

# Chiller faces tough test as Turkey goes to polls

ANKARA, Dec 24: A crucial vote today could determine whether Turkey will continue its secular and western course or turn towards Islamic rule, reports AP.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was hoping voters would endorse her center-right True Path party for parliament despite a painful austerity programme which has so far failed to improve the economy.

But attention both domestically and abroad was going to opinion polls which said the pro-Islamic Welfare party — which is determined to pull Turkey out of its western orbit — could wind up the biggest vote-getter.

Turkey, a NATO member, is overwhelmingly Muslim, and keeps state affairs separate from religion. Turkey this month signed a major trade pact with the European

Union which Ciller touted as helping integrate Turkey with the West.

Twelve parties are fighting for 550 seats. Parties are required to garner a minimum 10 per cent of the nationwide vote to get a seat.

The winter weather was mild as polls opened today in Ankara, the capital. Heavy turnout was expected throughout Turkey if the weather was good everywhere.

First results were expected by this evening. Final results were not expected before late tomorrow.

Both Ciller's True Path and the main opposition center-right Motherland parties have ruled out coalitions with Welfare, which surveys indicate would not capture a majority.

Also coming out against Welfare was the army, which made clear only two days ago that it was watching for any

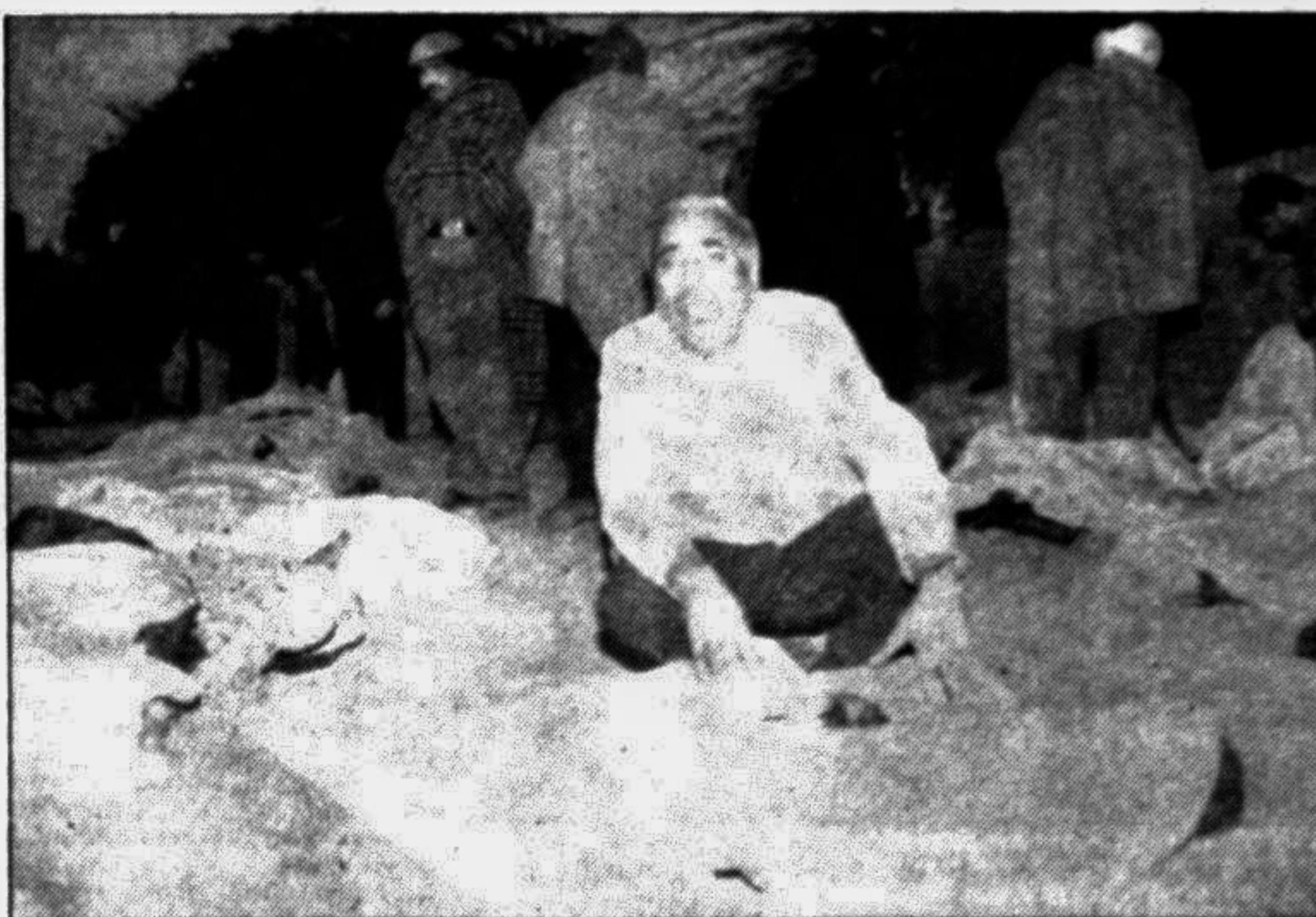
threat to the country's secular system.

The military chief of staff warned Welfare on Friday that the armed forces, which ran the nation in the early 1980s, would not tolerate "any kind of fanaticism."

Welfare officials on Saturday chafed at the message.

"The West does not need to fear us. We are coming to power to bring the people what they want, not to take away their rights," said Mustafa Atas, chairman of Welfare's Istanbul branch.

On Saturday, bombs were thrown at the campaign offices of Welfare and True Path, causing damage but no injuries. An office of the conservative National Movement Party was raked with automatic weapons fire, causing no injuries. No one claimed responsibility for the attacks. The previous parliamentary elections were in 1991.



A grief-stricken father weeping outside the hospital yesterday over the bodies of his 10-year-old son and eight-year-old daughter killed in Saturday's fire in the northern Indian town of Dabwali. — AFP/UNB photo

## Haryana fire toll rises to 400

DABWALI, India, Dec 24: Distraught parents lifted cotton shrouds to reveal charred bodies as they searched for their missing children today following a fire at a school party here which left at least 400 people dead, reports AFP.

Rescue workers and hospital officials said the death toll may be as high as 600 but the actual figure may never be known since many relatives had already taken away and cremated their dead.

Dozens of victims of Saturday's inferno in this stunted farming town of 40,000 people in the northern state of Haryana were cremated today as the police said they had made several arrests in connection with the blaze.

The manager and owner of the Rajiv Marriage Palace, where the fire broke out dur-

ing an end-of-year-function for the Dayanand Arya Vedic (DAV) School, have been taken into custody, police said.

Police superintendent Ram Singh Yadav told AFP that at least 400 people, mostly women and children between the ages of five and 17, died in the blaze and an ensuing stampede and as 600 may have been injured.

A first mass cremation was held at the Rambhag crematorium grounds here to the wailing of thousands of mourners. Some bodies were burnt in an adjoining field since the grounds were too small to accommodate the crowd.

The authorities appealed to residents to come forward and help draw up a list of the missing from what has been described as India's worst fire in recent memory.

## Christian Assoc team meets PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the Christian community to contribute to nation building activities for making the country self-reliant through collective efforts of all, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh is a shining example of communal harmony. We all are Bangladeshis. We, irrespective of caste and creed, shall have to work for building Bangladesh as a beautiful abode for the future generation," she said.

Begum Zia was talking to a delegation of the Bangladesh Christian Association (BCA) when it called on her at 30 Hare Road in the evening on the eve of the Holy Christmas Day.

She said her government has involved all in our development endeavours. "Our main objective is to establish peace and ensure prosperity of the nation. Let us put in our best efforts to place the nation in a dignified position in the world."

## Couple robbed in city

Muggers snatched a gold chain, a wrist watch and Tk 1000 from a couple after stabbing the husband last night near Abdul Ghani Road in the city.

Lutfur Rahman, 27, a medical representative, and his wife were travelling in a rickshaw when a gang of armed muggers stopped them and snatched the valuables.

When contacted, the Motijheel thana could not confirm it.

## SAF Games

From Page 1  
top bet for the event, was putting a spoke in the Indian monopoly at the remote Velachery Aquatic Complex, our shooters failed to live up to their reputation in the air pistol event which they have been dominating over the years.

Although Bangladesh captured the silver in the team event, the country's ace shooter Atiqur Rahman, who had won a Commonwealth Games gold in 1990, offered a pathetic show against prolific Indian Jaspal Rana who won the gold collecting 676.1 (aggregate) points. On the other hand, Atiq, who set a new mark in the event two years back finished second.

However, Bangladesh provided some sort of resilience in the team event to claim the silver behind India. The team of Atiq, Tawfiqur Rahman and Ayub collected 1673 points against India's 1676.

## MCCI

From Page 1  
stacks laden and empty TEUs on 3-high basis, which can be on 6-high basis.

The unused areas between the present container terminal and the jetty No 17 should be leased out to private entrepreneurs on BOT or BOO basis, which will also open the door for more foreign investment in other areas of port services, he said.

The government should immediately take up expansion of the container terminal, he urged. The present container terminal was designed to handle about 1 lakh TEUs per year whereas it is now handling double that number.

"We also urge that the Chittagong Port Advisory Committee should be headed by either the Minister of Ports and Shipping or the Secretary of the Ministry."

Anis Ud Dowla said, "the present composition with the CPA Chairman at its head defeats the very purpose for which the Advisory Committee was formed, since most of the issues relate to the port administration itself."

## No formal offer

From Page 1  
Talking to The Daily Star, a number of senior AL leaders said they considered BNP's suggestion for a formal package of offer from the Opposition's side "impractical."

"We've already made a move from our side," said Amir Hossain Amu, AL's President Member. "Now, BNP has to come forward and prove its sincerity."

The Awami League Chairperson on Saturday offered a discussion with Begum Zia on the caretaker government issue on condition that it is broadcast live on television and radio.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat-e-Islami, the two other major opposition parties, have said they supported Hasina's offer for a televised dialogue with the Prime Minister.

"The two leaders must talk," said Anwar Hossain Manju of the JP. "I do not see any reason why the Prime Minister should reject such an offer."

Matiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General of the Jamaat-e-Islami, said his party also supports the idea of an open dialogue between Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia.

The Opposition is now waiting to see what step the ruling party takes to break the current deadlock, he said.

## Christmas

From Page 1  
cial dishes will be served on the eve and X-mas Day. The day is a public holiday. President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message greeting the country's Christian community on the eve of holy X-mas, said the preachings of Jesus Christ could guide mankind to the path of peace in today's violence-ridden world.

"Bangladesh has set a glorious example of ensuring communal harmony and national progress through coordinated efforts," he said. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a separate message, said Jesus Christ made his relentless efforts for the welfare of the world population and for establishing peace in society.

"Since the remote past, there has been a close relationship among various religious sects in Bangladesh and utmost tolerance also prevails among them," she maintained, calling upon all to work unitedly for the country's advancement.

In a message on the eve of Christmas Day, Awami League president Sheikh Hasina has called for establishing a non-communal society imbued with the teachings of all religions.

The Latvians had been based in Karachi for the past two months but their passports did not have departure stamps from the Pakistani city's airport, according to Bombay police.

Indian police said the aircraft left Karachi on December 17 and landed in the northern town of Benaras. It flew to Calcutta later the same day and on to Phuket in Thailand the next day.

It left Thailand on Thursday and landed in Madras for refuelling. The plane was heading for Karachi when the Indian Air Force scrambled two mig fighters to force it to land at Bombay airport.

A number of theories have been advanced to explain the mystery air-drop of arms on December 17 in Purulia.

There had also been speculation previously that the arms were intended for the Anand Marg, the Hindu sect banned by the authorities in 1972.

## BNP interviews 246

From Page 1  
Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury, Standing Committee member Tanvir Ahmed Siddique, ex-Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, Food and Agricultural Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Dr Abdul Momen Khan, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman and GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, JCD President Fazlul Huq Milon, Industrialist Mohammad Ali, Captain (ret'd) Nurul Huq.

The BNP election office witnessed a huge crowd on the last day of interview. Supporters of different nomination seekers chanted slogans in favour of their respective candidate during the interview which began at 9 am.

Party sources said the Standing Committee will sit soon to finalise the nomination. Earlier, the board inter-

## Hasina's offer

From Page 1  
party could take up the matter for formal discussion if the offer was made formally. "It was made through the press, which published different stories. We would be happy with a formal offer," he said.

viewed 315 nomination seekers for 72 parliamentary constituencies of Rajshahi Division on the first day on December 12, followed by about 320 for 60 seats of Khulna and Barisal Divisions on December 13 and 14.

Another 415 nomination seekers for 78 parliamentary seats of Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions were interviewed on December 14 and 15.

A total of 266 nomination seekers from 48 parliamentary constituencies of Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh and Netrokona were interviewed on Saturday.

## A mysterious telegram

From Our Correspondent  
PABNA, Dec 24: A mysterious telegram sent in the name of the Controller of Examinations yesterday caused postponement of the final year examinations at the Pabna Homeopathic College.

Some 146 examinees were to appear at the examinations scheduled to begin today.

The telegram to postpone the examinations was sent to the Deputy Commissioner who, in turn, ordered the postponement. When the students went to the DC, the Controller of Examinations was contacted who denied sending such a telegram.

The mystery is being investigated.

**Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Board of Investment**  
(Policy & Planning Directorate)  
**Prime Minister's Office**  
Shilpa Bhaban, 91, Motijheel Commercial Area  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

### APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT

The Board of Investment (BoI) invites sealed proposals from the reputed Bangladeshi consultants/Legal experts/firms for drafting the proposed Investment Promotion Act of Bangladesh which will provide legal support to the private sector investors to set up and operate their industrial activities unhindered.

For details please contact the undersigned by 31 December, 1995.

**Mamdood Hossain Alamgir**  
Director  
DFP-32449-24/12  
G-1945  
Phone: 9562426.

**RUPALI INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
**RUPALI BIMA BHABAN**  
**7, RAJUK AVENUE**  
**DHAKA.**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Hereby announce our New Telephones and Fax Numbers of our HEAD OFFICE and PRINCIPAL BRANCH for the convenience to our valued Customeres, Patrons and well wishers:-

PREVIOUS ADDRESS	PRESENT ADDRESS
RUPALI INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. 61, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA. PHONE - 864488 PABX - 869401-3 " - 235172-3 FAX NO-880-2-867846	RUPALI INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. 7, RAJUK AVENUE, DHAKA. PHONE - 9564411 PABX - 9565624-6 " - 9555172-3 FAX NO-880-2-9563336

## The Midnight File

### Pro-Islamic Party leading in Turkish polls

ANKARA, Dec 24: Turkey's pro-Islamic Welfare Party was leading in early results in the country's legislative election today with 22.7 per cent popular support, according to the Anatolia news agency, reports AFP.

### Afghan consul-gen asked to leave Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec 24: Pakistan today ordered the Afghan consul-general in the northwestern city of Peshawar to leave the country within 48 hours, accusing him of spying, reports Reuter.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Musa Khan had been declared "persona non grata for his activities in-

### Daring dacoity at Jhalakathi College

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Dec 24: A group of armed men committed a daring dacoity in the Government Jhalakathi College during the early hours of today.

Police and witnesses said, the armed dacoits breaking open two collapsible gates of the college, beat up the two guards mercilessly.

They robbed Tk 28,000 in cash including some important documents from almirahs of the college. During the nearly 3-hour long dacoity, they broke open 19 almirahs and ransacked eight rooms of the college.

### Ganges water

From Page 1  
ture."

He said the situation has now aggravated to such an extent that people in Kaliganj of Satkhira district are thinking about producing salt by drying river water.

Hasna J Moudud, Co-Chairperson of the People's Initiative for Water Sharing, said the organisation will arrange a procession towards the Indian border from Kansa of Rajshahi in March next year demanding fair sharing of Ganges water.

Giving out the outcome of the Patna seminar, she said the seminar had expressed concern about the effects of the Farakka barrage on the ecosystem and human lives of both Bangladesh and India. The seminar also noted that Bangladesh had been deprived of its rightful share of Ganges water.

The seminar also demanded a joint committee of experts of India and Bangladesh be formed to devise a permanent solution.

During the meeting, CEC Justice Sadeque expressed satisfaction over the recovery of 'huge' illegal arms in last three days' operation by law-enforcing agencies and called for gearing up the drive.

Meanwhile, law-enforcing agencies recovered 77 firearms, 180 rounds of ammunition and 45 explosives on the third day yesterday of their countrywide hunt for illegal arms.

Some 768 people were nabbed in connection with various offences, including possessing illegal arms, said an Election Commission press release giving the figures available in the morning.

**BANGLADESH TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE BOARD**  
**Special Notice**  
Call Barring/Cancellation Process of Digital Phone

In order to avoid misuse and over billing in Digital Phones the subscribers are requested to follow the undermentioned process:

Code	Type of Call barring
01	for any call
02	for NWD and Overseas Call
03	for NWD Call
04	for Overseas Call
05	for local call
6.	Press # Button
7.	Confirmative tone for call barring will be heard.

Precisely \*34\* Pass-word \* call barring Code #

**Call Barring Process:**

- Lift the handset
- Press \* 3 4 \* Buttons accordingly
- Press the pass-word that is any four Buttons, only known to the subscriber. For example: 2156
- Press # Button
- Press Code Buttons — of one type of the undermentioned call barring Codes.

**Cancellation Process:**

- Lift the handset
- Press # Button
- Press 3 and 4 Buttons
- Press \* Button
- Press the pass-word that is press the pre-selected (by subscriber) 4 buttons. For example: 2156
- Press # Button
- Normal tone will be heard.
- Keep the handset on the telephone set or dial your intended numbers for call.

Precisely # 34 \* pass-word #

NB: A booklet named 'Digital Telephone Beharar Neomaboly has already been supplied to all digital telephone subscribers and the subscribers are requested to follow the same.

NB: Dial tone will be different in case of application of barring any outgoing calls and till the cancellation of call barring no call can be made. To avoid possible trouble the selected pass-word (by subscriber) should be kept in memory.

**We are at your service**  
**Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board**  
DFP-32441-24/12  
G-1946

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.