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The opposition MPs will

resign en masse from Parlia-

ment on December 28 if the

ruling party fails to accept the

demand for a caretaker gov-

ernment by then. Leader of the

Opposition and Awami League

"WE are giving an ultimatum

chief Sheikh Hasina an-

to the government. Accept our

demand by December 27 or

else we will resign en masse

on December 28," Hasina an-

nounced at a big public meet-

ing at the Bangabandhu Av-

nounced vesterday.

Noor Ahmed Road, Chittagong.

The Baily Star

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will Soon be in the market Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Lankan FM calls on Hasina

Visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar made a courtesy call on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence yesterday morning. Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary RCA Vandergard, Director MNG De Silva, acting High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Dhaka CR Jayasinghe were present, reports UNB.

Diarrhoea claims two in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. Dec 6: Diarrhoea has claimed two persons in Kanaighat and Dakshin Banigram unions of Kanaighat thana where about two hundred others had been suffering. The dead are, Habibur Rahman, 40. and Tahera Begum, 11, of village Bhalidi under Kanaighat

28 VCP sets recovered

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: An anti-smuggling team of Chittagong sea customs raided a Russian flag carrying vessel anchored at the MPB jetty of Chittagong port on Monday night and recovered 28 pieces of smuggled VCPs from the

2 killed in Sylhet road mishap

sons were killed in separate road accidents on the Sylhet Tamabil road during the last 48 hours. The road was blocked for nine hours by the agitated villagers, following the incidents. A truck carrying coal from Tamabil border hit a rickshaw in Garighat area causing the death of the rickshawpuller, Hanifuddin, 25 Police caught the truck driver and seized the vehicle. The other incident occurred at 5 pm yesterday in the Korichh bridge near Haripur where another truck carrying coal crushed a ten-year old boy Ab-

Opposition sets a Dec 27 deadline

By Staff Correspondent

cept our demand," she added. The AL chief said her party would hold a grand rally at Manik Mia Avenue on December 28 following which the MPs would submit their resignation letters to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad.

She urged several thousand supporters to prepare to carry out tougher programmes, including non-stop hartals and other actions, following the ultimatum and resignation on December 28.

Ahead of the deadline the opposition parties would block rail roads, highways and wapress the demand.

submitting their resignations. Hasina also said that in

consideration of the problems faced by the export-oriented business community, the previously announced two-day hartal would now be enforced for only a day and a half. The general strike would end at noon Thursday. Besides, there would be a four-hour break from 6 pm till 10 PM tonight when transports will be allowed to ply.

Sheikh Hasina said the opposition parties had agreed to a dialogue to decide the issue of a caretaker government but

Hartal hours relaxed

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties have revised the hartal hours and announced yesterday that 48hour strike due to begin at 6 am today will now end at 12 noon on Thursday.

Moreover, their will be a four-hour break for 6 to 10 pm

The major opposition parties including the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat called the hartal to press home their demand for holding the next general election under a caretaker government.

Opposition sources said hartal hours have been relaxed considering the inconvenience of the export-oriented business community and the peo-

Newspaper transports and other emergency service vehicles would remain exempted from the purview of the hartal.

100 Bangladeshi troops held hostage by Somali gunmen

HARARE, Dec 6: Somali gunmen were holding 100 UN peacekeepers hostage north of Mogadishu today the Zimbabwean deputy commander of UN forces in Somalia said, reports AP.

Maj. Gen. Mike Nyambuya said the peacekeepers from Bangladesh were surrounded in their base at Afgoy, 30, kilometers north of Mogadishu, by armed clansmen demanding "substantial amounts of money."

No shots were fired and UN officers were attempting to negotiate a peaceful end to the stand off, Nyambuva told the Zimbabwe Inter African

News Agency (ZIANA). But he said UN forces were ready to free the Bangladeshis by force if the gunmen did not

"We are telling them they will not gain anything by sur-

Prime Wintster Begun Khaleda Bia (inser) ad Zessing a public meeting at the 'Democracy

surrender power just like

that," Begum Zia told a huge

public meeting in the capital

with the people's mandate, not

through anybody's courtesy or

through any unconstitutional

means. The party will remain

in power as long as it had been

mandated for," she said,

adding that no agitation or in-

trigue would be able to pull the

legislators' threat to resign

from Parliament and their cur-

rent anti-government agitation

for realising the demand for

the next Parliament elections

to be held under a non-party.

caretaker administration, the

"The BNP was elected to

power following street agita-

tion and it knows well about al

kinds of agitations. It is not

In a clear reference to the

afraid of such political action.

ruling party chief commented,

Referring to the Opposition

"The BNP came to power

vesterday afternoon.

government down.

No intrigue can pull

govt down: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

rounding the soldiers and if the negotiations fail, we will move in," Nyambuya said.

In its despatch from the Somali capital, ZIANA said an unspecified number of gunmen claimed they were owed rent arrears by the Bangladeshis for a house occupied by UN troops in Afgoy.

But Nyambuya said the building was being used with the consent of its Somali owner, now resident in the United States, and the peacekeepers "will not part with a cent."

AFP adds: An unknown number of Somalis were killed or wounded today in fierce fighting between UN troops and Somali gunmen in the town of Afgoy, a UN military spokesman in Mogadishu

> The battle, which was still See Page 12 Col 3

> > Star photo

conspiring to overthrow the

elected BNP government in an

cratic rulers to capture state

power in 1982 a few months

after the BNP was reelected

following the assassination of

Shaheed Zia by bringing false

charges of corruption against

the ministers of the Justice.

Sattar government", she said.

"No autocrat can seize power

without the support of any po-

The Prime Minister further

See Page 12 Col 4

PM concludes

Feni tour

ter Begum Khaleda Zia re-

turned to the capital today

concluding a two-day extensive

tour of Feni, her home dis-

dressed a number of rallies

and exchanged views with the

foundation stone for construc-

tion of a 280-feet Kalidah-

Lashkarhat bridge across the

rural electrification project at

Radhanagar in Parshuram

She also formally opened a

During the tour, she ad-

Begum Zia today laid the

trict, reports UNB.

local people.

FENI, Dec 6: Prime Minis-

litical party".

They instigated the auto-

unconstitutional manner.

US announces second annual visa lottery

The United States has announced its second annual lottery for permanent resident visas under which 55,000 visas will be issued to people from countries with low immigration rates to America, reports

Applications are due in early 1995 for the visas that will be issued for use in fiscal year 1996, which begins October 1 next year, said a USIS

Winners will be chosen at process. The applications are receipt by area. The computer

For last year's lottery, more than six million entries were

Sec Page 12 Col 4

Judgement on

reserved judgement for De-

cember 11 in the writ regard ing the Opposition's continued boycott of Jatiya Sangsad proceedings.

Ahmed rejected applications filed by the respondents seeking a larger bench to hear the Upon applications filed by

the respondents December 5. the Chief Justice heard both sides in his chamber to consider the case for a special

dents in the case. See Page 12 Col 2

Dacoits kill 2.

Tk 2 lakh From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: A

legedly shot dead two villagers in Fatikchhari thana and decamped with goods worth Taka two lakh on Monday night, police said.

The dead were identified as neighbour Abul Hashem 50.

were injured during the attack by the dacoits. They were admitted to the local health complex

at gunpoint to hand overall valuable goods to them.

But when the inmates of the house raised a hue and cry, the neighbours began to rush while the fleeing dacoits opened fire on people indiscriminately.

A case was filed with Fatikchhari thana and but none was arrested so far.

She said the opposition "It was foiled because of the MPs, having failed to speak for terways on December 24 to the people in the Fifth Parliaruling party's intransigence. "The Prime Minister ment, have decided to resign Between December 18 and ready to accept everything but December 26, the opposition and join ranks in an all-out giving up her chair," the MPs would visit their respecagitation against the ruling Leader of the Opposition said. tive constituencies and seek permission from the voters for "We will force them to ac-See Page 12 Col 1

warmi beague chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina talkitating a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. - Star photo

Reconsider demand, JP's call to BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party yesterday called upon the ruling BNP to reconsider the demand of the opposition parties for a caretaker government keeping in mind the possible consequences of

the present situation. He said, former President Ershad had quit power to avert bloodshed and honour the sentiments of the people. Had he not done so, the consequences would have been bad for the country, he said. adding that the BNP has been leading the country towards a similar situation by ignoring

the demands of the people. Chowdhury was addressing a public meeting yesterday the fourth anniversary of the ouster of Ershad in the face of a mass uprising - at Mohakhali in the city, organised by his party on the occasion of, what it called, the 'Democracy

JP presidium members Moudud Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito also spoke while Col (Retd) Abdul Malek was in the chair.

Claiming the credit for having established democracy in the country, the acting JP chairman said, his party had not only established democracy but had also honoured the

people's demand by resigning from power. Since the BNP claims to be a 'democratically elected government', it should also show respect to the demands of the Opposition, who obtained 69 per cent of the total votes in the last general elections, Chowdhury said.

"We do not disagree with the fact that you were elected democratically. But that does not mean you have got the mandate of doing anything, ignoring the demands of the

Jamaat warns of dire consequences

See Page 12 Col 7

The Jamaat-e-Islami yes terday warned of a dire consequence if the Opposition has to resign from parliament in realising their demand of caretaker government, reports

Party Ameer Golam Azam at a public meeting gave a 21-day ultimatum to the ruling BNP for bringing a Constitution amendment bill in the current session of parliament by December 27 to accommodate provision for caretaker government.

"Otherwise, the Jamaat-e-Islami MPs will resign from parliament on December 28 after holding a public meeting

OIC to send peace troops to

Bosnia if others quit

pressed alarm at suggestions

by some members of the five-

Sec Page 12 Col 2

Opposition leader still absent on TV news

By Staff Correspondent On the occasion of 'Democracy Day' yesterday, all the major parties held public rallies

in the city. Although news and pictures of most rallies were carried on Bangladesh Television, no visuals of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina were shown. Only a short report on the AL rally was read out in the news.

This paper repeatedly wrote for wider coverage of Opposition programmes, especially that of the Leader of the Opposition, in the interest of media freedom.

After finding the picture of the Leader of the Opposition's public rally conspicuously absent, this correspondent contacted the Director General of Bangladesh Television over telephone last night.

On enquiry, the Director General said, "We wanted to cover the Opposition leader's programme and we accord ingly sent a TV crew." He also said that as re-

ported by the TV camera crew. the Awami League leaders had sent them back, saying they did not want any TV coverage. Last week, too, TV camera crew returned from Sheikh

Hasina's official residence and

reported to the newsroom that

they had been turned away. The DG said that the Information Minister had also is See Page 12 Col 6

BUET teacher found dead at Rajendrapur

By Staff Correspondent

The body of a senior teacher of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology(BUET) was recovered by police from a private rest house in the Bhawal forest area at Rajendrapur early yes-

According to the Gazipur Sadar police, the body was recovered near the 'Sujan' rest house in the forest area at around 2 am Tuesday and his car was found abandoned

The Duty Officer at the sadar thana, when contacted over telephone, said that po-

In a sharp retort to the Opposition threat to unseat the ruling BNP, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said "I will not quit power at anybody's threat or provocation." "Don't compare me with Justice Sattar who had been robbed of power at gun point. I'm Khaleda Zia and I'll not

Square' near Gulistan in the city yesterday.

terday morning.

Prof Ajmal Hayat Ahmad. 54, Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, had been reported by family members as missing since 2 pm Monday.

See Page 12 Col 1

main opposition party, the Awami League, Begum Zia alleged that a certain party was

Later, she laid the founda-See Page 12 Col 3 Dhaka, Colombo concerned

river Kalidash Pahalia.

vesterday expressed "deep ina, reports BSS.

visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirga-

The two countries also reaffirmed their support to all summit calling officially on peaceful efforts in resolving the Rwandan and Somalian

> At the official talks Kadirgamar and his Bangladesh counterpart. ASM Mostafizur Rahman reviewed the entire

gamut of bilateral relations and expressed the determination of the two countries to further enhance the existing warm, friendly and cooperative ties

The two countries agreed to

work closely to increase the volume of bilateral trade and early implementation of decisions taken at the last meeting of the joint economic commission held in 1993. The two sides reaffirmed

their conviction that the SAARC as a forum of regional cooperation could contribute significantly towards strengthening of relations among member countries and promote peace, prosperity and development in South Asia.

Poverty alleviation, they agreed, should continue to remain high on the SAARC See Page 12 Col 3

press release yesterday. random by computer to be eligible for the immigration visa grouped in six geographic areas and are numbered upon selects random numbers.

received. The visa lottery programme is open to 'most' areas of the

Boycott of JS

writ Dec 11 Staff Correspondent The High Court yesterday

Earlier, in the morning. Chief Justice Shahabuddin

In his order, Justice Sha habuddin said. "The rule on the writ petition was issued on June 28, It was heard on several occasions and the hearing is now at its final stage. I do not think it proper at this stage to appoint a special bench. The applications for a

larger bench are dismissed. Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed and the Jamaat's Maulana Matiur Rah man Nizami are the respon-

loot goods worth

group of armed dacoits al

Rina Aktar 9, daughter of Mahmudul Haque and his Besides, 10 other villagers

Police said, the robbers stormed into the house of Mahmudul Hoque at Sundarpur village and forced the inmates

30 hurt as BCL, JCD clash in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 6: At least 30 persons, including policemen, were injured in clashes between the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) here this evening.

The clashes that lasted about two hours began when a procession of the BCL, chanting slogans in favour of tomor row's hartal called by the Awami League and other opposition parties, came near the Aswinikumar Hall where the JDC was holding a rally at 5-30

The rival student organisa

tions chased each other, and blasted cocktails. Police say at least 50 crackers and several rounds of bullets were fired. See Page 12 Col 6

ship, official sources said.

GENEVA. Dec 6: The Organisation of the Islamic Confer-From Staff Correspondent ence, in a draft declaration to be adopted today, said its SYLHET, Dec 6: Two per members would contribute troops if countries unilaterally withdrew from the UN protection force in Bosnia. The draft, obtained by Reuters as foreign ministers met in Geneva, also called on

> give a full report on the failure of UNPROFOR (the United Nations Protection Force) to fulfil its mandate to carry out air strikes against Serbs. Bosnia's Muslim President Alija izetbegovic was attending

United Nations Secretary-Gen-

eral Boutros Boutros-Ghafi to

the one-day closed-door ses-Monday to be fighting each other for food as their leaders accused the West of allowing The draft declaration ex-

nation contact group (Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States) concerning new proposals that could lead to a so-called 'greater Serbia' linking land held by Bosnian Serbs to Serbia and Montene-A Sarajevo report adds: the

situation in Serb-besieged areas of Bosnia was said to be deteriorating as world leaders bickered over how to end the war and warned that time was running out for the UN peacekeeping effort Muslims trapped in Bosnian enclaves were reported on

the country. Jan-Dirk Merveldt of the UNPROFOR told reporters

their Serb foes to dismember

"The food situation in the eastern enclaves is pretty awful and there has been some fighting among civilians." UN aid workers in northwest Bosnia prepared to send their last reserves of food to a

crowded Muslim hospital in Bihac, supposedly a "safe area" under UN protection. As world leaders at a European security summit called for the warring parties to accept a re-launched peace plan for Bosnia, there was no indication that the hardline

Bosnian Serb leadership would

withdraw their previous rejec-

tion of it.

CSCE move BUDAPEST, Dec 6: Russia

Russia vetoes

vetoed a European summit declaration on Bosnia today. undermining a new-found diplomatic consensus on how to end the war as Britain and France warned that time for a peace deal was running out. reports Reuter. Russia's move, and its complaints that Serbia was not

getting properly rewarded for backing an end to the war, exposed fresh divisions among major powers trying to broker peace. Moscow, objecting to what Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev called Propaganda. used its veto to stop the

Bosnian Serbs to end fighting

around the threatened Muslim-enclave of Bihac and elsewhere in Bosnia Bosnia appealed at a tense See Page 12 Col 6

at Bosnia situation Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

concern" at the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegov-A joint press statement issued at the end of the official

mar said that the two countries reaffirmed their conviction towards a peaceful negotiated settlement of the dispute and hoped that UN efforts would bring the human tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina to an end.