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Dhaka Day by Day

## Draft resolution on Bosnia

# Vance, Owen spurn OIC move for military action

JEDDAH, Dec 2: Yugoslavia peace mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen on Wednesday spurned calls from Islamic Foreign Ministers for military action to protect Bosnian Muslims, sources said here, reports AFP.

The ministers met Vance and Owen during an emergency session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which is seeking UN approval for the delivery of arms to the Bosnians and armed intervention against the Serbs and their Montenegrin allies. However, an OIC source said Vance and Owen, co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference on Yugoslavia, told the Muslim ministers during more than three hours of talks that "resorting to force would aggravate the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina." They said it was essential that the United Nations and European Economic Community receive support for their

efforts to "end the fighting in Bosnia and find a solution to the conflict."

The draft of a resolution to be adopted by the OIC later Wednesday called on its members to supply the Bosnian Muslims "immediately" with weapons, for the UN arms embargo on Bosnia to be lifted, and UN Security Council to authorise military action against Serbia and Montenegro. OIC sources told AFP, however, that the resolution may be toned down to avoid it being rejected outright by the United Nations.

The Bosnians are hoping for concrete action to emerge from the meeting here, but the OIC failed already at a session in June to win Security Council support for the lifting of the arms embargo or military intervention. Bosnia's beleaguered Muslims say the UN arms embargo is preventing them from defending themselves against the heavily armed Serbs. But opponents of easing the embargo say it would only worsen the bloodshed.

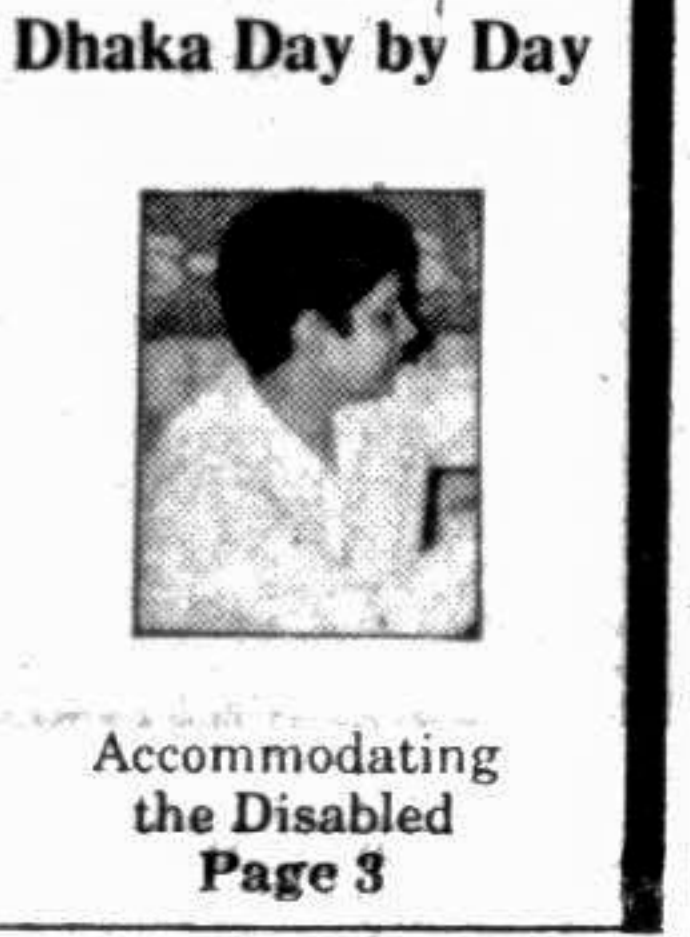
## Nirmul body plans five-day hartal from Dec 9

By Nazmul Ashraf  
The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee is planning to intensify its movement in the backdrop of what it says the ruling BNP's reluctance to try Golam Azam.

The Samannaya Committee has primarily decided to announce hartal for five consecutive days from December 9 if pickets come under attack either by police or government-backed terrorists during the December 8 hartal, said Committee leaders alleging that the government was instigating the Juba Command and Jamaat-Shibir armed terrorists to foil the hartal.



**Hosts take on Lanka today**  
**Sports Reporter**  
Hosts Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka in the inaugural match of the first ever SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today.



Accommodating the Disabled Page 3



Visiting Turkish Army chief General Muhittin Fisunoglu (extreme left) called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence yesterday. — PID photo

## Experts question financial reforms without economic stability

Some financial experts from home and abroad at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday questioned the efficacy of reforms in the financial sector without ensuring stability of the economy, reports UNB.

They expressed doubts whether reform measures could deliver goods in a situation where the economy is not strong enough to absorb the impact of such exercise.

The seminar on "Financial Sector Reforms" was organized by American-Bangladesh Economic Forum, a Dhaka-based body of business people, at a local hotel to appraise the way reforms initiated in Bangladesh's financial sector and its impact on the economy.

A debate sparked off when a former Governor of the Bank of Thailand told the seminar that any country should implement financial reforms only when its economy is stable and strong enough to absorb immediate impact.

"Reform should be well timed and with minimum repercussions", said Chavalit Thanachanan, now the Chairman of Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand. He made his observation from his country's experience in financial reforms and he did not refer to the situation in Bangladesh.

But some local experts, supporting Thanachanan, cau-

tioned that the speed in reforming Bangladesh's financial sector may prove as counter productive.

Eminent economist Prof. Rehman Sobhan pointed out that Thailand went for reforms when share of its manufacturing sector to GDP was 30 per cent while in case of Bangladesh it is 12 per cent at present. He expressed doubt whether interest rate liberalization at this stage of Bangladesh economy would be at all beneficial.

Owise Sadat of the World Bank disagreed with Prof. Sobhan. Modality of financial sector reforms also came under scrutiny at the day-long seminar attended by noted economists, bureaucrats, banking professionals and representatives of local and multinational companies. Surpassing the financial sector, deliberations also touched on various aspects of the Bangladesh economy.

There were others who expressed caution that the provisioning of bad debts, a measure under financial sector reform, has resulted in increase of lending rates of the banks, affecting loan demands particularly in industrial sector. Banks are now fixing their lending rates to reflect the cost of carrying bad and doubtful debts which are now estimated to be about Tk. 10,000

## JCD holds JU Syndicate members hostage

By JU Correspondent  
Defiant JCD activists last night laid siege to a meeting of the Jahangirnagar University Syndicate, which had gone into session in the evening to decide on the punitive measures against two leaders of the student body, leaving all its members locked inside the Vice-Chancellor's office.

Until writing of this report at 12 midnight, the angry students refused to retreat.

The Syndicate, the university's highest decision-making body, sat in an emergency meeting at 7 pm to review the recommendations of the institution's disciplinary committee

## AL retains Bhola-4 JS seat

Awami League candidate Zafullah Chowdhury won the Bhola-4 seat (Charai-Manpura) defeating his nearest rival Abdus Shahid Maitia of ruling BNP in the parliamentary by-election yesterday according to unofficial results reaching the Election Commission, reports UNB.

Chowdhury bagged 34,169 votes while Shahid Maitia voted 28,406 in 85 out of 88 centres.

## JP dissolves women's wing central body

By Staff Correspondent  
The Jatiya Party yesterday dissolved the central body of its women's wing and inducted three faces in the party presidium, which insiders said might spark off bickering.

Let Col (Retd) Jafar Imam Bir Bikram, Alhaj Tajul Islam Chowdhury MP and Sayeed Tarek are the new members in presidium.

Mariam Hashimuddin and Toufika Karim respectively had been the president and the secretary of the Mahila Party until it was dissolved yesterday. Changes in both the party apparatuses were made by an executive order of the acting chairman.

A party press release signed by office Secretary Tajul Islam Chowdhury, who was now in the presidium, said that acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury also made Montreal Huq Chowdhury MP Joint-Secretary General and Advocate Shafiqul Islam Babul Office Secretary. Babul was earlier holding the post of joint-office secretary.

Party insiders said that the selection of Sayeed Tarek in the presidium would be protested by most party stalwarts, one Central Committee member said requesting anonymity.

Tarek is the brother of Mahila Party city unit General Secretary Fatema Shahesta. The central member said that she knew nothing about the change and commented it might lead the party to "deep crisis."

She also said that the change was made ahead of the return of former secretary general Shah Moazzem Hossain from abroad. Moazzem is expected to return within a week.

The JP's female leader termed Tarek as "obscure" and said he has no contribution for the party. She did not elaborate.

When contacted over telephone JP Vice-President Moudud Ahmed MP said that "this is party decision and this is final."

"We discussed the matter in the presidium but the order came from the chairman," Ahmed said adding that "as it is a party decision I stand by it."

The JP constitution has 29 posts for presidium, seven of which are still vacant.

Answering a question on whether the acting chairman had power to make such changes, the former vice-president said that "the (Mizan Chowdhury) is exercising the power of the chairman."

Reacting on the dissolution of the women wing committee Toufika Karim said that she "accepted the decision as a party worker."

"It was not surprising to me as the decision was expected earlier," she said.

## Housewife murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent  
A housewife was murdered at north Basabo in the city Wednesday morning.

Police recovered the body of Nilufar Ahmed (30) from the third floor of a five-storey building at 104/A, North Basabo, Sabujbagh at around 1:30 pm. Nilufar was mother of a son.

Police arrested the servant Bellal, 22, on suspicion from the house and recovered a blood-stained undergarment reportedly belonging to him, said police.

Bellal was handed over to Detective Branch (DB) of police at around 8:30 pm yesterday and being interrogated at DB office last night, said Sabujbagh police.

Nilufar's husband engineer

## Lawmakers disrupt parliament over Hindu temple issue

NEW DELHI, Dec 2: Opposition lawmakers shouted abuses and disrupted Parliament Wednesday, demanding the government prevent a radical Hindu plan to build a temple on the site of an old mosque, reports AP.

About 30,000 people have gathered in the northern town of Ayodhya to start construction on Sunday.

When the temple campaign was first launched in 1990, it led to Hindu-Muslim riots across northern India, leaving at least 1,000 people dead.

As soon as the two houses of Parliament began their ses-

sions, angry lawmakers of Communist and centrist parties rushed near the Speaker's platform and demanded a government statement.

There were heated exchanges between the protesters and lawmakers of the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, which is sponsoring the temple plan in defiance of Supreme Court orders banning any construction activity in front of the mosque.

Nothing could be heard in the commotion and Speaker Shri Rajiv Patil adjourned the lower house until lunch break. As soon as the house reassembled members were on their feet, shouting at each other.

They were pacified when Home Minister S B Chavan promised to make a statement on Thursday.

Members of parliament were incensed over reported remarks by the top leaders of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying that "kar seva", or voluntary work by devotees, would resume in defiance of the Supreme Court, according to Reuters.

"We are sitting on a piper's bag, said Jaipal Reddy of the opposition Janata Dal in the Upper House.

BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee said the issue could be resolved by talks but if Delhi wanted "a confrontation" his party was ready.

The BJP rode to power in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous and politically most important state, after last year's general election on the back of an emotional campaign to build the temple in Ayodhya.

Over the past three years, the campaign has triggered religious riots that fall of two central governments.

The government has sent thousands of parliamentary troops to Ayodhya, 500 kilometers (310 miles) east of New Delhi, to prevent Hindu supporters from starting the construction, according to AP.

But in Ayodhya, a top Hindu leader, Girraj Kishore, said the temple will be built "under any circumstances."

Two top leaders of the Hindu party, L K Advani, and Murali Manohar Joshi, on Tuesday began train journeys from two holy towns towards Ayodhya in a bid to round up more people for the construction. The party says about 100,000 people are expected by Sunday.

Devotees believe the site is the birthplace of Rama, an important god in the Hindu pantheon. They say 16th century Mogul invaders destroyed a Ram temple at that place and built the mosque, the Babri Masjid. Experts are divided on the issue.

In July, volunteers built a platform on a plot facing the mosque in the first stage of a long-term project that calls for tearing down the Muslim shrine.

Construction was halted while members of the government, the Bharatiya Janata Party and Muslim parties held talks to resolve the issue.

## Dialysis units in every hospital needed, say doctors

By Staff Correspondent  
Prof Dr Moazzem Hossain, a child kidney specialist has urged the government to equip all the medical college hospitals and the district-level hospitals in the country with dialysis facilities immediately to treat children facing Acute Renal Failure (ARF).

Prof Hossain, of the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Research (IPGMR) Hospital, made this appeal yesterday morning while addressing a seminar on the issue.

Prof Hossain observed that survival of the child affected by ARF virtually depended on timely dialysis of the patient.

Prof Hossain, on the basis of a study conducted on 610