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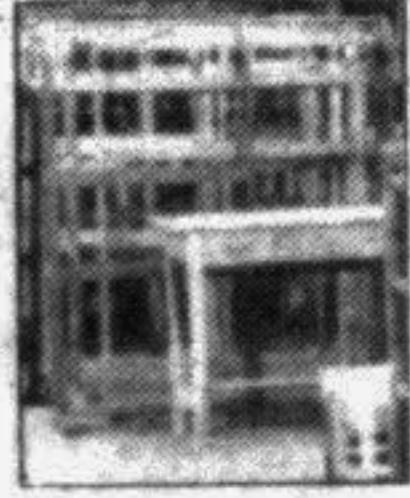
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NEWS BRIEFS

5-member JS panel of Chairmen

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at the commencement of the 17th session of the current Sangsad yesterday, nominated a five-member panel of chairmen from the members arranged in order of precedence. The panel of chairmen comprises L K Siddiqui (BNP), Syeda Begum Sajeda Chowdhury (AL), Mohammad Ali Jinnah (BNP), Mouliana Abdus Sobhan (Jamaat) and Begum K J Hamida Khanam (BNP), reports BSS.

Jhenidah College closed till Nov 28

JHENIDAH, Nov. 12: The Jhenidah Degree College was closed today till November 28 following clashes between two feuding student groups. A tense situation has been prevailing on the campus since the clashes on Wednesday and Thursday, reports UNB.

British trade team in city

A high-powered British trade and investment mission arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning on a four-day visit. The 27-member mission, during its stay, is scheduled to meet ministers, officials and private sector representatives to explore trade and investment opportunities, reports BSS.

Seven hurt in road accident

BARISAL, Nov. 12: At least seven people were injured, three of them seriously when a tempo tumbled into a road side ditch on the Barisal-Fardpur road at Chowdhuripara in Banaripara thana today, reports UNB.



A large number of passengers who arrived at Zia International Airport yesterday morning were stranded at the airport due to a day-long general strike in the city.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Hartal paralyses life

By Staff Correspondent

A peaceful hartal paralysed normal life in the capital yesterday as the mainstream opposition political parties further pressed their demand for a caretaker government to hold general elections.

Except some stray incidents like pickets chasing defiant rickshaws, setting off crude bombs and stoning a few automobiles which dared to come out on the largely empty streets, the day-long hartal passed off generally peacefully.

The Opposition parties will enforce another hartal, country-wide, from dawn to dusk today.

Public and private offices, banks and other financial institutions, shops and marketplaces and educational institutions were seen closed during yesterday's hartal hours from 6 am until 6 pm.

Office-goers trekked miles to reach their places of work.

Some BA (Pass Course) examinees were harassed by pickets when they rode rickshaws to reach the centres of examinations, not knowing that the Dhaka University authorities had Friday postponed all examinations scheduled for yesterday and today.

The Awami League, the

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Party workers brought out sporadic processions in the Gulistan, Topkhana Road, Shaibagh, Farm Gate, Green Road, Shukrabad and Mirpur areas where activists of the opposition parties kept vigil to ensure observance of the strike.

They also held rallies in front of the Jatiya Press Club where they blamed the ruling BNP for aggravating the present political crisis by not accepting their demand.

The Awami League meeting was addressed by Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, Akhterul Alam and Iqbalur Rahim while the JP rally was addressed by Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito, Kazi Feroze Rashid, Col (Retd) Zafar Iqam, Saifur Rahman and Abul Hossain Babla.

The Awami League, the

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Opposition calls countrywide hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties — the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — have called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today. Ambulance, fire brigade, pharmacy, hotel, newspaper and press vehicles and examinations in educational institutions will not come under the purview of today's 12-hour hartal.

Besides, rickshaws will be allowed to ply after 1 pm.

Sheikh Hasina thanked the people for supporting yesterday's shutdown on the capital and urged them to observe a 'dawn-to-dusk' hartal across the country today to press for a change in the government.

The people's spontaneous

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Ninian places 3 plans before PM, Hasina

By Asiuzzaman

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Sir Ninian's third proposal was that the President be given executive powers and a nonpartisan council of ministers be formed to assist him during the time of general elections.

An interim government with the President as its chief would require amendments to the Constitution, informed sources.

The ruling party is learnt to have agreed to the first proposal — one with Begum Khaleda Zia as the interim prime minister — but the Opposition was insisting upon a neutral person to head such an administration. As for the remaining two plans proffered by Sir Ninian, the Opposition is willing to consider the ideas after due deliberation, sources in the Opposition camp said last night.

Sir Ninian reportedly commented to the two leaders that he had made his proposals in the light of lengthy discussions

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