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# The Daily Star

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## Serbs are the aggressors, repeats US White House contradicts Carter's statement

WASHINGTON, Dec 19: The White House took issue today with a conciliatory statement by former President Carter, who told Bosnian Serbs that the American people have heard 'primarily one side of the story' in Bosnia, reports AP.

Carter is trying to get the Serbs to sign a peace plan. He spoke sympathetically of feelings of Serbs that their reputation has suffered by unfair media coverage.

"It may be that today is one of the rare chances to let the world know the truth and explain the commitment of the Serbs to peace," Carter said in a meeting with Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic.

"I cannot dispute your statement that the American people have heard primarily one side of the story," Without directly criticizing Carter, press secretary Dee Dee Myers suggested the White House has a different view.

"I would say only that I think we've been pretty clear about who we think the aggressor is — the Bosnian Serbs are the aggressors in this war," Myers told reporters. "The American people have had two years to see what's happening on the ground there and to see both sides of the story."

This is not the first time Carter has wandered from the administration's line during a peace mission. In helping ease crises in Haiti and North Korea earlier this year, Carter was accused of misstating United States policy and going beyond his authority.

Clinton administration officials have met with Carter on his Bosnian trip, but the White House has been careful to distance itself from the former president's mission. That way, Clinton could claim some credit if Carter succeeds and can avoid some of the criticism if he fails.

"As we've said, we're skeptical about Karadzic's motives in inviting President Carter there," Myers said. "But if President Carter can succeed See Page 12 Col 7"



Former US president Jimmy Carter (L) smiles while listening to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (R) shortly before the start of their talks in Pale yesterday. — AFP photo

## Muslims fleeing Velika Kladusa

ZAGREB, Dec 19: Refugees streamed out of the fallen northwest town of Velika Kladusa today and were fleeing towards the Muslim controlled south, UN observers reported, says AP.

UN spokeswoman Claire Grimes said fighting continued around the town, which was under control of renegade Muslim forces of Fikret Abdic, who has sided with Bosnian and Croatian Serbs against the Bosnian government.

Meanwhile, nations providing peacekeepers in Bosnia met in the Hague today to consider ways to shore up the UN force in what could be a final attempt to stave off withdrawing the humanitarian mission.

Military chiefs from NATO nations whose troops make up the backbone of the UN force in Bosnia opened talks in the Dutch Foreign Ministry to try to help their troops who have been subjected to repeated See Page 12 Col 8

## Fresh formula for caretaker govt

By Asiuzzaman

A new formula for an interim government for holding elections has emerged before the ruling party and the Opposition for resolving the current political impasse, sources concerned said last night.

Under the new proposal, majority portfolios would be given to the opposition parties to balance the interim cabinet under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the sources noted.

The new formula came up amidst Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali's continued efforts for resumption of the Government- Opposition dialogue for resolving the political standoff.

The Speaker held a three-and-a-half hour long discussion with the Prime Minister last night during which he reportedly briefed her on the progress of his initiative.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder was present at the meeting held at the Cantonment residence of the Prime Minister.

The Speaker confirmed his meeting with the Leader of the House but declined to elaborate. "I have had talks with the Prime Minister. I am still working on the matter. But I cannot elaborate for the sake of its progress," he said over telephone.

"I will be busy with the matter for next two days. Tomorrow, I will discuss the constitution aspects with some legal experts," Razzak Ali said. "I do not know whether I would be succeeded or not."

Regarding the possibility of his talks with the leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, the See Page 12 Col 2

## HSC exam results today

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations held under the four education boards — Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jessore — will be announced this morning.

The results will be available in all the centres across the country at 10 am. Besides, the HSC examinees could also know their results from their respective colleges, according to an official source.

The result sheets will not be displayed at the board offices this year only the merit lists and statistics of the results would be published in the national dailies. There will also be broadcast and telecast.

Two copies of the gazettes of results would be supplied to all the centres while only the See Page 12 Col 7

## 'Bangladeshi troops safe'

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladeshi troops stationed in the besieged Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa are learnt to be safe and in good morale, according to reports received till yesterday evening by the Armed Forces Division.

An official said that no withdrawal from Velika Kladusa was possible and all Bangladeshi peacekeepers previously deployed are located there. A battalion of Bangladeshi troops numbering around 1200 are performing peacekeeping duties mainly at three points in Bosnia — Bihaac, Koratchi and Velika Kladusa — the last being the administrative base of the Bangladeshi battalion called BANBAT.

A Foreign Ministry official said Bangladesh is in touch with its peacekeepers in Bosnia mainly through two channels — Bangladeshi representatives See Page 12 Col 7

## ADB move for private sector power plant

By S Y Bakht

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is going to undertake a feasibility study for setting up a 300 megawatt power plant at a cost of 350 million US dollars with private sector participation, at the Meghna ghat in Daudkandi, said Geert van der Linden, the outgoing resident mission chief of the bank.

The study by consultants would be completed sometime next year and the project would be funded by both local and foreign investors while the bank's private sector lending wing is also likely to participate in the venture, he said.

In an interview with The Daily Star at his Kawaranbazar office, van der Linden reflected on his impressions about Bangladesh at the end of his three-year tenure here and

also talked about the progress of the ongoing economic reforms, and about ADB's present and future involvement in the country.

An optimist, the soft-spoken van der Linden is upbeat about Bangladesh's economic prospects. He observed that the country has very good prospects for faster growth primarily because of two reasons: the macro-economic fundamentals are right and the country is located in the most dynamic region of the world.

"The country has the opportunity and it is mainly within its own control to grasp it," he said. "In the end, outsiders or the donors can do very little about it, the people of this country themselves have to take up the opportunity." See Page 12 Col 3

## Death of newborn Probe body fails to submit report

By Staff Correspondent

The report on the death of a newborn baby, reportedly due to negligence of doctors, was not submitted yesterday because of absence on leave of the director of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A four-member committee headed by a Joint-Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, M Azizur Rahman, was given 48 hours to look into the incident and to submit a report by Thursday.

The other members are Dr Jahiruddin, director of the DMCH, Professor ABM Ahsanullah and MM Ponruddin Haider, a senior assistant secretary of the ministry.

Azimunnessa, 35, wife of a nightguard Rustam Ali at Jurain, gave birth to the baby See Page 12 Col 7

## BNP proved to be people's tested friend: Khaleda

MOHESHKHALI, Cox's Bazar, Dec 19: The Prime Minister today said the BNP through its devoted work proved to be the people's tested and trusted friend and cautioned all about the politics of hoax, reports UNB.

Listing development programmes of her government, Begum Khaleda Zia, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, said all the development efforts aimed at country's progress and welfare of commonman.

Addressing a huge public meeting at the Moheshkhali Adarsha (Ideal) High School ground in the Bay Island off the coast of Cox's Bazar this afternoon, she criticised the opposition programmes of hartal and siege that obstruct productive activity.

She put up a rhetorical question to the gathering if they (Opposition) could be friends of the people.

Begum Zia reminded that they (Opposition) were also in power but did not do anything for the welfare of the people. She said the country's face would have been different if they had properly utilised the See Page 12 Col 1

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal at Sutrapur today

The City Awami Juba League will enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal today in the Sutrapur area to protest the killing of its leader, reports UNB.

Juba League leaders at a press conference yesterday announced protest programmes, including the shut-down and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers.

The Juba League blamed the "terrorist" group of the ruling BNP for Saturday night's killing designed to divert the current agitation for national See Page 12 Col 1

## Hasina reminds govt of Opposition deadline

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that the people would soon remove Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from power if her government failed to accept the popular demand for elections under a non-party caretaker administration.

"The day is not far off when her (PM's) chair will turn upside down", the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament told a conference of her party's peasants' front, Krishak League, at the Ramna Batamul in the city.

Reminding the government of the Opposition deadline of December 27 to accept the demand for a caretaker government, Hasina said "We'll resign the day after."

Justifying the opposition decision to resign from parliament she asked what could be the use of attending the House where problems of the farmers, workers and students and the voting right of the people could not be discussed.

In this regard, the opposi- See Page 12 Col 4

## Sutrapur BNP denies killing Ashraf

Ashraf Uddin Ahmed who was killed on Saturday night was a known mastan, terrorist and extortionist of Sarat Gupta Road under Sutrapur police station of the city, Sutrapur Thana BNP said yesterday, reports BSS.

In a joint statement given by president and general secretary of Sutrapur thana branch of Dhaka City BNP Nasiruddin Patwari and Mohammad Anwar Hossain said allegation labelled against BNP See Page 12 Col 8

## Prime Minister's National Tree Plantation Award 1993 to BTC

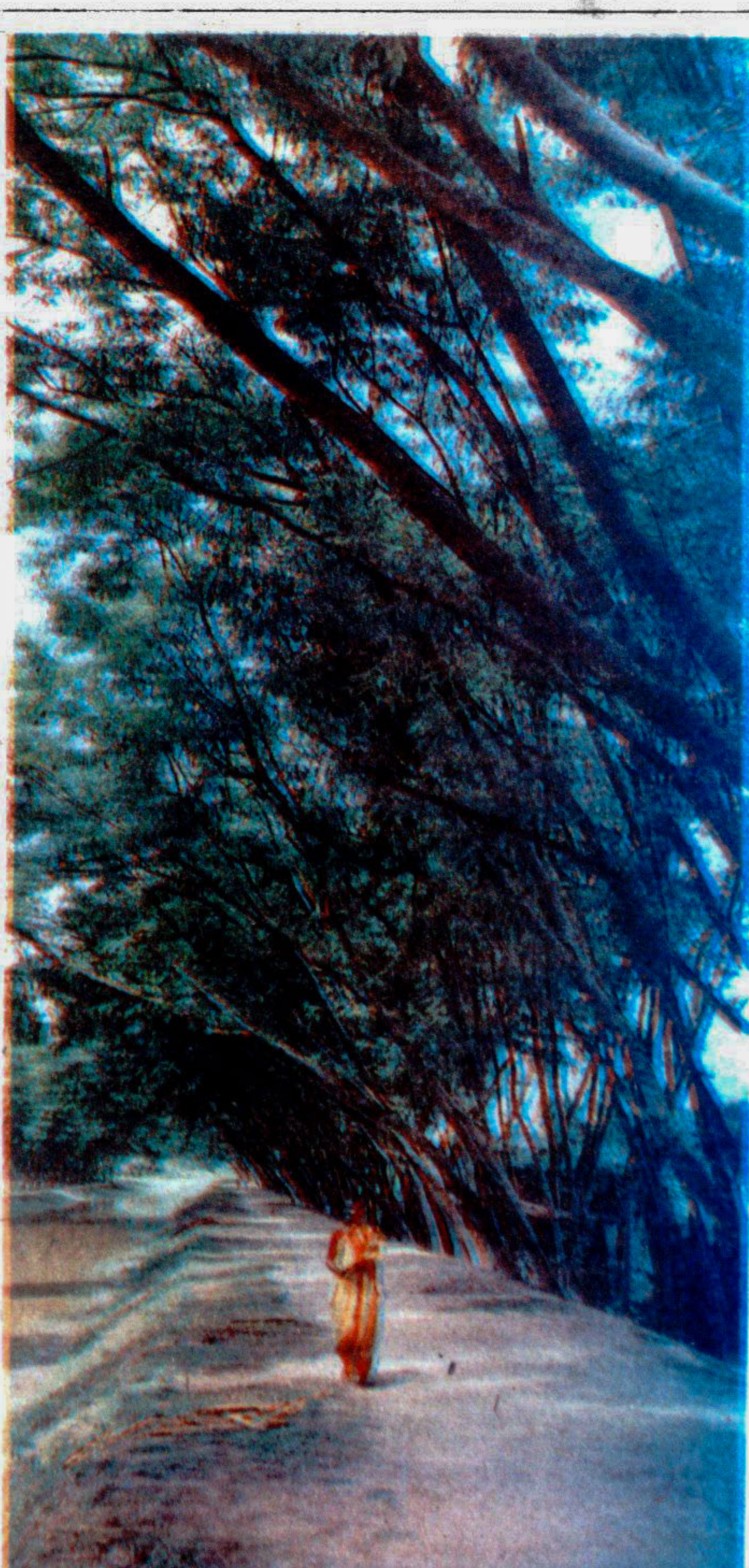
It began as a fledgling project in 1980. 15 years ago BTC embarked on a mission to put the greenery back into nature. Through the span of time, 15 million tree saplings have been distributed or planted in the fertile soil of Bangladesh.

We did not rest there. In our quest to excel we took care of the trees and nurtured them into the mini forests that stand proudly in the various parts of the country.

The Prime Minister's Award 1993 for National Tree Plantation bears a recognition of our concerted effort, an inspiration to carry on the mission forward, into the future.

We share this moment of accomplishment with all BTC employees and farmers whose collective and relentless endeavour has helped fulfil the pledge we made to the nation.

We also convey our congratulations to all the recipients of this award and those individuals and organizations who have, in their own way contributed to the country's afforestation.



**At the DSE Monday**

DSE All Price Index	843.08243
Market capitalisation Tk	4058286891.30
Turnover in volume	60869
Turnover in value Tk	11242760.00
Total issues traded	67
Issues gained	33
Issues incurred losses	24
Issues unchanged	10

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Saifur returns**  
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman returned home yesterday morning after a week-long official visit to the United States. During his stay in the United States, the finance minister attended several functions including a seminar on investment in Bangladesh and the opening of Sonali Exchange Company, both in New York, reports BSS.

**Court vacation**  
 The Appellate Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court and the courts of the High Court Division will go on vacation of January 1, reports BSS.

**কৃতজ্ঞতা**

**ডেল্টা মিলার্স লিমিটেড**

আনুগত্যের সাথে জনস্বার্থে যে কোম্পানীর নির্ধারিত শেয়ারের জন্য, তার ও জন আবেদন পত্র জমা পড়েছে।

সর্বসাধারণ ডেল্টা মিলার্স লিমিটেড এর শেয়ার ক্রেতে যে সাফা দিয়েছেন ও কোম্পানীর প্রতি যে আস্থা জ্ঞাপন করেছেন কোম্পানী সেজন্য আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা এবং ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছে।

একই সাথে কোম্পানী

- সিকিউরিটিজ এন্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন
- ডাকনং টক এক্সচেঞ্জ লিমিটেড এবং
- সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যাংক সমূহকে

তাদের সহযোগিতার জন্য কৃতজ্ঞতা এবং ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করছে।

**ডেল্টা মিলার্স লিমিটেড**

ডি, সি, সি, আই বিল্ডিং (৮ম তলা), ৬৬/৬৬, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।

**BCCI case**

**London HC okays \$1.8b compensation**

LONDON, Dec 19: London's High Court today approved a 1.8 billion dollar compensation deal agreed between Abu Dhabi and liquidators and creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), reports Reuter.

The decision is the first of three approvals needed before liquidator touche rose can proceed with the compensation package hammered out in October.

After a brief hearing, judge Richard Scott brushed aside objections from former BCCI employees.

"I've come to the conclusion that I should give the liquidators the authority to proceed," he told the court.

"My analysis fails to persuade me if (the employee objection) is of any relevance," he added.

**BTC**

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