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PHILIPS

## Gen Nasim's writ not maintainable: HC

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday observed that the writ petition of Lt Gen (retd) ASM Nasim challenging his retirement or dismissal from the post of Chief of Army Staff, is not maintainable.

The writ stands rejected after the division bench of the HC, comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Abu Sayeed, passed the order on the maintainability of the petition.

Soon after the order was passed Nasim told The Daily Star, "After obtaining the copy of the order I shall decide whether I should challenge the order before the Appellate Division."

The hearing on the writ petition began on December 3. But Attorney General KS Nabi sought hearing on maintainability of the petition first.

After hearing elaborate agreement of Barrister AR Yousuf, counsel for the petitioner, and that of the Attorney General on Thursday and yes-

## Clinton may visit India after polls

NEW DELHI, Dec 8: US Secretary of Commerce William Daley said here today that efforts were on to prevent a clash between President Bill Clinton's visit to India and snap elections in the country, reports AFP.

"We are trying to work out the visit so that it does not clash with the elections," Daley told a news conference in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, elections to the government topped last month following the withdrawal of parliamentary support by its key political backer.

The dates for the national elections will be announced in January.

Daley said a visit by Clinton in January "may be impossible because of his schedule."

The expectation is that it would be in early March when the election is over," Daley told reporters after meeting with several cabinet ministers of India's outgoing government.

## PM in Tehran

From Page 1

her visit to Tehran.

The Prime Minister has called on the Tehran summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to review the past mistakes and failures and assess the present threats facing the member states internally and externally.

Sheikh Hasina's interview with IRNA was published in the largest English daily 'Tehran Times' today.

Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka for Tehran this morning.

She was seen off at the airport by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Education Minister A S H K Sadique, State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, chief of three services, presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League Amir Hussain Amu, Abdul Kader Sidique (Bir Uttam), Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP, diplomats and high officials.

## Only Bangalees

Constitution was designed by Zainul Abedin. He was assisted by Junabul Islam, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Abul Bark Alvi. AKM Abdur Rouf wrote the final draft of the Constitution by hand.

The exhibition will remain open for visitors from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm.

Meanwhile, Joy Bangla Sanskriti Oikya Jote organized a discussion meeting at the Ramna Batamul yesterday afternoon as part of its monthly Victory Day programmes.

Yesterday's discussion was held on 'The role of students-teachers-intellectuals-professionals and cultural activists in the liberation struggle and in mass movements'.

Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab addressed the meeting as the chief guest while State Minister for Civil Aviation and Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was present as special guest.

Presided over by Awami League leader Nurul Islam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by journalist Shafiqur Rahman, general secretary of the Jote Sheikh Abdul Kader and Jote leader Debendra Malakar.

In his speech the Shipping Minister said that Bangladesh was the only nation in the Sub-continent who fought a war for achieving freedom.

He said that the students, teachers, intellectuals, professionals and the cultural activists had played a significant role in the liberation of Bangladesh. Many people are trying to distort the history of the Liberation War, he added.

The discussion meeting was followed by a cultural function.

Meanwhile, street dramas were staged at the Central Shaheed Minar premises as part of the Victory Day programmes organized by Somay, a drama group.

## Edn policy

From Page 1

He said the vision of the education policy of the government is to alleviate poverty in the country.

The children of the country should have similar education and the education policy provides for special emphasis on English and Arabic in English medium schools and madrasas respectively.

Vocational education will begin from class eight, he said, adding that this will help develop technical education among the youths and thereby reduce unemployment problems.

President Shahabuddin thanked the chairman of the National Education Formulation Committee for completing the report in time.

The member-secretary of the committee and secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology Muhammad Fazlur Rahman was present on the occasion.

## Polls violence

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Our Barguna correspondent adds: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between supporters of two candidates the Union Parishad election at Dhalua union under Borguna sadar thana Sunday night.

Of the injured, Kaseem Sikdar and Abdul Khaleque were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital while ten others were under treatment at the Barguna General Hospital.

Police said the clash erupted in the village Khataltali when some supporters of a candidate were crossing the house of a rival candidate at about 11 pm. Both the groups exchanged gunfire during the clash. Election of Dhalua UP will be held on December 13.

## Netherlands to help develop CHT

## Flames race thru' Indonesian central bank tower: 15 killed

JAKARTA, Dec 8: Flames raced through the top of a glistening office tower of Indonesia's central bank today killing at least 15 people and injuring five others, reports AP.

At least six victims had been

new 25-story Bank Indonesia building in central Jakarta.

A police helicopter plucked four workers from the roof and landed in a nearby plaza.

Shattered by the 15-class glass windows fell hundreds of glass shards in the street as smoke smashed from the gutted top three

floors.

"It seems the dead had been trying to run from room to room. But all the rooms were full of smoke so they became trapped," said Suharso, chief of the city's fire department.

Yelling for help, trapped workers waved bright red cloths from the windows. About 200 people were evacuated down the smoke-filled stairs of the twin tower.

Officials suspect faulty electrical wiring sparked the fire.

## 58 Thai finance cos liquidated

BANGKOK, Dec 8: Thailand launched the biggest-ever revamp of its financial system today, liquidating nearly all 58 insolvent finance companies suspended earlier this year as an economic crisis rippled through Asia, reports AP.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand index rose 3.4 per cent, or 13.03 points, to 401.80 in reaction to the government's announcement it was closing 56 companies, one of the strongest moves taken by Thailand after months of indecision. The local currency, the baht, strengthened to 41.20 against the US dollar in offshore spot markets

## BNP

From Page 1

According to sources close to the leaders concerned, Bhuyian complained that a group of party leaders had consistently been trying to turn the BNP into a communal organisation, which is contradictory to the party's original goal and objectives.

He also accused Khaleda Zia of entertaining the group out to divert BNP from its 'nationalist ideals' and convert the party into a political platform for the religious fundamentalists.

Bhuyian argued that the trend would definitely prove to be counter-productive for both the party and the party chief.

In the beginning Khaleda Zia also reacted sharply to Bhuyian's attitude and accused him of certain failures. However, eventually she gave in to his arguments and approved the changes Bhuyian brought about in the original package of programmes, which was published in yesterday's newspapers, sources said.

Both the officers were sent to the jail *hajat* yesterday.

The District Election Officer of Sunamganj informed that polling in the said two centres had been postponed.

## Presiding officers

From Page 1

thana, were arrested from their houses Saturday night for violating the election code of conduct.

The officers were appointed presiding officers for Binnakuli and Shohala centres under Badaghhat union of Tahirpur thana.

According to an official, they took some ballot boxes and ballot papers to their house after the UP election Saturday night. Police caught them while they were engaged in stamping votes on ballot papers in their houses.

Both the officers were sent to the jail *hajat* yesterday.

The District Election Officer of Sunamganj informed that polling in the said two centres had been postponed.

## OIC summit today

From Page 1

Until recently, Iran had tense relations with most Gulf Arab states, notably Saudi Arabia, because of fears that Tehran was trying to export its revolution to the conservative kingdoms.

Arafat last visited here 18 years ago, six days after the Shah was deposed by the revolution, when he was received by spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

But Iran, which vehemently opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process, fell out with Arafat because of his pro-Iraq stance in the Iran-Iraq war and has in the past branded him a 'traitor' for signing interim peace accords with Israel.

The leaders of Turkey, Qatar, Senegal, Tajikistan and the Maldives also arrived here this morning, along with the prime ministers of Morocco and Pakistan.

Among the other Muslim leaders expected later in the day are Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad, Malaysian prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Bangladesh's prime minister Sheikh Hasina was the only woman leader to arrive.

Iranian officials said all 55

## UN convention on climate change

## Dhaka's call to reach protocol to contain global warming

KYOTO (Japan), Dec 8: Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury today made a call to mobilise collective political will through accommodation, flexibility and understanding to reach a protocol acceptable to all countries for containing global warming, reports BSS.

Addressing the ministerial-level United Nations framework convention on climate change here, Sajeda Chowdhury said some binding provisions in the form of protocol were essential for the survival of the global family and to save the planet.

Sajeda Chowdhury is leading a five-member Bangladesh delegation to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which began here on

## A bank director clarifies

By Staff Correspondent

A director of Pubali Bank, MA Rakib, whose name was also included in the list of defaulting directors, in a clarification yesterday said he had repaid his loan 12 days before publication of the report.

He said IFIC Bank had sent his name as a defaulter to the Bangladesh Bank without informing him and added that he had repaid the amount after receiving a notice from the Bangladesh Bank.

Kibria told the seminar that the government is to incur a loss of Tk 2500 crore annually for the losing industrial units in the public sector.

To overcome the situation, the government has undertaken massive reforms and accelerated the privatisation programme.

Referring to the power sector, the minister blamed the 'wrong steps' of the past BNP government for disaster in this sector. He, however, assured that the problem would be solved by next year.

He said the rate of inflation remains below five per cent and the overall economy is picking up.

The accord proposed wide authority of the RC to "coordinate and supervise the general administration, law and order and development" in the CHT region.

After providing legal coverage to the RC, the date of surrender of the armed cadres of the PCJSS and its militias would be set in consultation with it.

The closures were necessary to comply with terms of a 17.2 billion dollars bailout of Thailand supervised by the International Monetary Fund after the de facto devaluation of the baht in July. The baht has since lost 40 per cent of its value against the dollar.

The meltdown spread to other Asian countries. Indonesia and South Korea have been forced to turn to the IMF for economic rescue and Malaysia has scrapped billions of dollars in infrastructure projects.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand index rose 3.4 per cent, or 13.03 points, to 401.80 in reaction to the government's announcement it was closing 56 companies, one of the strongest moves taken by Thailand after months of indecision. The local currency, the baht, has since lost 40 per cent of its value against the dollar.

The arrested members of the trafficking gang admitted to police that the group was being sent to India via Dhaka and Benapole, said a police official.

A case has been lodged under the Women and Children Protection Control Act.

All the arrested and rescued persons were sent to jail *hajat* today.

Abul Hashem, the arrested gang leader, who hails from village Bangaon under Sunamganj Sadar thana, admitted his involvement in trafficking, the official added.

The bodies were sent to

the mishap occurred. The bus left Baghabari of Rajshahi on Sunday.

Police and hospital sources said five passengers died on the spot while two others succumbed to injuries after they were rushed to hospital. Among the wounded, condition of 15 was reported to be critical.

Of the killed, one was identified as Shamsunnahar (45) of Ghoradari in Matlab thana of Chandpur district. Her daughter Amena and closekins Parvin and Alamgir were injured in the accident.

Injured Amena (12) was admitted at Dhamrai Hospital while Parvin (25), Alamgir (35), Naser (50), Hazrat (35), Azhar (30) and Badal (25) to Savar Ganostasby Hospital.

Of the other injured, Aminul Islam (32), Shafiqul Islam (23), Lutfar Rahman (26), Abdul Bashir (35), Rajibul Hasan (20), and Noor Samad (25) were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

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