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# The Daily Star

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DHAKA MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1996

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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2457.65  
Market capital Tk 17552.88 cr  
Transactions in volume 108441  
Transactions in value Tk 3.14 cr

### CSE MARKET

CSE price index 1203.67  
Market capital Tk 14690.22 cr  
Transactions in volume 28738  
Transactions in value Tk 10157340

### Supplement

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## Jessore jail revolt crushed: 9 killed, 400 injured

From Mizan Ali

JESSORE, Dec 22: A massive operation by 1500 policemen crushed the six-day rebellion by prisoners at the Jessore Central Jail this morning, leaving at least nine people including a policeman killed and about 400 others injured, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The injured included IG (prisons) Liqat Ali Khan. The SP of Jessore, however, told newsmen in the afternoon that five persons, including constable Rafiqul Islam, were killed and 150 others were injured.

The four prisoners, all convicts, were killed when rival groups of inmates fought each other, SP Ali Imam claimed.

One of the convicts was lynched by some prisoners as they suspected him to be an in-

former of police. The assault forces who sealed the walls with ladders after hurling a barrage of tear gas shells found the body hanging inside the jail, police said.

Hospital sources and witnesses told The Daily Star that eight bodies of prisoners were found after the operation was officially over at 8 am, nearly six hours after the assault was mounted.

BDR and armed police cleared the onlookers and relatives of prisoners from the surrounding areas of the prison. They had gathered when the forces were assembling at about 2 am.

A curfew was clamped on a two square kilometre area around the Jessore prison at 5 am as the assault forces moved

under the cover of the thick fog created by the tear gas shells. Some 400 tear gas shells and about 500 rounds of plastic bullets, were fired during the operation, official sources said.

Seven of the dead prisoners were identified by jail sources as Afaz Ali Sardar, Raushan Ali, Abdul Jalil, Humayun Mollah, Kalimuddin (all convicts), Zahir Kamal Bachchu and Nashua (under trials), the other body could not be identified.

The bodies were kept at the Jessore Jail till filing of the report at 11-15 pm last night.

Officials said the injured prisoners were given medical aid inside the jail. Some were shifted to Khulna hospital. The prisoners were provided dinner last evening.

IG (prisons) Liqat Ali Khan was admitted when he was beaten by some sepoys of the assault force as he reportedly declined to permit use of live bullets on the prisoners, the sources said.

He was admitted to the Jessore Combined Military Hospital. A prison electrician, Sujon Ali Hajra, in whose quarter the IG (prisons) took shelter to escape the wrath of the sepoys, was also beaten along with his family members. Hajra was admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Officials said that eleven death row prisoners were found at their cells. Two pipe guns and a pistol were found in a truckload of assorted weaponry ranging from machetes to sharpened rods and pipes. But they failed

### Probe body formed

The government in a handout last night said that the situation in the Jessore Central Jail was now under complete control and the prisoners had returned to lockups, reports BSS.

The government in the handout expressed deep shock at the unwanted incident in the Jessore jail and also formed a one member enquiry commission to investigate into the incident.

The commission headed by retired judge of the High Court Division Justice Habibur Rahman Khan would submit its recommendations to the government within the next 30 days after completion of the investigation.

### BNP demands judicial probe

Opposition BNP yesterday demanded of the government to constitute a judicial inquiry committee to probe the incident in Jessore Central Jail and take necessary action, reports UNB.

The government has made the Jessore jail a slaughtering land despite the scope of resolution, BNP said.

## Show cause notice on Board of Directors Central bank suspends MD of AB Bank

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bank yesterday suspended the Managing Director (MD) of AB Bank and asked him to explain within seven days why legal actions should not be taken against him for irregularities in sanctioning loan to a business house.

The central bank also issued another notice on the Board of Directors of AB Bank asking it to explain within seven days why the authorities should not take legal measures for its activities against the interest of the bank and its depositors by providing the loan.

AB Bank's MD A Rahim Chowdhury has also been instructed to immediately hand over his responsibilities as the bank's chief to Deputy Managing Director M A Awal.

This is the first instance of a

show cause notice by the BB on the board of directors of a bank in the recent past, banking sources said.

On instruction from the Governor of BB, the Director-General of the central bank issued separate notices on the MD of AB Bank and Chairman of the Board of Directors Morshed Khan.

These show cause notices are the outcome of a recent move initiated by the Prime Minister's Office. A letter from the PM's office asked the Finance Ministry to remove Rahim Chowdhury to help smooth investigation into the alleged corruption in sanctioning loans. The Finance Ministry forwarded it to the Bangladesh Bank for necessary steps.

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## Freedom fighters honoured Build country with spirit of '71: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all irrespective of party affiliation and opinion to unite like in 1971 to build the country, reports UNB.

"We have got an opportunity and I want to utilise every moment to build the economy to reach the fruits of independence to every one. We want to stand with our heads aloft in the world fora," Hasina said addressing a reception accorded to the freedom fighters in the city.

Hasina also called for taking a fresh vow on the 25th anniversary of independence, to materialise the dream of Liberation War and Bangabandhu by transforming the country into Sonar Bangla.

The government organised the reception at the North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad to honour the MuktiJoddhas on the occasion of silver jubilee of the victory in the 1971 war of independence.

"I salute you," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the freedom fighters. "The nation will remember you for ever for your sacrifice for the independence of the country," she said.

The Prime Minister said people were celebrating the silver jubilee of victory with open and free mind.

Freedom fighters remained neglected, but "We can't forget them... we'll not let the contribution of those whose sacrifice freed our dear motherland be wiped out."

Turning to the family members of the martyred freedom fighters, who also gathered at the reception, Hasina said the very well knew their sorrows and pains as she also lost her dear ones.

You have lost the Father of the Nation, but I lost my father, mother, brothers, sisters-in-law and other relations," said an emotion-charged Hasina when some of the freedom

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## Corruption case filed against Khaleda, Matin

Star Report

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) has filed a case against former prime minister Zia and former home minister Abdul Matin Choudhury for appointing police officers by misusing power for partisan interest Ramna thana sources said.

An official of the Bureau, Abdus Sattar, lodged the case with the Ramna thana on Saturday under Section 109 of the Bangladesh Penal Code and Section 5 (2) of the Anti-Corruption Act of 1947.

According to the First Information Report (FIR) registered with the Ramna police, the former prime minister and the home minister had cancelled a list of the candidates selected for appointment as sub-inspector of police and recruited people of their choice by abusing powers with mala fide intention for partisan interest, Ramna police sources added.

## 10 hurt as transport workers attack DU students

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people, mostly students of Dhaka University, were injured when a group of transport workers allegedly attacked them near the Sayedabad bus terminal in the city yesterday.

Of the injured, Motiur Rahman, 20, Mahbubur Rashid, 24, Zahid Hossain, 22, Shuhul Ja-

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## 3 Barisal jail officials sued

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 22: A case has been filed against three jail officials here allegedly for resorting to inhuman torture on a JCD leader while quelling Thursday's commotion in the Barisal District Jail.

The case was filed yesterday with the Special District Judge Court against jailor M A Mannan, deputy jailor Kishore Nag, and jail super Rafiqul Alam.

Anisur Rahman Panna, brother of JCD central leader Mahbubul Haq Nannu, lodged the case.



Police leaving the Jessore Central Jail yesterday after quelling the prisoners' revolt. — Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

## Oil, gas exploration in Bangladesh Int'l confces in London, Houston in Feb

By Sharier Khan

The government will hold the second series of international round-table conferences on prospects of hydrocarbon exploration in Bangladesh sometime in February next, sources concerned said.

The World Bank (WB) sponsored roundtable conferences to be held in London and Houston, aim at attracting more foreign investment in hydrocarbon exploration in Bangladesh.

The conferences were at first scheduled to be held in July last. Those were rescheduled for October but were ultimately postponed as the WB-appointed Swiss organiser the Petro Con-

sultants, backed out. This time an American company—Gustav Sons—has been appointed to conduct the conferences which are expected to attract world's leading gas and oil companies.

A number of leading multinational companies like Exxon, Shell, Mobil, UNOCAL, Union Texas, Japan Oil Corporation, British Gas, Total and many other companies from the UK and Malaysia have shown keen interest in exploring hydrocarbon in Bangladesh. Representatives of these companies are free-

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## 7 Indian troops among 14 killed in Kashmir blast

SRINAGAR, Dec 22: At least 14 people including seven Indian soldiers were injured in a blast in a northern Kashmiri town today, police here said, reports AFP.

The attack followed the overnight killings of a Muslim militant and a local politician and an explosion Saturday in which two people were killed elsewhere in the northern Indian state, a state government spokesman added.

Witnesses said at least 10 soldiers were injured in the blast today. However, police said seven troopers and four civilians were injured in the explosion at Sumbhal, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of

the state summer capital of Srinagar.

Four of the paramilitary troopers were in a critical condition. Muslim separatists had planted a landmine on a road and triggered the device by remote control when an Indian security vehicle passed over it, the spokesman said.

It was the second landmine explosion since Saturday when two people died and 22 were injured in a blast in Srinagar.

Muslim militants were also blamed for the overnight killing of a politician from Kashmir's ruling National Conference Party who was shot dead in the central district of Badgam, the spokesman said.

## 'Competition in electronic media needed to ensure free flow of information'

By Staff Correspondent

Panelists at a seminar yesterday emphasised the need for giving autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television and open up avenues for competition in electronic media to ensure free flow of information.

The seminar on 'Autonomy of Bangladesh Betar and Television: Present Perspective' was organised by Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) and held at the TSC auditorium.

Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of DU presented the key-note paper while Vice-Chancellor of DU

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury was the chief guest. The discussants included, eminent journalist Obaidul Haq, president of Jatiya Press Club Reazuddin Ahmed and Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly.

The seminar was attended by a good number of DU teachers, DU Professor A K M Nurunnabi, students of journalism department and members of DUJA, DUJA president M K Morshed presided.

Prof Azad Chowdhury favoured autonomy for Radio and TV and said these could be made accountable to a parliamentary committee or to a me-

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