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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Hasina addresses rally in city today**

**Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will address a public meeting today at Mirpur Section-1 at 3 pm. A press release of the party says local unit of the Awami League has organised the meeting, reports UNB.**

**AL joint meet today**

**A joint meeting of the Awami League and its different wings will be held today at 10 am at party central office. A press release yesterday said the meeting would be attended by presidents and general secretaries of the Awami League, Juba League, Chhatra League, Mohila League, Sramik League, Krishak League of Dhaka city, Dhaka district, Gazipur, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla North and South and Brahmanbaria districts. Party General Secretary Zillur Rahman has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, reports UNB.**

**JCD sweeps KC College polls**

**JHENIDAH, Dec 2: The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept in the Government KC College students union election held today. They bagged all the 20 seats. Md Kamal Azad Pannu was elected Vice-President while Md Shahjahan Ali General Secretary in the students union, reports UNB.**

## PUC report in Parliament Corruption by BNP MP unveiled

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The PUC also recommended that the officials concerned be declared incompetent for serving the country's banking sector.  
The report said two of the five owners of the defaulting company — Oli Knitting Fabrics (Pvt) Limited — are the brothers of the BNP MP Sarder Shakwat Hossain and Jatiya Party (JP) MP Kazi Anwar Hossain. According to the report the company, while asking for loans, exaggerated the price of the assets it submitted to the bank authorities as mortgage.  
The PUC report, while suggesting measures against the



The Jessore-Benapole broad gauge rail line established during the British period is no longer in use. The 34-km rail line can be made fully operational with a repair work costing around Tk 5 crore, experts say. Observers believe that this will help facilitate transportation of goods between Jessore and Benapole as well as carrying of coal and limestones from India.  
— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## Int'l conferences on democracy and development begin tomorrow

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Some 60 parliamentarians from 25 countries will attend two international conferences in the city to discuss the promotion of the democratic system and sustainable development.  
The first conference begins tomorrow (Saturday) and the second on Monday.  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate both the conferences at Sonargonj Hotel at 12 noon tomorrow.  
A New York based organisation, the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Dhaka-based Khan Foundation will jointly organise the conference titled, 'democracy and development' and 'population, poverty and life-styles'.  
In a press briefing yesterday, the State Minister for Planning and advisor of the Khan Foundation, Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said, the organisers were expecting at least 35 legislators from abroad and 25 from the country.  
Meanwhile, two MPs from Pakistan, Shah Makhdoom Shahabuddin, MNA and Senator Syed Muhammad Fazal Agha arrived in the capital yesterday to attend the conferences.  
Moyeen Khan informed the journalists that six MPs from India and one from Peru would arrive in the city today.  
The parliamentarians are attending the conferences at their personal capacities, but we hope the outcome of their discussion on the issues would help take appropriate actions in the global perspective, said Dr Khan.  
The topics in the conference, on democracy and development will include the role of parliamentarians in a developing country, 'local government and regional planning', 'reconciling the differences within a democratic framework', 'local government and local level planning', 'developing institutions to strengthen democratic roots' and the question of free and fair election.  
The focus of this conference will be on the evaluation of experience of democracy in Bangladesh. It will also try to evolve certain policy and action-oriented measures for promotion and development of a



Dhaka city dwellers enlisting their names for a meeting with the Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian to lodge complaints at the RAJUK Bhavan yesterday. The minister heard the people and directed the authorities to look into their grievances.  
— Star photo

## Speaker's ruling Retrospective effect not illegal

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, in his ruling on Wednesday's legal debate whether an ordinance promulgated by the President could have retrospective effect, told the House yesterday that the promulgation of an ordinance with retrospective effect was not violative of the constitutional provision.  
The Speaker on Wednesday deferred until Sunday a discussion on some opposition motions seeking disapproval of an ordinance relating to service condition of the state-run industrial enterprises workers after constitutional experts of the Treasury and the Opposition benches debated the legal point.  
The objection was raised Wednesday night by Opposition Awami League members  
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## SAARC confce from tomorrow Lankan FM arrives, others due today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The Foreign Secretaries of the SAARC countries will sit for the third day today to finalise the preparations for the SAARC Council of Ministers meeting beginning tomorrow.  
All the Foreign Secretaries participated in the discussions of the SAARC Standing Committee yesterday. Indian Foreign Secretary JN Dixit arrived early morning and led the delegation of his country at the Standing Committee meeting.  
Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told newsmen yesterday that talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and "everything was progressing as per the agenda". The Standing Committee comprising all the Foreign Secretaries has considered all the recommendations of the Programming Committee, which has sat earlier in a day-long meeting and made proposals for the SAARC calendar of activities for 1994.  
The Standing Committee yesterday also carried extensive discussions on all 22 items in the agenda and is expected to tie up any loose ends today.  
Meanwhile Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A C Shaul Hameed is the first Foreign Minister to arrive in Dhaka yesterday.  
All the other foreign ministers are due to arrive today by afternoon. They are Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh, Pakistan Foreign Minister Sarder Asaf Ahmed Ali, Maldives Foreign Minister  
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## India rules out Kashmir talks under UN resolution

**NEW DELHI, Dec 2: India today ruled out any discussion with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue under the 1948 United Nations Resolutions, reports PTI.**  
An External Affairs Ministry spokesman clarified that India considered the UN Resolutions to be irrelevant.  
Asked about an article published by a daily newspaper quoting the foreign secretary, JN Dixit, as saying that India could consider such a possibility, the spokesman said it was based on an informal conversation Dixit had with the author.  
It is an inaccurate reflection of what the foreign secretary had said, the spokesman emphasised.  
Dixit, he said, had wondered whether it would be realistic to expect Pakistan to abide by the UN Resolutions and vacate the part of Kashmir occupied by it and hand over its administration to India.

## A party is out to push country into chaos: PM

**CHOUGACHHA, Dec 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said a certain political party betrayed with the blood shed for ousting autocracy in a protracted struggle and was out to push the country into indiscipline, reports UNB.**  
The Opposition does not like development and production, and that's why they are resorting to hartal, destruction of public property, setting vehicles on fire to subvert government's development programmes," she told a public meeting at the Chougachha College ground, 21 km west of Jessore district headquarters, this afternoon.  
Begum Zia said her government was working for people's welfare which is the cause of headache for the Opposition.  
"The country is witnessing a development spree because BNP does not indulge in corruption. We believe in the politics of production, but a party is out to impede government's development efforts," the Prime Minister said without naming the party.  
She asserted that her government would ensure peace and security of all to maintain the current pace of development activity. "We want to work. People didn't vote BNP for destruction of their property. It's the duty of the government to ensure security of all."  
She said the past autocratic regime had destroyed the peasantry through certificate cases and loan burden. The BNP government first waived agri-loan up to Tk 5,000 and tax up to 25 bighas of land and withdrew certificate cases.  
Due to the correct measures taken by the government, the Prime Minister said, the country neared food autarky.  
In this context, Begum Zia pointed at the abundance of paddy in a bumper harvest in the country. The people have started reaping the benefits of casting votes for the 'sheaf of paddy', her party's election symbol, she said.  
"We are not importing many things as we have emphasised production of all necessary  
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## Australian MPs meet Hasina

**The visiting Australian parliamentary delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Harry Jenkins had a meeting with leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at the Sangoad Bhawan yesterday, says a press release, reports BSS.**  
Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Kenneth Aspinall also attended.  
Deputy leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad MP, Salahuddin Yusuf MP, Tofael Ahmed MP, Mejbahuddin Khan MP, Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP and Syed Abul Hossain MP, were present.  
They discussed issues relating to economic, social and political affairs of the two countries. Matters concerning parliaments of both the countries also came up for discussions.

## Kuwaiti minister due today

**An eight-member delegation led by the Minister of Awaqaf and Religious Affairs of Kuwait, Jama' An Faleh Al-Azmi will arrive in Dhaka today on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.**  
The delegation includes the chairman of Kuwaiti Joint Relief Committee Al-Haj Yusuf Al-Hijji and chairman of Baituz Zakat Abdul Qadir Dahie Al-Ajeel.  
During their stay here the minister will hold discussion with Religious Affairs Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali and Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman. The Kuwaiti minister is also expected to pay a courtesy call on the President.

## To speak or not to speak that is the question

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A Treasury Bench member yesterday demanded that the Rules of Procedure be amended to enable all the members to speak in the House and express their opinions.  
Rising on a point of order on the Private Member's day, Abdur Rob Chowdhury said three to seven members in the House speak most of the time but the silent majority of the 330 MPs are ignored.  
"The members who show obstinacy and arrogance are frequently given the floor but those who are gentle are not given the opportunity to speak," Chowdhury said.  
He said, the Deputy Leader of the House who has an impressive complexion is often seen on television. TV cameras inside the House prompt some members to stand frequently, he quipped.  
"Every member should be given at least two minutes to express themselves, and the problems in their areas," Rob Chowdhury said. The chair should also calculate which  
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## Sharif alleges attempt on his life

**LAHORE, Dec 2: Pakistan's main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif said he escaped what he called an attempt on his life here today during polling in the by-elections, reports AFP.**  
Addressing a news conference, the former prime minister said he was fired upon near a polling centre from the roof of a building.  
"God has saved me," Sharif said, accusing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its allies of indulging in "rigging and violence".  
But, PPP secretary general Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed termed Sharif's claim a 'drama'.  
"We have the highest regard for political opponents," he told reporters.  
Another PPP leader, Faisal Saleh Hayat, an adviser to the provincial government, also alleged that shots had been fired at him by workers of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), in a report lodged with the police.  
Sharif's brother, Shahbaz, accused Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari of planning the 'attack' on the PML leader and  
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Nawaz Sharif his companions.

## Depression over Bay

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A depression over southeast Bay and adjoining southwest Bay and west-central Bay region moved slightly westwards and concentrated into a deep depression over the same area and was centred about 1640 kilometres southwest of the Chittagong Port at around 6 pm yesterday (Thursday).  
A Met office special bulletin said the depression is likely to intensify further and move in a west-north-westerly direction. Maximum sustained wind within 48 kilometres of the depression centre is about 50 kilometre per hour and rising to 60 kph in gust and squall.  
Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted distant cautionary signal number one. All fishing boats and trawlers over the deep sea have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution.

## Chilly weather from mid-Dec

**The country is likely to experience a shivering cold with fall of mercury between 3 and 5 degree Celsius in North Bengal in early January.**  
Met office Director Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury told UNB last night that "fall" winter is likely to be felt from early January in the capital where temperature may come down to 6-8 degree Celsius.  
"Winter will be intensified after second half of December with sharp fall in night temperature," the Met Director said.  
The country is likely to experience a chilly weather during the second part of the current month.

## Bangla Academy founding day today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Today is the 38th founding anniversary of the Bangla Academy — the institution which symbolises the pride and indomitable spirit of the Bangla-speaking people.  
On this day in 1955, the Academy came into being after treading a long and arduous struggle after the historic Language Movement in 1952.  
Salam, Rafiq, Abul Barkat, Jabbar and many other valiant sons of the soil laid down their lives on February 21, 1952 to uphold the right of their mother tongue and fought to establish Bangla as the state language of the then Pakistan.  
The government has drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day.  
President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the eve  
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## Bosnian peace talks hit snag Serbs refuse to yield more land

**GENEVA, Dec 2: Bosnian peace talks hit a snag Thursday when Serbs refused to yield more land to the Muslim-led government in return for its willingness to discuss the division of Sarajevo, a high-ranking government official charged, reports AP.**  
"It seems the Serbians are unwilling to give anything," Bosnia's UN ambassador, Muhammed Sacirbey, told reporters.  
On Wednesday, the government caved in to pressure and offered to give up parts of Sarajevo, the capital. But it demanded that Serbs return chunks of eastern and western Bosnia to the Muslims.  
"The talks on Sarajevo in fact were on the assumption that everything on the table was to be discussed," Sacirbey said. "Unfortunately, we find out that Sarajevo is being discussed but they have no will to make any of the compromises that are necessary in eastern or western Bosnia."  
Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, however, put a different spin on developments, sounding upbeat after talks with Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic.  
"I think we are doing well," Karadzic said. "It's not finished yet but the atmosphere is promising."  
Serbs and Muslims were to meet again before talks ended Thursday.