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NEWS BRIEFS

DPRK envoy calls on PM

Ambassador of North Korca Kang Dal Son made his farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office here yesterday. During the call on the outgoing Ambassador thanked the Prime Minister for the cooperation extended to him during his stay in Bangladesh, reports

BNP public meet Dec 6

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to observe December 6 as Democracy Day. The party will hold a public meeting on the day at the democracy square (Gulistan crossing) at 3 pm. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the meeting as the chief guest. The meeting will also be addressed by other BNP leaders, reports BSS.

SAARC cricket envelope

Bangladesh Postal Department will bring out a special envelope of 5 Taka denomination to commemorate First SAARC Cricket Tournament Dhaka 92 today. A special canceller will also be used on the occasion. This envelope will be sold from Dhaka GPO from today, reports UNB.

BFUJ meet Dec 5

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held on December 5 at 10.30 am at the union office at Jatiya Press Club. The meeting will fix the date of re-election to the posts of President and two members of the executive committee as per constitutional provision, reports BSS.

UAE envoy hosts reception

A reception on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the National Day of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was held here last evening. Hosted by the Charge d'Affaires of the UAE embassy Hassan Issa Mahmood, the reception held at the Hotel Sonargaon was attended by the political leaders, diplomats and elites, reports

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 Scrbs and their Montenegran

However, an OIC source said Vance and Owen, cochairmen 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

her residence yesterday.

Some financial experts from

home and abroad at a seminar

in Dhaka yesterday questioned

the efficacy of reforms in the

financial sector without ensur-

ing stability of the economy,

whether reform measures

could deliver goods in a situa-

tion where the economy is not

strong enough to absorb the

Sector Reforms" was organized

by American-Bangladesh Eco-

nomic Forum, a Dhaka-based

body of business people, at a

local hotel to appraise the way

reforms initiated in Bang-

ladesh's financial sector and its

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

timed and with minimum

"Reform should be well

NEW DELHI, Dec 2: Opp-

osition lawmakers shouted

abuses and disrupted Parlia-

ment Wednesday, demanding

the government prevent a

radical Hindu plan to build a

temple on the site of an old

gathered in the northern town

of Ayodhya to start construc-

was first launched in 1990, it

led to Hindu-Muslim riots

Parliament began their ses-

at least 1,000 people dead.

About 30,000 people have

When the temple campaign

As soon as the two houses of

mosque, reports AP.

tion on Sunday.

A debate sparked off when a

The seminar on "Financial

impact of such exercise.

impact on the economy.

They expressed doubts

reports UNB.

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

AGRAHAYAN 19, 1399 BS,

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

Experts question financial reforms

without economic stability

tioned that the speed in re-

forming Bangladesh's financial

sector may prove as counter

Rehman Sobhan pointed out

that Thailand went for reforms

when share of its manufactur-

ing 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 liberal-

ization at this stage of

Bangladesh economy would be

Bank disagreed with Prof.

reforms also came under

scrutiny at the day-long semi-

nar attended by noted econo-

mists, bureaucrats, banking

professionals and represen-

tatives of local and multi-

national companies. Surpassing

the financial sector, delibera-

tions also touched on various

aspects of the Bangladesh

pressed caution that the provi-

sioning of bad debts, a measure

There were others who ex-

Owaise Sadat of the World

Modality of financial sector

Eminent economist Prof.

productive.

at all beneficial.

economy.

opponents of easing the embargo say it would only worsen the bloodshed.

The OIC was also expected to ask for UN observers to be deployed along the border between Bosnia and Montenegro to prevent supplies reaching the Serb forces.

The meeting has seen hardliners, including Turkey, suggest that the OIC could take military action without UN approval to avoid what they see as the 'genocide' of fellow Muslims in Bosnia.

However, the Gulf Arab monarchies led by Saudi Arabia, and other pro-Western countries have ruled out bypassing the United Nations.

Foreign Minister Djibo Ka of Senegal, the current OIC chairman, called for a special UN fund to be set up to finance operations in Bosnia. The cash would cover both "humanitarian and security" operations, he said.

The minister also called on the United Nations to ban

A S F Rahman, Chairman of

the Beximeo Group, warned

that with the present average

lending rate of 16 per cent,

industrial sector will not be

Incompetitiveness of the

industrial sector reduces the

chance of economic growth

without which the cost of fi-

nancial reforms cannot be met

Rahman, whose group invested

Tk 100 crore in industry in

state-owned banks with float-

ing of bonds worth Tk 1,730

crore, to be met from bud-

getary resources, was also crit-

icized - even by a senior gov-

ernment official. "The silent

majority would bear the bur-

den," said Dr. Tousig-e-Elahi

Chowdhury, Additional Secre-

Loan provisioning may en-

courage default culture, said

Chowdhury Aminul Hoque, a

former adviser to the care-

non-banking institutions have

to be built up in Bangladesh for

long-term savings and invest-

Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former

tary, Ministry of Planning.

Recapitalization of four

last two years, said.

able to become competitive.

Serbia from manufacturing armaments.

Meanwhile it was announced in Geneva that Vance. who represents the United Nations, and Owen for the EC would host an international ministerial level conference on Bosnia on December 16 in the Swiss city.

AP from Sarajevo adds: Intensified fighting around Sarajevo's airport prevented aid from reaching the besieged city Wednesday for one of the few days in recent months, UN officials said.

"This weighs heavily on the people of Sarajevo," said Peter Kessler, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner on Refugees. "We aren't getting a chance to stockpile food for the winter."

The airlift was suspended Tuesday after the rudder of a US Air Force transport was hit by small-arms fire while approaching the airport.

Officials said battles around See Page 12 Col 7

- PID photo

SAARC role in

post-cold war

world has

increased: PM

Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime

Minister of Bangladesh and

SAARC Chairperson-designate,

has stressed the need for na-

tional efforts and a compre-

hensive regional approach by

member-countries to face the

challenges of development.

Kathmandu weekly 'The

Independent' Begum Zia said

that SAARC's role and potential

Though the international

political situation had im-

proved conditions for devel-

opment of the developing

countries had not improved

velopment assistance, indebt-

edness, threat of protectionist

trends and imposition of

conditional ties underscore

the difficulties face by the de-

no other option, but to rein-

force our national efforts with

immediate task is to consoli-

date the past gains and pursue

the decisions from past sum-

"In such a situation we have

veloping world", she said.

"The stagnating flow of de-

very much, she said.

in post-cold war world had in-

In an interview to a

reports BSS.

creased.

KATHMANDU, Dec 2:

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.

The Samannaya Committee has called the December 8 dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country to press home its four-point charter of demands.

The demands include trial of Golam Azam for war crimes. ban on Jamaat and other fundamentalist political parties and withdrawal of cases against 24 sponsors of Azam's public

The Juba Command has

meantime threatened to resist the December 8 hartal while the Jamaat-e-Islami has reportedly planned anti-hartal programmes.

The Awami League, the Five-party combine, the Patriotic Democratic Front and other smaller parties are likely to have discussions among themselves about their support to and participation in the Nirmul Committee programmes, political sources said.

The committee would also chalk out action programmes on expiry of its December 16 deadline set earlier for the government to méet the demands.

Apart from its ongoing programmes of street rallies and demonstrations, the Nirmul body has also finalised the details of its human-chain programme scheduled for December 10.

On the day, sources said, a human-chain would be formed from the Bahadur Shah Park to the Jatiya Sangsad via Banga-Sec Page 12 Col 1

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

two students be punished with one-year suspended expulsion and asked to pay a fine for their misdemeanour with a teacher.

that reportedly suggested the

On Friday, Md Moazzem Hossain, the Organising Secretary of JCD's JU unit, and S M Abu Yusuf, a leader of a hall unit, misbehaved with Dr Golam Hossain, the Provost of the Al Beruni Hall, when he refused to comply with the students' insistence that a university ambulance be made available for a patient student living outside the campus.

Sec Page 12 Col 1

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 bickerings. Let Col (Retd) Jafar Imam

presidium.

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 Monirul Huq Chowdhury MP Joint-Secretary General and Advocate Shafigul 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

crisis.

Bir Bikram, Alhaj Tajul Islam Chowdhury MP and Sayeed Tarek are the new members in Marium Hashimuddin and

change and commented it might lead the party to "deep

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

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

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

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 "he (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.

the birthplace of Rama, an im-

CRICKET BANGLADESH

Hosts take on Lanka today

Sports Reporter

Hosts Bangladesh take on Shri Lanka in the inaugural match of the first ever SAARC ericket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Minhazul Abedin Nannu will lead the Bangladesh team while Shu Karnain will captain the Shri Lankan squad.

Second-string teams from the three Test playing countries - India, Pakistan and Shri Lanka - and Bangladesh national selections will participate in the limited over tour-

The top two teams of the round robin league will contest in the final on December 11.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will inaugurate the tourney as the chief guest at nine in the morning.

(Details on Page 10)

AL retains Bhola-4 JS

seat

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

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

The number of voters of the remaining three centres is 5,551 which cannot make up the difference between the two. The gap between the Awami League and the BNP candidates is of 5,763 votes, Bhola Election Commission control room said.

See Page 12 Col 6

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

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

See Page 12 Col 2

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 Medicine Research (IPGMR) Hospital, made this appeal yesterday morning while addressing a seminar on the is-

survival of the child affected by ARF virtually depended on timely dialysis of the patient.

a study conducted on 610 See Page 12 Col 3

adviser of the Acting President repercussion", said Chavalit a comprehensive regional apunder financial sector reform, proach to face our common Thanachanan, now the and a former members of Chairman of Industrial Finance has resulted in increase of Planning Commission, strongly challenges," she added. viewed that interest rates Corporation of Thailand. He lending rates of the banks, af-On how to lead the SAARC made his observation from his feeting loan demands particushould exclude the cost of bad after she assumes leadership at country's experience in finandebt provisioning. larly in industrial sector. the Seventh Summit at Dhaka Banks are now fixing their Rahman suggested that new cial reforms and he did not reon December 12 she said "my

taker government.

Visiting Turkish Army chief General Muhittin Fisunoglu (extreme left) called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at

fer to the situation in lending rates to reflect the Bangladesh. cost of carrying bad and doubtful debts which are now esti-But some local experts, mated to be about Tk. 10,000 supporting Thanachanan, cau-Lawmakers disrupt parliament over Hindu temple issue

> sions, angry lawmakers of Communist and centrist parties rushed near the Speaker's platform and demanded a gov-

ernment 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 across northern India, leaving , the commotion and Speaker Shivraj 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 deflance of the Supreme Court, according to Reuter.

"We are sitting on a poser keg, 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 re-

central governments. The government has sent thousands of parliamentary troops to Ayodhya, 500 kilo-

ligious riots that fall of two

New Delhi, to prevent Hindu supporters from starting the construction, according to AP. But in Ayodhya, a top Hindu leader, Girtraj Kishore, said

meters (310 miles) east of

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

portant 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.

Prof Hossain observed that

Prof Hossain, on the basis of

ever before. 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD.

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