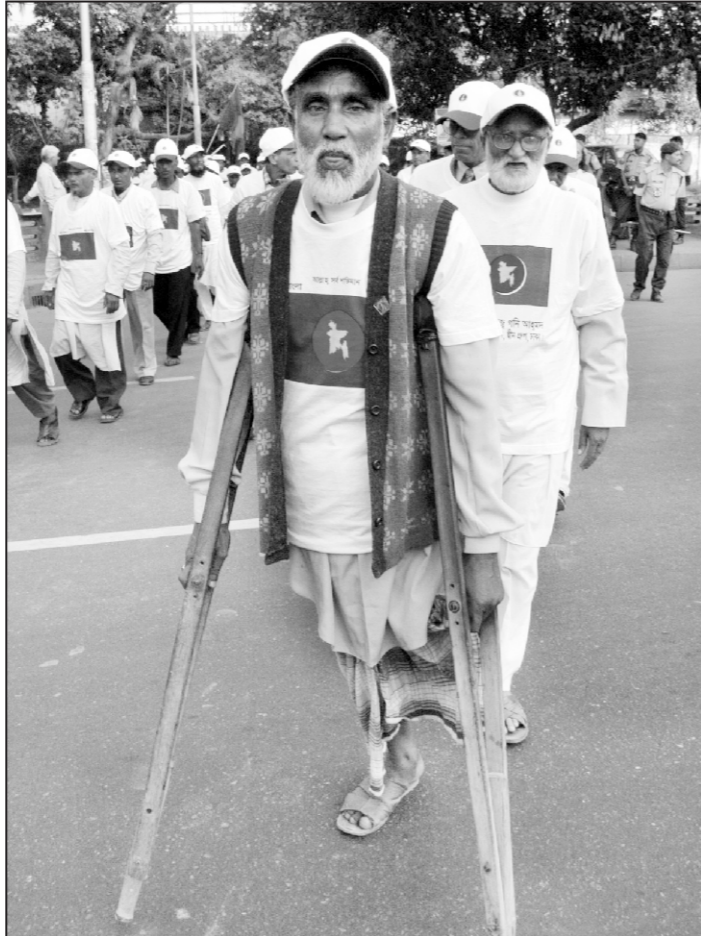
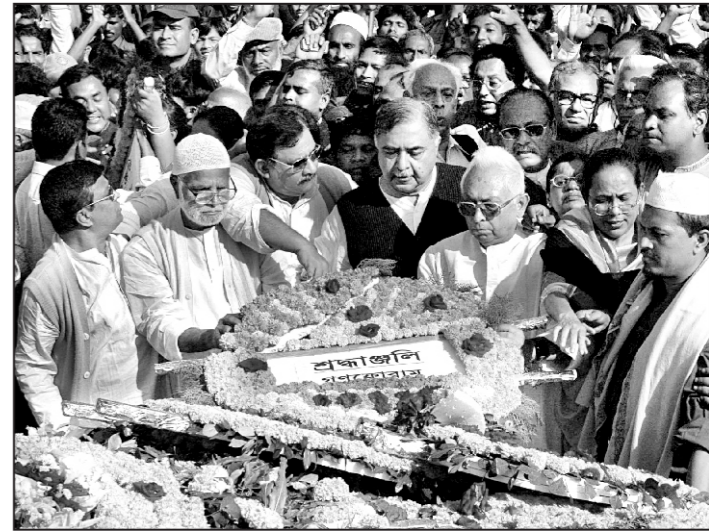


VICTORY DAY CELEBRATION



(Top left) Prime Minister Khaleda Zia takes salute at the children's rally and march past at Dhaka Stadium yesterday on the occasion of the Victory Day; (right) a group of tribal children performs at the rally. (Bottom left) Sammilita Sangkritik Jote takes out a colourful procession from the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday on the occasion of the Victory Day. (right) Freedom Fighters bring out a procession from Muktagong to mark the Day.

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS



Different political parties and organisations place wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar to pay homage to the liberation war martyrs yesterday on the occasion of the Victory Day. Clockwise from top left: Awami League, Gono Forum, Dhaka University, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Krishak Sramik Janata League, Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation, Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan, Karmajibi Nari and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh.

AL-BNP clash in Gournadi, 50 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The activists of ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) locked in sporadic clashes over holding Victory Day celebration rally at Gournadi in the district yesterday morning. At least 50 persons, including five policemen, were injured while tens of shops were ransacked in the incident.

Both the parties blamed each other for the attacks.

Two critically injured were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital.

Witnesses and sources said Gournadi upazila AL planned to bring out a Victory Day rally led by its local leader Habibur Rahman. AL activists from Torki, Bilbagram, Diashur, Batajor, Mahilara Palardi villages and adjacent areas gathered at Gournadi to participate in the rally.

Having learnt of the AL effort, Gournadi upazila BNP allegedly planned to resist them and ransacked Arif Telecom Centre, the AL rendezvous at Gournadi Bandar Thursday night.

The BNP activists led by upazila BNP Secretary Sarwar Alam Biplob attacked the AL rally at about 7:00am yesterday morning. Soon, scattered clashes between the political rivals spread across an area from Gournadi Bandar to Bus Stand and Palli Bidyut Office.

Later, at a press conference AL leader Habibur Rahman blamed the BNP for attacking their "peaceful" Victory Day rally.

At another press conference at the Gournadi Press Club, Nur Alam Howladar, municipal chairman and BNP leader, accused the AL of attacking the "peaceful" BNP rally.

BSF kills Bangladeshi at Benapole

BDNEWS, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi youth near Benapole border on Thursday night.

BDR sources said the BSF men at Haridaspur shot dead an unidentified man, aged about 18, and took away the body.

BDR protested the killing and have been keeping a close watch on the situation.

Meanwhile, tension is prevailing in the border area.

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF ON AD-HOC BASIS Chaos grips Patuakhali Science University

UNB, Barisal

Long agitation by teachers and employees over appointment of teachers and staff on ad-hoc basis had virtually collapsed the academic activities of the Patuakhali Science and Technology University.

Campus sources said chaos gripped the University since October this year when the teachers and staff appointed on ad-hoc and temporary basis started demanding that they be regularised in the service.

They also demanded immediate removal of the vice chancellor and his personal staff for alleged corruption and irregularities.

An earlier ultimatum fixing November 30 as the deadline to resolve their problems expired without any tangible result. Since then the aggrieved teachers and employees are abstaining from

their duties, the sources said. It was alleged that PSTU VC Dr M Wahiduzzaman was bypassing the Treasurer even on financial matters and he along with his loyal staff was running the day-to-day work of the university.

This, along with work abstention of the teachers, is causing chaos and affecting normal educational activities.

VC Wahiduzzaman regretted the actions taken by the protesting teachers and staff and assured that the authorities have already taken steps to fulfil their demands, including regularising their ad hoc appointments and dismissing some of his loyal staff.

The VC said in view of the decision and considering the future of hundreds of students, the teachers and staff should resume their duties.

Indian Navy chief arrives today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Indian Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash will arrive in the city today on a four-day goodwill visit.

During his visit, he is expected to call on President Iajuddin Ahmed.

The Indian Naval chief will also meet the chiefs of Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force, defence secretary and the principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division.

A source at the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) said that Admiral Arun Prakash will visit a number of defence installations in Dhaka and Chittagong. Meanwhile, BDNEWS correspondent in New Delhi reported that the Indian Navy chief will visit Bangladesh with the offer of bilateral cooperation in naval matters.

"The Indian establishment is hoping to make some headway in its relations with Bangladesh with the visit of the Navy Chief," said a source at the Indian Defence Ministry.

Prakash would extend an invitation to Bangladesh's naval ships to visit Indian ports.

"Admiral Prakash will also offer Indian technical assistance for repairing Bangladeshi naval ships," the source added.

Rab nabs five drug traders in city

BSS, Dhaka

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) arrested five drug traders in the city and seized huge quantities of foreign and country-made liquor from them.

The arrestees are M Harun-Rashid, 25, and M Shafiq, 27, sons of Haji M Zuraf Ali of Burichang in Comilla, Ramzan Ali, 20, son of Tayeb Ali of Kamrangirchar, Dabir, 40, son of Gias Uddin of Aga Dewari and Sentu Mia, 38, son of Kafil Uddin of Chhoto Katra at Lalbag, said a Rab press release.

The seized goods included 136 bottles foreign liquor, 100 bottles country-made liquor, 10 cans foreign beer, 30 litres local wine and two kgs ganja.

Besides, Rab-6 of Khulna picked up three cheaters from Vennabari area under Gopalganj district for selling fake images of Hindu idols - Krishna and Radha, the release added.

RU employees demand job confirmation

RU CORRESPONDENT

The controversially appointed 544 employees of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday met the visiting education minister and demanded immediate confirmation of their jobs.

Sources said they met Dr Osman Farruk when he was visiting the campus in connection with the certificate and gold medal awarding ceremony at the senate building.

The employees led by Oikya Parishad Convenor Rafiqul Islam Sadar met the minister at the residence office of the vice-chancellor and placed their demands.

Dr Farruk assured them of doing his best for them.

Earlier, the employees staged a demonstration in front of the residence of the VC and demanded confirmation of their jobs.

They also intercepted the car of the minister and chanted various slogans in support of their demand.

India celebrates Bijoy Dibas

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India celebrated 'Bijoy Dibas' in a big way yesterday to mark the victory of its troops in the 1971 war with Pakistan, which helped Bangladesh win the Liberation War.

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, along with the three service chiefs, paid floral tributes at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the historic India Gate in Delhi and witnessed an impressive cultural programme and tri-service band display in honour of the brave soldiers who laid their lives.

Later, the memorial was opened for the public for the first time to pay floral tributes to those soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the 1971 war.

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said a permanent war memorial would be built in the national capital soon.

He told reporters that the government decided to celebrate 'Bijoy Dibas' as the nation wanted to remember the supreme sacrifices made by the armed forces. "The nation cannot forget its brave soldiers," he said.

This is for the first time in four years that the Indian government celebrated the day in such a big manner.

On December 14, Mukherjee celebrated the occasion with the Indian army in Kolkata and later told reporters that all contentious issues between India and Bangladesh would be sorted out through dialogue.

He hoped that friendship between the two countries would remain

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country in the early morning, Met office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 12.1 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest 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	28.8	15.7	70	63
Chittagong	31.0	18.7	64	71
Rajshahi	27.8	14.3	81	78
Khulna	28.4	14.5	89	72
Barisal	30.0	14.4	83	83
Sylhet	31.0	16.9	63	63
Cox's Bazar	31.4	21.5	69	77

Nat'l convention against repression of journalists tomorrow

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A National Convention against Repression of Journalists, Terrorism and Militancy will be held at the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow.

Family members of slain journalists Manik Saha, Humayun Kabir Balu, Shamsur Rahman, Dipankar Chakrabarty, Harunur Rashid and Goutam Das will inaugurate the convention at 10:00am, organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be present as the chief guest.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Bar Council Vice-chairman Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and Supreme Court Bar Association President Advocate Mahbubey Alam will address the convention.