chemical weapons in recent

leading the Russian crackdown in Chechnya have been replaced

by their deputies, General Gen-

nady Troshev said Friday in

comments broadcast on NTV

Meanwhile two top generals

Troshev said he would be

replaced as commander of the

eastern front by his deputy

General Sergei Makarov, while

western commander General

relieved by his number two

someone else," Troshev said.

"General Sergel Makarov was

my deputy and works well, and

I am convinced that he will

Shamanov. He has a deputy

who doesn't work any worse

The time has come too for

complete the tasks given him.

"It is time to work with

Vladimir Shamanov would be

General Alexei Verbitsky.

Night temp may fall Weather will remain mainly dry over the coulding with

partly cloudy sky over Chittagong region in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Thick fog may occur over Rajshahi division and the river basin of the country and moderate fog elsewhere over the country during the first half of the day.

Prevailing moderate to severe cold wave over Khulna division and mild to moderate cold wave over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the region of Sri Mongol and Barisal will con-Slight fall in night temperature is expected over the country

during the period. The country's highest temperature 25.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 5.6 degrees at

Satkhira. The sun sets in the capital today at 5.27 pm and rises on

Sunday at 6.43 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity

City/Town	Tempe in Ce	rature	Humidity in percentage	
Dhaka Chittagong	Max 19.6 24.0	Min 10.2 13.5	Morning ,	Evening 83
Rajshahi Khulna Barisal	19.8 22.6 23.6	07.0 08.2 09.8	96 88 88 93	96 69 81 79
Sylhet Cox's Bazar	21.3 25.0	13.2	56	71

Right approaches for dev of northern region being taken'

DHUPCACHIA, Bogra, Jan 7: Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil said here yesterday that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was taking right approaches for the development of the long neglected northern region and reinstating it as the 'granary of food' of the country, reports

The government has already established direct link between the eastern and western parts of the country which has offered peasants of the northern region a chance to get fair prices of their products.

Entrepreneurs are now looking for suitable places to set up their industries in this region," he said while speaking at a public meeting, organised by local Awami League.

He said Bogra would once again come to the focal point of the region as this industrydominated district will get natural gas supply through pipeline soon.

Industrialists, who have been gradually pulling out due to non-availability of cheap raw materials and fuel, would now get opportunity to offer quality products in a real competitive market at home and

Jalil said the prime minister has always a sympathetic view for the northern part of the

country. As part of her commitment to the region, he said, Sheikh Hasina appointed six out of nine new ministers from

the northern region recently. Jalil, a presidium member of Awami League, was critical of the politics of the opposition parties and said when the image of the nation was being brightened and development activities are on full-swing, the unholy alliance of the parties was trying to destroy all the achievements.

"The economy is now on a sound footing," he said and added the image of the country was also revived during the tenure of the present government. A number of international awards have been conferred to Bangladesh and the Prime Minister as well during the last three-and-half years period, he pointed out.

He called upon all the peaceloving people of the region to join hands with Sheikh Hasina and help implement the unfinished and untouched development projects being taken for

this part. President and general secretaries of the district Awami League Momotaj Uddin Ahmed and Ferdous Zaman Mukul respectively, among others, spoke

33 journalists killed in '99

NEW YORK, Jan 7: From Sierra Leone to Yugoslavia, journalism was an often dangerous profession to practice in 1999, with 33 journalists in 10 countries losing their lives because of their work, a press freedom group said Thursday, reports AP.

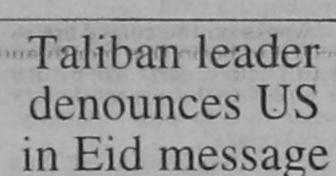
The number of deaths in- AFP. creased from the year before, when 24 journalists were killed in 17 countries, the Committee to Protect Journalists said.

In 1999, the African nation of Sierra Leone was the most dangerous place for journalists. with 10 killed there, including Associated Press Television News producer Myles Tierney.

Tierney and Ian Stewart, AP's bureau chief from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, were shot last January were among a group of journalists traveling - with military escort - through downtown Freetown when they came under attack. A rebel opened fire on the AP car; Tierney died instantly, and Stewart suffered

a serious head wound. Yugoslavia had the secondhighest number of deaths, with six. Other countries where journalists were killed included Colombia, East Timor, Argentina, Legano, Nigeria, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.

All 33 journalists were killed either while on assignment or as



ISLAMABAD, Jan 7: The leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia Mullah Mohammad Omar on Friday lashed out at the United States accusing it of animosity toward Islam and its followers, reports

The condemnation came in Omar's message to his countrymen on the festival of Eidul-Fitr, the Afghan Islamic

Press (AIP) reported. Omar also slammed the Russian onslaught against Chechnya. calling for collective efforts by leaders of Islamic countries to halt "atrocities on Chechens.

"America is persecuting Afghans because it is anti-Islam stance and abhors the Islamic system established by Taliban in Afghanistan," the Pakistan-based AIP quoted Omar as saying.

The Taliban chief said the United States was responsible for the "cruel" sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Afghanistan.

The sanctions, imposed in November over the militia's refusal to hand over alleged terrorist Osama bin Laden, banned international flights of Afghan Ariana airline and asked countries to freeze Taliban bank ac-



Algerian women gather in Bou Ismaiel's cemetery, around the grave of one of the member of their family killed during an attack which left 15 people dead last December. Algerians celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr yesterday.



Linkoping University of Sweden has conferred a PhD on Dr Mahfuzur Rahman for his work on Nonmalignant Health Effects of Arsenic Exposure, reports UNB.

At a time when the country is best with the public health hazard from the chemical poisoning of drinking water. his thesis deals with arsenic poisoning in Bangladesh and Swe-

He is the first Doctorate from Bangladesh and India who has conducted the research on nonmalignant effects of the arsenic poisoning with special emphasis on health issues.

The results of his studies on arsenic in Bangladesh provide evidence that occupational and environmental arsenic exposures may develop diabetes and hypertension.

The crude overall prevalence was 29 per cent in the studied villages, and there was a distinct dose-response relationship between arsenic concentrations in drinking water and skin lesions.

Dr Rahman, who is from Rangpur district, completed his MBBS from Rajshahi Medical College in 1991.



From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Jan 7: Moham mad Obaidullah obtained first class first in masters examination in MTIS in Al-Hadith and Islamic studies from Islamic

University (IU) this year. Obaidullah's father Dr Moktar Hossain and mother Anwara Begum hail from village Suzapur in Royganj thana of Sirajganj district.

Obaidullah wants to be an educationist in future.



From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 7: Rebeka Sultana stood First Class First at the BSS honours examination of 1997 (held in 1999) under National University from department of Economics of

She is the first student from the department to obtain first class in Economics under National University, said a press release signed by the principal of the Chittagong College.

Chittagong College.

Daughter of Mohammad Hafez Ahmed, Rebeka is interested in teaching in future.

Appointment

Group Captain M Iqbal Hossain. Chairman of Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority has recently been promoted to the rank of Air Commodore in the NDU. PSC Air Force, says a press release.

Pakistani Islamists warn govt not to sign CTBT

KARACHI, Jan 7: Around 200 ctivists from Pakistan's main fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party today demonstrated and warned the government against signing the global nuclear test ban treaty, reports

photo

cluded.

Jones, it's time to lose that low-

tech leather jacket, reports

A team of fashion gurus and

electronics wizards are to pro-

duce jackets this summer that

incorporate a tiny mobile phone

or a global positioning system

(GPS), enabling their wearer to

determine their position any-

where in the world within a few

including miniature cameras or

TV screens, can also be in-

of a fashion revolution in which

clothes will include the latest

communications gadgets,

France Telecom said Friday.

spelling out its plans with seven

other companies in a four-

Other members of I-Wear

month-old consortium, i-Wear.

are Adidas, Levi Strauss Eu-

rope, the French fashion house

Audiovisual and video gear,

The jacket is the harbinger

The protest followed a statement by foreign minister Abdus Sattar earlier this week in favour of joining the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Bearded protestors shouted slogans against the United States for pressuring Pakistan to join the treaty, which the Islamic party says, would undermine the country's nuclear programme.

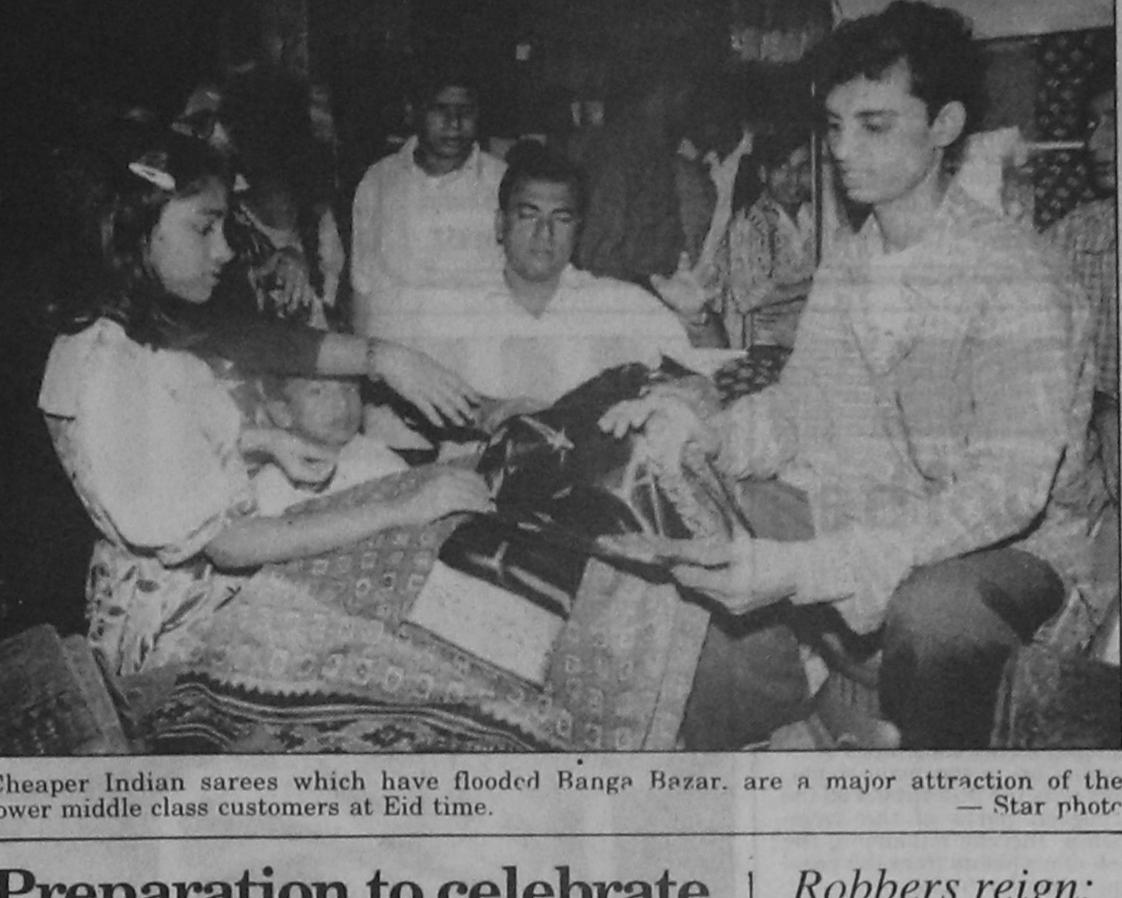
"We prefer to be poor but will save our atom bomb," read a poster carried by the demon-

signing CTBT." the party's central leader Naimatuilah Khan teld the gathering. We will resist any pressure from the US," he said.

that it should not even think of

"We warn the government

Sattar has said the nation should consider signing the CTBT to seize the high moral ground, as India was likely to do so soon. "Not signing the treaty has identifiable costs but no benefits," he said.



Cheaper Indian sarees which have flooded Banga Bazar, are a major attraction of the - Star photo lower middle class customers at Eid time.

Preparation to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 7: Preparations are afoot here to celebrate the holy Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest religious festival of the Muslims, with due religious festivity and traditional enthusiasm on Sunday, reports

The district administration, Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Central Eid Jamaat Committee have completed all necessary arrangements to hold Eid congrega-

Eid congregations under the auspices of Chittagong Central Eid Jamaat Committee will be held at 77 places. The first Eid Jamaat will be held at M A Aziz Stadium at 8:30 am where Khatib of Anderkillah Shah-e-Jam-e-Masjid Anwar Hossain Al Taher Al Jaberi Al Madani will lead the congregation.

The another main Eid congregation under the auspices of Chittagong City Corporation will be held at Jamiutul Falah Complex at 8:30 am while second Jamaat will also be held at the same venue at 9:30 am. Khatib of the complex principal Jalaluddin al-Quaderi will conduct two Eid Jamaats. Besides. Eid Jamaats will be held at 41 wards of the city under direct supervision of the respective ward commissioners.

The other Eid congregations will also be held at Anderkillah Shah-e-Jam-e-Masjid, Laldighi Maidan, Parade Corner, Agrabad Jamboori Field, Port Stadium Maidan, Railway Pologround Maidan, Dampara Metropolitan Police Line Masjid Maidan, Nasirabad Housing Society Maidan. Sugandha Jam-e-Masjid, Sheer-Shah Colony Maidan, Chittagong University Eidgah Colony Maidan, Dewanbazar C and B Colony Maidan, Baizeed Bostami Darga Masjid Maidan. Chittagong Medical College Masjid Maidan and Baitus Sharaf Jam-e-Masjid Maidan.

Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan, Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism. Housing and Public Works Engineer Mosharraf

Hossain and Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury now in Saudi Arabia separate messages conveyed Eid greetings to the city people.

In their messages they said the true Muslims should play a positive role so that poor and riches could enjoy the festivity equally.

To mark the occasion, government and different organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes which include, hoisting of the national flags atop all private and public buildings, decoration of thoroughfares and road islands with miniature flags and festoons inscribed with Eid Mubarak both in Bengali and Arabic. Illumination of important buildings in the evenings, serving of improved diets among the inmates of jail. hospitals, orphanages and destitute centres.

Local dailies will bring out special supplements while the Chittagong regional centres of Bangladesh Betar and Television will broadcast and telecast special programmes on the oc-

BA flights to London Jan 9, 10 rescheduled

British Airways flight BA144 departing Dhaka to London via Delhi on Sunday, January 9 and Monday, January 10 have been rescheduled due to ongoing bad weather in Delhi. says a press release.

These flights will now depart Dhaka at 6:00 pm instead of Maidan, Bahadderhat WAPDA 9:10 pm. Passengers departing on these flight have been advised to report at the airport at 4:00 pm.

For further details customers may contact British Airways airport office on 8914410 or 8912467 on January 9, 2000 after 4:00 pm, the release added. The office will remain closed on January 8, 2000 due to Eid-ul Fitr.

A sick Chechen refugee girl (C) coughs as a doctor (R) sounds her lungs in the refugee

camp of Sputnik, near Sleptsovskaya yesterday. More than 70,000 refugees have returned

to Russian-held parts of Chechnya, ITAR-TASS agency reported yesterday quoting the

Federal Migrations Service as about 190,000 refugees are still in Ingushetia. - AFP

And now, coming to a shop window

near you: 'intelligent' clothes

Bekintex, and Vaso Data Secu-

rity and Recticel, in computers

tory, Starlab, is directing the

Wear plans to bring out a whole

range of "intelligent" garments

for sports, leisure and business,

prototype this summer along

with a sports top that will

record its wearer's physical per-

formance, such as pulse and

clothes with tiny sensors that

will provide information about

the location or health of a vul-

nerable relative, such as elderly

parent or child, or the presence

of harmful radiation or pollen in

change colour according to the

Dresses or suits that will

"In the near future" will be

France Telecom said.

blood pressure.

the atmosphere.

A Belgian research labora-

Over the next five years, i-

The jacket will emerge in

and electronics respectively.

PARIS, Jan 7: Indiana Courreges, the textile firm

Robbers reign: not even a dead body is spared

LAXMIPUR, Jan 7: Robbers didn't even falter in looting a coffin coming from abroad during mass robberies on transport carrying homebound people ahead of Eid, reports UNB.

The precious coffin fell in the thugs' hands near a bridge on the Alexander-Sonapur road in Ramgati thana on Thursday night police and locals said. A gang of bandits swooped on passing vehicles one after

near Kolachipa Bridge. The gangsters attacked the pickup van carrying the body of Mohiuddin of Charmehar village, working in Oman since 1984, was driving past the spot at 9:30 pm and took away the coffin along with the body, the sources said.

They also looted Tk 38,000 seven tolas of gold and clothes worth Tk 1.55 lakh belonging to the deceased.

The coffin, was brought to Bangladesh through the Bangladesh Embassy in Oman. Documents sent by the embassy along with the body show the list of belongings to the dead. Mohiuddin's friend, Mintu.

informed that he was carrying the body to his family after receiving it from Zia International Airport in Dhaka in the morning. The expatriate was killed in

a road accident on December 24 Meanwhile, passengers alleged, the same gang also committed robberies on most vehicles passing the same road, looting belongings worth Tk 9 lakh,

Clash leaves 10 injured in village in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Jan 7: A clash between two groups of people at village Ghoramara in Daulatpur thana over irrigation water left 10 people injured on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Three of the injured were admitted to the thana health complex in critical condition. Separate cases were filed.

heat of their body, the lights or

dia, the self-employed, defence,

civil protection authorities and

security authorities are ... (other)

sectors that are potentially in-

terested in these new-generation

telecoms provider in France, is

a member of the consortium

through its research unit, the

National Centre for Telecom-

munications Study (CNET).

ments, he told AFP.

France Telecom, the biggest

clothes," France Telecom said.

"The medical world, the me-

music, will intrigue club-goers.

guerrillas defending the rebel than him." Troshev added. Clinton, Barak, Shara begin trilateral meeting

Russia suspends military

activities in Grozny

MOSCOW, Jan 7: Russia capital had twice exploded

SHEPHERDSTOWN, West Virginia. Jan 7: US President Bill Clinton on Friday brought Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara together in an effort to break a deadlock surrounding the peace talks, reports AFP.

has ordered a suspension of

military operations in Grozny to

protect civilians from the risks

of chemical weapons deployed

by Chechen guerrillas, a top

general said Friday, reports

because of the risk of an ecolog-

ical catastrophe and the need to

protect defenceless civilians

from the guerrillas' tactics, said

General Gennady Troshev in

comments broadcast on NTV

suspend military operation

throughout the Grozny areas for

a single reason: there are still

civilians held by force by the

Chechen fighters, who are using

them as human shields." Tro-

were able to don special gear to

combat the menace, said Tro-

shev, adding that Chechen

Unlike civilians, the military

shev said.

"We have been forced to

The suspension was ordered

The meeting, which began at 11:00 a.m. (2000 BST) followed an impasse of more than 24 hours. White House officials

Before leaving Washington for this remote West Virginia resort. Clinton told reporters that Syrian and Israeli negotiators were "trying to find ways to resolve their differences.

"This is a difficult, difficult set of negotiations, but we are working in a steady way and I am satisfied that everybody is working in good faith," he said. "I am trying to get people to keep in mind the big picture at the end. What we want in this case, what we hoped the Middle

10 years from now." he said. The president was also in Shepherdstown on Thursday where he met separately with Barak and Shara, spending a

East will look like in five years.

total of seven hours here. A Syrian official told AFP that Shara had told Clinton of "Syria's determination to exert all possible efforts to make these negotiations a success and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.



Several hundred Iranian hardline students hold up pictures of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as they demonstrate yesterday in central Tehran to demand that Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi cancel a trip to Great Britain, following an alleged insult to the Islamic - AFP photo Republic in a London Times article.

35 killed as youths clash in two Nigerian cities

LAGOS, Jan 7: Armed youths fought pitched street battles in two Nigerian cities amid rising ethnic tensions in Africa's most populous nation, killing an estimated 35 people, witnesses said Thursday, reports AP.

The clashes between two of Nigeria's largest ethnic groups - Hausa and Yoruba - occurred Wednesday in Lagos, the commercial capital, and Ibadan. about 100 kilometers (60 miles) to the north. It was not immediately clear whether the incidents were linked. At least 14 people were ar-

rested in connection with the fighting, police said Thursday. A resurgence of ethnic fighting in Nigeria has killed hundreds since President Olusegun Obasanjo was sworn in May 29, ending 15 years of military rule.

In Ibadan's Ojoo neighborhood, angry Yoruba residents beat to death a Hausa truck driver. Witnesses said the man tried to drive away from the scene of a collision with a bus in which several passengers were killed and injured.

Mobs then spread through the neighbourhood, burning and looting at least 30 homes. At least 10 people died in the mayhem, the Lagos Punch and Guardian newspapers reported Thursday.

In the Lagos neighborhood of Mushin, Yoruba nationalists wearing white bandannas launched vigilante attacks Wednesday against suspected thieves and drug dealers, witnesses said. Many of those lynched Wednesday were said to

Police said they could only

confirm six killings, but wit-

nesses and reporters counted at A CNET researcher acknowlleast 25 died. Corpses littered edged that many problems had otherwise deserted streets on to be overcome with the innova-Thursday as police threw a tive clothes, such as the high heavy security cordon around initial cost, where to place the the area, cruising in armored operating switches and buttons vehicles. More than 40 homes and how to clean the garments. were destroyed. Even so, this research 'will provide the clothes that people The lynchings were carried

will be wearing three, five or 10 out by members of the Odudua years down the road," when People's Congress, a collection communications will be comof activists. Yoruba tribal leadpletely integrated with garers and militants advocating a separate Yoruba homeland in

southeastern Nigeria. A spokesman for the Odudua activists, who identified himself as Alhaji Lawal, declared an end to the attacks Thursday but warned the group would strike criminals again.

The word Odudua - sometimes spelled Odua - comes from the creator of humanity in Yoruba folklore and has been a rallying cry in recent clashes in Lagos suburbs, where Yorubas predominate. Obasanjo, a former military

leader and a Yoruba from the south, has been accused by many of his tribesmen of siding with Hausa northerners who have long dominated Nigeria's

Last November, Obasanjo ordered the arrests of anyone associated with Odudua after two days of fighting between Yoruba and Hausa traders left at least 27 people killed in a Lagos market.



British novelist and historian Patrick O'Brian, who has died in Dublin at the age of 85, it was confirmed yesterday.

- AFP file photo



- AFP photo