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## Allegation Manzur Quader of Prominent Housing beats up SEC official

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Prominent Housing owner Major (ret'd) Manzur Quader and his security guards allegedly beat up a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) official yesterday in the city's Mohammadpur area.

Sajjad Hasan, the victim, also received threats on his life from the attackers during the incident, an FIR lodged with Mohammad Police Station said.

Police quoting the FIR said that Sajjad Hasan got out of his apartment at the Prominent Housing Ltd to avail himself of the office car.

When he reached near the main gate to the Prominent Housing building at around 8:10 am, he saw the SEC car and asked the driver to turn it. As the car tried to turn right, another car carrying Quader stood behind the SEC vehicle.

The guards of the Prominent Housing started abusing the driver of the SEC car for turning the vehicle at this point, the FIR said. Hasan and another director (legal) of the SEC requested them to show restraint, the FIR said.

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## Fine for false cheque to be increased

**By Nurul Kabir**  
If a cheque bounces, the issuer would now be fined up to three times the amount mentioned in the cheque.

To realise the fine, the affected person has to file a criminal charge in court against the issuer of the cheque. The court could award the defaulter a jail term of one month, or a prison term along with fine.

Presently, the court is entitled to fine the defaulter double the amount mentioned in a cheque, or one month's jail term, or both.

The increase in the amount of fine was decided at the weekly Cabinet meeting held yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, a minister attending the meeting said.

The new provision would come into effect after it is okayed by parliament.

The Cabinet has also decided

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## Extremists gun down 3 in Gopalganj

**From Our Correspondent**  
GOPALGANJ, Dec 14: Three persons were gunned down by some unidentified extremists at Tarail Bazar in Kasiani thana last night.

Police said a group of extremists attacked the shop of Provosh Kumar Saha at Tarail Bazar and fired on him at point blank range. He died on the spot.

When the local people came to resist the gang, they also opened fire on them leaving two others — Sikder, 18, and Ibrahim, 24 — dead.

Police said, Provosh Kumar Saha had earlier filed a dacuity case with Kasiani thana. They believed that this might have a link with his killing.

The bodies were sent to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Kasiani thana in this connection. None was arrested till filing of this report.

## Inside Today Article

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People swarm the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Flowers & prayers for martyred intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

People with flowers streamed to memorials yesterday, the Martyred Intellectuals Day, as a grateful nation paid homage to those eliminated as part of a heinous conspiracy at the end of the Liberation War.

The national flag flew half-mast, and black flags were hoisted atop public and private buildings.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia led the nation's recalling the sacrifices of the more enlightened sons of the soil.

On December 14, 1971, just two days before the final victory in the glorious War of Independence, the local collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces — the Razakar, the al-Badr and the al-Shams — sought to punch the final blow before retreat.

The collaborators picked up the illustrious men from their residences and brutally killed them in the darkness of night, at Rayerbazar in the city as well as other parts of the country.

The Pakistan army and its local collaborators drew up blueprint to eliminate as many as possible the intellectuals when they became sure of their defeat in the nine-month war against the unarmed, innocent people of Bangladesh.

They picked up scores of writers, journalists, university teachers, physicians, poets and other eminent personalities, just two days ahead of the historic December 16.

The murders followed barbaric tortures at different concentration camps on the helpless men. The bodies were dumped at Dhaka's Rayerbazar and Mirpur, where they were finally killed.

The killing grounds bore testimony to the brutality long after the mayhem had taken place. The mutilated bodies with hands tied behind, and blindfolded, were identified later by their friends and relatives.

Similar incidents were reported from other parts of the country, many of which have remained unreported and are believed to be unknown to

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## Intern doctors start indefinite strike today

By DMCH Correspondent

Some 1200 intern doctors of eight government medical college hospitals in the country will go on an indefinite strike today to press their six-point charter of demand.

The strike will not be observed on Wednesday, the Victory Day.

The demands include doubling of their salary from Tk 4000 a month now, introduction of a guideline for employment of newly passed doctors in clinics, adequate supply of drugs and equipment in hospitals and appointment of more doctors in government hospitals.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Dr Hayat Mahmud Russel General Secretary of Young Doctors' Movement Council (YDMC) said, "The Pay Commission did not consider the case of trainee doctors who actually run the government hospitals".

YDMC Co-Chairman Dr. SM Akmal Ali said "The health minister and the health secretary gave us a lot of assurances but nothing has been done. We are now compelled to go on an indefinite strike as they did not keep their promise."

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah also assured the YDMC leaders on December 2 that the demands would be met but nothing has been done. Dr Nurul Anwar another leader of the another leader of the YDMC said.

## Clash at DMC, two teachers manhandled

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons were injured when two groups of students clashed at Dhaka Medical College yesterday over shifting of fourth year examinations (Second Professional Examination).

Two professors were also allegedly manhandled during the incident.

Witnesses said the incident took place, when a group of about 50 students, some of them with their guardians gathered at the principal's office for registration to appear at the examinations, scheduled to be held next month.

Some 15 students who were demanding shifting of the examination date assaulted them, exploded about 20 hand bombs and ransacked the principal's office to postpone the registration. Some of the students misbehaved with the guardians also, the witnesses said.

Prof. MA Sakoor, former principal of Sir Salimullah Medical College, who accompanied his son Arif, was also manhandled. Surgeon Professor MA Hadi, former principal of the DMC, who came to stop the fighting, was also abused.

The damage caused to the principal's office was estimated at around Tk two lakh, the college authorities said.

Later, the Academic Council of the college at an emergency meeting extended the date for registration till December 20. The earlier fixed date was December 17.

No case has been registered and none was arrested in this connection till filing the report at 10:00 p.m.

## Pabna by-polls BNP candidate rejects probe body report

From Staff Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 14: Defeated BNP candidate Selim Reza Habib today rejected the report of the probe committee headed by the Returning Officer.

Addressing a press conference at the local press club he termed the probe report biased and partisan and demanded judicial inquiry.

Selim had earlier demanded cancellation of polls in 15 out of 81 centres alleging massive rigging by the ruling party. The RO conducted the probe. He received report of 65 presiding and assistant presiding officers. He also had asked Selim to produce his polling agents before him. But none of them turned up.

Selim said most of the polling agents 'boycotted' the probe as they had 'no faith' in the RO. Some of them could not appear before the committee for shortage of time, he added.

When contacted over telephone, Hedayetul Islam, the RO

## Construction of Independence Monument begins tomorrow

The construction of Swadhinata Stambha (Independence Monument) will begin on December 16, the Victory Day, at the Suhrawardy Udyan, reports APB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the work on the monument at a function at 11:30 am.

## Petrobangla now to choose adviser from 'disqualified 7'

By Sharier Khan

Petrobangla has shortlisted seven foreign companies to select an adviser to assist the government in monitoring PSC activities of multinational oil companies in the country, sources said.

The seven companies are: Ogen Energy, UK, Forrest A Garb Associate, USA, Gustavson Associate, USA, SGS Surveillance, Singapore, IHRDC, Netherlands, Shawa Geo Consultant Ltd, Canada and GCA Consultant, Singapore.

All the seven companies were earlier disqualified in Petrobangla's evaluation.

They were selected from among 15 foreign consulting firms which bid in a tender floated by Petrobangla few months ago. Petrobangla is seeking technical assistance from experienced foreign companies for PSC monitoring which is now in very poor state.

But as per the evaluation criterion of the bidding set by Petrobangla, not a single bidder scored the pass mark of 75 out of 100 to be pre-qualified in the tender.

Petrobangla authorities then sought the energy ministry's help in deciding the fate of the tender bidding. It named six foreign companies to be shortlisted for the final selection although these were not qualified. The energy ministry maintained that Petrobangla should review the whole bidding and not shortlist any company that has not qualified.

Then Petrobangla chief asked the bid evaluation committee to shortlist five companies. But as the Petrobangla chairman did not outline any criterion for this selection, the bid evaluation committee could not proceed further.

However, earlier this month, the committee set a criterion under which the bidders receiving over 50 point, instead of 80, were considered "qualified".

Sources said, actually none of these companies were experienced in monitoring PSC in the manner Petrobangla ran business. "These companies have different types of experience but none has any national-level

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## Arsenic invades Dhaka city

Water in southern and eastern parts of Dhaka metropolis is almost 90 per cent contaminated by arsenic, experts say, reports APB.

The disclosure came at the inaugural session of a two-day international workshop on "arsenic problem and water resource management in Bangladesh" in the city yesterday.

Dhaka Community Hospital has organised the workshop at its auditorium. UNICEF Representative J. Bangladesh Shahida Azfar chaired the first technical session.

Presenting a paper at the workshop David Kinniburgh of British Geological Survey, quoting recent findings in Bangladesh, said some 21 million people are exposed to arsenic contamination.

According to the study, he said, Chapainawabganj, Faridpur and Laxmipur are the highly arsenic contaminated areas in the country while severity of the menace in further west is 10 to 60 per cent.

However, Rajshahi, Naogaon and Natore have less than 10 per cent arsenic pollution, he pointed out, suggesting appropriate strategies for mitigating the problem.

Just two years back, extent

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## Money, muscle matter most in JCD

By Staff Correspondent

A great majority of the JCD activists is angry that non-students and alleged terrorists dominate the new central and Dhaka University unit committees.

"Musclemen have been accommodated keeping in mind the upcoming City Corporation election and a possible anti-government movement in near future," a JCD source observed.

"On the other hand, dedicated JCD workers have been ignored. Most of the members of the new committees are no longer students or have hardly been in touch with students," the source said.

The view is shared by most JCD activists, spoken to by The Daily Star.

Even a peon at the JCD office housed in the same building as the BNP central office at city's Navabnagar has been made a member of the newly formed central committee, JCD sources said.

The 205-member new central committee was announced on December 3 with Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and Nasiruddin Pintu as president and general secretary respectively. A 101-member Dhaka University unit committee was also declared the same day.

The composition of the new committees suggests supporters

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Kangalini Sufia sings a baul song at the Dhaka University playground yesterday as part of the Bijoy Utsab organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote to celebrate the Victory Day.

— Star photo

## Bijoy Utsab at and around DU

By Staff Correspondent

Scores of people flocked to Dhaka University campus yesterday to enjoy programmes to celebrate Victory Day.

The campus was in a festive mood as a five-day "Bijoy Utsab" of the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote that began Saturday was at its peak.

The Jote have set up four manchas or stages and organised a victory fair on the campus where patriotic songs, recitation, dramas based on the War of Independence and film shows are taking place from 4 pm to 8 pm everyday. The programmes will continue till December 16.

A stage at TSC road island has been named after the late film actor Jashim. The artists and cultural activists staged street drama and organised film show, enjoyed by hundreds of people.

At the Central Shaheed Minar, five cultural organisations

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## 300000 Bangladeshi children sold to Indian brothels

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: India has become a major hub in the illegal trafficking of people in Asia, with thousands of women and children sold into prostitution either arriving here, transiting or being shipped out every year, reports APB.

According to the details of a UN report published here today some 200,000 Nepalese women and girls, together with around 300,000 Bangladeshi children have been sold to Indian brothels in recent years.

India also serves as the main transit point for Bangladeshi and Nepalese women being smuggled to the Middle East.

Estimates put the figures at more than two million women in commercial sex work in India, of which 25 per cent are below 18 years, said the 'trade in human misery' report compiled by the UN Development Fund for Women.

"More than 90 per cent of them are of Indian origin and about five per cent from Bangladesh and Nepal."

While prostitution remains the main purpose of illegal trafficking, other areas where the women and children get trapped include the carpet, garment, fishing and brick industries.

The UN report said more than two million children were abused and trafficked globally every year, with Southeast and South Asia taking the lead.

## Palestine no more wants Israel's destruction

GAZA CITY, Dec 14: The Palestinian leadership overwhelmingly approved today the cancellation of clauses in the Palestinian national charter calling for Israel's destruction, report agencies.

Meeting one of Israel's main conditions for pursuing the peace process, members of the top Palestinian political bodies voted with a show of hands to confirm the nullification of the anti-Israel articles.

Those approving the charter revision included around 500 members of the Palestinian National Council — the top political body, as well as the Palestinian Authority legislature, PLO executive council and other organisations.

For years, since the first peace treaty with Israel in 1993, Palestinian leaders have been saying that clauses in their charter calling for the destruction of the Jewish state are null and void.

Hundreds of top Palestinian officials, including former guerrilla fighters, came together today in the presence of US President Bill Clinton to reassert Israel that they are no longer seeking its destruction.

"We will go to the Israelis and tell them, 'we recognise you,'" said the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, Saeb Erekat, one of the delegates of the Palestine National Council.

The PNC meeting is one of the requirements of the Wye River peace accord Clinton helped negotiate. The accord

## Quddus, Sikder lock horns over BGMEA leadership battle

By M Shamsur Rahman and Monjur Mahmud

Mostafa Golam Quddus and one of his vice-presidents were at loggerheads yesterday over who should be the next presidential candidate from the ruling BGMEA group.

As they failed to reach consensus, there were enough indications that two panels would be fighting the February 25 elections to the garment association from the same group that is now holding top offices.

The current Second Vice-President Nurul Haque Sikdar refused to step out of the battle for leadership when Quddus, the incumbent president, allegedly refused to honour a pledge that Sikdar would succeed him.

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## Rape of Shazneen CID submits charge sheet to CMM

By Staff Correspondent

The same seven persons, who were earlier indicted for killing Shazneen, were chargesheeted yesterday in another case relating to rape of the 15-year-old girl.

The seven were charged with committing the rape and abetting the rapist before the murder on April 25.

The seven are domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan alias Contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, guard Humayun Kabir alias Babul Sarder, carpenter Shani Ram Mandal and two maids Parveen and Minu.

The charge sheet was submitted to the CMM at around 2 p.m. yesterday.

CID ASP Mujibur Rahman, who led the investigation into the sensational murder case, framed the second charge sheet under Section 6(1) (2)/14 of the Women and Children Repression (Special Provisions) Act 1995.

The accused had earlier been chargesheeted on September 17 for killing the teenage girl. The Sixth Additional District and Sessions Judge for Dhaka is hearing the case.

The charge sheet was prepared on the basis of an autopsy report of the victim, confessional statements by some of the accused, statements of the witnesses and other documents.

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