

Come to CHITAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The House of Peace & Rest, The Place of High Class.
 We Cordially invite you to try our Beautifully
 prepared and Beautifully presented authentic
THAI CUISINE and **SEAFOOD** in the cosy
 atmosphere of a **LOVELY HOUSE**.
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD,
 CHITAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL: 226803

The Daily Star



VOL. 1 NO. 349 REGD. NO. DA 782 POUSS 28, 1398 BS, DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 1992 RAJAB 6, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article

There is no Choice but
 Privatisation
 Column: From LDC
 to NIC by Sha-
 hed Latif
 Page 4

International



US hopes disputes over
 Black Sea fleet will be
 resolved peacefully
 Page 5

Business

Finance Minister urges
 entrepreneurs not to
 exploit workers
 Page 7

Feature

Environment
 Fighting Environmen-
 tal Pollution
 Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A musician must be
 able to communicate
 with people and there's
 no end to learning in
 music, says Anup
 Kumar Biswas, an
 Indian pianist
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

**Kader Siddiqui
 joins newspaper**
 Valiant freedom fighter
 Bangabir Kader Siddiqui Sat-
 urday joined the vernacular
 daily Al-Ameen as the Chair-
 man of its board of Editors, a
 press release of the daily said.
 Siddiqui has already earned
 fame by writing several books
 and articles for various news-
 papers, reports BSS.

**Ataur Rahman's
 chehlum Monday**
 The chehlum of late Ataur
 Rahman, former Prime Minis-
 ter of Bangladesh will be held
 Monday, January 13. A milad
 mahfil has been arranged on
 the day at the residence of the
 deceased, at 4 pm, said a press
 release Saturday.

**Norwegian MPs
 due today**
 A 13-member Norwegian
 parliamentary delegation ar-
 rives Dhaka today (Sunday) on
 a three-day goodwill visit to
 Bangladesh. Chief Whip Khan-
 daker Dewar Hossain and high
 officials of the Parliament Se-
 cretariat will receive the dele-
 gation at the airport. During
 their tour, the lawmakers of
 Norway will call on Speaker
 Shaikh Razaque Ali and Fi-
 nance Minister M Saifur Rah-
 man, reports UNB.

**2 policemen
 suspended**
 By Staff Correspondent
 Two police constables of
 Rajarbag Police line were sus-
 pended for their alleged in-
 volvement in anti-social activi-
 ties in the city Friday night.
 The police constables were
 identified as Basir Uddin and
 Munir Hossain. A general diary
 (GD) registered with the Tej-
 gaon Police said, they harassed
 a woman at Montipurpara at
 about 9:30 pm Friday night.

River levels fall: India diverting flow Delhi dallies on water pact

Mahfuz Ullah

India, despite repeated re-
 quests, is evading invitations to
 discuss the water sharing
 agreement with Bangladesh.
 Meanwhile, with the onset
 of the lean season from
 January 1 the flow of water in
 major rivers is decreasing cy-
 clyday. Indications are there
 that the country will be hit the
 hardest in April and May.
 In addition, diplomatic
 sources said, India has laun-
 ched a whisper campaign
 saying if water sharing was
 possible without an agreement
 or understanding what's the
 hurry?
 Bangladesh and India share
 the waters of 54 common
 rivers without any agreement.
 The terms of Memorandum of
 Understanding (MOU) to share
 waters of the Ganges expired
 in 1988 since when there has
 been no development in this

regard. Besides, experts claim,
 India is unilaterally with-
 drawing waters without any con-
 sideration for Bangladesh.
 Bangladesh, sources said,
 invited India to a meeting
 scheduled for December 26
 last year, which the latter re-
 gretted. The meeting was
 again convened for January 14
 to 16, also 'not acceptable to
 India'.
 The meeting would be the
 third in a series at the Sec-
 retary level after the fall of the
 Ershad government. Bangla-
 desh, the host country for the
 meeting, has the privilege to
 fix the date suiting her con-
 venience.
 Meanwhile, there were two
 meetings between Bangladesh
 and India in 1991 at the
 Secretary level. The first was
 held in Dhaka April 22 to 23
 while the second in Delhi

October 9 to 13.
 When contacted, Asafad-
 dowlah, Secretary, Ministry of
 Flood Control, Irrigation and
 Water Resources, said 'We
 invited the Indians twice to
 come to Dhaka but they have
 regretted. An invitation has
 again been extended proposing
 dates in the first week of
 February and we are awaiting
 an answer'.
 From 1989 to 1991 the
 flow of water in the Ganges at
 Hardinge Bridge, the Bangla-
 desh observation point, came
 down to an average 24000
 Cusecs during the lean period.
 Till 1988, to quote a govern-
 ment source, 'the flow was
 good' and was on an average
 55000 Cusecs. The reason for
 the sudden drop in the flow
 with the expiry of the MOU
 has been attributed to the
 'Indian disregard for the
 interests of Bangladesh'.
 Taking advantage of a 'no
 agreement' situation, water
 experts said, India is diverting
 water to other states from
 Farakka than only to West
 Bengal. This is the only plau-
 sible reason for the decrease
 in the flow at Hardinge Bridge,
 they added.
 He said the outcome of a
 prolonged study on economic
 feasibility of the project was
 satisfactory which allowed to
 give go-ahead for the project.
 The World Bank executive,
 responsible for South Asia,
 however, indicated that finan-
 cial response from the Asian
 Development Bank and Japan
 might determine the schedule
 of the tender.
 Wood took over the office of
 the Vice-President for South
 Asia last month. He has been
 here on his first visit, mainly
 to appraise the country's eco-
 nomic performance since last
 May's Paris meeting of Aid
 Bangladesh Consortium.
 During his visit, Wood is
 due to have meetings with se-
 nior government leaders and
 officials to review the current
 state of aid utilization and
 problems.
 ERD Secretary Enam
 Ahmed Chowdhury received
 the World Bank Vice President
 at the airport.
 The World Bank, a key
 donor for the planned US dol-
 lar 550 million Jamuna Bridge
 project, finally gave the green
 signal for the project at a
 meeting in Washington last
 month after years of contro-
 versy over its economic feasi-
 bility.
 Officials in Dhaka said that
 Bangladesh is likely to seek
 from the World Bank addi-
 tional financial support for the
 bridge for which it had initially
 indicated a contribution of US
 \$100 million.

Tender for Jamuna Bridge soon

Arrangements are under-
 way to float tender for the
 much-awaited Jamuna Bridge
 in Bangladesh, World Bank
 Vice President Joseph Wood
 said in Dhaka Saturday, says UNB.
 Wood, who arrived in Dhaka
 yesterday evening beginning a
 five-day visit to Bangladesh,
 told newsmen at the airport
 that floating of tender should
 take few more weeks.
 He said the outcome of a
 prolonged study on economic
 feasibility of the project was
 satisfactory which allowed to
 give go-ahead for the project.
 The World Bank executive,
 responsible for South Asia,
 however, indicated that finan-
 cial response from the Asian
 Development Bank and Japan
 might determine the schedule
 of the tender.
 Wood took over the office of
 the Vice-President for South
 Asia last month. He has been
 here on his first visit, mainly
 to appraise the country's eco-
 nomic performance since last
 May's Paris meeting of Aid
 Bangladesh Consortium.
 During his visit, Wood is
 due to have meetings with se-
 nior government leaders and
 officials to review the current
 state of aid utilization and
 problems.
 ERD Secretary Enam
 Ahmed Chowdhury received
 the World Bank Vice President
 at the airport.
 The World Bank, a key
 donor for the planned US dol-
 lar 550 million Jamuna Bridge
 project, finally gave the green
 signal for the project at a
 meeting in Washington last
 month after years of contro-
 versy over its economic feasi-
 bility.
 Officials in Dhaka said that
 Bangladesh is likely to seek
 from the World Bank addi-
 tional financial support for the
 bridge for which it had initially
 indicated a contribution of US
 \$100 million.

Shantibahini slays six

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: The
 outlawed Shantibahini shot
 dead six people, including a
 woman and her daughter and
 ambushed a forest officer in
 Fatikchhari on Friday night.
 Officials said the dead also
 included an officer. Besides,
 four others were injured in the
 Shantibahini attack.
 The officer ambushed is
 Manjurul Kabir.
 A band of about 20 tribal in-
 surgents raided the office-
 cum-residence at the Kiram
 forest beat in Fatikchhari
 upazila at around 9:30 pm and
 opened random gunfire from
 automatic weapons killing four
 forest employees and two of
 their relatives, officials said.
 The tribal insurgents, oper-
 ating from camps across the
 border, struck for the second
 time this month. Nine workers
 of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills
 were gunned down on January
 2 in Ranganmati.
 The dead were identified as
 assistant forest beat officer
 Aminul Haq (35), employees
 Yar Ahmed (35), Montu Mian
 (30), Anwar Ali (50), his wife
 Jotsna Begum (30) and their
 daughter Laila (6).



UNDER LOCK AND KEY BCL called a countrywide student strike yesterday to protest the killing of Badal. The picture shows one of the entry points of DU Arts Building premises.

DU campus : Lively by day, eerie after sundown

By Masud Arif

The Dhaka University cam-
 pus, lively during class hours
 in the day, becomes eerie after
 sundown.
 Saturday students did not
 attend classes because of the
 strike called to protest the
 killing of Badal, Organising
 Secretary of the Chhatra
 League (S-A).
 The administrative building
 and other faculties were put
 under lock and key by the
 strikers.
 Presence of students on
 campus was thin. However,
 other institutions ignored the
 call for strike.
 However, after sunset, an
 uneasy calm gripped the cam-
 pus where resident students
 live in dormitories.
 All roads to the campus
 were blocked and resident

students remained in their
 rooms fearing yet another in-
 cident.
 Armed outsiders were seen
 guarding some residential halls
 some of which have been
 turned into mini cantonments
 where groups of diehard ac-
 tivists patrol their own areas
 with sawed-off weapons to
 counter any possible attack
 See Page 12 Col 4

Intelligence agents have killed Badal, Hasina says

Awami League President
 Sheikh Hasina Saturday ac-
 cused the government of
 hatching a conspiracy to de-
 stroy Awami League and its
 student front in a bid to cover
 up its failure in running the
 country, reports UNB.
 The ruling party's killing
 agents are working under a
 blueprint to weaken Awami
 League and Chhatra League by
 resorting to killing and tor-
 See Page 12 Col 2

Left parties move to get closer

Nurul Kabir
 People of different social
 strata, sympathetic to the
 cause of the left movement in
 the country, have expressed
 mixed reactions to the iden-
 tical programme to be observed
 today by different left groups
 and parties of the country.
 For the first time since
 their ideological rift in the
 mid-sixties these groups and
 See Page 12 Col 1

Body on sick units to submit recommendations by March 31

By Sohail Manzur
 The high-powered body on
 the sick industries has so far
 received two thousand pro-
 posals to stimulate the sick
 units.
 The body after scrutinizing
 the proposals is likely to fi-
 nalise its recommendations by
 March 31 this year.
 See Page 12 Col 1

Hartal call withdrawn

The half-day hartal called by
 Awami League-backed Chhatra
 League today (Sunday) has
 been withdrawn, reports UNB.
 Under the revised pro-
 gramme, the Chhatra League
 will observe countrywide
 protest day against the killing
 of Monturuzaman Badal.
 A central rally of students
 and masses will be held at the
 Bangabandhu Avenue at 3 pm
 today.
 Badal, Organising Secretary
 of the Chhatra League, was
 murdered on Dhaka University
 campus Thursday.

Biggest health project taken up : Khaleda

COMILLA, Jan 11: Prime
 Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
 said here today that the pre-
 sent government had taken up
 a new population-health pro-
 ject, the biggest scheme to be
 aided by the World Bank in the
 Third World, reports BSS.
 Begum Zia said the World
 Bank would give more than 60
 crore dollar assistance for the
 implementation of the project.
 The Prime Minister was
 addressing a function, organ-
 ised to mark the formal open-
 ing of Comilla Modern Hospital
 in the hospital premises.
 She said the government
 had already taken up a plan to
 set up more medical colleges
 in the country including the
 Comilla medical college to ful-
 fill the pledges of Shaheed
 President Ziaur Rahman.
 The Prime Minister under-
 lined the need for increasing
 people's awareness about the
 evil effects of faster population
 growth.
 She said 'we will always be
 identified as a poverty-stricken
 nation in the world community
 unless we can check our popu-
 lation growth effectively'.
 The Prime Minister said
 the present government re-
 alised that democracy could
 not be consolidated without
 achieving economic prosperity.
 See Page 12 Col 7

\$1.4b debt relief

By S Y Bakht
 The donors have written
 off or converted into grants
 outstanding loans worth about
 1.4 billion US dollars for
 Bangladesh, the official sources
 said on Saturday.
 This debt relief, which ac-
 counts for 14 per cent of the
 total bilateral and multilateral
 outstanding loans of over 9.8
 billion US dollars as of June
 '90, came mainly from the US,
 Japan, France, Germany,
 Britain, Canada and the
 Netherlands.
 The debt relief came in the
 form of outright waivers, debt
 relief grants and debt con-
 verted into outright grants.
 The total foreign aid com-
 mitment, including food,
 commodity and project aid, to
 Bangladesh since indepen-
 See Page 12 Col 4

BNP MPs asked to attend House regularly

By Staff Correspondent
 The Jatiya Sangsad resumes
 its session this afternoon with
 ruling BNP members in-
 structed to attend the House
 regularly and take its business
 seriously.
 Prime Minister Begum Zia,
 embarrassed by her party's
 shock defeat in a division vote
 last Thursday, has advised the
 BNP members to attend the
 session punctually and sit
 through its proceedings. The
 session is scheduled to resume
 at 3 pm today after a two-day
 recess.
 See Page 12 Col 4

Myanmar troops intensify patrols

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: My-
 anmar military troops, who
 again took over front line
 positions from the border guards
 Friday, have intensified their
 patrol along the Bangladesh
 border putting the frontier vil-
 lages ill at ease.
 Officials in the border side
 areas Saturday said that the
 troops resumed their buildup
 See Page 12 Col 6

Bill to check radiation hazards soon

By Masud Hasan Khan

A bill, seeking to ensure
 nuclear safety and control of
 radiation hazards, especially in
 food items, is likely to be in-
 troduced in the current ses-
 sion of Parliament, informed
 sources say.
 The sources say the Law
 Ministry is giving final touches
 to the proposed law. The draft
 of the law was approved by the
 Cabinet last month.
 One of the important fea-
 tures of the draft is its recom-
 mendation to scan all im-
 ported food items, grains,
 seeds and plants, brought from
 the countries known to have
 radiation hazards.
 The draft suggests control
 of the import of gadgets posing
 radiation threats, ensuring
 safety to users of such ma-
 chines and taking steps to
 check the flow of radiation in
 the country's biosphere.
 Provisions for legal actions
 for causing radiation hazards
 are also there, the sources say.
 The government formed a
 committee way back in 1973
 to draft the radiation control
 ordinance for dealing with ra-
 diation hazards. However, rec-
 ommendations of the commit-
 tee were shelved by the then
 government.
 In 1980, when the
 Bangladesh Atomic Energy
 Commission (BAEC) again put
 forward suggestions for con-
 sideration, the government
 formed a high-powered parliamen-
 tary committee were again
 kept in the cold.
 The BAEC sent another set
 of proposals for consideration
 of the government following
 demands for necessary legal
 provisions to tackle radiation
 hazards after the 1986
 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and
 subsequent detection of im-
 ported 'hazardous' milk at the
 Chittagong Port. The draft,
 after consideration by the min-
 istries concerned finally re-
 See Page 12 Col 8