

## American killed in mine blast in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Dec 23: A US Army employee was killed and three other American civilians were wounded Wednesday when their vehicle struck an anti-tank mine near Bardera, the next destination of the Marines' mercy mission, reports AP.

The death was the first of an American since Marines came ashore in Mogadishu on Dec 9 as the vanguard of a US-led multinational force to safeguard the delivery of food to Somalia's starving.

The four, three of them State Department security officials, were in the area on a reconnaissance mission, Marine spokesman Col. Fred Peck told reporters in Mogadishu.

He said the Army employee was killed instantly and the wounded were taken to the USS Tripoli, an amphibious assault ship off the Somali coast, where one was in critical and two were in stable condition.

Peck said a second mine was found in the area but he did not know if the mines were newly laid. They were travelling in an area where it was assumed all known mines were marked, he said.

The four had travelled from Baidoa, about 120 miles (190 kms) to the north, along the same route 1,000 Marines and French paratroopers planned to take Thursday.

Peck said they were alone in a "civilian vehicle" about a half mile (one kilometer) north of Bardera's airfield. He said their names would be released later.

US special envoy Robert Oakley was to fly to Bardera later Wednesday to talk to clan elders and community leaders in advance of the Marines arrival. The helicopter that was to have taken him to Bardera was used to evacuate the wounded, Peck said.

He said Oakley was either already in Bardera or en route, and that the incident would not affect US plans to move into Bardera.

Peck noted that it was well-known that the road from Baidoa to Bardera was mined, as is the road to Hoddur, another famine-plagued town where Marines are headed on Christmas.

On Tuesday, Peck said no opposition was expected in either Bardera or Hoddur, which is about 90 miles (150 kms) north of Baidoa.

Both towns are important distribution points for aid in a country where famine has taken up to 350,000 lives and threatens 2 million more.

Reuters says US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger on Tuesday paid a surprise visit to Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, urging him to plan quickly for replacements of US troops in Somalia.

Diplomats close to the talks, which came a day after the UN chief again criticised the United States for its reluctance to fully disarm Somali gunmen, described them as cooperative, and without rancour.

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## Railway to dispose of 2500 unused godowns

Star Report

The Bangladesh Railway has decided to dispose of 2500 wagons to reduce the size of its goods carrying fleet.

The Railway authorities have already floated an international tender for the sale of 1500 of the wagons marked for disposal.

A well-placed source in the Bangladesh Railway said that the decision was taken as a large number of its wagons have been lying unutilised for a long time.

The Railway has a total of 17,652 wagons of which 13,289 are for metre gauge lines and the rest for broad gauge.

While explaining the reasons for non-utilisation of the wagons, the source said that it was due to increase in road transports in the country.

The demand for rail transportation of goods started declining since 1974, when the road communication began to develop and the number of trucks and other road transports increased substantially from that period, said the source.

He said that the Railway's earnings from goods transportation had been constantly declining because of stiff competition from road transports.

The Railway carried about 30 lakh metric tons of goods in 1982-83, but it came down to 25.17 lakh tons in 1990-91, he added.

A large number of wagons are currently lying unused due to the reduction in demand for service. The maintenance of these unused wagons also involves a big expenditure that only increases the railways losses.

The sources also mentioned that during the dry season, ferrying of wagons across the Jamuna river remained closed for some months compelling the traders to hire road transports thus curtailing the railways goods carrying business.

Officials said the railway ferry services might be suspended for an indefinite period from tomorrow (Thursday) as a result of emergence of shoals in the Jamuna river channel.

Train services will, however, remain in operation despite ferry disruption. During the closure of ferry today, passengers from Jagannathganj reached here by mechanised boats and launches at their own cost.

The ferry vessel, MV Suhravard, left Sirajganj terminal for Jagannathganj at 10 am today (Wednesday), but didn't return.

The suspension of ferry services will hamper train services of Padma Express and other mail trains between Dhaka and Rajshahi.

However, the railway authorities said, trains in the Dhaka-Rajshahi line will continue to ply.

## Summary executions in Dushanbe continues

DUSHANBE, Dec 23: Summary executions are continuing in Dushanbe, where an AFP correspondent today counted 40 bodies in the morgue of the Tajikistan capital, reports AFP.

Interfax news agency in Moscow meanwhile reported that procommunists, who seized Dushanbe earlier this month, had lunched an offensive today morning against

Islamic opposition forces near Pyandzh, on the border with Afghanistan, thousands of refugees have tried to flee across the border in recent weeks.

A spokesman for the People's Democratic Front, the opposition Islamic-democratic alliance, said 17 bodies had been discovered on Tuesday behind Dushanbe's Berekate Market in the city centre.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia delivering inaugural speech at the two-day conference of the Deputy Commissioners in city yesterday. — PID photo.

### JCD-BCL clash

### Lalmonirhat Govt Degree College closed sine die

LALMONIRHAT, Dec 23: Lalmonirhat Government Degree College was closed sine die today to ward off further clash between rival groups of students that left 20 injured on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (M-1) clashed over a petty matter of parking cycle at the local government high school. The clash soon spread to the college which continued about two hours until police intervened.

Among the injured, Belayet and Abdul Hai, identified as JCD supporters, were admitted to Rangpur Medical College hospital with severe head injuries.

BCL and JCD later brought out separate processions in the town. Tense situation was prevailing in the town.

### RU degree exams results announced

RAJSHAHI, Dec 23: Results of BA and BSS (Pass) examinations of 1991, held in May this year, of Rajshahi University were announced today, reports UNB.

Pass percentage is 31.54 in BA and 33.15 in BSS. Some 7,405 students out of 23,477 BA examinees have passed—835 obtaining second class and 6,570 third class.

In BSS examination, 2,859 candidates appeared. Of them, 948 have passed—88 in second class and 860 third class. None got first class in both the examinations.

### 100 BCS (Economic) cadre members to get promotion

The government has agreed on promotions to 100 vacant posts in the BCS (Economic) cadre service, informed sources said, reports UNB.

The decision came at an interministerial meeting on December 21, shortly after threat of action programme, including work stoppage scheduled for yesterday (December 23) by members of the cadre.

BCS (Economic) Cadre Association office-bearers said they had postponed their action programme for one month to see implementation of the government decisions.

Decision was also taken to provide selection grade status to members of the cadre on completion of five years in service. Full-time vehicle for joint chiefs was also conceded.

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### JUTA polls

From Page 1 Col 7 President Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, Professor of Economics, and Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir, Professor of Chemistry are contesting for the posts of President and General Secretary respectively from the 'alliance' panel.

The second panel has Mohammad Moniruzzaman (Hayat Mamud), Professor of Bengali as the president candidate while Afzar Ahmed, Assistant-Professor of the Drama and Dramatics Department will compete for the general secretary post.

In the introductory hand-out, the Moniruzzaman-Afzar panel alleged that the Syndicate, the highest body of the university was directly intervening in the JUTA activities.

Meanwhile, JUTA at an emergency meeting yesterday condemned the allegation of Moniruzzaman-Afzar panel.

JUTA is representative of all teachers and it is not an institution of an individual or a group of people, the meeting pointed out.

President candidate and syndicate member Prof Mustahidur Rahman denied all the charges while talking to The Daily Star.

The syndicate has never interfered in JUTA activities, he said.

Voting begins today at 9 am and shall continue without break till 2 pm at the Teachers' Officers Club.

## PM: DCs' conference

From Page 1 Col 7 Programmes and policies of the government and the pledges it had made to the people.

Stressing the need for an efficient administration, she instructed the officers to play a vital role in all the development activities, ensure justice and maintain law and order.

Referring to the network of all ministries up to the field level, she said the key to socio-economic changes lie in proper coordination of all administrative units.

The Prime Minister said that the administrators are public servants and the image of the government will be reflected through them.

Begum Zia informed that the government has already decided to appoint an additional deputy commissioner in each district who will be responsible for implementation of development programmes.

She said a section of anti-social elements were out to create indiscipline, toll collectors making life miserable and the economic sectors faced suffered as a result of terrorism.

She warned that relaxation or negligence in application of laws will not be tolerated.

Referring to the anti-terrorism laws, she hoped that those will be applied neutrally, keeping in mind the greater interest of the people.

About the new Barisal Division which starts functioning from January 1, the Prime Minister hoped that the DCs will work with sincerity in making this administrative step successful.

Pointing to the detrimental effects of smuggling on the national economy, the Prime Minister asked officials to intensify the activities of anti-smuggling committee and task forces formed in different districts.

Praising the role of the DCs in neutrally conducting the last national and union level elections, Begum Zia hoped that they will perform their duty similarly in the coming municipal polls.

The Prime Minister observed the directive to maintain austerity measures during VIP visits to the districts was not being properly followed. "You have to be more careful in this regard".

She said the government has taken long-term plans for reorganising the administration and steps will be taken on the basis of recommendations of a one-member committee formed in this regard.

LGIR Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz, Irrigation Minister Majidul Haque, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Education Minister Zamiruddin Sirar, State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda, State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan, concerned secretaries and divisional commissioners were present at the conference.

Some of the problems in implementing different development programmes in irrigation, health and education sectors were discussed at the inaugural session.

## Dhaka—Moscow protocol

From Page 1 Col 5 tries always had "good relations".

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said that the Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit to Moscow last year, the first at a high political level in 20 years, laid the foundation for fresh cooperation.

He said that the visit last year also added impetus to the bilateral cooperation.

He said that the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and the visiting Deputy Foreign Minister touched bilateral regional and international issues of common concern during their 40-minute discussion held in a cordial atmosphere.

He said that the visit by the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister commemorates the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He arrived here on a four-day visit on Monday.

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### Gunshots

From Page 1 Col 7

The police operation followed gunfire on the campus yesterday afternoon as students said gunmen returned to DU halls.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed yesterday (Wednesday) said the students' apathy to cultural pursuits was one of the causes for the spurring violence on the campus.

"Emotion sometimes leads them to violence as they fail to ignore minor incidents... lack of cultural values and moral erosion may be a reason for the rising trend of violence", he said addressing a memorial lecture on the campus.

Gobinda Dev Philosophy Research Centre organised "Dev Memorial Lecture 1991 and 1992" at the auditorium of Institute of Business Administration.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Wakil Ahmed presided over the function. Prof Aminul Huq, Chairman of the Department gave welcome address.

Prof Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the senior-most teacher of the Philosophy Department, presented Dev Memorial Lecture-1991 on "In Search of Culture".

Rajshahi University Philosophy teacher Prof Ramendra Nath Ghosh gave Dev Memorial Lecture-1992 on "Philosophical Ideals of Bangladesh: Social Humanitarianism."

Another report adds: Bangladesh and Russia yesterday also agreed to develop broad based relation in the field of raw jute and jute goods trade.

This was decided in an official meeting between the two countries at the Ministry of Jute here.

The two sides noted with happiness that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between the Techno-promexport, the Russian exporting agency, and Bangladesh delegation in Moscow in July last for supply of 15,000 metric tons of raw jute and 60,000 metric tons of jute goods from Bangladesh, is now being finalized. These supplies are on 360 days deferred payment basis.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of having a long term agreement for jute between the two countries.

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### Two killed

From Page 1 Col 4

barge into the cash section on the first floor, forced the cash-officer Abu Bakr Ali to open the chest and looted Tk 17,500 at gun-points.

During the operation the armed men snapped the telephone line of the cash section and kept the room locked from inside, officials said adding when they left they also locked the room from outside.

"Hundreds of visitors, patients and officials could not even guess what was going on in the cash section until the officials kept captive inside the room raised alarm as soon as the gangsters left", said a hospital official.

Meanwhile, police and hundreds of people chased the gangsters three of whom fell victim to the accident and three others fled through the Dhaka University area leaving their motor bike near the Teacher Student Centre (TSC), according to police.

But none could trace another three who escaped riding another motor bike, witnesses said.

Police seized two bikes—one from near the EIB and the other from TSC area. Police also seized the minibuses.

Agitated people also damaged the minibuses and beat its driver who tried to escape through Ramna Park, witnesses said.

Cases were registered with Ramna Police. Two wounded gangsters admitted to the DMCH were under custody. But police are yet to recover the money.

### 'Attempt to dampen Mujib's role won't succeed'

Speakers at a discussion at the National Press Club auditorium here yesterday afternoon emphasised the historic role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in leading the people towards a successful revolution which ultimately led to independence of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The discussion on 'Bangabandhu and Bangladesh' was arranged by Bangabandhu Sanskritik Gosthi in observance of the 22nd Victory Day.

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal attended the discussion as chief guest while Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, President Member Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Education Secretary Obaidul Kader, writer Rashid Haider, former Press Club General Secretary Saifur Rahman and Gosthi Member-Secretary Kabir Sarwar took part in the discussion. Organisation President Alamgir Kulkarni presided.

A number of artists including Asaduzzaman Noor, Lucky Inam, Mariam Mannan, Poet Tridib Dasthidar, Luthfunnar Lata and Mahboob Khan recited poems on the subject of the discussion.

Highlighting the contribution of Bangabandhu towards achieving country's independence, speakers said that any attempt to undermine his role as the architect of the independent Bangladesh was sure to fail in the test of time and history.

Begum Sufia Kamal called upon the people to be united to translate into reality the hopes and aspirations of 30 lakh martyrs of liberation struggle of Bangladesh.

She said that the main objective of independence struggle was to build a secular, progressive and democratic state where people irrespective of caste, creed and religion would enjoy equal rights.

Zillur Rahman said that Bangabandhu and Bangladesh cannot be separated. He said that the country had divided today sharply in two camps—pro-liberation and anti-liberation.

He called for unity of all freedom loving people to thwart the conspiracy of the defeated forces of independence war who, he said, were seeking to undermine the spirit of the freedom struggle.

Regarding the recently passed Anti-terrorism Bill he said that the existing law of the country was enough to check effectively all sorts of terrorism and demanded withdrawal of all black laws.

Dr Kamal said that he was not interested to become a candidate in the by-election in his constituency where the seat is vacant.

Barrister Amirul Islam called for forging a national unity irrespective of political opinions and party affiliations to rid the nation of the crisis it had plunged into.

Mostafiz greets Christopher

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman yesterday felicitated Warren M Christopher on his appointment as the Secretary of State of the United States of America, reports BSS.

In a message the Foreign Minister said he was looking forward to further strengthening existing close friendly ties and excellent cooperation that exist between the two countries and towards the common objective of promoting peace and stability in the region and in the world.

He wished good health, happiness and long life of Christopher and the continued progress, prosperity and well-being of the friendly people of the United States.

From Page 1 Col 6

Professor of the Department of History and Dr Badrul Alam, Associate Professor of the Department of Physics as President and General Secretary respectively.

From the Blue panel Dr A T M Zahurul Huq, Professor of the Department of Economics and Dr S M Mahfuzur Rahman, Associate Professor of the Department of Finance and Banking will compete for the posts President and General Secretary respectively.

The Pink panel has nominated Professor A F M Khodadad Khan, chairman of the Department of Mathematics for President while Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Associate Professor of the Department of Marketing will compete for General Secretary's post.

Some 850 teachers are expected to participate in the DUTA polls today.

## The Midnight File

### Russian parliament ratifies Warsaw Pact annulment

MOSCOW, Dec 23: Russia's conservative parliament Wednesday ratified the annulment of the Warsaw Pact, one year and a half after members of the alliance decided to disband, Itar-Tass reported. Warsaw Pact countries dissolved the alliance in Paris on July 1, 1991, reports AFP.

### Iran offers help to rebuild Babri Masjid

TEHRAN, Dec 23: Iran has offered to cooperate with India to expedite the reconstruction of the demolished Babri Masjid. The offer has been made in a letter sent by the Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, to the Minister of State for External Affairs, R L Bhatia, reports PTI.

### IRA declares X-mas truce

BELFAST, Dec 23: The Irish Republican Army on Wednesday declared its traditional Christmas cease-fire in Northern Ireland, but gave no indication it will halt a spate of bombings and bomb scares in England. The statement was issued to news media in Belfast, reports AP.

## Benazir brings corruption charges against govt

KARACHI, Dec 23: Pakistan's political opposition released Wednesday documents on what it alleged were 23 cases of fraud, corruption and incompetence on the part of the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, reports AFP.

It also urged the courts to take action on the allegations.

The documents, released by former premier Benazir Bhutto said it was not "unexpected" and that it was a disappointment for the common man.

She noted, however, that the President acknowledged that Pakistan was divided when he urged both political sides to resolve their differences through dialogue.

It also charged that Sharif had obtained loans for his family worth 23 billion rupees (nearly one billion dollars) in violation of rules, plus 40 billion rupees (1.6 billion dollars) in loans for political associates.

Opposition leaders hoped the judiciary would take action against the government in light of the documents.

Government reaction was

### Dr Kamal

From Page 1 Col 8

Declaration of three major political alliances that the judiciary would be separated from the administration but he regretted that it had not materialised as yet.

He called upon the politicians not to divide the nation for their petty interests and not to misguide the students as well as the young generation.

Regarding the recently passed Anti-terrorism Bill he said that the existing law of the country was enough to check effectively all sorts of terrorism and demanded withdrawal of all black laws.

Dr Kamal said that he was not interested to become a candidate in the by-election in his constituency where the seat is vacant.

Barrister Amirul Islam called for forging a national unity irrespective of political opinions and party affiliations to rid the nation of the crisis it had plunged into.

### CHT talks

From Page 1 Col 8

The government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had taken initiative anew to find a solution to the long drawn problem of the Hill Tracts. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia declared time and again that her government was anxious to find a political solution to the problem. The leaders of Shanti Bahini seem to have been convinced of sincerity of the democratic government in this regard.

In response to government's proposal, they declared an unilateral ceasefire in the Hill Tracts till December 31 and agreed to sit with the government for finding peace.

The government has been maintaining contact with the leaders of the Janasanghati Samity through a liaison committee headed by Hangsadhaj Chakma.

On the eve of the meeting, BJP Vice President Krishan Lal Sharma said his party intended to step up the pressure on the government.

The Congress Party, Sharma said, will have "no other option but to seek a fresh mandate from the people. The BJP will launch a full-fledged counter-offensive on both the legal and political fronts."

### GCC demands

From Page 1 Col 4

Rao's market-friendly economic reforms introduced 18 months ago.

Also, there was no indication from the left that they would be join in an alliance with Rao.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata was opening a two-day executive meeting Wednesday, even though two of its top three leaders are in jail on charges of inciting communal tensions.

On the eve of the meeting, BJP Vice President Krishan Lal Sharma said his party intended to step up the pressure on the government.

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not immediately available. The documents are part of an opposition campaign to oust Sharif's government, leading to new elections.

Commenting on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's annual address in parliament Tuesday Bhutto said it was not "unexpected" and that it was a disappointment for the common man.

She noted, however, that the President acknowledged that Pakistan was divided when he urged both political sides to resolve their differences through dialogue.

It also charged that Sharif had obtained loans for his family worth 23 billion rupees (nearly one billion dollars) in violation of rules, plus 40 billion rupees (1.6 billion dollars) in loans for political associates.

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