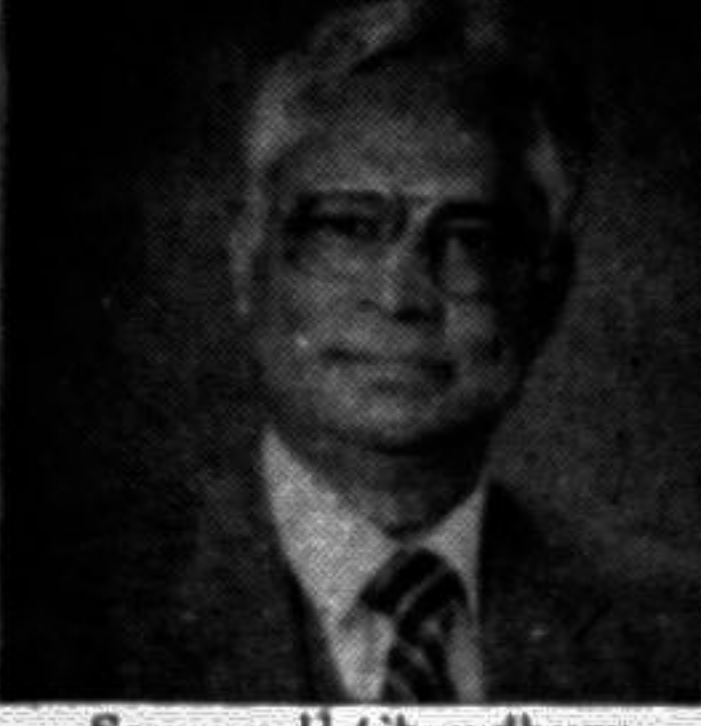


### New MCCI executives

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 M Anis Ud Dowla and Samson H Chowdhury were elected president and vice-president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) at the nineteenth annual general meeting yesterday.  
 The chairman and managing director of ACI Limited and a former president of the Bangladesh Employers' Association and MCCI, Anis Ud Dowla is a well-known manager-turned entrepreneur of the country.  
 A former managing director of Bangladesh Oxygen Ltd, he later joined ICI Bangladesh Ltd and then bought over the company a few years ago. Since then he successfully turned around the company, now known as ACI.  
 Samson H Chowdhury is the chairman and managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. He established the company in 1958 and later also diversified into bulk chemicals and toiletries manufacturing. He also served as the vice-president of the MCCI and FBCCI.  
 The members of the new committee of MCCI are: M Anis Ud Dowla, managing director, Star Corporation Limited, Syed Tareque Md Ali, managing director, Modern Industries (Bangladesh) Ltd, SA Azim, chairman, Azim & Son (Pvt) Limited, Abdul Hafiz



M Anis Ud Dowla



**Samson H Chowdhury** Choudhury, senior partner, Rahman Rahman Huq, Maj. Gen. Anjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), managing director, Rangpur Foundry Limited, ARM Ghaffar, adviser, Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited, M Ahsanul Haque, managing director, Sonali Bank, Mrs. Joya Pati, managing director, Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal (Bangladesh) Ltd., M Afroz Rahim, chairman, Rahimafroz Batteries Limited, Feisal Siddiqi, managing director, Sidko Limited.

### Revised exams schedule

Some changes have been made in the time schedule of various examinations due to unavoidable circumstances over the next few days, according to press release yesterday reports BSS.  
 The revised timing of professional examinations under the medical faculty of Dhaka University is: Pharmacology between 2:30 pm and 5:30 pm on January 2, Anatomy second paper and Medicine second paper between 2:30 pm and 5:30 pm on January 3, and Forensic Medicine between 2:30 pm and 5:30 pm on January 4.  
 The Degree (Pass and subsidiary) examinations of the National University scheduled for January 2, 3 and 4 will be held at 2 pm instead of 10 am on those days. The time schedules of examinations for other days will remain unchanged.  
 The viva-voce of the 15th BCS, 1993-94 under the Bangladesh Public Service Commission will now be held at 2:30 pm instead of 9 am on January 2, 3, and 4.  
 The viva-voce of the 16th BCS (special) 1994 will be held at 2:30 pm on January 5 and 9 instead of January 2 and 4.  
 The half-yearly departmental examinations of 1994 scheduled for January 2, 3 and 4 will now be held on January 7, 9 and 10. The dates and time of other examinations will remain unchanged.  
 Examinations of FCPS second part and MCPS will be held at 3 pm on January 2 instead of 9 am. Besides, examination of FCPS first part scheduled for 9 am on January 3 and 4 will now be held at 3 pm on those days.  
 Examinations scheduled for other days (January 1 and 5) will be held as per the earlier schedule.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Baliakandi in Rajbari district yesterday. —PID photo

### PM: Parliament is legal

**From Page 1 Col 7**  
 said her government had ensured the system so that they (voters) could cast his or her own vote freely and fairly.  
 Mentioning that it would cost Taka 300 crore to 400 crore to strengthen the Election Commission as well as to provide every voter an identity card, the Prime Minister said despite Bangladesh being a poor country, the government had initiated this very costly venture for the sake of the people's interest.  
 Referring to the recent crisis created by the Opposition, the Prime Minister said, "We have accepted even the irrational demands of the Opposition only for the sake of the country, democracy and the people. We have agreed because we want that the on-going massive development programmes are not disrupted, and the country stand on its own feet. Even after that the Opposition has been creating crisis only to disrupt the implementation of the development programmes across the country."  
 The Prime Minister recalled the entire dialogue process and said her government had accepted the formula of a national government, given by Sir Stephen Ninian but the Opposition did not agree.  
 "We have told them that there could be discussions but they (Opposition) said that the government had to resign at the time of the elections. We have also accepted that proposal, saying the Prime Minister and the cabinet would resign 30 days before the election and the President would run the country during that time," Begum Zia said.  
 She went on saying, "We have only wanted that there would be no more hartals and sieges this year. But the Opposition did not even agree to it."  
 Begum Zia said if there was no hartals or sieges, foreign investors would come to Bangladesh with investment of thousands of crores of taka to create millions of new jobs in the country.  
 The Prime Minister said it is the democratic right of the people to ply their vehicles on roads freely and keep open their shops and business centres to earn their livings.  
 "This is an absolutely constitutional and legitimate government BNP would properly discharge its responsibilities given by the people for their betterment. There should be no more destructive activities. Discard the politics of disruption and let us unitedly work for the welfare of the people," the Prime Minister called upon the Opposition and sought their cooperation in carrying forward the democratic process.  
 Referring to the fulfillment of almost all her election pledges, the Prime Minister said she would initiate more pro-people programmes.

### 100 killed as train derails in Myanmar

**YANGON Dec 31:** More than 100 people were killed and several more injured when a passenger train derailed and plunged into a ravine, state-run media said Saturday, reports AP.  
 The train was travelling between Mandalay in central Myanmar and Kachin State when its brakes failed while travelling downhill. Reports said the train went out of control and several coaches derailed, some falling into the ravine.  
 Television and radio reports said 102 passengers died in the crash, which occurred Friday, 770 kilometers (460 miles) north of Yangon.

### The Midnight File

#### Tamil deputy shot dead

**COLOMBO, Dec 31:** Unidentified gunmen shot and killed the deputy of a pro-government Tamil political party just outside the Sri Lankan capital Colombo on New Year's eve, a party spokesman said. Gunmen set off a minor explosive device and opened fire, killing Karavai Kandassamy, the vice president of the Democratic People's Liberation Front (DPLF) and wounding his daughter. DPLF chief Dharmalingam Sidhathan said, reports AFP.

#### OIC urges Afghan factions to accept ceasefire

**DUBAI, Dec 31:** The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) urged warring Afghan factions today to accept a ceasefire to enable a UN peace envoy to visit Afghanistan. An OIC statement said its Secretary General, Hamid Alghabid, requested all Afghan parties to accept and abide by the ceasefire appeal issued by the United Nations to enable the UN special mission to visit various parts of Afghanistan, reports Reuter.

#### AL: JS illegal Dissolve JS, hold fresh polls: WP

**From Page 1 Col 5**  
 The crisis will further deepen if the government continues to cling to power by ignoring the constitutional measures, read the resolution.  
 It accused Khaleda Zia of violating the country's Constitution now and then although she was although speaking of protecting and upholding it and claiming to adopt constitutional measures to deal with the present situation.  
 She was indiscriminately violating and disregarding different Articles and Clauses of the Constitution she took oath to protect, support and follow.  
 In this regard, the resolution referred to certain Articles and Clauses of the Constitution that it alleged the BNP government violated by snatching people's rights to vote, food, job, by denying justice to them, by repressing the Opposition political activists and members of different professional groups, by not scrapping rather enacting black laws, violating accords with various communities, ignoring the sovereign Parliament and leaving it inoperative.  
 The meeting called upon the people to observe the three-day half-day hartal in the city beginning tomorrow to force the BNP government step down to pave the way for fresh general polls under a caretaker administration.

**From Page 1 Col 5**  
 resolve the current crisis through discussion.  
 As the capital braces for more half-day general strikes from January 2 to 4, local businessmen fear that they would be the worst victim of the political agitations.  
 The emergency meeting of the FBCCI is expected to assess the losses owing to hartals and adopt a resolution seeking relief from such programmes, sources said.

### Cost of living goes up

**From Page 1 Col 8**  
 said along with price hike of commodities, housing problem has become acute in the cities as well as in rural areas.  
 The house rent has jumped up by 16.44 per cent. The rent per room of a pucca house rose by 9, semi-pucca 14.73, kutcha 14.08, mess room 18.52 and slum by 25.88 per cent.  
 The average percentage of price hike of atta-flour-semola (suji) is over 11. Price of atta rose by Tk 2.57 per kg.  
 The price of pulse went up by 2.7 per cent, garlic by 28.20 per cent.  
 However, the price of onion decreased in the last one year by 57 per cent and the percentage of price hike of spices in general was 0.25.  
 The price of meat increased up by 15.46 per cent, eggs 6.28, and powder milk 1.98.  
 Clothes became dearer by 14.42 per cent, of which local cloth became costlier by 22.39 and foreign 8.29 and saree 4.42 per cent.  
 The price of gas was increased by the government in 1994 by 20.23 per cent.  
 The CAB notes that, most of the prices were increased by both the government and the traders without any warning or explanation in the last six months beginning June '94.  
 Although fresh supply of rice began, there is no sign of the price returning to normal, the CAB observed.

# LIFELIKE PICTURE

# EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

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