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to talk BNP business

The government has decided to open dialogue with the oppo-sition to woo them back to Parliament in its upcoming session

Home Minister Mohammad BNP and its partners soon.

ment, I will talk to leaders of the main opposition and other parties and request them to attend Parliament sessions," the Home Minister told a press briefing at his ministry this afternoon.

he would take the initiative to open the dialogue in a day or

make a call to the opposition to join the Parliament session on the first day of the new millen-

Hasina requested the President to summon the House on January 1, the beginning of the new millennium, to make the journey of parliamentary democ-

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will address the House on the new year's day.

AL workers asked to identify terrorists at local level

Leaders of Bangladesh Awami League yesterday asked the party workers to form committees at local level to identify terrorists, and help the administration take legal action against them, reports BSS.

Ramadan. others, by AL Presidium mem-Resources Minister Abdur Raz-Abdul Jalil, AL Joint General Poltu, AL City Unit General Secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Amir Hossain Amu called upon all to mould public opinion against hartals, which are called only to create anarchy in

Article When

Disappointment Turns into Desperation

by Kuldip Nayar Page 4

Focus

Muhammad Ali, the the century Page 5

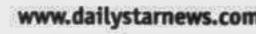
Adieu to BTV ad monopoly as new

IMF emergency lending to ailing economies

> DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7 & 8

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
6	15	_	5-17
7	. 16	5-09	5-18
8	17	500	5.18

December 15				
	Azan	Jamaat		
Fajr	5-6	5-12		
Zohr	12-45	1-15		
Asr	3-42	4-00		
Maghrib	5-16	5-22		
Tarabi	7-00	7-45		



DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15, 1999

RAMADAN 6, 1420 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 6.00

New move back to JS

from January 1, reports UNB.

Nasim has been empowered by ruling Awami League to open talks with major opposition "On behalf of the govern-

Nasim gave a broad hint that

The speaker would also

Prime Minister Sheikh

racy remarkable.

See page 11 col 6

The leaders were addressing at a public meeting at Paltan Maidan (Field) organised by Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Awami League (AL) to protest bombing, terrorism, anarchy and calling of unnecessary hartals during the holy month of

Chaired by city unit president Mohammad Hanif, the meeting was addressed, among ber Amir Hossain Amu, Water zak, AL Organising Secretary and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, AL Presidium member Secretary Mozaffar Hossain

society.

Inside Today

Column: Between the Lines

greatest sportsman of

Business

Bangla channels get ready for sky war

tops G20 agenda

7 & 8			at Barisa	d: 25 hurt	
r timings		gs	From Staff Correspondent		
	Sehri	Iftar	BARISAL, Dec 14: At least 25	ganised on the occasion of	
	-	5-17	group of armed goons attacked a	tyred Intellectuals Day. BNP district committee	
	5-09	5-18	meeting of city BNP at town	city unit called a half-day	
	5.09	5-18	hall at Sadar Road today. Among the 10 seriously hurt	tal from 6 am to 2 pm to	

parties

5-6		advocate Mannan Mridha, ad-
0-0	5-12	vocate Jasimuddin, Moham-
2-45	1-15	mad Azad, advocate Sabuj, Dr Ranjit Baral and GM Rabbi were admitted to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Police and witnesses said the
aghrib 5-16 5-	4-00	
	5-22	
	7-45	
ic Fou	indation	attackers suddenly opened fire on the discussion meeting or-
	-42 -16 -00	-42 4-00 -16 5-22



Unified in sacrifice Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joins relatives of the martyred intellectuals before the memorial at Rayerbazar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'Resist anti-liberation forces'

PM opens Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum at Rayerbazar

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum at Rayerbazar in the city with a call for 'resisting the anti-liberation forces who are again out to undermine the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation'.

The mausoleum was built at the place where many leading intellectuals of the country were killed by Razakars and Albadars in a planned way at the fag end of the war.

"The defeated forces - Razakars and Al-badars - have shown the audacity to snatch away the effigy of General Niazi from the hands of our mothers and sisters on the streets of Dhaka. The nation can never tolerate it", she said.

back after placing wreaths.

Former President and Jativa

Party Chairman HM Ershad

and its general secretary Naziur

Rahman Manzur were chased

by a group of Chhatra League ac-

tivists when they went to place

wreaths at the Martyred Intel-

lectuals Memorial at Mirpur in

JP Office Secretary Ahsan

Habib Lincon were injured in a

brief chase and counter-chase

between activists of the rival

party activists went there, a

group of BCL activists chased

six received bullet injuries.

BNP leader principal Abdur

Rashid Khan, Barisal town BNP

president and pourashava

chairman Ahsan Habib Kamal,

As Ershad, leading some 500

At least 15 people including

the city yesterday morning.

They have also assaulted newsmen in Chittagong, she said. "These forces would be resisted at any cost. We shall prove that the sacrifice of 30 lakh martyrs and two lakh women will not go in vain."

The Prime Minister called upon all concerned to inspire the new generation with the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation in its true perspec-She urged intellectuals in-

cluding teachers and journal-

ists to resist distortion of the

history of the War of Liberation by vested quarters so that none can ever mislead the nation. She expressed her satisfaction that she could fulfil her commitment to build a mausoleum at Rayerbazar. "This

Jatiya Party office secretary Ahsan Habib Lincoln under attack near the Mirpur Memorial

yesterday. Rival activists came charging towards the JP leaders when they were on way

Ershad, his men chased

By Staff Correspondent

and cordoned them, forcing the

JP chief to place the wreaths in

When the JP activists were

returning, another group of BCL

activists who had waylaid

them, snatched their banners

and festoons and beat some of

counter-chase. The feuding

groups exchanged brick bats,

leaving 15 people injured. In the

melee. Ershad hurriedly left the

place in his car. The BCL ac-

tivists also chanted slogans

ganised on the occasion of Mar-

city unit called a half-day har-

tal from 6 am to 2 pm tomor-

row, in the Barisal town

protesting the attack by the

gunmen. The ruling party was

Khaleda Zia condemned and

protested the attack on the BNP

discussion meeting at Barisal.

day, she alleged that the ruling

party terrorists opened fire and

exploded bombs at the meeting

that seriously injured 25 BNP

See Page 12 Col 1

UNB adds: Opposition Leader

In a statement in Dhaka to-

BNP district committee and

blamed for the attack

leaders and workers.

against Ershad and JP.

BNP meeting attacked

JP activists also made a

a hurry, witnesses said.

smriti soudha (mausoleum) will help the nation remember the heroic tales of supreme sacrifices of its valiant sons".

The mausoleum will inspire the future generation to make any sacrifice for the nation in times of need as was done by their forefathers, the Prime Minister said.

Recalling the past, she said, members of the Projanma '71(an organisation of the family members of martyred intellectuals), who unearthed the Rayerbazar mass grave, went to her residence when she was Leader of the Opposition in parframent and urged her to do something to preserve the memory of the massacre. " promised them to do something if I get an opportunity".

-Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Police deployed there played

The BCL activists Leaders

also barred leaders of the 11-

party Left Democratic Alliance

from entering into the

there at 8:50 a.m., the Alliance

leaders tried to enter the venue

but they were stopped by the

BCL activists. After several at-

tempts, they left the area, the

liance condemned the incident.

Hartal observed

at Shahjadpur

From Our Correspondent

day hartal was observed at

Parishad backed by defeated

candidate of ruling party and

former deputy minister Hasibur

Rahman Swapan called the

hartal protesting 'post-election

violence' and demanding arrest

who defeated Swapan, allegedly

attacked on Mohiruddin former

UP chairman of Habibullah

Nagar, and Sorman Ali,

cashier, Shahjadpur Rickshaw

were supporters of Swapan dur-

ing by-election in the Siraj-

Mohiruddin and Sorman

Supporters of Chayan Islam.

of culprits at Shahjadpur.

Sramik Union.

ganj-7 constituency.

Shahjadpur thana today.

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 14: A half-

Shahjadpur Sramik Oikya

Later in a statement, the Al-

When Prime Minister went

the role of mute spectators, the

witnesses said.

witnesses said.

premises.

She said her government, since its formation, is making all out efforts to translate into reality the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation and dreams of the martyrs.

Built at a cost of Tk 17.61 crore on 6.51 acres of land, the mausoleum comprises a 380 feet long crescent having a 33 feet 'central mourning tower'. The work was started in

The mausoleum, having an area of 16,600 square feet artificial lake and 76,500 square feet sprawling greens, is a testimony of modern architecture attuned to the historical background.

Workers and Civil Aviation Minister Mosharrof Hossain See Page 12 Col 4

Survey

Over 92pc want Pakistan to apologise for war crimes

Nine out of every ten people of the country have demanded Pakistan's apology in public for the barbaric role played by its the then occupation army while nearly 85 per cent of the popula-tion want trial of the 1971 war criminals, reports BSS.

The opinion came in a nationwide survey conducted jointly by the national news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and teachers and students of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka Univer-

The results of the survey, the

biggest one on the Liberation War in terms of population representation, show that 92.64 per cent of the total 5,499 respondents across the country think that Pakistan must apologise to the people of Bangladesh for the atrocities on Bangalees during the War of Liberation. Only 2.89 per cent answered in the negative on the question while 4.47 others refrained from giving any comment on the issue.

Many of the respondents, however, said that an apology alone was not sufficient and Pakistan must pay back the then East Pakistan's outstanding dues to Bangladesh and compensate the damages of life and property it caused in 1971.

In the survey, which covered all the six administrative divisions. 84.67 per cent respondents said special tribunals should be constituted at the national level to try the war crim-

See page 11 col 7

Chargesheet in Udichi case 24 including

Tariqul indicted

The Criminal Investigation Department of police yesterday indicted 24 persons including BNP Vice-chairman and former minister Tariqul Islam in connection with the bomb attack on a concert of Udichi cultural

group at Jessore, reports BSS. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of CID and Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Dulal Uddin Akand submitted the charge sheet to the court of Magistrate Golam Rahman Miah in Jessore at about 4-30 pm. official sources said here.

Others accused in the case include the chief of 'Hasan syndicate' Ahsanul Kabir Hasan. his elder brother and vicepresident of Jessore district

BNP Nurunnabi and former ward commissioner Alamgir. Twenty-two evidences were

also submitted, the IO said. But he declined to disclose the number or name of the wit-

nesses. The CID completed the investigation under the direct supervision of the CID headquarters, Dhaka, after more than 38

weeks of investigation. At least 10 people were killed and 150 injured in the bomb attack on the Udichi concert at Jessore Town Hall Maidan on

March 6 this year. Meanwhile, the district unit of BNP has called a six-hour (6-12) hartal in Jessore town today See Page 12 Col 7

Shahjalal varsity 4 Shibir activists arrested

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 14: Four activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested in the early hours of today on charge of hurling bomb on the residence of the vice chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology yesterday afternoon.

The arrested are Abdul Latif Khan, Shah Mahmud Jahan Kamil, Iqbal Hossain and Faisal Ahmed. They were arrested from 86. Paira, a student mess in Dargah Mohalta area in the town, police said.

Police also seized 13 motorbikes from the nearby areas of the varsity. Additional police force has

The All-Party Action Com-

fresh violence.

mittee (Opposition) held a rally today protesting the arrest of Maulana Habibur Rahman,

president of the Sylhet district (South) unit of Jamaat, the See Page 12 Col 5

been deployed on the varsity

campus and some important

enforced by The All-Party Stu-

dents Action Committee

(Opposition) at the varsity con-

tinued for the seventh day to-

students left the campus during

the last two days apprehending

A good number of female

However, the students strike

spots of the town today.

10 vehicles damaged, 25 held

Sporadic bomb blasts mark Ctg hartal

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Stray incidents of violence and sporadic bomb blasts marked the second day of the 36-hour hartal in the post city that ended at 6 pm today, police and wit-

Chittagong unit of the fourparty opposition alliance called the hartal to resist submission of nomination papers for Chittagong City Corporation polls, scheduled for January 3. Yesterday was the last date of submission of nomina-

Home-made bombs were exploded at Chawkbazar, Chandanpura, Anderkilla, New Market Crossing, Agrabad, Kazir Dewri and Nur Ahmed

CCC polls: All 4 nominations for mayoral post valid

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: All the four nomination papers submitted for the mayoral post of the Chittagong City Corporation were found valid after scrutiny today. The election to CCC is se-

lected for January 3. The scrutiny was held at the temporary election office at the Zila Parishad building from 9 am to 5 pm.

Five out of 217 nomination papers submitted on Monday See Page 12 Col 1

At least ten vehicles including five rickshaws were damaged by pickets at Bhaddarhat,

and police said. Police arrested 25 pickets from different areas of the city. A large number of police and BDR was deployed to maintain law and order.

Chawkbazar, Alankar Crossing

and Lalkhan Bazar during the

hartal period today, witnesses

Chase and counter chase between police and pickets took place at Bhaddarhat crossing at about 9 am when the pickets damaged some vehicles, witnesses said.

A procession of opposition supporters heading towards Laldighi maidan at 3:30 pm was obstructed by police at Tinpool crossing. As a result, opposition supporters could not hold their scheduled rally at Laldighi Maidan this afternoon, party sources said.

They were not allowed to hold rally at Laldighi Maidan yesterday also. Police allegedly barred them from moving towards the venue, party sources

The Opposition alliance comprising BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikkya Jote had booked Laldighi Maidan for holding rallies yesterday and today, sources in the alliance said.

Some supporters of Jamaat and JP held a rally at Anderkilla this afternoon. Two home-made bombs ex-

ploded at Anderkilla during the

See page 11 col 8

Indian parliament in turmoil again

Vajpayee to clarify temple-mosque issue

cally-sensitive Uttar Pradesh

Chief minister of politi-

NEW DELHI. Dec 14: The Indian parliament was in turmoil for a second day today when opposition parties attacked the government over a templemosque row and a probe into an anti-Sikh pogrom in 1984, reports AFP.

Angry MPs belonging to the main opposition Congress demanded an explanation from party slammed the government for not responding to a reported Prime Minister Atal Behari Vapledge by a provincial minister jpayee who has assured the to build a temple on the ruins of house he would get back to parliament with details after finda demolished mosque.

state, Ram Prakash Gupta. was quoted on Monday by the media as saying "constructing a Ram temple at Ayodhya ... as far as the BJP is concerned is very much on the agenda." The main opposition Congress and the communists

by Vajpayee's BJP party.
Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia wanted Vajpayee to clarify whether the construc-

ing out the "full report."

tion of the temple was part of the BJP agenda. BJP leader Pramod Mahajan

Uttar Pradesh is being ruled

said Vajpayee would get back to the lower house on the matter but the Congress members persisted on an immediate reply and the house was adjourned See page 11 col 8

The duty officer at Ramna thana, however, denied any arrest at the Nagar Bhaban. Official sources said bran-

See Page 12 Col 8

MADE IN JAPAN

Opposition plans 'action councils' to expedite movement By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition al-liance will form 'action coun-

cils' at district and thana levels soon to further expedite the current one-point agitation. Sources said that the Liaison Committee, at a meeting yesterday, initiated discussion to work out the modality and structure of the planned action

council". They said there were a number of proposals about the modality of the action council and hoped that the Liaison Committee would soon finalize an 'acceptable model of the council'.

Meeting sources said there are mainly two proposals regarding the proposed Action Council. One of the proposal suggests formation of a fourmember convening committee with one convenor, two joint convenors and one membersecretary while another proposal wants to have chief of each party to preside over meetings and give leadership to pro-See page 11 col 2

Boiler explosion: One killed 25 hurt in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Dec 14: A rice mill boiler exploded at College Road in Kalapara thana, leaving one person killed and 25 others injured on Monday night, reports UNB. Witnesses said the boiler

blasted with a big bang, disrupting electricity. The dead was identified as Abdul Hannan 35, fireman of the rice mill. He died on way to Barisal Medical College Hospi-

Another injured Jahangir 28 was sent to the same hospital. His condition was stated to be critical. Other injured, identified as Sultan 25, Aziz 35, Shahidul Islam, 30. Hayatunnesa, 25,

Parvin, 17, Moriam Begum, 30, and Reba Rani, 38, were sent to Kalapara Hospital. A case was filed with the po-

Ctg docs to hold anti-terrorism rally today From Staff Correspondent

lice in this regard.

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Chittagong General Hospital continued their strike for the fourth day Only emergency wings of the two government hospitals have

been kept out of the purview of

Doctors went on strike on December 7 demanding arrest of the terrorists who attacked CMC teacher Dr Nilkanta Bhattacharya on December 6.

The striking doctors today held a protest meeting at the Chaired by Dr L A Kaderi. president of BMA, Chittagong unit, the meeting was addressed by Dr Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan. Professor Dr Abdul Mannan Sikdar, acting principal of Chittagong Medical College, Dr

Taher Khan, Dr A Q M Sirajul Islam, general secretary of BMA, Chittagong unit, Dr S M Asraf Ali, Dr M A Foyaz, Dr Shahid Hossain, Dr Mulkutur Rahman, Dr Shahana Chowdhury, Dr Hafizul Islam, Dr Rezaul Karim and Dr Nazrul Kader Sikdar. The meeting decided to bring

out a silent precession in the city and hold a rally against terrorism at Central Shahid Minar tomorrow. The meeting started with one

minute silence and prayer for martyred intellectuals.

Situation still tense at Nagar Bhaban

By Staff Correspondent A tense situation prevailed at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday

when armed terrorists once

again tried to interfere in ten-

der bidding activities. DCC sources said, officials there are in panic since Sunday's shootout that left eleven people injured on its premises. Although contingents of police and other securitymen were present at the Nagar Bhaban throughout the day yesterday, there was rumour that gunfight might erupt any time.

Officials were talking about arrival of Shamim group, a notorious gang of armed criminals backed by a Chhatra League faction. One DCC source said police arrested at least four people from the DCC premises. But another source said the men, allegedly armed with shotguns, were seen led to the office of the Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

dishing arms during tender bidding at the Nagar Bahaban