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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Restriction on arms, rallies

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has imposed ban on carrying arms and ammunitions, explosives and other destructive substances and holding of rally, meeting and demonstration in and around the Jatiya Sangsad building during the winter session of parliament beginning on January 4. The ban has been imposed with effect from the midnight following January 3, a DMP press release said, reports BSS.

### Flood protection project reviewed

National committee on flood control in its third meeting yesterday reviewed the progress of integrated flood protection project, being financed by the Asian Development Bank. The project is designed to ensure flood control and drainage facility to 136 square kilometre of the city areas benefitting about 4.2 million people out of the total population of 4.8 million, reports UNB.

### Sandstorm disrupts ferry service

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 2: A sandstorm swept the ferry ghat area here today, disrupting water communications for four hours. BIWTA sources said. The storm, which started around 7 in the morning, darkened the sky with sands of the bank of river Jamuna, making it difficult for the people to open eyes, reports UNB.

## Military Council announces takeover in Georgia

TBILISI, Jan 2: Georgian opposition leaders Thursday announced the formation of a military council to replace President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, but there was no indication he was prepared to surrender, reports AP.

After 12 days of fierce fighting between rebel forces and Gamsakhurdia's men, the president remained inside the besieged Parliament building in Tbilisi.

The opposition also declared a state of emergency in Tbilisi, the capital, where the fighting has been concentrated, starting at midnight. A curfew was announced from 11 pm and ending at 6 am.

"Beginning Jan 2 this year, the power usurped by President Gamsakhurdia has been

annulled. The whole power in Georgia is taken by the military council of the Georgian republic. All the structures of state powers are to abide by this council," the announcement said.

There was no immediate reaction from Gamsakhurdia, who was still being defended by loyal troops at the Parliament building.

And it was not immediately clear whether there was broad popular support for the announcement.

Gamsakhurdia, a prominent dissident in the days of Soviet rule, was popularly elected in May in a landslide. The opposition says he has become a dictator, jailing political rivals and shutting down newspapers critical of his government.

Gamsakhurdia has enjoyed the support of the working class, and the rebels have the support of many intellectuals.

The opposition announcement Thursday was made in a Georgian television broadcast. It banned all mass demonstrations and rallies in the city.

The new council also said it had removed Prime Minister Dessarion Gughushvili and replaced him with Tengiz Sigua, the former prime minister who broke with Gamsakhurdia in August. Georgi Karkarashvili was named provisional military commander, it said.

"Political parties have been invited to create a consultative council which would prepare new parliamentary elections and work out a programme of Georgia's political develop-

ment," the council's announcement said.

It said it would transfer power to a government cabinet as soon as one was formed. Until then, the council said it would take control of all legal and administrative organs in the country to maintain order.

The announcement was signed by Tengiz Kitovani, the leader of rebel national guardsmen who have been trying to oust Gamsakhurdia since August, and by Dzhaba Ioseliani, a playwright freed from prison earlier this week.

There was a lull in the fighting Thursday. But the Tass news agency reported that clashes spread late Wednesday from the area of the Parliament building to the city philharmonic society's building.

## Indemnity repeal bill faces uncertain fate

Star Report

The Awami League-sponsored Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill may not be introduced in the winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) because of the ruling BNP's gradually evolving opposition to it.

While a special parliamentary committee headed by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafez is working to finalise its report on the bill, an influential Minister, close to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Thursday said that the BNP did not support the Awami League move.

The Minister, who asked not to be quoted, said that the repeal of the 1975 Ordinance that exempted the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from any trial by a court of law, had become redundant for Parliament.

"Those who want repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance may

go to the court. The BNP government should not be pressed to support a bill for a cause for which it (meaning Awami League) itself did nothing in the parliaments of 1979 and 1986," the Minister said.

Though it's not clear whether the minister carries the weight of the mainstream BNP, his remarks clearly indicate that the bill has run into uncertainty.

The Special Committee, sitting for the seventh time Thursday since its inception last August, failed to finalise the report.

Chairman of the committee, Mirza Golam Hafez presiding over the meeting reported to the members that he held consultations with two legal experts — former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain and Justice Debesh Bhattacharya, a source close to the meeting

told The Daily Star.

The source quoted Mirza Hafez as telling the meeting that the two experts did not find any reason why the Indemnity Ordinance could not be repealed. According to them, a simple majority vote is enough for the passage of the bill.

Mirza Golam Hafez was not available for comment. But the source said that the committee would continue its deliberations on the bill with its Chairman planning to consult more legal and constitutional experts. Another meeting is scheduled soon, not later than Jan 14 when the 70-day mandate for the committee expires.

At its sixth meeting Dec 27 the 15-member committee gave Mirza Hafez the task of consulting experts on the legal and constitutional aspects of

the bill.

Thursday's meeting at the Sangsad Bhavan was attended by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, LGHD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Chief Whip of Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Awami League MP Begum Sajeda Chowdhury and Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim.

The progress on the bill was also discussed by its sponsor Awami League at an emergency meeting of its Working Committee Thursday.

In a resolution the meeting asked the BNP to be active about the bill. It said that the BNP should shake off what the Awami League thinks its dilly-dallying on the bill and repeal it during the winter session.

Awami League sources said See Page 12 Col 1

## Wage hike will cause runaway inflation, minister says

By Staff Correspondent

Planning Minister, A M Zahiruddin Khan on Thursday said the increase in wages with no link to productivity would cause a runaway inflation in the country.

Speaking at a meeting with the representatives of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) at the BCI office, he said the indiscriminate increase of wages would have a disastrous effect on the overall employment situation and squeeze job opportunity for the future generation.

If the wages and salaries of workers and employees eat up the major portion of the revenue earnings, development activities would come to a

standstill, he said.

"The colonial attitude towards the government should be discarded", the minister said adding that the government employees should not take it for granted that the national exchequer has unlimited resources to feed their increasing demand. He observed that the mismanagement in the public sector must be arrested for a smooth running of the economy.

The minister said the government is planning to increase the purchasing capacity of the rural people through different projects. He said that the government would very soon take a coastal plantation

programme to funnel resources to the villages.

Talking on the three-year rolling development programme of the government, he said a block provision of Taka 1000 crore has been made for undertaking promotional activities in the private sector. He said Taka 200 crore has been allocated for 1991-92 from this fund. He indicated that the projects under this fund would be on joint-venture basis between the private sector and the government.

The country, the minister said, is recovering from the export stagnation. He said the country enjoyed a relatively

See Page 12 Col 7

## 10 killed as bus, truck collide

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Jan 2: Ten people were killed and 20 others injured when a truck and a minibus collided on Faridpur-Barisal Highway at Hamirdi in Bhanga upazila today.

The bus of Jhinuk Paribahan was coming to Faridpur from Barisal.

Six people died on the spot and four others succumbed to injuries at Faridpur General Hospital.

Four seriously injured passengers have been admitted to the Faridpur General Hospital. Other injured persons are being treated at different health

See Page 12 Col 7

## Shantibahini strikes down nine more non-tribals

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 2: Tribal insurgents shot nine villagers dead today at Shagrachari under Bilaichari upazila of the Rangamati hill district.

According to official sources, the victims, all non-tribals, were out collecting bamboos on the outskirts of the village near the Indian border town of Tripura when a group of about 25 Shantibahini men surrounded them at gunpoint at around 9 am.

The hands of the victims, all casual labourers of the bamboo collecting project of the Karnafull Paper Mills, were tied by the insurgents.

They later opened fire from automatic weapons killing all

nine villagers on the spot, the sources added.

Security forces from the Bilaichari upazila camp recovered the bodies later in the afternoon. The victims were identified as Ashrafur Islam, Matiur Rahman, Lutfur Rahman, Nuruzzaman, Maqbul Hossain, Sarwaruddin, Matiur Rahman, Nurul Haq and Aminur Rahman.

Witnesses said that panic spread among the villagers as news of the brutal killings reached them. A tense situation was prevailing in the area and the villagers remained concerned about their security.

The outlawed Shantibahini gunmen earlier shot seven people dead and injured an-

See Page 12 Col 8

## Appointment of Golam Azam as Jamaat chief

### 'It's a violation of Constitution'

By Nurul Kabir

The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has clearly violated the Constitution of the country by providing Professor Golam Azam with its membership and appointing him as the chief of the party, observes the legal experts of the country.

Golam Azam, it may be noted, lost his citizenship immediately after the independence of Bangladesh in 1972 for his direct cooperation with the Pakistani occupational forces which conducted a genocide against the people of Bangladesh during

the Liberation War in 1971. He, however, entered the country in 1978 as a Pakistani citizen and has been staying illegally in the country since then.

According to sources, Golam Azam has several times applied for the restoration of his citizenship since his return to the country and the successive governments have refused to entertain his prayer.

The Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh announced its decision to appoint Golam Azam as its party chief on December

29. The announcement has given birth to serious political debate in the country.

The legal experts of the country, while talking on this issue with The Daily Star yesterday, maintained that the Constitution of the country does not allow any foreigner to be involved in the politics of the country.

Referring to the Article 38 of the Constitution Barrister Lutfur Rahman told The Daily Star that the rights to be involved in the political process

See Page 12 Col 7

## AL demands explanation from govt on Golam Azam

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League central working committee in a resolution Thursday expressed deep concern and strongly condemned the recent announcement making Golam Azam as the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The resolution, adopted in a meeting presided over by the AL Acting President and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, also de-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Khaleda urges NGOs to supplement govt efforts

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday called upon the non-government organisations in supplementing government efforts for the overall development of women in the country, reports UNB.

"Our resources are limited, economy is battered by nine years of autocratic rule. So private initiative along with the government, programme is essential in the women development activities", the Prime Minister told a National Convention of Women NGO.

The convention, first of its kind in the country, was organised by the Ministry of

Women's Affairs to involve the NGOs more in women development oriented programmes across the country.

More than 1200 NGOs, mostly financed from abroad, are engaged in various development activities all over the country.

Inaugurating the function, the Prime Minister said half of the total population are women and development of the country is not possible without proper development of them.

The convention, attended by more than 500 representatives of NGOs, was also ad-

See Page 12 Col 1

## 13 more lose life Yet another cold spell grips country

By Staff Correspondent

The country is now in the grip of another cold wave after a two-day recess, the meteorological office said Thursday.

This cold spell, is expected to continue for at least five days, meteorologists said adding that during the period the temperature may fall to 7-4 degrees Celsius in the northern parts, Khulna division, greater Mymensingh and Sylhet region.

Temperatures rose considerably during the last two days of cloudy weather caused by the easterly trough of low that was extended towards Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Met Office in its monthly forecast said that Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions would experience winter rains

See Page 12 Col 3

## Changes in Cabinet likely

Star Report

Speculation over a mini-reshuffle of the cabinet continued to gain ground in the political arena during the past few days.

According to sources close to the government, the ruling party high-command is actively considering to bring about minor changes in the cabinet on the eve of the parliament session which begins tomorrow (Saturday).

BNP policy-makers feel that the Deputy Leader of the House should also be a member of the cabinet enabling him to lead the treasury Bench in parliament more effectively, particularly during the absence of the Prime Minister.

The induction of Dr

See Page 12 Col 3

## Dhaka wants 2nd flag meeting with Burma on Jan 7

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 2: Bangladesh today proposed to Myanmar (Burma) for a second flag meeting between the two countries at Teknaf on January 7, official sources told BSS.

They said Bangladesh was awaiting a reply from Myanmar regarding holding of the second flag meeting.

The first flag meeting was held at Maungdaw, Myanmar on December 31 for finding ways and means to defuse tension along the 176-mile common border of the two countries. The two sides decided that the second flag meeting would be held in seven to ten days. Accordingly,

See Page 12 Col 6

## Double-murder suspect still at large

By Staff Correspondent

Police till Thursday could not arrest Shahjahan, suspected of committing a double murder in the city.

Shaju Bibi, 50, and Helena, 14, two maid-servants at the residence of Kazi Feroze Rashid, a former minister, at Walsow Tower at Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, were murdered with sharp weapons on Wednesday.

Shahjahan, who has been absconding since Wednesday, was also a house servant of the former minister.

Kazi Feroze Rashid told the

See Page 12 Col 8

## Sirimavo son, daughter quarrel over succession

COLOMBO, Jan 2: Anura and Chandrika Bandarnaike grew up in a political home, chewing on ideas and intrigue with their daily meals. Both their parents were prime ministers, reports AP.

Now they are rivals to become the heir apparent and next head of government, should their once-dominant party return to power.

Their 75-year-old mother, Sirimavo Bandarnaike, who is now leader of the opposition, was the world's first popularly elected woman prime minister.

She took over when her

husband, Solomon Dias Bandarnaike was assassinated in 1950 in his third year of office. The following year, she won a landslide election victory. She held the office a total of 12 years.

There has been grumbling in the Sri Lanka Freedom Party over was revived in earnest when she suffered a mild stroke in December, elections are scheduled for 1994.

Feudalism is deeply ingrained in this Indian Ocean island and political dynasty still has a strong appeal. That gives the Bandarnaike offspring a head start against

party challengers, says Dayan Jayatilke, an analyst for the Institute of Policy Studies.

With the family matriarch privately favouring the daughter and most of the party appearing to prefer the son, the siblings seem headed for a showdown.

"It is up to the brother and sister to join hands and work together for the benefit of the people through the party that their late father founded," said Mrs. Bandarnaike, avoiding choosing in public between her children.

Chandrika, 46, who had left the Freedom Party in 1984 to

form a leftist party with her late husband, rejoined it a week before her mother fell ill.

Anura, 42, fought the validity of his older sister's renewed party membership but was overruled by his mother.

Chandrika says she returned to the Freedom Party to further the fight against the governing United National Party of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"I have no intention of fighting with Anura for any position. I have never been power-hungry," she was quoted by The Island newspaper as saying. But observers say her disavowal

is probably temporary until she builds a power base within the party.

"There are no policy or ideological differences between Anura and Chandrika. It is a struggle for succession. They are determined to keep the party in the hands of the family," Jayatilke said in an interview.

Chandrika has never been a member of parliament, unlike her brother, who became a legislator in 1983. Anura served as the leader of the opposition from 1983 until 1988, during a period when his mother was barred from par-

liament for allegedly abusing her authority as prime minister.

"Anura has effectively established himself," said Chanaka Amarasinghe, head of the tiny Liberal Party, which has no seats in Parliament.

"He may have got there because he is a Bandarnaike but he has proved his credentials outside the family because of his ability and not because of his birth. Chandrika, on the other hand, remains totally untested," Amarasinghe said.

But Chandrika has popular appeal, partly because she

See Page 12 Col 8

## 'No woman was stripped'

The news item on the stripping of two women wearing Indian sarees in Sirajganj published in a section of the press Thursday is totally false, motivated and confusing, a press note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said, reports BSS.

It said the Daily Sangbad and the Daily Millat Thursday reported that weavers in Sirajganj had stripped-off two women, wearing Indian sarees. The government had instituted an enquiry into the matter on an emergency basis.

In fact, the press note said, See Page 12 Col 2