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# The Daily Star

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VOL. 1 NO. 337 REGD. NO. DA 782

POUSH 16, 1398 BS,

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 31, 1991

JAMADIUS SANI 24, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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## Burma-Bangladesh flag meeting today

From Our Correspondent

Bangladesh and Myanmar holds the flag meeting today. The meeting is scheduled at 9 am at Maungdu a Burmese township, 20 km off Bangladesh's border.

The flag meeting, to be attended by local border guards commanders, aims at resolving the tension, triggered by the December 21 attack by Burmese border troops on a BDR outpost. Two Bangladesh nationals, a BDR man and a civilian, were killed and another 22 were injured.

The attack was followed by a mounting tension along the 176-mile border and amassing of troops by the Burmese authorities.

The Bangladesh team at the meeting will be led by Major M A Khalique, commander of 37 BDR battalion. It also includes Major Hasan, 10 BDR battalion commander and a representative of the Rjupara BDR camp that was attacked by the Burmese. Local Lunthen commander Lt Col Tun Yee will lead the Myanmar side.

Earlier, Burmese authorities had refused to respond to Bangladesh's call for a flag meeting citing various reasons. The positive response came after Bangladesh had requested for the third time.

Bangladesh expressed grave concern over the attack and subsequent developments

along the border. Bangladesh conveyed its postures through diplomatic channel.

The Myanmar envoy in Dhaka was summoned thrice by the Foreign Ministry. The envoy is now in Yangon (Rangoon) for consultations with his government.

Bangladesh has asked for compensation for the losses caused by the attack and the return of arms and ammunition taken away by the Burmese troops from the BDR outpost.

UNB reports: Bangladesh side during the flag meeting will press for withdrawal of Burmese troops massed along

## AL protests Myanmar military build-up

Bangladesh Awami League Monday expressed its deep concern at the concentration of Myanmar (Burmese) troops across the border and strongly protested the military build up threatening the lives and property of the people, reports BSS.

Acting President of Awami League and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Abdus Samad Azad and General Secretary Mrs. Sajeda Chowdhury in a joint statement also condemned the recent brutal attack on BDR outpost by the 'lunthin', Burmese Border Security force in which one BDR jawan was killed, several others were in-

jured and arms looted.

Sounding a strong note of warning against the provocative activities of the Burmese regime which was against democracy, human rights and international norms, the Awami League leaders said the people of Bangladesh were determined to protect their hard earned independence and sovereignty at any cost.

They said that the Burmese government had adopted the scorched earth policy in Arakan and was perpetuating barbarous torture on the Rohingya Muslims and the common people of Burma who were struggling for democracy. As a

## Hartal call in Chittagong withdrawn

CHITTAGONG, Dec 30: Greater Chittagong Gana Sangram Committee today withdrew its call for half-day hartal in the port city tomorrow, reports BSS.

According to a press release of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) the decision to withdraw the hartal was taken following a fruitful and thre- adbare discussion held between Mayor of Chittagong Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and members of Greater Chittagong Unnayan Gana-Sangram Committee at the conference room of the corporation.

Abul Kalam Chowdhury, member of the Gana-Sangram Committee read out the deci-

## JS special bodies unlikely to bear fruit before Jan 4

By Nurul Kabir

The ruling party and the Opposition are unlikely to reach consensus on the Indemnity Ordinance Repeal Bill before the winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad that begins January 4.

They are also unlikely to be unanimous on the ways of curbing campus violence and separating judiciary from the administration before the opening day of the upcoming session.

Three special parliamentary committees were formed during the previous session with the Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hafez as Chairman to bridge the gap between the Treasury Bench and the Opposition on these issues.

The 15-member parliamentary committee on the Indemnity Bill held its last meeting on December 27 after a long pause.

The Law Minister and the chairman of the committee

sought five days' time to consult legal experts of the country in this regard.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled on January 2.

But the Law Ministry sources told The Daily Star yesterday that the Minister would not be able to finish consultations with the experts by January 2 next. In that case, the January 2 meeting of the special committee, if held, is unlikely to produce any significant outcome.

The 70 days' time taken by the government earlier for the Opposition to reach a decision on the repeal of Indemnity Bill ends on January 15.

Another special parliamentary committee formed to develop understanding between the government and the opposition on an AL bill seeking separation of judiciary from the executive is yet to hold its

first meeting. The bill was moved by AL MP Salauddin Yusuf in the last session.

According to an informed source, the government is working on a bill of its own in this regard and is likely to place it before the House for discussion in the forthcoming session.

Although no meeting of the parliamentary committee was held on this issue, the government had informal discussion with the AL.

Another special committee, which was formed to suggest the government on how to curb campus violence, is also yet to reach consensus on a number of issues.

A member of this committee told The Daily Star that it would not at all be possible on their part to prepare the report before the opening of the winter session.

## Some out to mislead people: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said in Dhaka the farmers of the country need a proper leadership which could identify and help solve their problems devotionally, reports BSS.

"Remain with the peasants, know about their real problems and put in sincere efforts to solve those," Begum Zia told the first national council conference of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at the Institution of Engineers in the city Monday.

The Prime Minister regretted that some quarters and individuals wanted to mislead the people about governments' measures taken for the emancipation of the peasants

even after the reestablishment of democracy.

The Prime Minister said all, irrespective of the group of party affiliation would have to be put in joint sincere efforts to solve the existing problems of the farmers, the backbone of the country's economy, to make the present democracy meaningful and sustainable.

Begum Zia pointed out that the desired goal of self reliance in all sectors of national life could never be achieved without improving the lot of the peasants on a priority basis.

The Prime Minister said the present democratic government would continue to take pragmatic steps to im-

prove the condition of the farmers to boost agricultural output of the country and realise the basic needs of the people.

Begum Zia said all quarters should extend their cooperation to the present democratic government in taking up plans and realising those for socio-economic emancipation of the farmers.

The Prime Minister underlined the need for collecting statistical information about the condition of the country's farming community to take necessary measures for their uplift.

Begum Zia said the nation should have a clear picture of



Top: Julhas and Altaf from left two recaptured under-trial prisoners again behind bars and Mukim Gazi (inset), the mastermind behind the escape, still at large. Police conducting man-hunt soon after the incident in the city (above left) and an injured police man.

## Rafiqul Islam new CU VC

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 30: Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury has been appointed new Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University in place of Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin who was relieved of his post, it was known.

Prof Badul Alam has also been appointed pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university. The post of pro-Vice-Chancellor lay vacant for one year.

UNB adds: Prof Sirajuddin's pre-emptive relief came amid a staggered campus crisis due to a prolonged violent campaign by Islamic Chhatra Shibir supporters for his removal.

He was appointed Acting Vice Chancellor of the University after the resignation of the then VC Prof Muhammad Ali on May 22, 1988.

He was then appointed Vice Chancellor to a four-year term in June 1989. Prof Sirajuddin got the highest votes in the VC panel election by the Senate.

But in mid-'90, Shibir as well as a section of the university teachers and employees started agitation demanding his resignation branding him partisan.

On December 22 last year, a day-long hartal was observed to press the demand. A clash between the activists of All-Party Student Unity (APSU) and the Islamic Chhatra Shibir during the hartal left Faruq-uz-Zaman, a student leader of Chhatra Maitree, dead.

The residence of VC Sirajuddin was attacked last October 18, and the teachers' group supporting him and the APSU called for an indefinite strike protesting the attack.

Since then, classes of the university had been closed.

The university is scheduled to reopen on January 1. But the teachers supporting the former VC have extended their strike till January 15.

## Firing, blasts: Four cops hurt 4 under-trial prisoners flee court hajjat

By Staff Correspondent

Four under-trial prisoners fled from Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court hajjat Monday afternoon when a group of armed men opened fire and exploded crackers there.

Four policemen were seriously injured during the incident and admitted to Police Hospital at Rajbaraj.

One Sub-Inspector and three constables of the court, Daruzzaman, Shah Alam, Habibur Rahman and Abu Hanif respectively were immediately suspended for their negligence of duties in this connection, police said.

Police arrested four persons including an auto-rickshaw driver and seized his auto-rickshaw. Police also recovered a dagger from them.

The prisoners who fled are Mukim Gazi, Lulifar Rahman alias Arzu, Disco Babul alias

Hashu and Manik alias Hanif. They were taken to the court hajjat from Dhaka Central Jail custody in the morning, according to jail sources.

Police said, a group of outsiders numbering about 8 came to the spot, opened fire — exploded crackers and fled with the prisoners by auto-rickshaws at about 1:40 pm.

During the attack, Habiber A K M Mainuddin (number-8250), three police constables, Sree Kartiq Saha (number-1575), Lokman Hossain, (number-10168) and Mohammad Qudus (number-7537) were seriously injured and admitted to police hospital. The condition of Mainuddin was said to be critical.

Julhas, an under-trial prisoner who failed to escape joined the Chief Photographer of

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## Cop's death sparks uproar in Sylhet

SYLHET, Dec 30: A constable was killed by bullet when a contingent of police tried to ward off two fighting groups of students at Murari Chand College (MC College) in the city today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Mohammad Shahidullah received the bullet soon after he picked up a cut rifle from the ground which was left behind by one of the student activists chased by police. He succumbed to the injury on way to hospital.

Police, however, claimed Shahidullah was fired upon by the armed student activists.

BNP backed JCD and Awami League backed Chhatra League in Sylhet who are at daggers drawn since long were clashing at MC College compound today. A police contingent was posted there to control the situation.

Death of the constable enraged all the sepoys in the town who were heard accusing

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## Furore over Golam Azam's election as Jamaat chief

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition political parties Monday reacted sharply to Golam Azam's election as the chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh.

The political circles viewed the Jamaat action as totally outrageous and raised the question of how Golam Azam, who is not a Bangladeshi citizen, could become the chief of a political party.

The Home Ministry, soon after the Jamaat's decision was made public through the print

See Page 12 Col 4

## Govt fails to stop use of wood as fuel

By Masud Hasan Khan

At a time when the country's forests are rapidly dwindling and the whole world is striving to preserve its forests, some three thousand brick-fields are even now using firewood as fuel while a govt ban against such use of wood lies totally inert.

Coal importers, both public and private, and even some of the brick fields owners called for strict enforcement of the ban after alternative fuel ar-

rangements had been made. The coal directorate, like the previous years, sent an urgent message this month to all the deputy commissioners with requests for the implementation of government rules which prohibited use of fire wood for burning bricks at the fields.

As a token of respect to the arm of law, small piles of coal were symbolically placed in front of the brick fields

while free-style burning of logs continued inside. Even in the capital, fire wood was burned for construction of city roads.

However, the government has decided to resume conditional supply of natural gas to the brick fields, but the owners suggested that it would take some time to restore supply to the fields possessing gas connection. The government of deposed

president Ershad by an executive order in 1988 banned use of natural gas and fuel wood at the brick fields and ordered the burning of coal instead.

But since then use of wood as fuel for burning bricks continued uninterrupted even if supply of gas was severed while the use of coal was reduced to zero.

Sources in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said about three lakh metric

tons of coal imported by the government remained unsold because of the continued use of wood as fuel at the brick fields, all over the country.

They said the kiln owners preferred fuel wood in place of coal or gas because of its comparative low price, availability and the credit facilities extended by the lumber dealers or the middlemen who stocked fire wood from the

See Page 12 Col 4

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 10.00 A. M.

**Chairman.**  
 Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha  
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