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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM visits Shah  
Mogdrom (R) mazar**

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Mazar of Hazrat Shah Mogdrom (R) in the city. She offered Fataha at the mazar and prayed for the eternal peace of the saint, reports BSS.

**Rouf to meet  
candidates**

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf will meet the candidates contesting the Dhaka City Corporation elections and the relevant government officials at the Agargaon Community Centre in the capital tomorrow at 11 am. According to the Election Commission sources, the meeting will also be attended by the Divisional Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Magistrate, Returning Officer and the Assistant Returning Officers.

**Moinuddin Manik  
joins BNP**

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Former parliament member and JSD leader Moinuddin Manik along with several thousand workers joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the presence of BNP chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at a function at the Circuit House premises here today. reports BSS.

**Cold wave claims**

**3 more in Sirajganj**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 23: Three people were killed in cold waves that swept over the district as elsewhere in the country yesterday raising the death figure to 17, unofficial sources said, reports BSS.

Violation of city corporn election rules

## EC to take legal action against 84 candidates

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission is to take legal action against three mayoral and 81 commissioners candidates on charges of violating election rules.

According to the Commission, these candidates did not submit statements of their sources of funds for election campaign within the stipulated seven days after the date for withdrawal of candidature.

The commission, in a statement yesterday, reminded the candidates concerned that they might be awarded imprisonment ranging from two years to seven years, and even fined, for violating the City Corporation Rule 44 (kha).

Among the candidates who did not declare their sources of election funds, three mayoral and 60 commissioners candidates are from Dhaka, seven commissioner candidates

from Chittagong and 14 commissioners candidates from Khulna.

BSS adds: Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf, sounding a strong warning yesterday said, stern action would be taken against violators of election rules and regulations irrespective of party affiliation or social positions.

The EC would not hesitate to bring to book anyone violating election procedures before, during and after the elections, he asserted.

Addressing leading citizens, mayoral and ward commissioners candidates and officials at the Chittagong Muslim Institute Hall in the morning, Justice Rouf pointed out that there was no scope for anyone to ignore or violate election rules contained in the Constitution, election proce-

dures and general laws of the country. He said, "We are carefully and cautiously applying the election rules and supervising the elections in the four city corporations with a view to building up a good image of election at home and abroad."

UNB adds: In Chittagong yesterday, Justice Rouf asked all the candidates contesting the CCC polls to erase all wall-writings within two days.

"If the candidates do not wipe out the wall-writings on their own, the cost of these writings will be estimated and kept in the accounts files of their poll expenses and, if necessary, legal measures would be taken against them," he warned.

The CEC was addressing a meeting in the District Council

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## Steps taken for impartial polling

By Nurul Kabir

The Election Commission, a constitutional body to conduct the national polls as well as those to the local governments, is now working from dawn to dusk to make the upcoming four city corporation polls free, fair and impartial.

The Commission, headed by Justice Abdur Rouf, has already taken some unprecedented steps this year to make the whole polling process leakproof, as much as possible under the existing laws.

In the wake of the age-old allegations that the officers of the administrative cadre had always been involved in the government's attempt to manipulate election results, the Election Commission this year has assigned the Deputy Election Commissioners, instead of the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), to perform the responsibilities of returning officers in the city.

The Commission has also made arrangements for extensive training programmes for presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers on how to conduct the elections smoothly.

A booklet, containing the election rules, has already been distributed among the officials deployed to conduct the training programmes.

The Commission has also distributed among the candidates separate booklets explaining the duties and responsibilities of their election and polling agents. The objection is to enable the agents to represent their respective candidates in the polling booths in conformity with the laws and rules.

Besides having talks with the political leaders, the Chief Election Commissioner has had discussions with media representatives, lawyers, teachers and different trade union leaders to help the Commission in conducting the polls effectively. The Election Commission officials, during the meetings, explained the rules and laws relating to the polls. They said, making the voters and others concerned aware of the election rules would ensure the neutral hold-

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Shrimp cultivation  
zones to be  
declared  
industrial lands

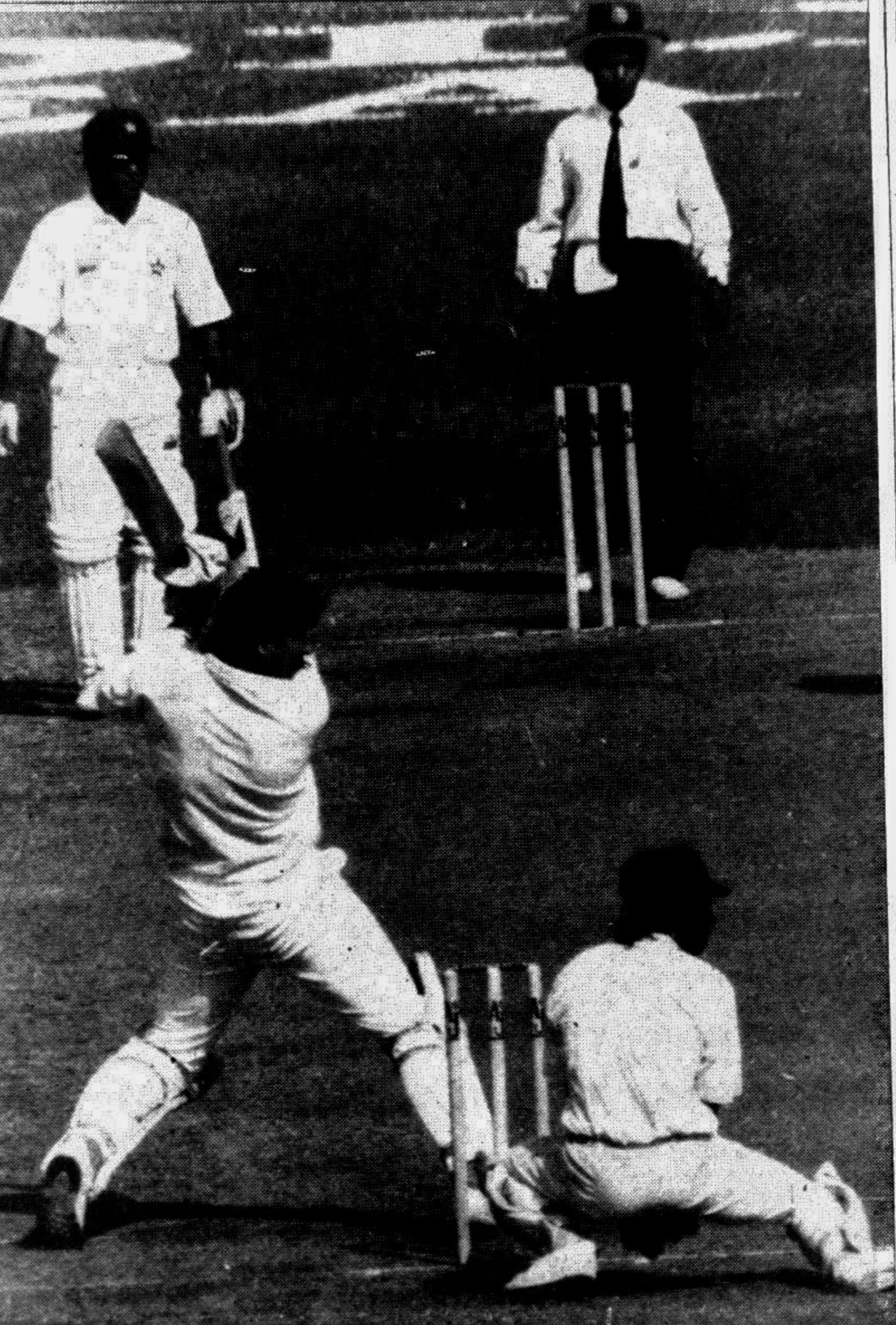
Necessary measures will be taken to declare the land under shrimp cultivation as industrial land so that all financial institutions can provide funds to the entrepreneurs easily, reports UNB.

This was decided at a review meeting of banks and financial institutions financing salt and semi-intensive shrimp cultivation programmes yesterday at the Industries Ministry.

Industries Minister A M Zahirul Khan presided over the meeting which discussed elaborately the progress of salt and semi-intensive shrimp culture in the current year.

The meeting directed the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) to identify the shrimp zones in the country so that different banks and financial institutions can extend loan facilities.

By Staff Correspondent



Inzamam Ul-Haq, the huge star Pakistani batsman, lays back to square cut Bangladesh's Enamul Huq Moni to the point fence for a four. The left-arm spinner, however, had the last laugh soon afterwards, having Inzamam stumped for only 11 during yesterday's exhibition one-dayer at the Dhaka Stadium. Pakistan, predictably, won the match by 62 runs but the hosts, won hearts.

— Star photo

## Govt to rethink plan for privatising BSRS

By Sohel Manzur

The government plans to reconsider the decision of privatising the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) and operate it as a commercial bank in its present form as a DFI, according to official sources.

The reason for such a plan is to break the deadlock that has been hindering the normal functioning of the Sangstha since 1985, the sources said.

The activities of the BSRS as a development financing institution (DFI) came to a halt in March, 1985, when the Asian Development Bank (ADB) embargoed the corporation on financing new projects because of its poor loan recovery performance and the sickness of a number of projects it had financed.

Later, the government, in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ADB

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Prokrichi demands  
White Paper on  
property of secys

By Staff Correspondent

The central action committee of the Prokrichi-BCS 26 Cadres yesterday urged the government to publish White Papers on the property of the Secretaries under the BCS (Administration) Cadre by February 15.

"Otherwise, the members of the Prokrichi-BCS will set up a Public investigation committee comprising different professionals and conscious citizens which will trace out the property and bring those to the public notice," the action committee said.

A conference of the representatives of the action committee, presided over by the organisation's convenor Dr M A Majed, was held yesterday in the city.

The committee members demanded the government

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## Admin officials threaten action against 'disparity'

(Administration) Cadre after the government recently announced pay-hike and upgradation for engineers, agriculturists and doctors and non-administrative officials of different cadre services.

The government has implemented some of the demands of Prokrichi and non-administrative officials providing selection grade and upgradation of posts at different levels, consequently downgrading the officials of the administration cadre and creating wide salary gaps, ranging up to Tk 2,000, the meeting noted.

Officials of nine cadres, excluding administration, got higher scales according to the government circular on January 8. The nine cadres are: BCS Works, Roads & Highways, Public Health, Telecommunications, Rail-engineering, Rail-

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## Mahathir for Int'l confce to solve Bosnia crisis

MALAYSIA, Jan 23: Legislators from 31 nations called Sunday for a UN-backed international conference to find a way to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AP.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had proposed such a conference, saying it should be similar to one that worked out a peace agreement for Cambodia's civil war.

The proposal won backing from more than 150 legislators at a two-day meeting convened by the Malaysian Parliamentarians' Association and Malaysia's Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

After the meeting, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia had obtained "support from several members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement to present a motion at the UN General Assembly for an international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Under those proposals, Bosnia would be carved into Muslim, Serbian and Croatian enclaves, depriving the Muslims of direct access to the sea.

Efforts to gain support were continuing, he added.

"We have to assess the strength of the support. Once we have that, we should be

able to bring it to the UN," he said.

Asked if he was confident that all three warring factions in Bosnia — Serbs, Croats and Muslims — would agree to the Malaysian initiative, Abdullah said: "We would not know whether they [Serbs and Croats] would agree or not but I think the Bosnians [Muslims] would agree."

Some [Muslims] requested that the London peace conference be restructured," he said, adding that some members of the London peace conference would be included in the proposed new conference.

Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic, who attended the conference, rejected current European Community efforts to end the conflict, saying that accepting their proposals would be "captive."

In fact, Aminul Huq informed the Law Ministry yesterday of his return home on completion of treatment, the press release said.

The misleading news published in a section of the press is "very much undesirable," the press release added.

UNB adds: According to the Attorney General's office, Aminul Huq, who went to Saudi Arabia on January 2 for a medical checkup, returned home and was attending office regularly since January 17. He also reported to the President of his return and had a meeting with the Home Minister in connection with some cases.

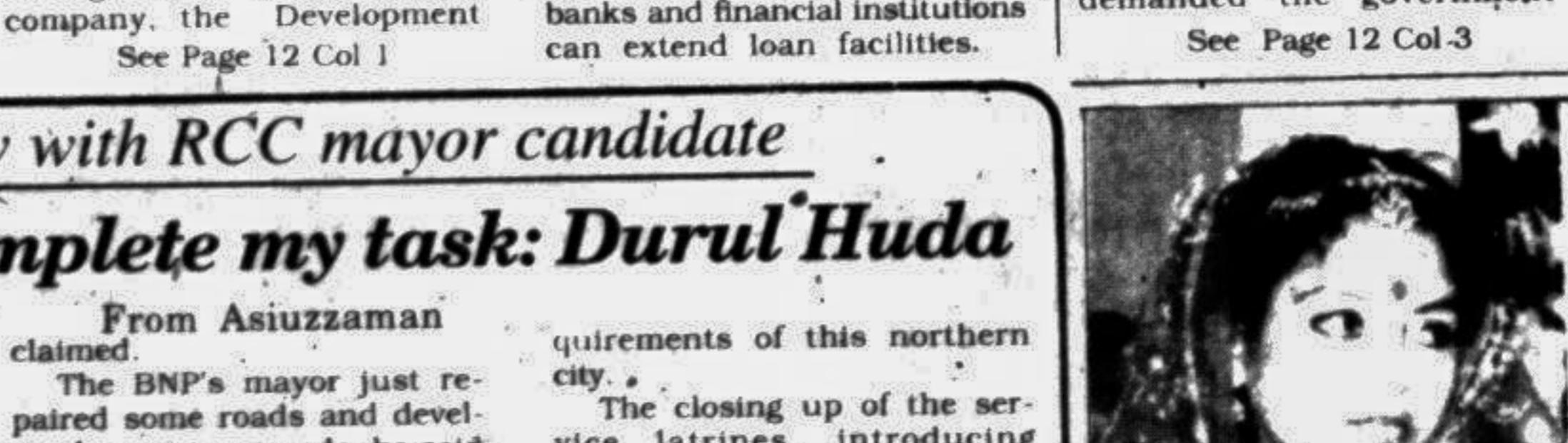
## Govt disowns report on Aminul Huq

The government yesterday described as "totally untrue" the report published in a section of the press that Attorney General Aminul Huq has been relieved of his responsibilities, reports BSS.

Clarifying the position, an official press release said that as a routine matter Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker was given additional responsibility of the Attorney General in the absence of incumbent Aminul Huq who had gone abroad for treatment.

In fact, Aminul Huq informed the Law Ministry yesterday of his return home on completion of treatment, the press release said. Therefore, the misleading news published in a section of the press is "very much undesirable," the press release added.

UNB adds: According to the Attorney General's office, Aminul Huq, who went to Saudi Arabia on January 2 for a medical checkup, returned home and was attending office regularly since January 17. He also reported to the President of his return and had a meeting with the Home Minister in connection with some cases.



Fauzia Rahman Champa

## Champa murder : 3 get life-term

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 23: Three people were today sentenced to life imprisonment and three others acquitted in the sensational Fauzia Rahman Champa murder case.

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