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The Baily Star

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DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 22, 1994

- Inside Today

Sport



Lendl hangs up racket Pages 10, 11

Article

Our Fight for Democracy: The Forgotten Issues

> Column: Window on Asia by Shahed Latif Page 4

International

Russian PM Chernomyrdin due in Delhi today



Junta outlines legal basis to detain Suu Kyi indefinitely Page 5

Business

Tea prices firm at Ctg auction

> Tokyo will spend \$350m to settle Taipei debt Pages 6, 7

Women on the Move

A Tale of Centuries: Myths and Realities; Where Women Terrify the Men who Get Tipsy Striving for Survival; Womanhood: Balancing

Our Roles Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Pirouettes Enriched by Passion Page 3

At the DSE Wednesday

71133.50

DSE All Price Index Market capitalisation Tk 40718777771.05 Turnover in volume Turnover in value Tk 6389662.50

Total issues traded issues gained Issues incurred losses

NEWS BRIEFS

ALCWC meet on Dec 27

An extended meeting of the Awami League Central Workin Committee (ALCWC) will be held on December 27 at the party of fice at 11 am Party chief an feader of the Opposition Parliament Sheikh Hasina wit presult met the incering re-MOORIS UND

Dean Rusk dead

ATHENS, Georgia Der 21 Former US Secretary of State Dean Rusk who served under presidents John F Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, died on Tuesday night at his home here. He was 85 Rusk was secretary of state from 1961 1969 and a primary defender of America's role in the Vietnam War reports Reuter.

'Crisis must be solved by constitutional means'

Nothing going to happen after Dec 27, says PM

Prime Minister vesterday slammed the Opposition rigidity on caretaker government and threat to create a political vortex over the demand but offered to do all possible within the Constitutional ambit to resolve the problem, reports UNB.

Begum Zia seemed un moved by Opposition threat of an uncertain situation after December 27, the deadline set by them for the government to concede to their demand, as she said "nothing is going to happen."

of an elected government according to the Constitution," she said.

As per the Constitution, only people's representatives

can run the country. The crisis has to be solved within the framework of the Constitution." Begum Zia asserted.

Begum Zia lashed at the rigid stance of the Opposition, saying "It will be a mistake if they think that BNP has weak-

The agitating opposition parties have given the government until December 27 to meet their demand or they will resign en masse from parliament on December 28 and go for an oust-government movement.

"We'll do the responsibility Criticising the Opposition tioned Commonwealth envoy demand for a caretaker government headed by a selected person to hold national elections, she said, "an unelected person running the govern-

ment will be disrespect and disgrace to the people's man-

The prime minister was addressing Freedom Fighters Convention '94 organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal, the freedom fighter front of the ruling BNP, at the Shilpakala Academy.

Turning to the present political crisis over the demand of the opposition parties for a caretaker government, the prime minister said, "We have tried to adjust."

In this context, she men-Sir Ninian Stephen's proposal of an interim government headed by the incumbent prime minister. But the Oppo-

See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a rally of the Jatiyatabadi Freedom Fighters at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday. - PID photo

We are fighting for people's

rights and not for power.

deadline set for November 27.

the Awami League chief said the

Opposition would resign en

masse on the next day if the

government fails to meet the

efficacy of sitting in parliament

where she said the Opposition

is not allowed to speak about

said. BNP betraved with the

people. "inefficiency of the gov-

ernment, corruption, nepotism

rest, chaos and frustration

Presided over by Shah Mohd

Shahjahan, the meeting was

also addressed by Zillur

Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu

Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser and

party MP from the island

is now on a two-day mass cam-

paign in Sandwip and Feni to

drum up support for a care-

taker government. She flew into

Chittagong from Dhaka this

morning from where she came

to Sandwip by a speed boat.

The Awami League president

and politicisation have bred un-

Hasima also questioned the

After assuming power, she

Hasina said. Reminding the

Now all rest with PM, Hasina tells rally

demand.

people's problems.

among the people."

Mostafizur Rahman.

SANDWIP, Dec 21: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina who is campaigning for a non-party caretaker government said today the country could be saved from confrontation only if the Prime Minister gives up her "lust for power." reports UNB.

Addressing a big public meeting at Sandwip New Complex ground, she alleged that the prime minister's intransigence and desire for sticking to power at any cost created the prevailing tangle and con-

flict in politics. Now everything depends on the prime minister." Hasina said just a week before the Opposition's planned resignation from parliament on December 28:

The Awami League President said her current movement was to ensure people's legitimate right to vote and elect an accountable government through free and impartial elections as free polls and security of voter's life are not possible under

Begum Zia's government. "The prime minister is ready to relinquish everything but chair as she knows that if elections are held under caretaker government, it would be difficult for BNP to stage a comeback because of its misrule." she told

Politicians, economists and

civil servants participating in a

stressed that the country's

administrative machinery

needed major reforms but they

differed on what changes

A day-long dialogue organ-

ised by the Centre for Policy

Dialogue (CPD), private think

tank, yesterday focused on var

ious aspects of the administra-

tion including politicisation.

deteriorating quality and lack

of transparency and account-

included representatives from

the World Bank and various

UN organisations, put forward

a number of suggestions for

making the administration

more effective and people-ori-

The participants, who also

would have to be made.

Moitree goes on rampage in Khulna: 4 hurt.

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Dec 21: At least four persons were injured and

six private cars damaged when a group of the Biplobi Chhatra Moitree activist suddenly went on the rampage in front of the Awami League office this evening.

The injured persons, all pedestrians, were released from Sadar Hospital after first

The incident occurred when a procession of the Chhatra Moitree was passing by the city Awami League office. The procession was brought out to protest an attack on Pradoot Kumar Chaiti, a leader of the Moitree, at Rajshahi University.

Riot police lobbed two tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Police agrested three activists of the Chhatra Moitree for hurling cocktails at a police van which however, did not explode.

In another development photo-journalist Abdul Gaffar of the local vernacular daily 'Prabaho' was severely injured in an attack by riot police in front of the press club here this evening.

His right hand was frac-See Page 12 Col 6

'Major reforms needed to make administration effective'

By Staff Correspondent

Some of the participants in dialogue in the city yesterday the second session of the dia logue stressed relocating some responsibilities of the government to local levels to enable the central administration to concentrate more on the nationally important issues or

Earlier story on Page 3

policy issues. Some others proposed handing over some responsibilities to the private

Most of the participants were critical about politicisation of the administration' by way of political appointment or promotion. Some of them. citing examples of administrations of other countries. however, spoke moderately on

presently Awami League adviser ATM Shamsul Hug said that in USA, upper level bureaucrats were appointed politically, but the lower level officials remained neutral. In Bangladesh politicisation

Former Secretary and

has spread all over the administration leading to demoralisa tion of the other officials being deprived of their legitimate promotions, he said and asked," How can you expect the demoralised bureaucracy to produce good things"? He said frequent transfers

of officials have also been affecting their performance and contributing to their demoralisation. The issue of relocating the

responsibilities of the govern-See Page 12 Col 7

'No change in BNP stance

By Asiuzzaman

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder has said there is no change in the ruling party's stand on the caretaker government issue.

"We still stick to our position following the earlier, dialogue. We are ready to accept (Commonwealth Emissary) Sir Ninian Stephen's proposal about interim government." Talukder told The Daily Star in a telephonic interview yester-

He also dispelled media speculations that a dramatic solution to the present political impasse was likely. "The only drama the press reports suggest is that we resign or hand over power to the opposition parties," he said.

BNP still enjoys the people's support and will face any political consequences politically. Salam Talukder asserted.

"We still urge the opposi-See Page 12 Col 1

Businessman shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent A young businessman, Sabuj Chowdhury, 30 was shot dead in the city's Segunbagicha area yesterday.

Unidentified gunmen shot at Sabuj while he was coming out of the Public Works Department (PWD) at Segunbagicha by a rickshaw around 1 pm. He was accompanied by one of his friends Sohel.

As the gunmen opened fire indiscriminately, the rickshawpuller, Sona Mia, 40, also suffered bullet wounds and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Fatally wounded Sabuj was

rushed to the DMCH where he expired at the operation theatre in the evening. Five bullets pierced different parts of his body. Witnesses said, when Sabuj

came out of the building he was waylaid by four gunmen · See Page 12 Col 8

Shantibahinimen attack patrol

Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: Sh antibahinimen have intensified their activities in violation of the ceasefire now in force in Chittagong hill tracts (CHT).

According to official sour ces, a group of armed Shantibahini men launched a sniper attack on a security patrol yesterday afternoon at Rajani para area under Lakkichari thana of Khagrachhari district. An exchange of fire between

the two sides followed. There was however, no ca sualty. At one stage the attackers fled into deep forest.

Later in the evening the tribal insurgents removed slab from a bailey bridge near Babuchara bazar under Di ghinala thana that caused dislocation in traffic movement there, the sources said.

In another incident late Monday night, Shantibahini kidnapped two brick-field workers from Shasantila area of Dighinala thana and demanded a ransom of Taka one lakh from the brick-field owner reports said. The same night. Shantibahinimen also stormed into the house of a tribal man, Gonja Karbari, and tortured him on charge of collaborating with the adminis tration, official sources said. Besides trial insurgents

have stepped up their toll collection drive in the CHT.

Hasan Raja festival begins in Sylhet From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 21: A two-day festival commemorating the 138th birth anniversary of the great mystic poet Hasan Raja began this afternoon.

National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf formally inaugurated the festival at the Sylhet Auditorium this afternoon, while former state min ister Dewan Taimur Raja Chowdhury presided.

also addressed by Dr Ashraf Siddigui, Dr Momen Chowdhury and Sabir Ahmed Chowd The two-day festival pro-

The inaugural session was

grammes include seminar. discussions, presentation of folk songs and reception to Professor Azraf

Arab-Israeli peace possible, says Saudi ulema chief

RIYADH. Dec 21: Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority for the first time today said peace was possible between Arabs and Israelis as it was not against the teachings of Islam, reports AFP.

The country's Mufti Sheikh Abdel Aziz Ibn Baz said in an interview to be published in the Saudi weekly Al-Mushmoon that "a permanent or temporary ceasefire with the enemy is tolerated, if rulers see an interest

"But it can be broken if the need disappears," added the Mufti who heads the country's highest religious body, the Council of Ulema, which wields a large influence over state policies. The Mufti, who was ques-

tioned on the Israeli-PLO au-

tonorny deal and the Jordan-Israe'l peace treaty, added that he was also not opposed the Muslims visiting holy sites in Israeli-annex east Jerusalem.

"Visiting Al-Aqsa mosque as much as possible is a tradition from the Prophet Mohammad." he said in the interview to be published Friday, a copy of which was received by AFP. Jerusalem is the third holi-

est site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. Since the June 1967 Arab-

Israeli war Muslims, including Palestinians from the occupied territories, have stopped making the annual pilgrimage to the holy city.

In May 400 Libyan pilgrims rode to Jerusalem on cameback to carry out the rite and See Page 12 Col 6

Test discard Rameez Raja will lead the Pakistani second

string while Akram Khan will captain the hosts. The week-long meet, which

By Nazmul Ashraf

Govt refixes some phone,

telex charges

The government has reduced the charge for change of names or numbers of telephone subscribers and also readjusted the rate for international telephone calls, competent sources in the Telecommunications Ministry said. Installation and transfer

charges for teleprinter and telex machines have also been substantially lowered. The ministry in a circular issued recently also recognised the commercial telephone and

telex centres in the country by introducing registration fee and deposit money for those. There was no legal provision in this regard until recently. According to the ministry sources, the charge for changing name or number of a tele-

phone subscriber has been re-

duced to Taka 5,000 from Tk

7.500 and the fee for transfer

of name from the parents alive

to their children to Tk 2,000

7.500 to Tk 5.000, the min istry sources said. One unit for the international telephone calls would now consist of 30 seconds or its faction instead of 60 seconds earlier. This would enable the callers pay lower charge for calls for factions of one

from Tk 7 500. The installa

tion charge for teleprinter ma-

chine has been decreased from

Tk 20,000 to Tk 7,500 and

the transfer fee for telex and

teleprinter machine from Tk

According to the new government decision, persons having of willing to have commercial telephone and telex centres would have to get their organisations registered by paying a registration fee of Tk 2,500 and deposit money of Tk 50.000 each

. The legalisation of the co mmercial telephone and telex See Page 12 Col 8

Pandemonium in Indian parliament

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: The Indian parliament adjourned in pandemonium today as furious opposition deputies seized the floor and demanded that Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao sack ministers accused of corruption, reports AFP.

"Corrupt men quit power, opposition MPs chanted nonstop in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament forcing Speaker Shivral Patil to repeatedly call a halt to proceedings.

The Rajya Sabha, the upper house, was adjourned after opposition deputies demanded that the prime minister come to the chamber to personally reply to the allegations of widespread corruption within his administration.

"Corruption will not be allowed," they shouted, "This government will not last."

Ram Vilas Paswan, secretary-general of the centrist Janata Dal Party, said the prime minister had "no moral rights continue in office" and should resign for shielding corrupt members of his cabi-

Both houses of parliament have been virtually paralysed for a week by a combined opposition offensive against Rao's Congress(I) Party following its rout in recent state assembly

There is speculation in posession on Friday.

position MPs on Wednesday attacked an official report released Tuesday which failed to recommend sanctions against ministers accused of involve ment in the 1.3 billion dollar securities swindle.

scandal, the securities scam involved the diversion of public funds to the Bombay stock market by a coterie of officials. bankers and brokers.

bull run on the Bombay bourse. India's largest, which eventually collapsed in April 1992. ruining thousands of investors

Carter's accomplishments. And

in Sarajevo. UN spokesman

Alexander Ivanko said his visit

resulted in a "certain momen-

But fighting continued even

tum for peace."

Carter leaves for home

Serbs shell Bihac ignoring accord

SARAJEVO, Dec 21: Ignor- meeting in Zagreb, Croatia on

ing a tentative agreement for a holiday cease fire. Bosnian Serbs and their allies attacked a government-held enclave in northwestern Bosnia, UN officials said today, reports AP. After two days of shuttle

diplomacy, former US President Jimmy Carter said the warring sides supported a temporary truce, starting Fri-

My hope is that we can soon have a cease-fire, the total disengagement of military forces ... all these things have been promised by both sides, he told reporters in Belgrade the Serbian capital late Tues-

Senior UN officials were

But the prime minister. whose party enjoys a coinfort able parliamentary majority has a jused to bow to pressure to comp ministers responsible for a securities swindle and a sugar shortage this year.

The 73-year-old Rao sat by impassively and unruffled in the Lok Sabha as the angry scenes raged around him to-

litical circles here that if Rao does eventually concede to carry out a cabinet reshuffle it would not take place until the end of parliament's winter Calling it a "cover-up", op-

India's worst financial

The money helped fuel a

as Carter left the region on his way home. UN officials in Sarajevo said hard-pressed government troops and mostly Muslim

civilians in the northwestern Bihac pocket remained under attack late Tuesday, in the continuation of a Serb offensive that began Nov 5. Fighting eased today, due to regional snow storms, said Bosnian radio. But Lt Col Gary

Coward, a UN spokesman See Page 12 Col 6



Pakistan take on hosts today

Sports Reporter

Pakistan take on hosts Bangladesh in the inaugural match of the quadrangular SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today. The 50-overs-a-side game begins at

Details on page 10

also involves India and Sri Lanka, will, however, not be recognised as an international competition and will thus be exempt from some of the regu-

This will be the second time

See Page 12 Col 6

lations observed in official one-

Oil exploration work in 2 dists from Jan

The California-based multi-

national company Occidental Petroleum Corporation will begin exploration work in Netrokona and Sylhet districts next month, reports UNB. A memorandum of under standing to this effect was

signed between Occidental and Petrobangla in November this On Tuesday, the Cabinet Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs approved a

production sharing contract for

exploration and development of blocks 12, 13 and 14, informed sources said. The company will launch an exploration and development programme in the three blocks in January 1995. Block 12 cov

ers some areas of Netrokona

and Sylhet districts and blocks

· See Page 12 Col 7 Price hike of foodgrains

temporary: Govt A review meeting to discuss the price position of the es sentials particularly the price of foodgrains, was held in the city yesterday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting expressed its satisfaction to note that despite good harvest of paddy this year, there had been no case of smuggling of rice across the border. It also noted that the slight increase in the price of foodgrains is only temporary and artificial in nature and the prices is bound to come down within a couple of

The meeting was informed that the government had substantial stock of food of 6.25 lakh tons including 5 lakh tons of wheat and 1.25 lakh tons of rice. Moreover, two ships carrying 1.60 lakh tons of wheat arrived at the ports which is likely to be unloaded within a

Hope for truce with LTTE fades

COLOMBO, Dec 21: The government's hope for a cease-fire with Tamil rebels before Christmas faded Wednesday as it said it would wait for a response to its proposals from the Tigers before beginning the

We have put forward our priority issues. Negotiators will leave when a response arrives," Media Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake told reporters, He did not say what the government's proposals were or when they were sent.

hostilities. But the clashes have contin-

ued On Tuesday, the rebels killed a sailor and wounded two others in a mortar attack on the Karainagar naval base

See Page 12 Col 3

talks, reports AP.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who was elected last month on a pledge to end the war, said last week she was expecting a ceasefire and negotiations before Christmas, after the rebels agreed to a government proposal for a cessation of