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Farmers firm on repeal of agri laws

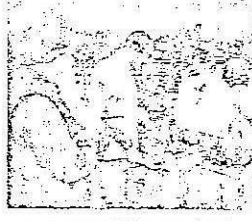
Kisan Morcha rejects Centre's proposal, calls 'Bharat Bandh' to widen agitation

ASHOK KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Dimming hopes of a compromise, a joint front of protesting farmer groups on Friday rejected the Centre's proposals to amend the three contentious agriculture laws and called for a 'Bharat Bandh' on December 8 to widen the agitation. The front reiterated the farmers' demand for a total repeal of the three Central laws.

The announcement by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha came ahead of a crucial round of talks, scheduled on Saturday, between the joint front of farmer unions and top Central Ministers tasked with negotiating a deal with the protesters.

"Unanimous decision"
Addressing a press conference at the Singhu border here, the Morcha leaders



Farmers receiving medical assistance at the Singhu border. *SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

said the decision to seek a repeal of the three laws was reached unanimously after two rounds of talks - the first between the leaders of

Punjab farmers organisations and the second with farmers' unions from across the country.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lakhwal) general-secretary Harvinder Singh Lakhwal, who presided over the morning meetings, said the farmer unions had given a call for a 'Bharat Bandh' on December 8.

They also decided to burn the effigies of the Modi government and corporate houses on December 5.

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