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Wishing the  
BEST for the  
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## Irfan Raja may leave today

By Diplomatic Correspondent  
Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner Irfan Raja, who has been recalled by Islamabad, is likely to leave Dhaka today, according to sources.

He is due to board a PIA flight to Karachi this afternoon.

It was learnt that he was staying at a city hotel prior to his departure.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry said that his replacement arrived from Islamabad yesterday.

The sources, however, declined to provide any details. They said they will be informed about the diplomat's departure and arrival of his replacement so that a new diplomatic ID card can be issued.

Raja was withdrawn from the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka in the teeth of widespread protest against derogatory remarks he made about Bangladesh's War of Independence at a seminar.

## Market on car park land: Rajuk issues showcase

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk has sent a showcase notice to the Bangabandhu Avenue Baboshayee Bohumukhi Samabaya Samiti (BABBSS) asking it why the plan for a six-story building would not be cancelled since the PWD has confirmed that the land is a designated public car park.

Sources in Rajuk said when they were forced at gun-point to approve the plan on November 5, Rajuk's Building Construction Committee (BC Committee) tagged a condition that if there is any problem with the land, the approval would be automatically cancelled.

Rajuk has asked BABBSS Secretary Dewan Nasirul Haque to respond in seven days.

See page 11 col 7

## Rejoinder and our reply

The Bangabandhu Avenue Baboshayee Bohumukhi Samabaya Samiti has issued a rejoinder to a report published in The Daily Star on December 2 under the headline 'Tk 50 cr land leased out for only Tk 1.6 cr.'

The rejoinder said that 560 members of the Samity had been doing business at the site since 1987. They had duly obtained a yearly lease from the Deputy

See page 11 col 4

## Inside Today

### Article

#### Political Brutalities: The Colonial Mindset

Column: Heart of the Matter  
By Mansoor Mamoon  
Page 4

### Supplement

One page supplement on the 'National Day of Thailand' on Page 8

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 5		5.10 pm
Dec 6	6.27 am	

Prayer Timings		
December 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5.03	5.15
Zohr	12.45	1.20
Asr	3.45	4.00
Maghrib	5.14	5.22
Esha	7.00	7.30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Sehri, Iftar	timings
Ramadan	Dec
8	5 5.03 5.14
9	6 5.03 5.14
10	7 5.04 5.15

## Build movement for people-oriented healthcare system

By staff correspondent

The People's Health Assembly 2000 (PHA), the biggest gathering of health activists from 95 countries, began in Savar yesterday.

Other than health activists, academicians, journalists, medical practitioners, human rights activists and environmentalists are attending the conference for action in favour of a people oriented movement for healthcare.

At the inaugural session of the five-day international meet, first of its kind being hosted by Goroshasthya Kendra, Dr Qasem Chowdhury, coordinator of PHA Secretariat said, "Health for All should be a major part of the international development agenda."

"There is need to build an integrated movement for people oriented healthcare system as opposed to profit-driven global health industry."

PHA that brought together more than 3000 participants from across the globe is committed to the provision of a universal, participatory and comprehensive primary healthcare system irrespective of people's ability to pay.

"We oppose World Bank and government policies that privatise healthcare, turning it

into a commodity, and demand that World Health Organisation (WHO) strengthen its leadership in health," said one of the participants at the opening ceremony at the newly built assembly hall in the midst of a beautiful green atmosphere yesterday morning. The venue is some 50 kilometres from their city.

"This is the beginning of a genuine movement for public healthcare. Human dignity should be at the centre of every political decision," said James Orbinski of Médecins Sans Frontières of Canada.

Orbinski continued, "Today, more than 800 million people do not have access to healthcare facilities. The rich are becoming richer while the poor are getting poorer. The political responsibility has failed in many countries. Our goal is to bridge this gap through creating massive awareness about people's rights."

He added, "From this platform we want to use our voice to achieve our goals for a true movement. This is a long-term struggle against political injustice. It's time we unite for

See page 11 col 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi at the Quirinale Palace in Rome yesterday. Hasina is now on a three-nation European tour. —AFP photo

## Italy to back preferential access of Bangladeshi items to EU

Amato also assures continuation of GSP facilities

ROME, Dec 4: Italy today assured extending support for preferential access of Bangladeshi products to European Union market, continuation of GSP facilities and legalisation of the unauthorised immigrants, reports UNB.

The assurances came from Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato during official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"I assure Italy's support for the access of original products of Bangladesh to EU market and to GSP," Amato told newsmen after the talks billed "extremely successful." Apart from bilateral matters, regional and international issues also came up for discussion in the meeting.

The Italian Prime Minister said that his government would consider the issue of giving legal status to Bangladeshi citizens in Italy, and making an agreement on illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

He said a large number of Bangladeshis are working in Italy and his government would take steps for their legalisation and at the same time the two governments would make an agreement so that more Bangladeshi immigrants could come here.

Amato also assured his government's help in flood protection and flood management in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the two countries would reach an agreement allowing more Bangladeshis to come to Italy through legal process. "We have also discussed the issue of regularisation of Bangladeshi nationals living in Italy. If we have an agreement, the people of Bangladesh will be able to come in larger numbers and work here without any obstruction," she told the journalists.

Giuliano Amato and Sheikh Hasina met the press after the official talks at Chigi Palace that lasted an hour. The two leaders said they had a very fruitful discussion on various bilateral and international issues.

The Italian Premier said: "We have focused on a number of bilateral issues as well as on the international scene." He congratulated Prime Minister Hasina on restoring democracy in Bangladesh and initiating programmes on economic development and bringing about a social change.

Amato said excellent bilateral relations would help promote direct Italian investment in Bangladesh in telecom, infrastructure and other sectors. The visit will also generate business and production activities in Bangladesh.

Hasina, who is here on the first leg of her 3-nation European tour, said she had free and frank exchange of views with her Italian counterpart on various issues on bilateral, regional and international planes.

"We are grateful that Prime Minister Amato could appreciate many of the difficulties which Bangladesh, as a developing country, faces today as she strives for progress."

Describing Italy as an important trading and development partner, the PM said it is willing to participate in development process and economic activities in Bangladesh.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim and Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy M Ziauddin were present in the meeting.

—Star photo



Justice Naimuddin Ahmed comes out of the High Court after appearing before a Division Bench yesterday and submitting a written response to a show-cause notice served upon him earlier. The Member of the Law Commission has been served with a show-cause notice for making 'derogatory and scandalous' remarks on the judiciary at an October 30 workshop in the city.

## Laxmipur BCL leader held in Nurul Islam abduction case

LAXMIPUR, Dec 4: Police arrested a local leader of Chhatra League in connection with Advocate Nurul Islam abduction early today, reports UNB.

Police arrested Moinul Islam Sumon, general secretary of Sadar upazila Chhatra League and a degree examinee, from his house upon a requisition from the investigation officer of the case.

He was produced in the court later on the day. The court placed him on a three-day police remand and also ordered to take him to CID Dhaka office for interrogation.

BPL leader Advocate Nurul Islam was kidnapped on the night of September 18 this year from the residence of his sister at Uttar Majupur in the town.

Police was informed within half an hour of his abduction but they could not take any initiative to rescue him.

On September 20, State Minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader in a meet

See page 11 col 8

## 2 dacoities in city

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 24 lakh in two separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Ramna police said four armed men appeared at the house of one Majed at on 6/3 Bara Maghbazar in the city's Ramna area and rang up the bell.

When the inmates opened the door, the gang of four stormed into the house and confined the family members in a room at gunpoint.

Sources said the inmates along with the locals help of caught the dacoits and called Ramna police. But, sources alleged, Ramna

See page 11 col 6

## 3 ECs now await President's intervention to resolve row

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commissioners are counting on presidential intervention to end the standoff in the Election Commission (EC) over a row between them and the Chief Election Commissioner centring round the appointment of a foreign consultant and IT experts to an EC project.

We cannot approach the President, but if the President calls us we will let him know every bit of the events taking place in the Election Commission," one of the Election Commissioners, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star last night.

He believes President Shahabuddin Ahmed may summon the commissioners, as he is well aware of the happenings in the Election Commission. The three commissioners have called for an investigation into the EC through the Supreme Judicial Council, which also requires presidential approval.

"Election Commission is a constitutional body and, therefore any investigation into irregularity in it should be done by the Supreme Judicial Council," he said without elaborating.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed is yet to go through the four-page joint letter containing reply of the three Election Commissioners, although it was submitted to him on Sunday.

"I may give a reply or take any decision after going over the letter. It is a legal matter," he told newsmen at his office yesterday.

"My decision shall never be changed," he said

See page 11 col 6

## Juba Dal activist shot dead in Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Dec 4: A Juba Dal activist was shot dead by his rivals in Muhuri Project area under Sonagazi Upazila of the district today.

The victim was identified as Nizamuddin Sujan, 26, son of Shahabuddin of village Bakurla in Sonagazi Upazila.

With the killing, the death toll in continued political rioting in the district rose to seven in a week.

Sonagazi police recovered the body from a cross-dam near Muhuri Project at about 3-30 pm.

BNP sources said Sujan took shelter at a house near Muhuri Regulator to escape attack by rivals and police arrest.

The rivals picked him up from that house and shot him. He died on the spot. The assailants left the place by a microbus, leaving the body near Muhuri Regulator.

In another incident a gang of terrorists arrived in a microbus at Jamader Bazar in Sonagazi at about 1 pm and attacked Baleyat

See page 11 col 6

## VC's house attacked SUST students go on rampage

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 4: Agitated students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology went on the rampage and damaged property worth about Taka 10 lakh at the official residence of the Vice-Chancellor this afternoon.

They also burnt the effigy of the VC and assaulted some teachers.

The students were agitating to press for four-point demand. These are Taka 10 lakh compensation for a fellow student who was injured in a bus collision yesterday afternoon, assurance of his treatment, purchase of one ambulance and five buses for the students within a month and immediate suspension of varsity bus drivers responsible for the accident.

The agitating students laid a siege to the VC's residence at about 12:20 pm and handed over a memorandum to him.

Earlier they gave an ultimatum to meet their demands by 3 pm yesterday.

Several teachers of the university came to the agitating students at about 1:30 pm and assured of taking steps against the drives, but