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NEWS BRIEFS

PM visits Golam  
Sarwar's residence

KHULNA, Dec 30 : Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the residence of acting president of Khulna District BNP, Golam Sarwar Jamadar here, who died on Wednesday. The Prime Minister spent some time with the members of the bereaved family, reports BSS.

BNP nominates for  
Sherpur by-polls

The Bangladesh National Party (BNP) last night nominated Mahmudul Huq as its candidate for contesting the by-election to the Sherpur-3 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad, party sources said, reports BSS.

One killed in  
Sylhet road mishap

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Dec 30 : A business man of Bimbazar died in a road mishap midnight last night near the thana headquarters. The victim Abdul Hannan, 38, while returning home on a motorbike at 11:30 pm met the accident as he lost control over the vehicle which hit the railing of a culvert at a place near his village home at Khasa. He died on the spot.

Seven killed in  
Vietnam accident

HANOI, Dec 30 : Seven people were killed and nine injured when a van taking a wedding party home collided with a truck, the official Evening News newspaper reported today. The van's driver was among those killed in the accident in the southern province of Son La last Tuesday, it said, reports Reuter.

# Country to be run as per Constitution: PM

KHULNA, Dec 30 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the country was being run as per the Constitution and the laws of the land and asserted that it would continue in this manner, reports BSS.

Addressing a massive gathering at the Rupsha ferry-ghat here after laying the foundation stone of the proposed Rupsha Bridge, she refuted the Opposition's contention that Parliament no longer has any legal basis following the submission of their letters of resignation to the Speaker.

The Prime Minister said Parliament is still fully legal with elected representatives there.

Expressing her firm resolve to abide by the Constitution and the laws of the land in running the country, she said there was no scope to run the country by bypassing the Constitution and the laws.

Pledging to respect the people's verdict and the responsibilities entrusted on the BNP government by them, the Prime Minister said measures would be taken against those who would hamper public life, destroy the democratic process and obstruct the welfare-oriented development programmes of the democratic government.

The Prime Minister said that as per the Constitution an elected government is to run the country for a particular period and complete its term as per the people's verdict.

Describing the Opposition's attempt to remove the elected BNP government before the completion of its term as "not the right thing", the Prime Minister said that a particular party had joined hands with the autocrats and 'razakars' (collaborators) to remove an elected government.

It is contradictory, she said.

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Addressing a meeting at the Rupsha ferry-ghat, organised on the occasion of the foundation-laying of the proposed Rupsha bridge here, the Speaker said it was right that the Opposition Parliament members had submitted their resignations to him. But those letters, he said, were now under his scrutiny as per the Constitution and the Parliament rules of procedures.

"There is still time," the Speaker said, adding: "If you (Opposition MPs) want to give democracy an institutional shape, I believe it is still possible the problem can be solved through discussions by all."

## Still room for solution: Speaker

KHULNA, Dec 30: Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali said here today that the problem created out of the submission of the resignation letters by the Opposition MPs to him could still be resolved through talks, reports BSS.

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"There is still time," the Speaker said, adding: "If you (Opposition MPs) want to give democracy an institutional shape, I believe it is still possible the problem can be solved through discussions by all."

Another ruling party leader said that fresh correspondence

# BNP won't accept advisory council

By Asluzzaman

Ruling party leaders said yesterday that the last portion of their proposal was negotiable, but they would not accept any proposal for forming a 10-member advisory council under the President during the next general elections.

The second part regarding hartals and sieges is negotiable. We can drop it if the opposition parties drop their demand for an interim cabinet," BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar told The Daily Star.

He said a mechanism can still be devised if the opposition parties agree and change their mind for the greater interest of the country.

Another ruling party leader said that fresh correspondence

has been established among the mid-level leaders of the two sides but such contacts are still in the very early stages.

Salam Talukdar said that he had heard about such a move but he had no details of the latest situation.

He alleged that the Opposition MPs submitted their resignation, even after the BNP fulfilled their basic demand — that a party government would not be in power during the elections.

The ruling party proposal was that the Prime Minister and her cabinet shall not be in power 30 days before the elections at the end of the five-year term, provided the MPs of the opposition political parties

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## Ctg-Dubai Biman flights likely soon

From Nurul Alam  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 30 : Biman Bangladesh Airlines is

expected to begin direct flights between Chittagong and the Middle-Eastern countries from the first week of February, 1995.

Biman sources said a plan to press DC-10 aircraft into service in this new route was taken up following a study by a Civil Aviation team about two weeks ago.

Initially, twice-a-week flights between Chittagong and Dubai will operate. Later this may be extended to Muscat and some other countries in the region. Biman sources said.

A senior Biman official said, on condition of anonymity: A tentative date may be announced by the middle of January but the government is

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Reazuddin Monirul  
Alam Press Club  
president, secy

Reazuddin Ahmed and Khanda Monirul Alam were yesterday elected president and general secretary respectively of the National Press Club for a two-year term, according to club election commission sources, reports BSS.

Reazuddin Ahmed, Chief Editor of the daily Financial Express, polled 219 votes against his nearest rival A B M Musa who got 142 votes  
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## Elections only solution to crisis: Opposition

taker administration.

According to the plan, the

President will appoint a Prime Minister either from among the Appellate Division Judges of the Supreme Court, retired Appellate Division Judges or a non-partisan, acceptable personality. The new caretaker Prime Minister, who will not contest the elections, will appoint a non-partisan cabinet.

Mohammad Nasim said all proposals and discussions before the Opposition's resignation are now dead. There is no legal and constitutional scope for reconsidering their resignation, as urged by the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister should immediately step down to pave the way for general elections and general elections under a care-

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## Further cut in Relief Ministry food budget

Star Report

Due to shortage of wheat, the food budget of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief for the current fiscal has been slashed further and reduced at 810,000 tonnes.

The budget, which was

873,000 tonnes last year (1993-94), was earlier fixed at 840,000 tonnes for the current year. But the authorities revised the budget recently and curtailed the wheat allocation for various relief and rehabilitation programmes, including the food-for-work UN.

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