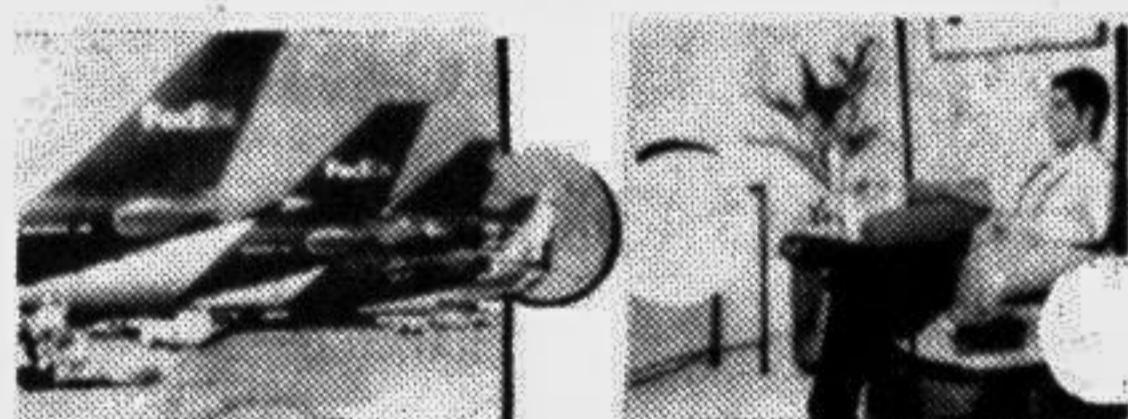


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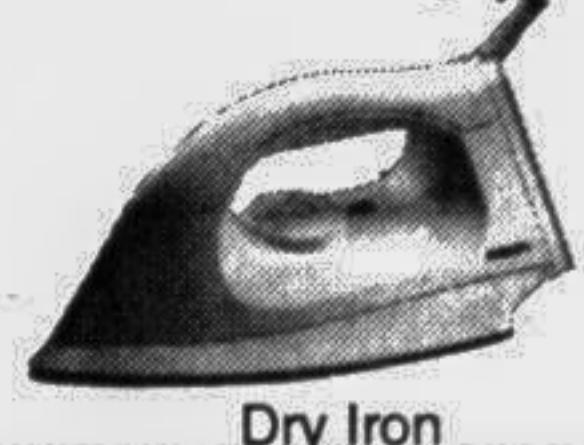
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PHILIPS

## Just to get rid of vagrant children?

By Staff Correspondent

While the Bangladesh Railway and Government Railway Police are trying to conceal facts about their involvement in bundling out about 40 vagrant children in a goods wagon at the city's Kamalapur Station on Saturday, a 'mysterious' group of people has cleaned up the station of all vagrant children.

In a bid to rid the station of such children, registered coolies in collaboration with some 'BR' officials' and 'security personnel' rounded up the children and bundled them into a goods wagon of the Isha Kha Express passenger train bound for Mymensingh. BR officials later said the children were 'only being sent to far away places' so that they could not return to the station.

The children were released when a citizen intervened moments before the train's departure, challenging the legality of the move. The panic-stricken children immediately ran away screaming. A top BR official later admitted the facts but said, 'It removal of the children had to be done because the problem of vagrant children in the station was becoming unbearable.'

Kamalapur railway station which for long had the problem of squatting destitutes and vagrant children was cleaned up following the incident. The children are believed to have been driven away. It is also sus-

4 Comilla Board staff suspended

COMILLA, Dec 1: The Education Board authorities here have suspended two officials and two employees for their alleged involvement in corruption, misuse of power and forgery, reports UNB.

They are Section Officers Mohammad Ayet Ali and Sheikh Abdul Latif. Upper Division Assistant (UDA) AKM Rezaul Karim and Office Assistant Iqbal Hossain.

The board authorities suspended them on November 25 following orders from the President's Secretariat in this regard.

Cases were filed against them with the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

**Dr Al-Muti Sharfuddin laid to rest**

Noted educationist and science writer Dr Abdulla Al-Muti Sharfuddin was laid to rest at Banani Graveyard yesterday, reports UNB.

The first *namaj-e-janaza* for Sharfuddin was held at Dhaka University Mosque after Zohar prayers. The DU Vice Chancellor, teachers, intellectuals, litterateurs and poets attended the *janaza*.

The second *namaj-e-janaza* was held at Bangla Academy premises. Among others, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, prominent litterateurs and poets attended the *janaza*.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the house of the noted science writer yesterday morning and placed wreaths at his coffin.

She stayed there for some time, consoled the bereaved family members and offered *munajat* seeking divine blessings for salvation of the departed soul.

*Qulkuwani* of the late writer will be held at his Hatirpool residence after Magreb prayers tomorrow.

pected that at least some of the 26 children arrested Monday probably for stealing at Zia International Airport Customs godown were 'evicted' from Kamalapur station.

The government has ordered a probe into the incident and formed a two-member committee. GRP officials at Kamalapur station, BR authorities and the Railway security force, however, kept on insisting that no such incident had ever taken place. Several national dailies have also reported their denial.

Again, on Sunday, a top official of BR's Public Relations Department admitted that the incident had taken place and the children were bundled into a 'luggage compartment', not into a goods wagon.

Since the operation was done without any legal or official approval, the probe body will not find any document in this regard, sources said.

Halaluddin, the flagman (guard) who released the children from the sealed wagon, was yet to be questioned by the authorities, they added.

### Over 500 Rohingyas flee camps

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 1: Over 500 Rohingyas fled two refugee camps in the district since repatriation of the refugees to Myanmar resumed on November 25 after 16 months.

The refugees, unwilling to return home, slipped out through the fragile security system in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps.

Red Crescent authorities said they were providing food against 20,815 Rohingyas in the two camps whereas, according to official statistics, there should be 21,365 refugees in the camps.

Local people said many Rohingyas have taken refuge in remote villages or have left for third countries.

Kotwali police rescued 14 Rohingya women and children from the district bus station while they were being trafficked to Pakistan and arrested an alleged trafficker on November 25.

Since repatriation resumed on November 25, only 46 refugees returned to Myanmar and another 50 are scheduled to return on December 2.

### DSE polls

From Page 1

Present DSE Chairman Md Rakibul Rahman along with three others councillors - Kazi Feroz Rashid, Ahsanul Islam, Dewan Suhel Afzal - were re-tired as a result of a lottery.

But Rakibul Rahman was trying to continue for a second term. He along with some powerbrokers managed to convince Council Member Jangir Kabir Chowdhury to withdraw in favour of Rakib.

The Election Council changed its earlier decision reportedly under pressure and allowed Rakib to continue. The move prompted protests from the other retiring councillors. One of them claimed to the Election Council that if Rakibul Rahman could stay despite being 'out' then the whole council should be allowed to remain.

About 1.7 million people in Africa and 700,000 people in Asia and the Pacific are infected with HIV every year, according to UN figures.

The Cambodian government marked AIDS day with the grim announcement that 150,000 people - 1.3 per cent of the population - are infected with the AIDS virus.

Officials said that 50 to 70 people catch HIV in Cambodia every day, the highest HIV infection rate in Asia.



Justice Mohammed Habibur Rahman, former chief advisor in the caretaker government, visits a stall after inaugurating the Fifth Dhaka Book Fair at Chandrima Uddyan in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

— Star photo

### 2nd UK Trade Fair begins in city today

The second UK Trade Fair will begin in the capital today, reports BSS.

British Minister of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs Dr Kim Howells will attend the inaugural ceremony of the three-day fair. Dr Howells arrived here Monday evening on a three-day visit.

The UK Trade Fair, which includes a British education exhibition, will provide a showcase for an extensive range of world class British goods and services available in Bangladesh, a British High Commission press release said.

Minister for Commerce and Industries Tofail Ahmed and British minister Dr Howells MP will jointly inaugurate the fair at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

### HIV infection

From Page 1

through New Delhi today shouting AIDS awareness slogans and waving banners declaring 'together against AIDS.'

The theme of the 11th World AIDS Day is 'Be a force for change.'

Experts have warned recently that although powerful new drugs have sent AIDS deaths plunging in industrialised countries, the disease continues to kill millions of people in the impoverished nations of Africa and Asia.

According to a new UN report, about 33.4 million people around the world are infected with HIV, two-thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Two million people will die of the disease south of the Sahara this year, four times the total for the rest of the world.

Adult HIV infection rates in Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe are between 20 per cent and 25 per cent, the United Nations says.

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### Kalparanjan Chakma on peace accord

## All conditions to be accepted in phases

KHAGRAKHARI, Dec 1: CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma has urged the PCJSS to immediately recognise the interim regional council for the sake of peace and development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at Khagrachari Circuit House today the minister said there were no major obstacles with the passage of amendment to the Rangamati Hill District Bill in the last session of parliament to remove an anomaly that the PCJSS leaders had objected to.

"All other conditions will be implemented in phases," he said holding out government's assurance as the PCJSS leaders sounded grievances over a sloth in implementation of the December 2, 1997 CHT peace agreement on the eve of the first anniversary of its signing tomorrow.

Reviewing the success of the peace deal, he said unrest had prevailed in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for last 23 years, but the scenario changed with the signing of the agreement.

The Minister said within one year of the agreement, the government had implemented many of its terms.

About the non-acceptance of the interim CHT Regional Council by the PCJSS, the CHT Affairs Minister said it was formed as per the agreement and non-acceptance is obstructing the implementation of other terms and conditions of the accord.

He said the Land Ministry is working on formation of a Land Commission to solve the land disputes in the area and as per the agreement, Chairman of the Regional Council or his representative would be in the Commission.

"We will enforce hartal if it is consistent to democracy," he said and hastened to add, "there is no possibility of calling hartal in the near future."

### Netrokona-3 seat

## Fresh voting in 3 centres Dec 20

Fresh voting will be held in three centres in the parliamentary constituency 163 (Netrokona-3) on December 20, Election Commission sources said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The centres are Avonagar Government Primary School, Avonagar, Banajan City High School, Banajan and Teligati High School, Teligati.

**Shawkat Ali new IFIC Bank MD**  
Star Report

An emergency meeting of the Board of Directors of IFIC Bank yesterday made Shawkat Ali, senior executive vice-president, managing director of the bank. He assumes office tomorrow and will be there for a month.

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Monday rejected the re-appointment of former managing director Abbasuddin Ahmed whose tenure ended in September. The BB earlier also served showcause notices on Abbasuddin after several incidences of fraud in the Bank were revealed.

### Three killed

From Page 1  
Mohammadpur thana and Monir Hossain, 18, of Keraniganj,

Police said Saleh Ahmed and Azizur Rahman and their friend Zillah came under attack by a gang of dacoits in the small hours of yesterday at Basila under Mohammadpur thana.

The dacoits took them to a nearby jungle, looted their belongings and stabbed them indiscriminately. Both Saleh Ahmed and Azizur Rahman died on the spot.

Zillah with stab injuries in his body managed to escape. He, however, could not identify any of the attackers.

In another incident, one Monir Hossain, 28, was beaten to death in Waizghar area in the city under Kotwali thana.

Son of one Mohammad Abbas Ali of Keraniganj, Monir had been working for a hosiery shop for last two years at Sadarghat.

He went to India for business purpose and returned to Dhaka two days ago.

A group of eight to ten people reportedly led by one Jallil beat him up severely at around 11 am, police said.

He was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at around 11:45 am where he succumbed to his injuries at around 12:15 pm.

## Discontent brews

From Page 1

PCJSS sources said they feel vulnerable to their opponents in their ranks. A group of young activists of the student wing and two other front organisations of PCJSS have accused Shantu Larma of "deviating" from the original goal of full autonomy for the CHT. Clashes also took place between the two groups.

Sources in the Oikyapa Parishad said they are maintaining a low profile now, watching the "friction" between the rival groups of PCJSS and Shantu Larma's "hitch" with the government.

Shantu Larma has also sent feelers that he would talk with the BNP and other opposition groups and formed a pro-PCJSS group among the settlers as part of his plan to get support from the Bangalees.

## Delimitation of 4 city corps finalised

The Election Commission has finalised the delimitation of the country's four city corporations for elections and published it through a gazette notification, an EC press release said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

As per the delimitation, Dhaka City Corporation has been divided into 100 wards instead of old 90 for election commissioners.

Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi City Corporations have been divided into 51, 37 and 35 wards respectively instead of old 41, 31 and 30 wards.

Besides, election for the reserved ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation has been divided into 33 wards instead of old 18.

Electoral for the reserved ward commissioners of Chittagong has been divided into 17 wards instead of old 8 while Rajshahi and Khulna have been divided into 12 wards instead of old six.

