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NEWS BRIEFS

Sharif leaves for home

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left Dhaka last night for home after a day-long official visit to Bangladesh. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia saw him off at Hotel Sonargaon after the banquet, reports BSS.

Mild tremor in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Dec 12: A mild tremor was felt in Sylhet town at 8:23 pm this night. It continued for about five seconds. However, no report of any damage or loss has yet been received. The local Met office confirmed the tremor.

IA suspends int'l flights

All international flights of the Indian Airlines including IC-723/724 of Calcutta-Dhaka-Calcutta route have been suspended following pilots' strike since December 10. A skeleton service is, however, being maintained in domestic routes with the help of executive pilots, reports BSS.

Sharif visits Zia's mazar

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman yesterday evening. He offered munajat at the mazar, reports UNB.

Repatriation of Pakistanis starts this month

Khaleda, Sharif hope Dhaka summit will be 'milestone'

Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday reiterated their firm resolve for the promotion of regional cooperation and expressed the hope that the forthcoming SAARC summit, scheduled on January 13 and 14, would be a milestone in the adoption of concrete steps towards that end, reports BSS.

During more than half an hour meeting in a cordial and sincere atmosphere, the two leaders reached complete agreement that both Bangladesh and Pakistan had a lot of scopes to promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

A foreign office spokesman, briefing newsmen at the end of the meeting, said both the leaders had discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of common interests. While discussing the situa-

tion arising out of the demolition of Babri Mosque in India both the leaders stressed the need for the reconstruction of the mosque at the same place to maintain communal harmony in India and its neighbouring countries.

Both the leaders discussed measures taken by respective countries to maintain utmost restraints by their people to maintain communal harmony. On his arrival at the Prime

Minister's office Pakistan Prime Minister had half an hour exclusive meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart before the formal talks.

During the formal talks Pakistan Prime Minister said that his country was taking due steps to take back the stranded Pakistanis. He said the construction work was going on in the Punjab for the rehabilitation of the repatri-



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa discussing issues at the Prime Minister's Secretariat yesterday. —PID photo

Security on maximum alert : Riots ebbing BJP starts week-long mass mobilisation today

NEW DELHI, Dec 12: Security forces remained on maximum alert today on the eve of a 'black day' protest announced by India's most important fundamentalist party as Hindu-Muslim communal frenzy ebbed, reports AFP.

Most of India was quiet after five days of violence that has left more than 1,160 dead, including 44 killed in street fighting and police gunfire since mid night Friday.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main opposition party in parliament, said its supporters would take to the streets Sunday to protest the banning of top Hindu fundamentalist groups.

The 'black day' will kick off a week-long mass mobilisation programme, the BJP said.

The action is to begin exactly one week after Hindu zealots stormed and destroyed the Babri Mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, sparking continuing Hindu-

Muslim clashes.

A BJP statement said the Congress (I) government had set itself on "a suicidal course" by outlawing the groups, specifically the extremist Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

The VHP, which sponsored the drive to build a temple to the Hindu god Rama on the Mosque site, is the religious arm of the RSS. The BJP is the political arms.

The RSS and the VHP, along with another Hindu group and two Islamic fundamentalist organisations, were banned Thursday by Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao for spreading communal disharmony and hatred.

MR Arya, vice-president of the BJP unit in New Delhi, a BJP strong hold, said supporters would wave black flag at sites across the country, with marches planned throughout the week.

"We will keep it peaceful," he said.

The Home Ministry spokesman, however said "forces are in total command of the situation and on alert. We are taking any chances."

BJP vice-president Sunder Singh Bandari rejected the Prime Minister's earlier comments that the party, the VHP and the RSS were responsible for the Mosque's razing.

Rao dismissed the BJP administration of Uttar Pradesh state, where Ayodhya is located, a few hours after the Mosque was stormed, and said Friday that the BJP and not his own government was to blame.

Meanwhile, Rao also came under pressure from opponents of the Hindu fundamentalists, as one of the country's important Muslim spokesman blasted him for delays in the Mosque's rebuilding and said Muslims should be allowed to undertake it themselves if the

Move to strengthen SAARC will succeed: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her optimism that the efforts to strengthen the South Asian unity would succeed to make the nations of the region stronger and prosperous, reports UNB.

"Our people have learnt that we are strong only when united. Our commonalities in South Asia are far greater than our differences. Our heritage is based on moral values," she said.

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We need stability, peace: Premadasa

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa last night stressed the need for concerted efforts to overcome the challenges that await the South Asian countries, reports BSS.

"We need stability and peace in our countries. We need unity and harmony in our region," President Premadasa said while addressing a banquet, hosted by Prime

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13-party joint rally tomorrow Opposition body may call to ban Jamaat, FP

By Nurul Kabir

An all-party Opposition committee formed yesterday is likely to demand that the government ban the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Freedom Party.

The committee styled 'All-party committee for communal harmony' was formed with representatives of 13 opposition political parties and different socio-cultural organisations with a view to restoring communal peace in the country.

The Committee came following a combined meeting of the concerned organisations held yesterday with the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Hasina, was selected chairperson of the 101-member committee while CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) leader Nurul Islam Nahid and SKSD (Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal) leader Nirmal Sen its joint secretaries.

The meeting observed that the communal forces in the country including the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, the Freedom Party and some other vested interest groups had indulged in seriously embarrassing the minority Hindu community in retaliation to the heinous demolition of the Babri Mosque in India by Hindu militants.

The combined meeting, according to sources, reached a consensus that it would call upon the government to ban the Jamaat and the Freedom Party soon for their alleged inciting of the communal unrest.

A joint secretary of the committee, talking to this correspondent last night said that the call would most likely come at a combined rally scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

The meeting resolved that it would also call upon the Indian government to impose a ban on the activities of the Bharatiya Janata Party for its 'clear' involvement in the demolition of the Babri Mosque.

The Committee observed that the government was clearly failing to resist attacks of fundamentalists on temples, homes and businesses of the minority community and the offices of secular political parties in the country.

The leaders of the Committee demanded that the government compensate the victims.

The central body also asked the district level units of its component organisations to constitute identical committees in their respective localities.

See Page 12 Col 8

Effigies of Advani, Rao, Azam burnt Processionists condemn communal violence

By Staff Correspondent

A series of processions and rallies clogged the city streets Saturday condemning the communal violence in India and Bangladesh and also the demolition of the Babri Mosque.

Ektorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Ganotantrik Party (JAGPA), and Islami Khelafat Majlis organised separate processions and rallies downtown Dhaka in the afternoon disrupting traffic movement for several hours.

Several hundred Nirmul Committee supporters burned effigies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader LK Advani, the Jamaat chief Golam Azam and the Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, holding them responsible for communal violence in the two countries and also for the demolition of the 16th century Mosque.

The city unit of the Nirmul Committee also brought out a

procession protesting fundamentalism from its central office at Tophkhana Road.

Before burning of the effigies, Nirmul Committee city unit leaders Sadek Ahmed Khan, Shahidul Islam Shahid, Kamal Hossain Badal, RM Basu and others addressed the public.

Denouncing the demolition of Babri Mosque, the leaders said, "Advani and Azam are the same type of fascists; they both exploit religion for their dirty politics and they both incite communal violence."

The leaders also blamed Rao for failing to take precautionary measures at the Babri Mosque. "Everybody knew what the Hindu fundamentalists would do to Babri Mosque," the leaders said, "But Rao just let it happen."

Demanding reconstruction of the Mosque immediately, the leaders urged the people to maintain communal harmony.

See Page 12 Col 3

By-election to Dhaka-II JS seat Feb 3

The by-election to the vacant parliamentary seat of Dhaka-II Constituency will be held on February 3 next, it was announced by the Election Commission in a gazette notification in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

According to the time-schedule for the by-election, returning officer and assistant returning officer will receive nomination papers on January 4.

The date for scrutiny and the date for withdrawal of nomination papers have been fixed for January 5 and January 12 respectively, the notification said.

In another gazette notification of the Election Commission, the Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka division and Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka district have been appointed returning officer and assistant returning officer respectively.

The Dhaka-II parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of parliament member Md Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah.

Resist communal forces: Hasina

GOPALGANJ, Dec 12: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has called for maintaining communal peace and harmony by unitedly resisting communal forces in the country, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at Chourangi here this evening, she said fundamentalist groups are trying to achieve their heinous political designs by creating communal violence and urged the people to resist these evil forces.

The Awami League President came here this afternoon on a two-day organisational tour.

Blaming the government for backing fanatics groups and fanning communal tension in the country, Hasina said the BNP government had totally failed to protect life and property of the people.

262 Rohingyas return home

By Staff Correspondent Another 262 Rohingya refugees returned home yesterday (Saturday).

This was the eighth batch being repatriated to Myanmar out of a quarter of a million refugees living in Bangladesh.

With this, the total number of Rohingyas repatriated since Sept 22 rose to 2026. Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Omar Farooq, Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Gulam Murtaza and Director General (South Asia) at the Foreign Office Reaz Hossain accompanied the refugees to the Kanchonoung reception centre in Mangdu.

Quake kills 68 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Dec 12: A powerful earthquake Saturday knocked down buildings and triggered a seismic wave that killed at least 68 people in a remote town in eastern Indonesia, an official said, reports AP.

The chief of the local geophysics station, Sariman, said the earthquake struck East Nusa Tenggara province at 1:29 pm (0529 GMT) and measured a preliminary 6.8 on the Richter scale. A quake of that strength is capable of causing severe damage.

Meteorological officials in Japan measured the quake at 7.2 on the Richter scale.

The earthquake was centered about 30 kilometers (19 miles) southwest of the town

of Maumere, Sariman said. He said many houses collapsed, and a seismic wave triggered by the quake hit the area, killing many people.

Communications in the region are poor, and little information was available about the full extent of casualties and damage.

The latest reports say 50 people have been killed in Maumere," Sariman said in a telephone interview from the East Nusa Tenggara capital of Kupang, about 1,875 kilometers (1,170 miles) southeast of Jakarta.

"The toll could be higher," he added. He said the quake was also felt in Irian Jaya and in the South Sulawesi capital of

Ujung Pandang.

Maumere is on Flores Island, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) northwest of Kupang or 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) east of Jakarta.

A Nicosia report says: Three quakes jolted western Iran late Friday and early Saturday, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The biggest measured 5 on the Richter scale.

No damage or casualties were reported in any of the three tremors, said Irna, monitored in Nicosia.

It said the quakes were felt mainly in the cities of Mehran and Dehloran in Ilam province. The first two were recorded Friday at 5:58 pm (1428 GMT) and 7:18 pm (1448 GMT).

Fanaticism has plunged region into darkness, says Sharif

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan last night said that the objective of his brief visit to Bangladesh was to consolidate the abiding ties and understanding between the peoples of the two brotherly countries, reports BSS.

It is also aimed at highlighting our shared commitment to the strengthening of cooperation within SAARC, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said while addressing a banquet, hosted by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in honour of both Pakistani leader and

See Page 12 Col 8

Huda urges media to help maintain communal harmony

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday expressed anxiety of the government for maintenance of peace and harmony in keeping with the traditional bond of amity among followers of all religions through the ages, reports BSS.

In an informal meeting with the editors of the national dailies and news agencies last evening at the Secretariat, Barrister Huda said the news media could play a very significant role in motivating the people in creating a climate of harmony among all people.

See Page 12 Col 1

US helicopter gunship shot at in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Dec 12: An American helicopter gunship destroyed three armed Somali vehicles after being shot at Saturday, news reports said, reports AP.

CNN said there were casualties but no further details were available.

A CNN correspondent, quoting a US military official, said the attack occurred at midday near the US Embassy in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. The Associated Press was

not immediately able to confirm the incident.

According to CNN, one of the vehicles destroyed was an armoured personnel carrier. The others were vehicles mounted with weapons, the report said.

It said the US helicopters involved were AH1 Cobra assault helicopters.

It was the second case of casualties in Somalia this week involving the US-led multinational force in Somalia to feed the nation's starving.

On Thursday, a Somali truck rammed a French checkpoint in Mogadishu. Troops fired on the vehicle, killing two Somalis and wounding seven.

Another report says, two of Somalia's main warlords have agreed to a cease-fire in the capital, but gunbattles stalled food convoys headed for the starving in the hinterlands.

In other developments Friday, American Marines scrubbed plans to escort a food convoy into northern

Mogadishu and set back a convoy to Baidoa at least a week, despite appeals from relief officials who said bandits were in a looting frenzy.

UN officials hailed the agreement between Gen Mohammed Farrah Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed as a first step in a long and difficult attempt to reconcile all of Somalia's major clans.

But the two warlords have no authority over many of the unruly factions, and only loose control in the capital.

Just how difficult it would be to attain peace was demonstrated by:

— Turmoil and looting in Baidoa, one of the towns hit hardest by famine. The chaos forced the postponement of a relief convoy planned for Saturday and had aid workers pleading for help from American marines.

— Plundering and gunplay by bandits in Kismayo, an important port 300 miles (485 kms) south of Mogadishu.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 National Board of Revenue
 Dhaka

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Notice

The date for advance income tax payment for the 2nd quarter of the current financial year in December 15, 1992.

The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is paid through I. T. form No. I. T. 31 (B) (amended) chalan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said chalan form as usual by replacing the figure "74 (1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form. It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance income tax is as follows:

(A) For companies resident in Bangladesh Taka 20 thousand.
 (B) For non-resident assesseees Taka 5 thousand.
 (C) For other assesseees Taka 60 thousand.

All assesseees concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 2nd quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1993-94 under this system by December 15, 1992. Simple interest @ 12% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

National Board of Revenue
 DFP (G) 21319-8/12 G-1605