#### Mirza Khokon's wife 'shot', family denies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Mirza Khokon, brother of former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas, was reportedly shot at her house in South Shahjahanpur in the capital yesterday morning.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### Fatwa victim girl saved from caning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights organisations and law enforcement agencies in Sunamganj yesterday saved a girl from being whipped after a teacher of a local madrasa gave a fatwa against her

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

CORRECTION OF UPDATED VOTER ROLL

# Field visits end, yet many left off list

SHARIFUL ISLAM and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Election Commission's (EC) drive for correcting this year's updated voter list ended vesterday amid allegations of many eligible people's remaining out of the voter list while the field level EC staff did not turn up at many houses in the capital and elsewhere in the coun-

The drive that began on December 8 has also been mired with allegations of irregularities.

A number of field level EC staff told The Daily Star that they could not register many people as voter due to serious shortage of voter registration form.

Besides, they did not get any clear instruction from the EC

'The Election Commission at one stage directed through media that photocopies of registration form will do, but the temporarily appointed staff, who are mostly poor, felt reluctant to spend money for photocopying the form," said an EC staff seeking anonymity.

An EC staff, who worked as a supervisor during updating of the voter list a few months back, said he had to spend his own money for photocopying forms that time.

During The Daily Star correspondents' spot visit in a religious minority dominated area at Rajarbagh in the city yesterday, many people said their names have

been deleted from the updated voter roll which the EC used as the base for the just completed correction

Fifty-five year-old Kamala Rani Das, who has been living at Raiarbagh since her marriage, said she cast her vote in previous elections, but this time her name has been deleted from the voter roll. "After checking the voter list from

family members who cast votes in 2001 elections have been dropped from the voter roll," said an apparently anguished Kamala. Members of some Hindu families

an Flection Commission staff, my

husband found that eight of our

in the locality, who were SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### Khaleda urges all to take part in polls

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the people to participate in the upcoming general elections to protect democracy and the constitution.

She also urged her party leaders and workers and all sections of people in Dhaka city and its adjacent areas, who believe in the continuity of democratic and constitutional process, to make today's four-party rally at Paltan a success.

Briefing newsmen on BNP nomination seekers' interview, BNP Office Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan conveyed Khaleda's call made during the concluding day's session for setting candidates for the polls.

Yesterday was the last day of interviewing aspirants at BNP chairperson's Hawa Bhaban office at Banani. Interview of the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, JP Chairman HM Ershad and Liberal Democratic Party President Badruddoza Chowdhury wave during 14-party alliance's grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital yesterday

#### Grameen Bank reception to Yunus today STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameen Bank will accord a grand reception to the Nobel Peace Prize 2006 laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus today on his return after receiving the prestigious award in

Prof Yunus along with other members of the Grameen Bank delegation will arrive at the Zia International Airport at 10:00 am, a press release said yesterday. "From the airport, Prof Yunus will

return to the Grameen Bank headquarters at Mirpur by an open truck after parading different city streets," the release added. Interested people are requested

to reach the airport by 10:00 am to join the victory procession. The microcredit guru Prof Yunus and his Grameen Bank received

the Nobel Peace Prize 2006 in Oslo on December 10. Taslima Begum, a Grameen Bank borrower, represented the bank in the award giving

During the trip, Prof Yunus also travelled to Sweden, Denmark, England and France to attend a number of receptions

## Guantanamo returnee put on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday took Mobarak, who was detained at Guantanamo Bay for five years for his suspected al-Qaeda connection, on a threeday remand to learn if he has any militancy links in the land. Airport police showed him

arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code and placed him before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate with the remand prayer. A special US Air Force plane on

Sunday flew Mobarak Hossain, 30, son of Abul Hashem of Brahmanbaria in Bangladesh and handed him over to the Zia International Airport Immigration. Mobarak went to Pakistan for

studies in 1998 and taught in a madrasa in Karachi after completion

Shafiqual for

slight change in

In 2001, Pakistan intelligence



Mobarak Hossain

arrested him and suspecting his link with al-Qaeda, handed over to the US authorities who later took him to the Guantanamo Bay prison.

Mobarak need to be guizzed to SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### Army captain killed in CHT ambush

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Armed members of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), an anti-peace accord group, ambushed an army team at Maichchhari in Rangamati Sunday evening killing the team's commander Captain Nurul Azam Gazi.

Sources said the ambush ensued a half-hour-long firefight between the armed members of a pro-peace accord group and the UPDF around 4:30pm. No casualties were reported in that battle.

Following the firefight, Captain Gazi, also the camp commander of Ghilachhari army camp, led a team of army personnel towards the spot of the firefight. As they reached Maichchhari area, members of UPDF ambushed them. Gazi was critically injured in the incident receiving two bullets in his

He was flown to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital where on-duty doctors declare him dead.

However, quoting Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the news agency UNB reported that the captain was caught in a crossfire during a triangular firefight between the anti and propeace accord groups and another army petrol team when he led his forces into the battle.

Army sources said army personnel from the brigade headquarters and neighbouring camps conducted raids at the surrounding areas to capture the culprits. They, however, failed to capture anyone

The captain was later flown to Bakergani in Barisal where he was laid to rest near his village home.

### 7 killed in Sirajganj road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajgan

At least seven people were killed and six others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway at Kalibari Bhadraghat of Kamarkhanda upazila in Sirajganj vesterday.

The injured were admitted to Kamarkhanda health complex. Siraigani Sadar Hospital and different clinics in the town. Of them. Amirul, 55, Hanif, 45, Siddique, 42, and Masud Rana, 22, are in critical condition.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the accident occurred at 5:00am when a Dhaka-bound truck loaded with onions skidded off the highway and flipped over as the

### 3 muggers die in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Three alleged muggers were killed by a mob at Batajur in Bhaluka upazila vesterday morning.

Two of them were identified as Jahangir Alam Raju, 25, and Shaheed, 25. Identity of the other could not be known

Police and locals said a gang of five snatched gold chain and earrings from a girl named Sabina, a student of Kachina High School, on Seed Store-Batajur road under Bhaluka upazila at around 11:30am When the gang was trying to

flee by a microbus, locals intercepted the vehicle, putting up a barricade on the road and captured three of the gang while the other two managed to flee.

Locals beat up the three, resulting in their death on the spot. They also set the microbus used by the muggers on fire.

On information Bhaluka police SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

### N Korea spells out demands for scrapping nukes

REUTERS, Beijing

North Korea set out sweeping demands yesterday for scrapping its nuclear arms and the United States warned that its patience was running out -- an inauspicious start to six-party talks after a year-long

The names of all members of Kamala Rani's, right, family except one have been deleted from the voter list, though

they voted in previous elections. Her 20-year-old daughter Swapna Rani, left, is the only voter in the family now.

Addressing the six-party forum at the first talks since the North's October 9 nuclear test, Pyongyang's chief envoy demanded an end to UN sanctions and US financial curbs and the grant of a nuclear reactor before it would consider disarmament.

In response to this "exhaustive list," chief US envoy Christopher

rowing the already congested intersection.

Hill warned that Washington's patience had "reached its limits."

North Korea's opening speech took a "department store approach," presenting "an exhaustive list of all its demands" and demanding that Washington end its "hostile policy" before Pyongyang would agree to rein in its nuclear programmes, a South Korean official told reporters. But Hill said that North Korea

was at a fork in the road and needed to give ground. "We don't have the option of

walking away from the problem," Hill said. "Their future is very much

"We do need to see some

results." he said.

A one-on-one meeting expected between the US and North Koreans on Monday did not take place. Washington, along with host China, South Korea, Japan and

joint statement agreed in September 2005. In that statement, North Korea agreed in principle to give up nuclear weapons in return for aid

and security guarantees. But North Korean chief negotiator Kim Kye-gwan said his country

would not consider implementing the agreement until US and SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

poll schedule to end stalemate STAFF CORRESPONDENT Agriculture Adviser Shafiqual

Russia, want to see North Korea resolved by delaying the nominatake concrete steps to implement a tion paper submission date by a few days.

Briefing the media at the secretariat yesterday afternoon, Choudhury said the council of advisers is likely to discuss

> ule at its weekly meeting to be held later the same evening. The meeting of the council of SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

of rearranging the election sched-



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

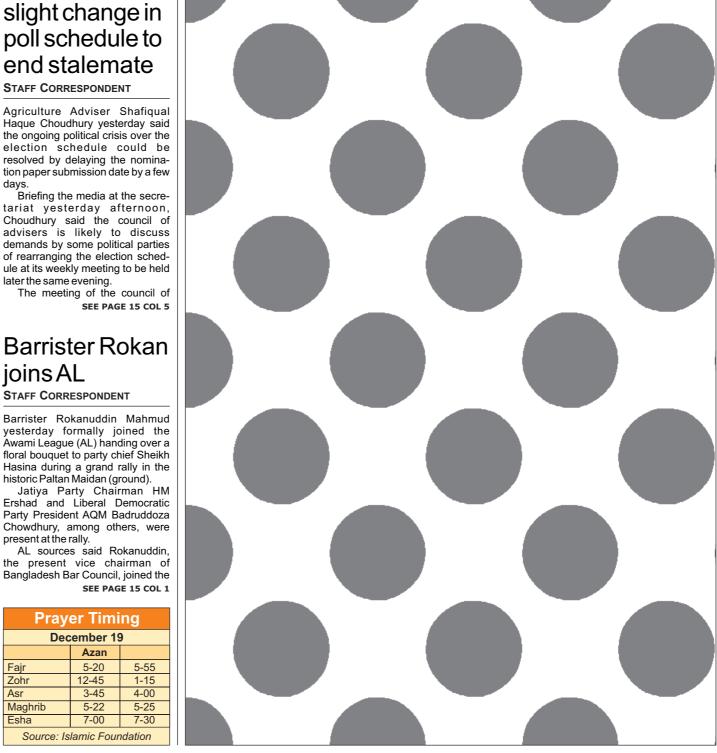
Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud yesterday formally joined the Awami League (AL) handing over a floral bouquet to party chief Sheikh Hasina during a grand rally in the nistoric Paltan Maidan (ground).

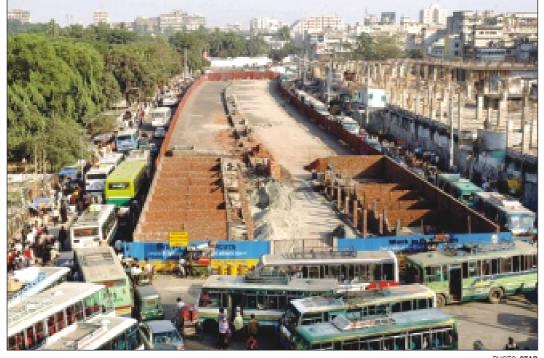
Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Liberal Democratic Party President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, among others, were present at the rally.

AL sources said Rokanuddin, the present vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, joined the SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Prayer Timing** 

| -                          |       |      |
|----------------------------|-------|------|
| December 19                |       |      |
|                            | Azan  |      |
| Fajr                       | 5-20  | 5-55 |
| Zohr                       | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr                        | 3-45  | 4-00 |
| Maghrib                    | 5-22  | 5-25 |
| Esha                       | 7-00  | 7-30 |
| Source: Islamic Foundation |       |      |
|                            |       |      |





Site offices for the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover at Gulistan in the capital are being built on the middle of the road nar-

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