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Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day

At the DSE Sunday
 DSE All Price Index 843.30215
 Market capitalisation Tk 40593445269.00
 Turnover in volume 42445
 Turnover in value Tk 9039970.00
 Total issues traded 63
 Issues gained 16
 Issues incurred losses 36
 Issues unchanged 11

NEWS BRIEFS
Diarrhoea claims 2 more in Barisal
 From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Dec 18: Two more died of diarrhoea in Patuakhali district yesterday. The two girls are Rupa, 10, of Mithaganj and Kulsum, 12, of Khaprabhanga unions under Kalapara thana. With this, the unofficial death-toll rose to 7.

Plague claims 22 in Zimbabwe
 HARARE, Dec 18: Bubonic plague has killed 22 people and infected about 300 others since being detected in Zimbabwe in October, the government said Sunday. Health Minister Timothy Stamps said no new cases were recorded in the past 10 days and no deaths occurred since late November, the state-run Inter African News Agency (ZIANA) reported, says AP.

US pilot killed in DPRK
 WASHINGTON, Dec 18: The White House said today that one of the US army helicopter pilots downed over North Korea on Saturday had been killed in the incident and the other was uninjured, citing information provided by Pyongyang, reports Reuters.

10 killed as ferry sinks in Indonesia
 JAKARTA, Dec 18: Ten people were killed when a wooden ferry sank off the Indonesian island of Sulpwesi early today, an official said here. The boat was carrying 113 people including crew members when it sprang a leak and sank about five kilometres from Tahulandang island, an official with the national search and rescue agency, Ruismana told AFP.

Carter arrives in Sarajevo Velika Kladusa falls

SARAJEVO, Dec 18: Former US President Jimmy Carter arrived in Sarajevo today on a personal mission to try to end more than 32 months of fighting in Bosnia, report Reuters, AP.

He was brought to the Bosnian capital aboard a UN plane from Zagreb where he was briefed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic as well as UN representatives.

Carter undertook his trip as government troops withdrew from a key northwest Bosnian town, Velika Kladusa, that had been under attack for weeks by Serbs and renegade Muslims.

Bosnian army officials in Sarajevo confirmed reports that Velika Kladusa had fallen.

Carter stopped over for about 90 minutes in Frankfurt, Germany, before flying to Zagreb. He met there with US Ambassador Charles Redman, the former special US envoy on the Yugoslav conflict, and Redman's successor, Charles Thomas.

Asked by reporters in Frankfurt if there would be peace in Bosnia before Christmas, Carter said, 'I hope so, but I don't know.'

Carter is expected to meet leaders of the mostly Muslim Bosnian government and its war enemies, the Bosnian Serbs who invited him to try and mediate an end to the intractable conflict.

Carter is expected to see Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Monday.

He also hoped to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, "Grand Master of the Bosnian Serbs," he is expected to spend about four days in ex-Yugoslavia.

Karadzic invited Carter to see Page 12 Col 7

Bangladeshi troops' condition not known
 By Staff Correspondent
 An official of the Armed Forces Division, when contacted, told The Daily Star at midnight last night that he could not confirm the fall of Velika Kladusa town.

He said, some Bangladeshi troops were in the area. See Page 12 Col 8



Former US president Jimmy Carter (L) is accompanied by his wife Rosalyn as he arrived at Frankfurt's Rhine-Main Airport early yesterday for his stopover on his way to Bosnia where he will mediate between warring parties. — AFP photo

AL mass contact programme begins

By Staff Correspondent
 The nine-day mass contact programme of Awami League leaders began yesterday.

The programme aimed at forcing the BNP government to resign and accept the demand for national elections under a non-party caretaker administration was announced earlier.

To make the programme successful, the AL has formed 26 teams comprising the party leaders including MPs. The teams will visit various parts of the country and participate in rallies and processions to be organised by the local units of the party, says a press release of the AL.

Meantime, party sources said, several teams have already left Dhaka for their destinations.

The 26 teams will visit 60 constituencies. See Page 12 Col 5

City Jubo League leader killed: Hasina blames BNP for terrorism

By SSMCH Correspondent
 An Awami Jubo League leader, Mohammad Ashraf Uddin, was murdered in Sutrapur area of the city late Saturday night.

Ashraf (30) and his brother Jalal were attacked by an armed gang of about 10 at Sharat Gupta Road when they were returning to their Begumganj Lane residence, eye-witnesses said. Ashraf was hacked to death while his brother managed to flee.

The killers fled the scene immediately.

Later, Sutrapur police arrested one Samiruddin from the locality for alleged involvement in the murder. He was being interrogated.

Ashraf's body was taken to Mitford Hospital morgue. See Page 12 Col 4

Speaker sits with Samad, Tofael Opposition prepares action programmes

Star Report
 The opposition parties in Parliament have prepared the drafts of their announcements, to be made on December 28, containing identical action programmes to realise the demand for holding elections under a caretaker government.

The drafts will be finalised today or tomorrow at a joint meeting of the MPs belonging to three major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The three parties will hold separate rallies in the city on December 28 which will be followed by submission of resignation letters of their MPs to the Speaker. The parties will also announce their action programmes, likely to begin from December 29.

The opposition's deadline for the government to accept their demand for caretaker government expires on December 27.

According to sources concerned, the Opposition leaders have already chalked out action programmes that contain agitations throughout the country and a continuous hartal for three days during the first week of January. The hartal will be followed by gheraos, sit-ins, rail-road barricades and other programmes.

Meanwhile, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali continued to see Page 12 Col 3

Demand for caretaker govt illogical: Khaleda

PEKUA (Cox's Bazar), Dec 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people to unite against those trying to foil the democratic process by calling unnecessary hartals and raising illogical demand for a caretaker government, reports UNB.

"Deeming that the present government's development programmes will change the fate of the country the Opposition is putting up variegated pleas and pretexts," she told a huge public meeting at Pekua in Chakoria thana this afternoon.

Begum Zia said if the development process continued, the country would very soon achieve self-reliance.

Rebutting the Opposition's remarks that the BNP has lost ground under its feet, she asserted that her party is rooted in this soil and the people.

The BNP believes in prosperity and welfare of the people. It has always worked for solving the problems of commonman, and will do so in future, the ruling party chairperson said emphatically.

The Prime Minister reminded that the Opposition also has the responsibility of going to Parliament and discussing the problems of the people.

The opposition parties have long been boycotting Parliament and waging street agitation, including hartal and blockade, to press the government to concede to their demand.

"Hartals, siege cannot ensure development," said Begum Zia accusing her opponents. See Page 12 Col 8

Russian jets bomb Chechen targets

GROZNY (Russia), Dec 18: Russian warplanes bombed targets across the rebel republic of Chechnya on Sunday, but the separatists remained defiant and demanded the Kremlin withdraw its troops, reports AP.

Russian tanks also opened fire on a convoy of cars heading toward neighbouring Ingushetia, killing at least nine people, including four women. The tanks then crushed three cars.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said Russian planes targeted military equipment and five bridges across the Terek River, which divides the Chechen republic. The operation began at 10 am (0700 GMT), the agency said.

There were no strikes on Grozny itself. But Russian fighters buzzed the Chechen capital earlier and artillery See Page 12 Col 1

Douglas Hurd due Jan 3

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hurd will pay a three-day visit to Bangladesh from January 3, it was officially announced in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The visit of Douglas Hurd, accompanied by lady Hurd, will take place at the invitation of Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Begum Rahman.

During the tour, he will hold talks with his Bangladesh counterpart reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations, said the Foreign Office announcement.

Hurd will also visit the British-financed development projects here.

Death of newborn

Probe body report today

By Staff Correspondent
 The report on the death of a newborn allegedly due to negligence of doctors, is likely to be submitted to the Health Minister today.

A four-member committee headed by a Joint Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry M Azizur Rahman was given 48 hours to investigate the matter and submit a report by 12 noon last Thursday.

But the committee failed to meet the deadline reportedly due to absence on leave of the Director of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) who See Page 12 Col 3

SAARC seminar begins in city Joint plan to combat drug trafficking likely

By Staff Correspondent
 A three-day SAARC seminar on drug abuse and narcotic control began in the capital yesterday with a call for concerted efforts to eliminate the scourge from the region.

Apart from host country Bangladesh, representatives of law enforcing agencies of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are taking part in the seminar. It plans to evaluate the experience and performance of the agencies and thrash out a joint programme to combat drug trafficking in South Asia.

The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan is not participating.

Inaugurating the seminar at Hotel Sheraton, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said drug trafficking is having an adverse impact on the region because of its peculiar geographical location between two drug producing zones — the Golden Triangle in the east and the Golden Crescent in the west.

Bangladesh attaches highest importance to the drug problems and has already taken various legal and administrative steps to check drug trafficking, he said.

The minister, who attended the inaugural function as chief guest pointed out that exchange of information and intelligence among the law enforcing agencies of SAARC countries was essential for ap- See Page 12 Col 8

Missing Mutalib finds family after 17 years

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Dec 18: It was a chance meeting following a long search that reunited Mohammad Mutalib with his family after long 17 years of involuntary separation.

The separation from his family turned out to be more of a permanent sort as he now lives in Holland and is known as Mutalib Weyters. William Weyters, a Dutch national, adopted him as his son.

Now a restaurant manager in Holland, Mutalib, 23, had been missing since 1976. At the tender age of only six he got lost during a launch journey with his family in Patuakhali, he recalled. A helpless child, he was later picked See Page 12 Col 1

Six more killed in violence Strike cripples Karachi

KARACHI, Dec 18: Pakistan's troubled commercial capital of Karachi was crippled today by strikes by a militant sectarian party and a transport group. Six people were killed, three by paramilitary troops, reports AFP.

The paramilitary troops opened fire in a predominantly Shiite residential area, leaving three dead and at least five injured, witnesses and hospital sources said. It was not immediately clear why the rangers fired.

Three others were killed and at least 10 people were injured when gunmen opened fire from moving cars to force people off the roads, witnesses said.

All major markets and bazaars remained closed and traffic on the streets was negligible.

The strike was called by the failure by police to arrest the killers of eight people who died in a mosque attack on December 7. The city chief of SSP was among the victims.

The transporters' associations also went on strike to protest the burning of more than three dozen vehicles during a wave of violence over the past few days.

A few state-owned buses were on the streets, but most offices reported low attendance. Sunday is a working day. See Page 12 Col 8



A paramilitary soldier searching a man near the violence-torn area of Karachi city during the strike yesterday. — AFP photo

Political situation worries donors

The World Bank President has expressed concern over the political situation in Bangladesh and cautioned it may make it difficult for the multilateral donors to maintain its resource flow to the country, reports UNB.

While talking to Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at the WB headquarters in Washington on Friday, says a government handout, Lewis T Preston took note of the continuing boycott of parliament by the Opposition parties and its implications for the economy.

The WB President expressed his surprise at the Opposition boycott of parliament which is the bedrock of parliamentary democracy, especially after the people had fought and established democracy in the country.

"Because of the political chaos brought on by the opposition parties, foreign investors will also be hesitant to come to Bangladesh," Preston was quoted to have said.

The opposition parties have been boycotting parliament for more than nine and a half months and staging street agitation to press for a caretaker government to conduct the next general elections.

The World Bank President, however, expressed great satisfaction at the progress of the economic reforms in Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh's performance is far ahead of many other countries that attempted economic turn around from a similar situation and in a similar time frame," said Preston during an extensive discussion on the country's economic development and WB programme issues.

Saifur Rahman informed Preston that the government was always accommodative and tried to resolve the political problem as it continues to do so.

"But," the Finance Minister See Page 12 Col 2

Strike observed at DU for shifting exam dates

By DU Correspondent
 Classes were not held at the Dhaka University yesterday as a section of students called a day-long strike on the campus to press home their demand for shifting the dates of Masters and Honours final examinations.

The examinations are scheduled to begin on January 14.

All department offices, libraries and administrative offices at the Arts Faculty building. See Page 12 Col 2

MBBS admission test in Feb likely

By DMC Correspondent
 The admission test for the first year MBBS course is likely to be held in the first half of February next.

Director of medical education Prof AKM Nurul Anwar told this correspondent that the notification for the admission test would be given in the last week of this month.

Although the HSC results have not been published yet, the students are attending various coaching centres to sit for the admission test.

The HSC results are likely to be published tomorrow.

The seat allocation for the colleges are: The Dhaka Medical College, Sir Salimullah See Page 12 Col 5

খাদ্যদ্রব্যের বিকল্প বাই

কেন বাপকহাৰে গবাদি পশু চাহেৰ আয়োজন

কলসখো বাড়ছে, বাড়ছে আহিৰে
 ব্যাপক চাহিদা। এই চাহিদা পূৰণে
 গবাদি পশুপালনেৰে বিকল্প নেই।

কৃত্তিক বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার বিনিময়ে আমদানী করা
 তড়াতাড়ি দুধ ও পিত্তাৰ পিত্তেৰে পুষ্টি পূৰণে বৰ্তেই নয়।

গবাদি পশুপালনে অতীতৰ থেকে বীৰে বীৰে
 সমবায়ীভাৱে সৃষ্টি হ'লে একত্ৰিত ভৱিষ্যতায়।

দুৰূহ এই সমস্যা নিৰসনে সকলোৰে ভাবনায় শৰীক হয়ে এগিয়ে এসেছে সোনালী ব্যাংক।
 গবাদি পশু পালন-পালনে ব্যাংক পৰ্যায় স্বপ্ন দানের পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছে।
 যার সুযোগ আছে এবং যিনি গবাদিপশু পালনে উৎসাহী তিনি এয়োজনে স্বপ্ন এইবোৰে অন্য
 সোনালী ব্যাংক-এর সঙ্গীত শাখাসমূহে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

সোনালী ব্যাংক