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# The Daily Star

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**A New Year's Gift to  
Our Readers**  
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Internet!**

The Daily Star readers,  
you are now connected to  
the Internet. See 'Live from  
the Internet' Page 5 and  
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**Inside Today**

## Article

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## International

Military may leave  
Jaffna soon, indicates  
Chandrika

Iran condemns US  
Congress move to  
approve covert action  
fund  
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## Business

6 BCIC fertiliser units  
raise production

India's inflation rate  
falls to 28-month low  
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## DSE MARKET

DSE price index 892.87 (+4.30%)  
Market capital Tk 6303.32 cr  
Transactions in volume 100020  
Transactions in value Tk 1.84 cr

## Metropolitan

### Dhaka Day by Day



It's Time to Know  
About the Year  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### 59 arms recovered

Law enforcing agencies  
recovered 59 arms, 91 am-  
munition and 1,868 explo-  
sives from different parts of  
the country in last 24 hours  
till 6 am yesterday, the 12th  
day of the countrywide  
combing operation for arms.  
According to Election Com-  
mission Law and Order Co-  
ordination Cell, police also  
arrested 543 people on vari-  
ous charges, including for  
possessing illegal firearms,  
during the period, reports  
UNB.

### Teenaged boy crushed under wheel

From Staff  
Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 1: A  
teenaged boy was crushed  
under the wheel of a speed-  
ing minibus on the Dhaka-  
Sylhet highway this after-  
noon. Amirul Islam, 13, a  
student of the Mollapara  
Dakhil Madrasah died on  
the spot after he was  
knocked down and crushed  
under the wheels of a Mou-  
vibazar-bound vehicle near  
Tajpur Bazar.

### Girl killed after rape

From Our  
Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Jan 1: A teen-  
aged girl was raped and  
killed by some unidentified  
persons at Shailpur village of  
Kaliganj thana last night. The  
girl, Minu, 15, was abducted  
from her hut while her father  
was away. Later her body was  
recovered from a beel.

### Gandhi award for Dr Nurul Islam

The M K Mahatma Gandhi  
Foundation, an Oslo-based  
international peace organisa-  
tion, has nominated National  
Professor Dr Nurul Islam for  
Mahatma Gandhi Award  
1995

## Saudi Crown Prince to run state affairs

DUBAI, Jan 1: King Fahd  
of Saudi Arabia today handed  
the running of the govern-  
ment to his younger brother  
Crown Prince Abdullah, re-  
port Reuters. AFP.

The announcement was  
made in a royal order. King  
Fahd did not abdicate.

King Fahd suffered a  
stroke in November last year.  
Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn  
Abdel Aziz heads the national  
guard and is trusted by his  
country's tribal and religious  
leaders.

"Nobody questions his pi-  
ety. He is the one most ac-  
cepted by the Islamic oppo-  
sition," a Western diplomat  
said, referring to the growth  
of opposition groups since  
the US-led Gulf War to free  
Kuwait in 1991.

"Prince Abdullah is known  
for leading a more traditional  
lifestyle. He lives discreetly,"  
another diplomat said,  
adding that he meets often  
with the tribes and people in

general.

The 72-year-old Prince  
has commanded the national  
guard since 1962.

This militia of between  
25,000 and 35,000 men  
drawn from Bedouin tribes is  
tasked with monitoring  
strategic sites like oilfields.

and is considered the ram-  
part of the ruling Saud family.

King Fahd, 74, left hospi-  
tal after a week on December  
7 but was ordered by doctors  
to rest. Today, he handed  
over power, at least tem-  
porarily, to his half-brother.

"Given our wish to take a  
period of rest and conva-  
lescence, and given your  
praiseworthy qualities, and  
our commitment to the pub-  
lic interest, we charge you  
with running the affairs of  
state during our period of  
rest and convalescence,"  
King Fahd said in a decree.

Prince Abdullah is the  
13th son of King Abdel Aziz,  
founder of the Kingdom in

1932. His mother belongs to  
the Shammar, a powerful  
Bedouin tribe which gave  
Abdullah military training  
after he was educated by  
Muslim clerics.

The Prince is untainted  
by corruption, a diplomat  
said, adding: "He is not  
among those whom people  
denounce" when the subject  
is raised.

Suffering from a stam-  
mer, he appears little in pub-  
lic and "does not appear to be  
an experienced statesman,"  
another diplomat said.

However, he has made  
several official visits abroad,  
and represented his country  
at the Organisation of the  
Islamic Conference (OIC) in  
Casablanca last year and at  
the Gulf Cooperation Council  
summit during the King's ill-  
ness.

Prince Abdullah was  
named second vice president  
to the royal cabinet in 1975  
See Page 12 Col 8



A temporary army camp has been set up at the Dhaka City Corporation office at Laxmibazar to recover illegal arms.  
— Star photo

## Opposition to go ahead with hartals on Jan 3, 4

Star Report

The Awami League, Jatiya  
Party and Jamaat-e-Islami at  
a joint meeting last night  
decided to go ahead with their  
planned hartals on Jan-  
uary 3 and 4.

The meeting, attended by  
top leaders of the three par-  
ties at the residence of AL  
leader Abdus Samad Azad,  
also discussed the on-going  
backstage parleys with the  
ruling party, the role of the  
armed forces relating to the  
holding of elections and the  
Opposition's planned street  
agitations.

The meeting called upon  
the armed forces "not to play

in the hand of one party," one  
source said.

"We want that the armed  
forces should not be used by  
the BNP as a means to  
stretch its rule and in the  
controversial elections," said  
Mohammad Nasim, Organis-  
ing Secretary of the AL.

The armed forces played a  
glorious role during the 1990  
pro-democracy movement,  
he said, adding "We hope that  
this tradition would con-  
tinue."

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, of the  
Jatiya Party said that the Op-  
position would continue its  
planned street demonstra-  
tions even if the election  
schedule is deferred further.

AL leaders Abdus Samad  
Azad, Tofael Ahmed and Mo-  
hammad Nasim, JP leaders  
Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar  
Ahmed and Anwar Hossain  
Manju and Jamaat leaders Ali  
Ahsan Md Mujhid, Sheikh  
Ansar Ali and Md Kamruzza-  
man were present at the  
meeting.

Meanwhile, no further  
talks were held between the  
ruling party and the Opposi-  
tion negotiators.

### ALWC mee

The Awami League Central  
Working Committee (ALWC)  
in a resolution yesterday re-  
iterated the party's firm stand  
See Page 12 Col 2

## PM at JCD rally Help protect democracy

Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia yesterday sought  
cooperation of all in protect-  
ing the democracy achieved  
through protracted struggle  
of all sections of people, re-  
ports UNB.

"Democracy is synonymous  
with development. Without  
democracy, development and  
progress of the country is not  
possible," she said.

Begum Zia was addressing  
as chief guest a rally of  
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the  
student wing of her party,  
organised to celebrate its  
17th founding anniversary.

The Prime Minister re-  
called the about cooperation  
of all groups, professions and  
strata of people during the  
nine-year anti-autocratic  
movement that brought back  
See Page 12 Col 3

## BNP announces list of 270 nominees

The ruling Bangladesh  
Nationalist Party yesterday  
announced a list of 270 nom-  
inees to contest election to  
the 6th parliament, reports  
UNB.

Names of candidates for  
the remaining 30 seats are  
expected to be announced  
today, one day before the  
scheduled last date for filing  
nomination papers.

According to the first list,  
BNP Chairperson Prime Min-  
ister Begum Khaleda Zia will  
stand in four parliamentary  
seats in the vote, scheduled  
for February 7. The seats are  
Bogra-7, Rajshahi-2, Siraj-  
ganj-2 and Feni-1.

Giving the list of the can-  
didates, BNP Office Secretary  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Huda, Matin return to JP

By Staff Correspondent

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury,  
the former speaker of Jatiya  
Sangsad, has come back to  
the fold of Jatiya Party dis-  
solving the break away faction  
of the JP, namely Jatiyatabadi  
Jatiya Party (JJJP) yesterday.

Dr Abdul Matin, the  
former Home Minister under  
the Ershad government and a  
member of the JJJP has also  
returned to the JP.

A meeting about their  
formal joining under the JP  
fold was held last night the  
residence of the Acting  
Chairman of the JP Mizanur  
Rahman Chowdhury, accord-  
ing to sources.

## Jamaat leaders meet President

Two senior leaders of the  
Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday  
called on President Abdur  
Rahman Biswas at Bangabha-  
ban and discussed the cur-  
rent political crisis facing the  
country, reports UNB.

Political sources said Ali  
Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid  
and Sheikh Ansar Ali had  
nearly 45 minutes of talks  
with the President in the  
afternoon.

During the meeting, the  
Jamaat leaders were learnt to  
have discussed if the Presi-  
dent could take any initiative  
constitutionally to resolve the  
depending crisis.

## Book fair opens Foreign houses urged to enter joint venture

The Prime Minister inau-  
gurated a book fair in Dhaka  
yesterday with a call for the  
foreign publishers to publish  
scientific and technological  
books in Bengali and English  
under joint venture with local  
publishing houses, reports  
UNB.

Begum Khaleda Zia said  
such initiative is needed in  
mutual interest as it would  
let foreigners know Bangla-  
desh, its repository of know-  
ledge while help Bangladeshis

See Page 12 Col 1

## 'Bangabazar fire originated from electric short circuit'

Star Report

Electric short circuit in  
one of the shops caused the  
devastating fire at Bangabazar  
in the city, sources said,  
quoting the inquiry report of  
the Home Ministry.

The one-member inquiry  
committee, comprising a  
Home Ministry official, sub-  
mitted its report to the Sec-  
retary of the ministry yester-  
day, the sources said.

See Page 12 Col 7

## BNP has evaded Merrill-mediated talks: Hasina

Awami League president  
Sheikh Hasina yesterday ac-  
cused the ruling party of de-  
liberately deepening the po-  
litical crisis as the BNP  
evaded yesterday's meeting  
mediated by a foreign envoy,  
reports UNB.

She said the BNP was not  
sincere towards resolving the  
deadlock and that's why it  
cancelled the follow-up  
meeting between the  
government and the  
Opposition scheduled to be  
held at US Ambassador David  
N. Merrill's residence at 3 pm  
yesterday.

Addressing an extended  
meeting of Dhaka City Unit of  
her party at the Awami  
League central office in the  
evening, Hasina said the  
Prime Minister was only sin-  
cere about "stealing" votes  
and insincere about giving  
back people's voting right.

Begum Zia, she said, is not  
agreeing to step down to al-  
low a caretaker government  
to conduct the elections as  
there will be no scope for her  
to "steal" votes.

Hasina also accused the  
government of planting its  
own people in different tiers  
of the administration prior to  
voting for what she said ballot  
piracy.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Tough law likely to ensure fair polls

By Nazmul Ashraf

The government is going  
for a "tough law" to ensure  
smooth holding of the ensur-  
ing election, according to  
highly placed official sources.

The law is expected to  
come in the form of an Ordi-  
nance by the President soon  
after necessary formalities are  
completed.

The law, proposed by the  
Election Commission, was  
endorsed at a meeting of in-  
fluential ministers with  
Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia in the chair  
Sunday night.

Details were not available.  
The law is planned to be  
effective from the day of fil-  
ing nomination papers and

would remain valid till 60  
days after completion of the  
elections, the sources said.  
After that period the law  
would automatically become  
in effective, the sources  
added.

"Under the law, a person  
will be punished even for  
threatening his rival verbally  
or by any other gesture," the  
source said.

When asked an Election  
Commission official said the  
new law has been proposed  
to ensure a free and fair  
elections. "It will supple-  
ment other measures already  
adopted by the EC for guaran-  
teeing a fair and smooth elec-  
tion."

## No classes held at DU

By DU Correspondent

Classes were not held at  
the Dhaka University yester-  
day, the day the university  
reopened after a 18-day win-  
ter vacation as the teachers  
started a two-day work ab-  
stention demanding arrest of  
the killers of Nuban Ahmed,  
their colleague.

All scheduled examina-  
tions were however held.

## Trade fair '96 begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The second Dhaka Inter-  
national Trade Fair '96 be-  
gins today at Sher-e-Bangla Na-  
gar in the city.

Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia will inaugurate  
the 19-day fair at 11:30 am  
while Commerce and Infor-  
mation Minister Shamsul Is-  
lam will be present as special  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Convention of the poor in city 'Allocate 50 pc of development budget to remove poverty'

By Staff Correspondent

Thousands of men and  
women from different parts  
of the country gathered at  
the first ever NGO-organised  
national convention of the  
poor in front of the parla-  
ment building with a pledge  
to remove poverty from the  
society.

The convention adopted a  
declaration demanding allo-  
cation of 50 per cent of the  
development budget for  
poverty alleviation, loan and  
kash land for the poor and  
the landless, more effective  
laws against repression on  
women and dowry, organised  
afforestation programme,  
land reform and decen-  
tralization of administration.

"Poverty alleviation is not  
only urgent for the poor but  
also a must for the rich in  
their own interest, it said  
drawing the attention of the  
government, political parties  
and citizens groups.

Landless farmers, slum  
dwellers and thousands of  
others started arriving at the  
convention at the Manik Mia  
Avenue with colourful plac-  
ards from the morning.

The area wore a festive  
look on the new year's day as  
the participants at least a half  
of them women, arrived  
there with band music and  
colourful feasts.

Presided over by Convenor  
of the Trinamool Janasang-  
athan Abdul Majid Miah, the  
convention was addressed by  
among others chairperson of  
the Association of the Devel-  
opment Agencies of  
See Page 12 Col 7



Visitors at the book fair at Bijoy Swarani in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## New Year night in city 3 killed in road mishaps: 90 held, arms recovered

By Staff Correspondent

At least three persons  
were killed in separate road  
accidents in the city in the  
early hours of the New Years  
day.

Ninety people were also  
arrested for their alleged in-  
volvement in "unauthorised  
activities" during festivities in  
different parts of the city. Of  
those, 46 were from Gulshan  
area, police said yesterday.

Police also recovered one  
pistol, one revolver, 15 bul-  
lets, 66 bombs, 13 bottles of  
foreign liquor 286 cans of

beer and seized three private  
cars and a motor bike.

Additional police force in-  
cluding riot police were de-  
ployed in some areas includ-  
ing Gulshan, Banani, Mo-  
hakhali, Dhanmondi and Mo-  
hammadpur Sunday night.  
Police searched a large num-  
ber of motor vehicles in dif-  
ferent points.

Sources at the Dhaka  
Medical College Hospital  
(DMCH) said the Munna, 18,  
of Joarshahara, Khilkhet, was  
killed when a speeding bus  
hit him at Mohakhali at about  
2 am.

Mobarak Hossain, 30, of  
Rupganj, Narayanganj, was  
killed in a road accident at  
Dhanmondi Road No. 7 at  
about 1 am.

An unidentified man aged  
about 35 injured in a road ac-  
cident on the Biswa Road  
near Gulshan at about mid-  
night Sunday night died on  
way to the DMCH.

Gulshan police searched a  
microbus near the shooting  
complex arrested Monir Hos-  
sain, 35, Shahidul Islam, 31  
and recovered a pistol from  
their possession at about 1:45  
am Sunday, police said.

See Page 12 Col 2

## Under-construction building collapses: 3 killed, 5 hurt

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Jan 1: Three  
persons died and five others  
injured when the roof of an  
under-construction building  
of Monno Fabrics Ltd at Gi-  
land village of Sadar thana  
collapsed, police and wit-  
nesses said.

The dead were identified  
as Kalu Mia (55), Jamal (33)  
and another unknown per-  
son. All the dead and injured  
were labourers at the con-  
struction site.



A partial view of the huge rally of poor men and women organised by the grassroots-level NGOs at the Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday.

— Star photo