets at Uttara and Tejgaon truck stand --

DCC officials said after 'evaluation' of the offers, the cattle markets would be handed over to the 'highest

market site at Armanitola (Nayabazar), Tk 6 lakh for Khilkhet

Kamalapur. The other offers are Tk 12.80 lakh for Rajuk's open space at Uttara