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## Sexual abuse DU Syndicate for legal step against teacher

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka University Syndicate yesterday took decision after examining the report of fact-finding committee formed to investigate the sexual harassment of a female student by a teacher of the university, reports APB.

The Syndicate, after scrutinising the report, decided to take legal action against Prof Shahiduzzaman of the Department of International Relations.

The report was submitted to the Vice Chancellor on Sunday. The fact-finding committee was formed on December 7 after an M A final year student of Public Administration Department lodged a formal complaint with VC alleging that she was sexually harassed by the

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## Trial in Jail Killing Case begins today

The trial in the jail killing case begins today at the newly constituted Metropolitan Sessions Court (MSC) here.

The newly appointed MSC public prosecutor Quamrul Islam told BSS that the opening day has been fixed for appearance of the accused before the court and further order by the MSC Judge Sheikh Rezwana Ali. On November 19 last year, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka, sent the case for trial in the Sessions Judge's Court.

## Inside Today

### Article

#### Picking up Pecceadilloes to make a case!

Column: Between the Lines

by Kuldip Nayyar

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### Focus

Opposition combines and  
lays tough demands

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### Prayer Timings

January 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:20	5:26
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:32	5:35
Esha	7:00	7:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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### Shri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Shri	Iftar
23	12	-	5-34
24	13	5-20	5-35
25	14	5-20	5-35



### Chilling to bone

The two children at a slum in the city's Kamalapur area have been fortunate enough to wrap themselves with blanket of sort, but what about the other one with nothing to get covered?

—Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

## BNP's youth leaders bicker to block new Juba Dal faces

By Rezaul Karim

Two top leaders of the 12-year-old committee of Jatiyatadabi Juba Dal, BNP's youth front, are fighting each other, forcing an angry party chief Khaleda Zia to abandon the plan to bring new faces.

Khaleda Zia had asked the two leaders -- Mirza Abbas and Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, president and general secretary respectively of the Juba Dal for more than 12 years now -- to find out a compromise formula. But they have failed to do so.

She had planned to announce the new committee by the first week of this month with a view to bringing dynamism in the youth body ahead of the city corporation elections, scheduled for sometime in April. The chairperson had wanted to bring major changes in Juba Dal leadership and accommodate former student

(Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal) leaders," a source close to Khaleda Zia said.

"But continued grouping, lobbying and misunderstanding among senior leaders have sent the plan into the cold storage," the source said.

Party sources said that BNP and Juba Dal took initiatives several times in the last one year to name a new central committee, dropping the "aged" leaders and putting younger faces in the front.

Incumbent president Mirza Abbas wants to retain the top job, while general secretary Goyeshwar Chandra Roy insists he should succeed him. "Both have remained rigid about it," the source said. Joining the fight between the two are also leaders of the parent organisation, the sources said.

"The problem is some top-

ranking BNP leaders want to plant their 'own men' in the Juba Dal," another source said.

It was learnt that Khaleda Zia, in consultation with her senior colleagues, was about to announce the new executive committee some two weeks ago, with Goyeshwar Roy and former DUCSU general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon as the new leaders.

But an influential leader later advised her to ask the present Juba Dal leadership to propose a draft committee. Accordingly, she opened talks with the Juba Dal leaders late December, following which she asked Abbas and Roy to come up with a "joint" proposal.

But the two again failed to reach an understanding on a new committee. They submitted two separate draft committees

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## Cold spell to continue for 3-4 days

By Special Correspondent

A moderate cold wave sweeping the north and north-western regions of the country is likely to reach the central and north-eastern regions in 48 hours from 6 pm yesterday, Meteorological Department said.

Cold wind rising up to 12/14 kmph Sunday evening made life miserable in the northwestern plains.

In the city Sunday night, chilly wind drove Eid shoppers off the shopping centres and streets. Those sleeping on the pavements and under the porches felt the first bite of winter in the city.

In a foggy dawn yesterday, pedestrians and rickshaw-pullers tried to fend themselves against the cold, wrapping themselves as much as possible. The minimum temperature was 6.5 degree Celsius yesterday

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## VGD programme 15pc foodgrains being misused

By Rafiq Hasan and Reaz Ahmad

At least 15 per cent of the foodgrains allocated for distressed women under the government's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme is being misused.

A recent study titled "Efficiency of Targeted Food Programmes" found that at least 15 per cent of the quantity allocated did not reach the intended beneficiaries.

"We have established that at least six per cent is lost to the Local Storage Depot (LSD). The rest of the quantity that has not been accounted for apparently

goes to other poor women who do not officially participate in the programme," said the study conducted by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

In the current fiscal year, 2.43,000 tons of foodgrains were allocated under the programme and 436,480 women are scheduled to participate in it.

The VGD programme is for the poorest and most disadvantaged women in rural Bangladesh, initiated in 1975 as a relief programme.

Government officials in different areas told IFPRI that a number of measures could be taken to reduce the misuse of foodgrains. They suggested strict supervision and use of military personnel at the time of delivery of the foodgrains. They also suggested providing a 30 kg bag each to the women with a World Food Programme (WFP) seal on it.

About 87 per cent of the women interviewed during the study complained about the quality of foodgrains distributed among them. The study also found that about 60 per cent of the women sell all or part of the foodgrains.

"It should be possible to ensure that all the grain allocated for the VGD programme is

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## Scam cases go to another court

By Staff Correspondent

The judge who heard the share scam cases yesterday ordered transfer of the cases to another court, the new-born Metropolitan Sessions Court.

The First Additional Sessions Judge did not also hear the unfinished arguments on framing charges against three accused companies -- Doha Securities, Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Shinepukur Holdings-- or their directors.

He however granted bail to five of the accused.

Judge Mia Mohammad

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## Double-murder in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: Unidentified assailants this morning stormed into the house of a businessman and gunned down two youths at Shahid Mirza Lane of Mehdibagh area in the city, police said.

The victims, identified as Pesar Mohammad alias Milon, 24, and his cousin Iman Hossain alias Ripon, 18, were asleep, police said.

The assailants knocked the door of the rented house of Sultan Ahmed, a former officer of Chittagong City Corporation, on the first floor of the four-story building at about 9 am and entered the house after the maid servant opened the door, police said.

Two masked assailants gaged the maid while two others sprayed bullets on the businessman's son Milon and his

cousin Ripon who were sleeping on the same bed, police added.

The assailants then hurriedly fled the scene. Milon, a deck cadet, died on the spot while Ripon succumbed to his injuries at the hospital, police informed.

Ripon was staying in his uncle's house for the last few days, police said adding that the motive behind this gruesome murder could not be known immediately. Top police officials visited the spot today. Detective branch of Chittagong metropolitan police has been ordered to investigate the case, police sources said.

Police were interrogating the maid who opened the door. A case was filed with Kotwali thana in connection with the double murder.

## Meeting between Kalparanjan, Shantu Larma not held

By Special Correspondent

A scheduled crucial meeting between Kalparanjan Chakma, Minister for CHT Affairs and Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, Chairman of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), was not held at Khagrachari yesterday.

Shantu Larma has fallen sick, sources here said. He is likely to leave for Calcutta on January 15 for treatment, the sources said.

The meeting was aimed at breaking an impasse on the functioning of the Interim Regional Council (RC) and implementation of the CHT peace accord, signed in December 2, 1997.

Shantu Larma so far declined to accept the interim RC of which he was nominated Chairman by the government in October last year.

He accused the government of breaking the understanding with him on a number of issues. He also alleged that the 22-member RC was announced unilaterally and refused to accept three out of six nominated members of the RC as representatives of Bangladesh in the CHT.

## Killing of labour leaders: 15 held in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 11: Fifteen people have so far been arrested in connection with yesterday's killing of two labour leaders at the Peoples Jute Mills at Khalishpur while BDR, Armed Police and KMP continued to guard vulnerable points in the area to avert further violence.

Production in the mill continued uninterrupted, sources at the local office of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation said today.

FM Siraj General Secretary of the Workers Union of the mill and Manik Mia, its former president were beaten to death as activists of rival factions of Jatiya Samik League clashed at the mill over payment of wages and Eid bonus.

Police said all the arrested people allegedly belong to the group led by Azizur Rahman Akram, a CBA leader and an arch rival of Siraj. Akram is

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## AL Presidium to talk opposition agenda tonight

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will meet senior party colleagues tonight to take stock of the latest political development in the country, sources said.

This is first time in several months that 15-strong Awami League presidium sits today in the wave of a joint movement plan by main opposition parties -- BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat.

AL sources hinted that when party chief would meet the presidium members at Gonabhaban, the official residence of the Prime Minister, issues relating to opposition demands, local government polls and organisational matters might come up for discussion.

## 8 amendment bills to restructure varsity admn finalised

Eight amendment bills were finalised yesterday aiming at restructuring university administrations with provision for appointing one or more pro-VCs to deal with the onerous task of managing present day campus, reports UNB.

Two MPs of the opposition BNP, however, gave note of dissent on approval to the bills as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education adop-

ted them in a meeting, official sources said.

The bills had been placed in Parliament earlier by Education Minister ASHK Sadeque and sent to the Standing Committee for a vetting before passage by the House.

Sources said BNP MPs Alamgir Kabir and M Moshir Rahman opposed the amendments that enable the chancellors of the universities to ap-

point more than one pro-Vice-Chancellor for a varsity.

After an elaborate discussion on the amendments, the report on the bills was finalised.

The bills, along with the report, are expected to be placed and passed in the next session of Parliament, sources at the education ministry and parliament secretariat said.

Committee chairman Nurul

Islam Nahid presided over the meeting which was attended by members Education Minister Sadeque, Whip M Abdus Shahid, Prof M Abdul Quddus, Kazi Sirajul Islam, Rawshan Ershad, Alamgir Kabir and M Moshir Rahman.

"It's designed to absorb partisan teachers in top rank and highly politicise the highest educational institutions of the country," Moshir Rahman told

UNB after the meeting.

He said the ruling party couldn't provide many university teachers who are highly biased to Awami League and they would be made pro-VC if the bills are passed.

"Isn't the current system of one pro-VC enough? How many teachers university needs for smooth operation?" he asked and said his party would oppose the bills in the House.

But Standing Committee

Chairman Nurul Islam Nahid MP of ruling Awami League ruled out the apprehensions of the opposition lawmakers, saying it is necessary for the time.

"Numbers of students have increased tremendously in the universities. The number of departments has also increased. Appointment of more than one pro-VC will be helpful for the

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