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VOL. IV NO. 318 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 28, 1401 BS, DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 1994 RAJAB 7, 1415 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

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At the DSE Sunday

DSE All Price Index	879.57067
Market capitalisation Tk	42330277549.13
Turnover in volume	113518
Turnover in value Tk	19893342.50
Total issues traded	79
Issues gained	24
Issues incurred losses	15
Issues unchanged	40

NEWS BRIEFS
Biswas, Khaleda greet Kenyan president
 President Abdur-Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia felicitated President Daniel T Arap Moi of Kenya on the occasion of its National Day. In separate messages, the President and the Prime Minister hoped that the cordial relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in the coming years, reports UNB.

BCL (S-P) grand rally today
 By DU Correspondent
 The Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-P) will hold a rally at the Shapla Chatter in the city at 2-30 this afternoon. The Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will attend the meeting as the chief guest. BCL sources said different demands and problems of the students including their 10-point demand, the government's education policy, the caretaker government issue and the present political situation will be highlighted at the rally.

15 hurt in Sirajganj clash
 SIRAJGANJ, Dec 11: At least 15 people were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash over construction of a tin-shed at Sadanandapur village, the rehabilitation site of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, in sadar thana today. Of the injured, Abdul Alim, 14, and Mostafa, 26, were admitted to sadar hospital with severe head injuries, reports UNB.

Appeal seeking stay of verdict likely today

HC asks Opposition to return to Parliament

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday asked the Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, the Jatiya Party's parliamentary group leader Moudud Ahmed and chief of the Jamaat's parliamentary wing Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami to return to Parliament when it is summoned.

Terminating the continued Opposition boycott of Parliament sessions for realising the demand for a caretaker government 'illegal and unconstitutional', a division bench of the HC comprising Justice Kazi Shafiqul Islam and Justice Kazi A T Manowaruddin made the judgement 'absolute'.

"They are directed to attend Parliament and if Parliament is not in session, as and when the session is summoned by the President, and within three days from commencement of such session, subject to the conditions and incidents as contained in Article 67 of the Constitution," the presiding judge told a crowded court.

The court also said that the salary, allowances and other benefits the absentee members of Parliament received during the period of their unauthorised absence were also illegal.

The aforesaid illegal and unauthorised receipts of salaries and emoluments and allowances by the absentee members of Parliament without the leave of Parliament is recoverable by the appropriate authority upon due process of law," the HC bench declared.

The bench, however, allowed a 'certificate of leave' under which the case would automatically go to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Lawyers of the opposition leaders are likely to seek a stay order from the Appellate Division today, Opposition sources said.

The Supreme Court goes on a vacation today till December 31 but emergency cases will be heard under special arrangement in both the Appellate and High Courts.



This car belonging to co-tenant Advocate Mosharrif Hossain was damaged and its driver hurt when unidentified persons lobbed home-made bombs at the residence of Kazi AT Manowaruddin at New Bailey Road in the city following the pronouncement of a judgement by the High Court judge yesterday.

B Chowdhury, Rafiq slate bombing incident
 Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury last night said the bomb attack on the House of a High Court Judge and 'an attempt on his life' is an utterly condemnable act, reports BSS.

"On the eve of Victory Day, Sec Page 12 Col 4

Opposition reaction
 By Staff Correspondent
 The major opposition parties yesterday reacted sharply after their continued boycott of Parliament was declared illegal by the High Court.

AL organising secretary and Chief Whip of the Opposition Sec Page 12 Col 6

Bomb hurled at judge's residence
 By Staff Correspondent
 Unidentified youngmen hurled crackers at the residence of Justice Kazi A T Manowaruddin at New Bailey Road in the city yesterday, leaving a chauffeur badly injured.

The attack came immediately after a High Court verdict declaring the continued boycott of Parliament by Opposition MPs illegal.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Kazi A T Manowaruddin and Kazi Shafiqul Islam, in their verdict ruled, "The continuous boycott of Parliament by the opposition parties is illegal and unconstitutional."

Witnesses said, three or four youngmen lobbed five crackers inside the premises at 16, New Bailey Road, a two-storey house shared by Justice Kazi A T Manowaruddin and his family.

US may increase garments quota

By Staff Correspondent

The United States (US) has agreed to increase the quota of Bangladesh's garments export to that country.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of officials concerned of the two countries in Geneva Saturday, according to a press release of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday.

A Bangladesh delegation, which was in Geneva to attend a GATT meeting on December 8, met the US delegation and put forward the country's proposal regarding improvement in the quota arrangement, BGMEA said.

The US delegation agreed to give the concessions under the purview of the Uruguay Round which will be effective from January 1, 1995, the release said.

All the relevant facts regarding Bangladesh's economic needs and issues pertaining to the need to support Bangladesh's relatively new democracy were presented before the US delegation.

The Bangladesh delegation, led by Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim, comprised Vice-Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Economic Minister at the Bangladesh Mission in Geneva M A Taher, BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed, MP, and Vice-President Abu Taher. The US delegation was led by Nicole Bivens-Collinson, Assistant Chief Negotiator of US Trade Representative Office (USTR).

In the agreement, certain quotas were increased while all quotas were granted additional flexibilities of varying degrees, BGMEA said, adding, it was in the best interest of the industry to obtain these concessions.

PM leaves for Morocco today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka this morning for Casablanca to take part in the two-day seventh Islamic summit conference which begins in the Moroccan city tomorrow, reports BSS.

Begum Zia will reiterate Bangladesh's principled position at the summit to activate the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to face the political, economic, social and cultural challenges before the 52-nation organisation.

Among political issues Begum Zia would reiterate Bangladesh's principled position on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and Middle East, while among economic issues she would call for greater co-operation among the OIC member countries to face the challenges before them and the need for taking concrete steps for the establishment of an Islamic common market.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers from the OIC countries Saturday began their meeting in Casablanca.

Casablanca summit opens today

CASABLANCA (Morocco), Dec 11: Islamic foreign ministers convened a special session today the plight of their coreligionists in Bosnian and struggled to chart a summit agenda, packed with controversial issues, reports AP.

The ministerial conference, which got under way in this Moroccan city on Saturday, has drawn delegations from all 52 members of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, plus a handful of observers.

On the table is a 56-point agenda which the ministers have to draft and then submit to their leaders for endorsement at a two-day summit that opens here tomorrow.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa pressed for the unscheduled meeting on Bosnia to allow the Bosnian delegation, attending as an observer, to address the parity.

After the closed-door session, Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic he made an appeal for financial help.

In an interview with The Associated Press and Associated Press Television, he said Bosnians "have never been stronger" because of the overwhelming support from the OIC, an umbrella for the world's billion Muslims. But, he added, his nation "has never been in a more difficult situation" because of increased Serbian attacks.

The OIC nations are expected to renew their call for lifting an arms embargo so Bosnians could get weapons.

Mousa said the OIC will renew its offer to send peacekeepers to the embattled former Yugoslav republic under UN mandate.

Action against 4 top Ansars officials

By Staff Correspondent

The Law Ministry yesterday recommended forced retirement of four high officials of Bangladesh Ansars on charges of their failure in their duties, highly placed sources said. The names, however, could not be immediately known.

The Law Ministry has already sent its recommendations to the Home Ministry for action against the officials. They include at least one director of the Ansars and three other senior officials, they said.

The Home Ministry decision about the four was not readily available.

When contacted, a Home Ministry official only said they had received the recommendations of the Law Ministry but refused to elaborate.

The recommendations against the four came in a series of actions taken against senior Ansars officials after the three-day mutiny by some members of the force that was forcibly ended on December 4.

Earlier, the Director General and the Deputy Director General of Ansars were retired on Friday, apparently for their failure in handling the problems of the Ansars ranks that led them to mutiny.

'Aid should be utilised properly as donors face resource crisis'

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh should concentrate on utilising the currently available foreign aid more effectively and efficiently as increased level of future assistance appears to be bleak because of resource constraints in donor countries, cautioned representatives of a group of important bilateral donors yesterday.

"Bangladesh has been very successful in spite of many difficulties," said Richard M Brown, director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Dhaka.

John Deyell, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) representative, also agreed. "The achievements of Bangladesh are poorly understood elsewhere. The improved economic condition has allowed the government to go from a crisis management mode to one of growth."

The representative of the British Overseas Development Agency (ODA), Stephen Chard, said that there have been enormous development, particularly in the infrastructural field, and that increased internal resource mobilisation is decreasing the country's dependence on foreign aid.

The minister at the Japanese embassy, Yoshihisa Kuroda, also agreed that Bangladesh has made 'considerable' achievements in development. "But I would like to stress here that 20 years have passed since Bangladesh's liberation, it is a long time. Please keep up the self-help efforts, then we can help you more." On the prevailing political situation, he said "quite frankly, we do not like hartal" while pointing to the need for political stability.

Sec Page 12 Col 4

Tokyo may not be able to continue aid
 By Staff Correspondent
 The Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka yesterday said Tokyo might not be able to continue its aid to developing countries, including Bangladesh, in the future for economic recession and a growing 'aid fatigue' in his country.

Japanese diplomat Y Kuroda, at a discussion with the newsmen after a day-long trip of JICA projects, expressed his concern.

They, however, lauded the achievements made by Bangladesh over the years in increasing food production, reducing the population growth rate and bringing about macro-economic stability.

CEC's remarks undesirable, one-sided: AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League has said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf "has lost his moral right to continue as the CEC".

Acting General Secretary of the AL Abdul Jalil, in a press statement yesterday, termed the CEC's reported remarks regarding electoral process "unexpected", "undesirable" and "one-sided" in the context of the present political situation.

Justice Rouf told a seminar in the city Saturday that only the electoral process could be made neutral but absolute neutrality of an individual handling it was not possible.

The CEC also questioned whether those vocal and active for establishment of democracy were at 'democratic stage' in their spheres.

In his statement, Abdul Jalil claimed that the CEC's remarks were 'contrary to the constitutional position he was holding and the act was beyond his authority'.

The AL leader said Justice Rouf's observation was an insult to the Opposition now agitating for restoration of democracy and accused him of making similar remarks earlier too.

Traders pledge to check price spiral

The representatives of commodity-based traders yesterday gave an assurance to the government to take effective measures to keep the prices of essentials within the buying capacity of the common man during the coming holy Ramadan, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The assurance was given at a meeting held at the conference room of the Commerce Ministry with Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair. The meeting reviewed the demand, supply and price situation of essentials.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry president A Rob Chowdhury Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association general secretary A Gafur, Babu Bazar and Badamtali Rice Merchants' Association general secretary Haji Shah Jalal, Bangladesh Dal Baboshayi Samity general secretary Kausar Ahmed and some members of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh attended the meeting.

The traders and businessmen opined in the meeting that there was no logical ground for raising the prices of essentials.

Russian troops, tanks roll into Chechnya

GROZNY (Russia), Dec 11: Russian troops and tanks rolled into the breakaway republic of Chechnya today, forcing leaders of the region to agree to talks on a peace settlement, reports AP.

Russian armoured columns entered Chechnya at dawn in a bid to restore Moscow's control over the breakaway region in southern Russia. Tanks, paratroopers and infantry were advancing on Grozny from the west, east and northwest, Russian and Chechen officials said.

Earlier, Chechen Foreign Minister Yusuf Shamsedin had ruled out peace talks. But, Abubakarov said Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev had agreed to the talks because Chechnya will never miss a chance to maintain peace.

The crisis in Chechnya has been building for months. On Friday Yeltsin gave the go-ahead to use force in the tiny republic in southern Russia.

SKOP ultimatum to govt

The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) issued an ultimatum for the government to fulfil its five point charter of demand by December 16, reports UNB.

The SKOP leaders at a rally in front of the National Press Club threatened that they would go for a greater agitation if their demands were not met by the Victory Day.

Present government has assured and signed accords time and again that SKOP's five point demands will be met, but it was not yet realised, said the rally in its declaration.

The main demand of the SKOP, a broad-based combine of all the major trade unions of the country including the labour front of the ruling party, is implementation of minimum wage scale in all sectors.

S M Rumi read out the declaration while Abdur Razzak addressed the rally.

Serbs hijack fuel convoy, ban UN heavy vehicles

SARAJEVO, Dec 11: Serb gunmen hijacked a UN fuel convoy and today banned all heavy UN vehicles from their territory, reports AP.

Bosnian Serbs have grown increasingly brazen in their interference with UN operations in recent weeks, and UN officials warned on Saturday that a Serb embargo on fuel had nearly halted aid supplies to Muslim enclaves.

The Serbs went so far today as to refuse to allow a plane carrying the UN commander in Bosnia, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, to land at Sarajevo airport.

Rose, instead, had to return by land from a failed mission to visit his trapped soldiers in northwestern Bihaac — a trip blocked by Serbs in neighboring Croatia.

A three-truck Danish fuel convoy was hijacked in Bosnian Serb territory near the airport Saturday night after gunmen, armed with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, blocked the front and rear of the convoy, von Merveldt said.

With one armed Serb in each vehicle, the convoy was forced to go to Serb-held Sarajevo, where the peacekeepers were questioned. Serbs then agreed to release the troops, but two Danish officers refused to leave. They were believed to be somewhere in the Serb-held part of the city, where the fuel cargo was presumably unloaded, von Merveldt said.

AFP adds: NATO military leaders gather in Brussels tomorrow to decide on whether to provide combat or logistical units to help United Nations forces withdraw from Bosnia, diplomatic sources said.

Sonali Exchange opens in New York today

The Sonali Exchange Co Inc, a subsidiary of the Sonali Bank, will start functioning today in New York, USA, reports BSS.

This will be the first Bangladeshi concern to act as an international money transmitter both at home and abroad.

Both the New York office and the company's Dhaka office in Purana Paltan will start functioning simultaneously.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, who is now visiting the United States, will inaugurate the New York office, while State Minister for Finance Mozibur Rahman will open the Dhaka office.