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# The Daily Star

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**Inside Today**

**Article**  
 If it is after Her Term, then the Prime Minister should Agree  
 The Third View by Mahfuz Anam  
 Page 4

**International**  
 Uproar in Lok Sabha over corruption scandals  
 Mandela re-elected ANC leader  
 Page 5

**Business**  
 EPB yet to evolve strategy of software export figure collection  
 India may revise tea output target  
 Pages 6, 7

**Feature**  
 Science and Technology  
 Virus as a Cancer Causing Agent; World Science Report; New Light Bulb Offers Energy Efficiency; Concept of Computer and Computing; How Assam Lemon Came to Bangladesh?  
 Page 8

**Metropolitan**  
 Dhaka Day by Day

## Opposition's new condition 'Interim govt if Khaleda quits as BNP chief'

**Star Report**

The opposition parties may accept an interim government with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as its chief for holding general elections if she resigns from the post of BNP chairperson and refrains from election activities, opposition sources said last night.

"We said that an election can never be free and fair under a party government. Begum Zia is now holding both the posts. The opposition parties may agree if she quits any of the two key posts," an opposition source said on condition of anonymity.

"You can ask the ruling party leaders whether they would agree to this proposal," the source, a senior Awami League leader, said. A BNP source said that the image of the party greatly depends on Begum Zia and her departure in the face of an opposition agitation would be disastrous for the party.

"But I know the leaders are now trying to find out a solution to save the country from a situation of confrontation," the source added.

A ruling party leader, when contacted over telephone, termed the proposal unacceptable but said, "You can talk to our senior leaders. None of them would accept it."

The Opposition has reduced the duration of countrywide rail-road and waterway blockade on December 24 in view of the X-Mas Day of the Christian community, reports UNB.

Under the revised programme, the blockade will continue till 2 pm starting 6 am in demand for a caretaker government. Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim said yesterday.

The senior leaders were, however, available last night.

Meanwhile, the BNP standing committee yesterday discussed the latest political situation and the initiative of the Speaker to resolve the present political impasse.

Begum Zia chaired the meeting held at her Tejgaon office. The meeting was reportedly adjourned till today.

Unconfirmed sources said that the BNP leaders discussed the progress of Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali's initiative to narrow down the difference between the ruling party and the opposition.

The Speaker was learnt to have briefed the BNP standing committee on his discussion with some opposition leaders during the past several days. Shaikh Razzak Ali also met a legal expert and discussed the constitutional aspects of the issue.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Opposition firm to resign from Parliament Dec 28

**By Staff Correspondent**

The opposition parties in Parliament yesterday reaffirmed that they would resign from Parliament on December 28 and launch an all-out agitation to oust the 'illegal' government if their demand for elections under a caretaker administration was not accepted.

"After our resignation, the BNP government will lose its legitimacy and so will be the case with Parliament Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim told a press briefing.

Action programmes including a series of hartals would be announced following the resignation, Nasim said adding "if necessary we would shut government offices and close Chittagong and Chahna ports."

The opposition parties would not allow the 'illegitimate BNP government' to stick to power when the major opposition parties would agitate in the streets to realise the people's demand, Nasim said.

**If it is after her term, then Prime Minister should agree**

**Third View by Mahfuz Anam**  
 See Page 4

"Our position is clear. We will install neutral caretaker governments to supervise several general elections in future," he said.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Shahjahan Siraj quits GF, won't resign from JS

Shahjahan Siraj MP resigned from the Gano Forum (GF) yesterday, differing with the party's outlook to the current political scenario.

The Presidium of the Gano Forum accepted his resignation in a meeting held at the party office with its president Dr. Kamal Hossain in the chair.

One of the renowned leaders of the 1969-70 student movement and former chief of his faction of the JSD, Shahjahan Siraj will announce his next political course soon.

While talking to UNB, the opposition lawmaker, who was a presidium member of the Forum, said he would not resign from Parliament on the Opposition-fixed date of resignation.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Scheme to rehabilitate sick industries

**By Staff Correspondent**

A government body working on reviving the sick special-textile units has evolved a model scheme for rehabilitation of sick and non-performing industries of the country.

The body, headed by Managing Director of the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) M Akmal Hussain, released its report on rehabilitation of the sick and stuck-up textile and power loom projects at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The other members Dr. Mojibur Rahman, Deputy Secretary of Finance Ministry and Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Selimuddin, President of the Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills Association, also addressed the press conference which was attended by officials of various banks and financial institutions.

The BSB MD said the committee prepared the report after analysing the cases of 410 industrial units and recommended waiver of 100 per cent penal interest and 75 per cent normal interest on outstanding loans.

He also said about 1200 crore Taka in fresh loan would be given to the units for rehabilitation.

The interest rate for these projects would range from 8.5 to 9.5 per cent per annum for long-term loan and 11.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent for the working capital. Akmal Hussain said, adding the banks and development financing institutions (DFIs) concerned, would provide initial working capital under pledge and hypothecation.

The loan-giving institutions would consider debt-equity ratio of 75:25 on additional investment. The sponsors would provide 20 per cent additional equity and the rest five per cent additional equity would be provided by the banks and financing institutions.

Under the rehabilitation scheme, the sick projects would be rehabilitated in groups of four or five and be given maximum 200 quality looms including dobbies and other ancillary equipment, the BSB MD said.

For each group, there will be...

See Page 12 Col 6

## Gunshots around White House again

**WASHINGTON, Dec 20:** Gunshots were fired around the White House today, the second time gunfire erupted at the presidential mansion in three days, eyewitnesses reported, says AFP.

Details were sketchy but secret service officials told CNN a US park policeman fired two shots at a man wielding a knife. Eyewitnesses said, one person was injured and arrested while lying on the ground.

President Bill Clinton was in the Oval office at the time but was unaffected by the incident, officials said.

It was the second shooting incident at the White House since early Saturday when up to six shots were reported fired at the presidential mansion. No-one was hurt.

The two incidents came less than two months after a man opened fire on the northern facade of the White House on October 29. The previous month a man was killed when he crashed a small plane on a lawn outside the building.

## Bosnia agrees to ceasefire

**SARAJEVO, Dec 20:** Bosnia's president said today he would agree to an immediate, four-month nationwide cease-fire, which Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said could begin as early as Friday, reports AP.

Former President Jimmy Carter helped mediate the cease-fire in two days of shuttling back and forth between the headquarters of the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo and the rebel Serbs' stronghold in Pale, 15 kilometers down the road.

"We don't want another Cyprus or another Korea, so we've tried to get the parties to agree on a cease-fire for the cessation of hostilities and we've negotiated with the Bosnian Serbs to get four months," Carter told Associated Press Television today.

Carter mentioned a possible hitch, however, saying the Serbs wanted a signed agreement by January 1 with the Bosnian government on a permanent end of fighting.

Though he did not say so, it appeared the Serbs would resume fighting if no agreement beyond a temporary cease-fire was reached by then.

The Bosnian government has opposed a permanent truce nationwide because it would freeze military gains by the Serbs, who have captured 70 per cent of Bosnia since the war broke out in April 1992. An estimated 200,000 people are dead or missing in the conflict.

The temporary cease-fire appeared in limbo earlier Tuesday when Karadzic told the Cable News Network that the Serbs would not stop fighting until they had an agreement on a permanent cease-fire.

Carter said that besides the four-month cease-fire, the new agreement also committed the Serbs to a return to peace talks, deployment of UN peacekeepers between combatants, and exchange of prisoners. Copies of the agreement were not distributed to the press.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said he would rekindle aborted peace talks with Bosnian Serbs if they accepted "the Contact Group plan as a starting point."

Report from the Hague said: Military commanders from nations with UN troops in Bosnia steered clear Tuesday of proposals to strengthen the force, focusing instead on ways to improve the humanitarian mission's efficiency.

The military chiefs agreed to recommend that their governments back requests from the commander of the UN mission for more medical, engineering and communications equipment, diplomats said.

But they shelved US and French proposals to set up a fortified supply corridor from Sarajevo to the Adriatic coast and to allow UN convoys to fight their way through Serb roadblocks, said a NATO diplomat who demanded anonymity.



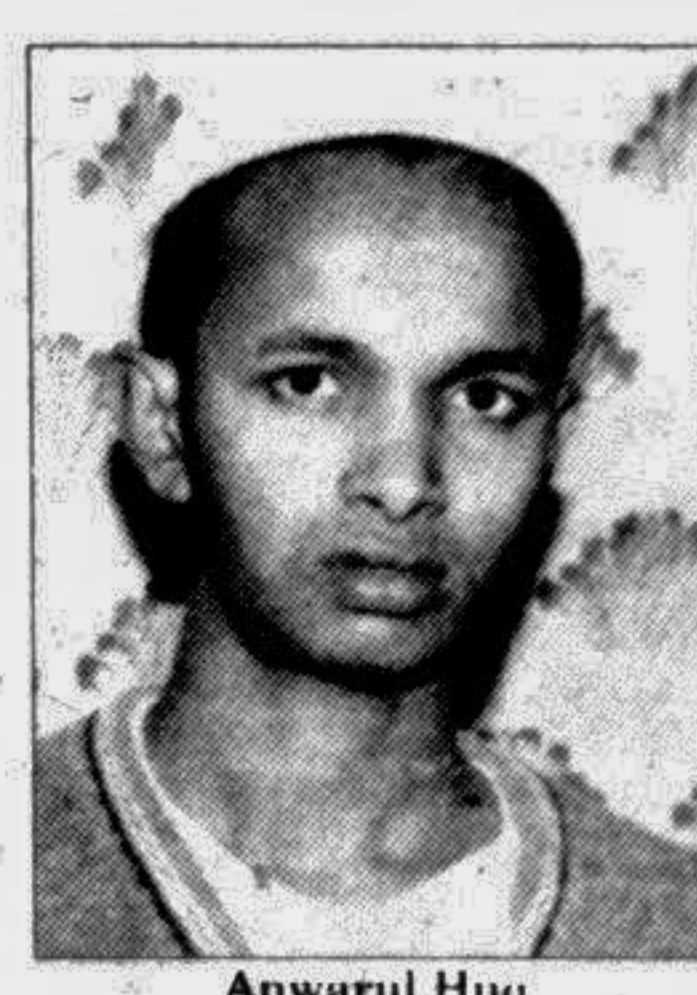
**Farah Farzana**  
 1st.Science group DB  
**DB combined merit lists**  
 By Staff Correspondent

Following are the combined merit lists of the (1) Science, Agri Science and Home Economics, (2) Humanities, (3) Commerce groups of the Dhaka Board.

**Science**  
 1. Farah Farzana, roll-See Page 12 Col 4



**Abu Isahak Mahboob Jalal**  
 1st.Humanities group DB  
**DB 42.75 pc: CB 41.97 pc: RB 40.13 pc: JB 34.65 pc**



**Anwarul Haq**  
 1st.Commerce group DB



A large number of people gathered outside the main gate of the Badrunnessa Government Girls College in the city to get the HSC examination results of their wards yesterday. — Star photo

## RU student leader hurt in attack

**RAJSHAHI, Dec 20:** A leader of the Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri at Rajshahi University was seriously wounded when he was attacked, allegedly by the Shibir activists, on the campus today, reports UNB.

Proddoot Kumar Chaiti, a masters final year student, was attacked while he was going to Science Building from Habibur Rahman Hall by rickshaw to sit for an examination this morning, campus sources said.

The attackers halted his rickshaw and hit him with an axe, the sources said.

Proddoot was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition. He was operated upon at the hospital, doctors said.

A case was filed with local thana but no arrest was made till Tuesday evening.

A tense situation prevailed on the campus following the incident, the campus sources said.

RU student Proddoot is also general secretary of Khulna District unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri.

## Rao releases revised report on bank scam

**NEW DELHI, Dec 20:** Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government today released a revised report on a US dollars 1.3 billion stock market scandal that stopped short of recommending that ministers linked to the scam be punished, reports Reuters.

Opposition leaders immediately rejected the report, "this is not a revised action taken report but a revised cover-up report," Jaswant Singh, Leader of the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, told reporters.

The 15-page report, presented to parliament by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, said government ministers had "constructive responsibility" to parliament for action taken during the 1992 scandal.

But it said Singh, former Revenue Minister Rameshwar Thakur and former Petroleum Minister B Shankaranand had already stated their positions to parliament on the scandal, and it made no mention of sanctions.

## River dredging will be intensified: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government had undertaken massive programmes for extending facilities in inland water transportation and making the silted river routes navigable, reports UNB.

Economic and social importance of communication is immense in developing countries like Bangladesh, she said disclosing that directives have been given to the Shipping Ministry to formulate a big programme for development of country's waterways.

Addressing a function in celebration of Silver Jubilee '94 of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (Passenger Carriers) Association at Hotel Sheraton this evening, Begum Zia said dredging works of the rivers would be intensified and representatives of the water transport owners be included in the dredging committee.

Referring to the tradition of riverine Bangladesh having about 700 rivers and their branches crisscrossing the land, the Prime Minister said, "It is unfortunate but true that the waterways have been threatened due to blocking of the normal flow across the border."

"Besides environmental degradation, our river routes are on the verge of losing normal navigability" she added.

The Prime Minister assured all possible support of her government for development and...

See Page 12 Col 4

## Gunmen exchange fire near DU VC's residence

**By DU Correspondent**

Two groups of gunmen exchanged fire near the official residence of the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday noon.

Police lobbed at least six rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control, eyewitnesses said.

No one, however, was injured in the incident. The cause of the firing could not be known immediately.

Campus sources alleged that two factions of the Montu-backed Chhatra League were involved in the violence. At least 15 rounds were fired.

The two factions are 'controlling' S M Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall of the university for long, some resident students said.

The exchange of fire during class hours created panic among the students. But the situation became normal within about half an hour.

Some eyewitness said that an unidentified gunman first opened fire near the entrance to the Arts building premises. Later the two groups fired shops, near the VC's residence.

## Death of a newborn Probe report submitted

**By Staff Correspondent**

The probe report on the death of a newborn baby, allegedly due to negligence of doctors, was submitted to the Ministry for Health and Family Welfare yesterday.

A four-member committee, headed by Joint Secretary of the Ministry M Azhar Rahman was given 48-hour to look into the incident and to submit a report by noon last Thursday.

The committee handed over the report to Secretary of the ministry Sayed Ahmad around 12:30 pm yesterday.

Aminunnessa, 35, wife of a nightguard, Rustam Ali of Jurain, gave birth to the baby around midnight December 10 at the Dhaka Medical College.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Memo to VC Bring Kataban mosque under DU control: APSU

**By DU Correspondent**

The All-Party Students Alliance (APSU) yesterday reiterated its demand for bringing the management of the Kataban Mosque under the control of the Dhaka University authorities immediately.

All the student organisations of the university held a combined rally on the campus in the morning to press for their long standing demand.

The student leaders also demanded that the Kataban Mosque should be announced as the second central mosque of the university.

The APSU yesterday submitted a memorandum in this regard to the Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed of the university.

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**In a Rate Race**  
 Page 3

**At the DSE Tuesday**

DSE All Price Index	845.70466
Market capitalisation Tk	4070902968.22
Turnover in volume	61956
Turnover in value Tk	13589940.00
Total issues traded	67
Issues gained	36
Issues incurred losses	22
Issues unchanged	9

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Hasina visits Sandwip today**  
 Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will visit Sandwip today on the first day of a two-day mass-contact tour. Hasina will address a public meeting organised by the Sandwip Thana Awami League during her trip to the island. She will address another meeting in Feni tomorrow, reports UNB.

**Minor boy killed in Khulna mishap**  
 KHULNA, Dec 20: A minor boy, Russel, was killed in a road accident at about 9 am on the Khulna-Jessore road near Mujganji of the city. He died on the spot.

**BUET classes begins Jan 1**  
 Classes of different terms and levels of 1993-94 and 1992-93-sessions of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will begin from January 1. The terms and levels are: 1st term of level-1 of 1993-94 and 2nd term of level-1 and 1st term of level-2, 3 of 1992-93 sessions. Graduate students under course system have been asked to complete registrations by January 1-3, reports UNB.

**Japanese cultural team due today**  
 An eight-member Japanese cultural troupe arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day visit to Bangladesh. A press release of Japanese embassy said, reports BSS.

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