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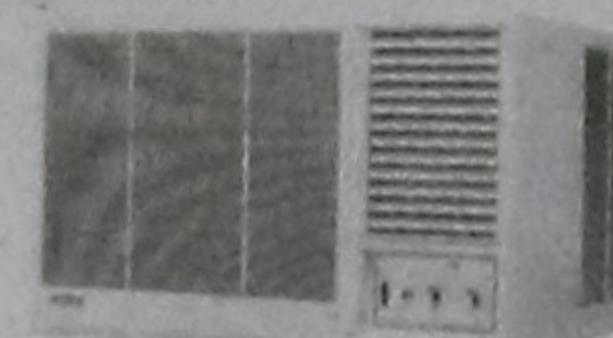
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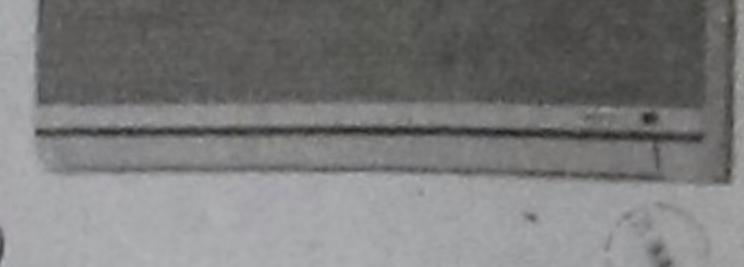
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# Barak quits over handling of Palestinian uprising

JERUSALEM, Dec 10: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak resigned today after weeks of pressure over his handling of the Palestinian uprising, setting the stage for an election within 60 days, billed as a referendum on peace, reports Reuters.

Barak said before he handed his resignation to President Moshe Katzav that he would seek re-election and a fresh mandate for negotiating a peace deal with the Palestinians after 10 weeks of bloodshed that has shattered peacemaking.

"I decided to submit my resignation," Barak said in a terse unemotional statement to reporters during a brief appearance with Katzav, who stood beside him at the president's official residence.

He set no date for the election but under Israeli law his resignation takes effect in 48 hours and the vote must take place within 60 days. The election is widely expected to be held on February 6.

His popularity eroded by the 10-week-old Palestinian uprising, Barak initially made the surprise announcement on Saturday that he would call a snap or "special" election.

Barak, 58, said he wanted to reaffirm his leadership role in efforts to end decades of Israeli-Palestinian conflict because the bloodshed had created an emergency situation.

But his decision was widely seen as a ploy to invoke procedures that would stop former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the front runner in opinion polls, from challenging him because only members of parliament can take part. Netanyahu is not a member.

Many Israeli political commentators said Barak was unlikely to be re-elected because he was now dependent on making peace with the Palestinians, who have shown no sign of changing their negotiating terms to help him.

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## N'ganj to have container depot

From Nurul Alam  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 10: A divided US Supreme Court, throwing the latest bombshell into the disputed presidential election, halted manual recounts of the vote in Florida on Saturday, freezing the battle between Al Gore and George W. Bush until it can hear arguments tomorrow, reports Reuters.

The decision, possibly robbing Gore of his best hope of victory, means that the nine justices of the US Supreme Court could well decide the winner of the Nov. 7 presidential election. The court scheduled 90 minutes for oral arguments on Monday morning.

Seven of the nine Supreme Court justices were appointed by Republican presidents. In recent years, the court often has had a narrow conservative majority.

Presently, we are facing space

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## PM returns home today

GRINDELWALD (Switzerland), Dec 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home tomorrow morning ending her three-nation Europe tour, reports UNB.

After an overnight stay in the Swiss City of Grindelwald, Hasina was scheduled to leave for Geneva this afternoon. From Geneva, she will resume her homeward journey this evening.

The 9-day trip that began on December 2 took her to Italy, Germany and Switzerland. The Prime Minister held talks with leaders of the three European nations and sought investment and economic cooperation with Bangladesh.

## Plan to set up Tk 3096 cr solid waste-based power plant in city

Three private companies have jointly initiated an ambitious plan for setting up of a Tk 3096 crore solid waste-based power plant in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Cambridge Bangladesh Ltd, Marly Trade Ltd and Integrated Environmental Technologies Ltd are now engaged in groundwork for the project.

Some 2000 metric tons of garbage will be used daily in the environment-friendly power plant for producing 100-megawatt electricity.

Besides, additional 200 mw electricity can be generated from the thermal unit of the plant, the entrepreneurs told a meeting with government agencies yesterday.

They said they would use 50 mw power for running the plant and sell the rest 250 mw to the government, which is facing acute problem of electricity shortage.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury chaired the meeting in the ministry conference room.

Briefing on the project, the entrepreneurs said they would engage 50 trucks for collecting garbage from around the city, which would also help reduce city corporation's scavenging costs.

All types of solid wastes, including domestic garbage, paper, wood, cloth, glass, leftovers of restaurants, tannery wastes, hospital garbage, poly

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## Teachers ransack Cox's Bazar PTI

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 10: A group of primary school teachers ransacked the Primary Training Institute (PTI) here today, reports UNB.

Police said the unruly teachers attacked the PTI office protesting an announcement that certain amount would be deducted from their salary due to absence.

The teachers who came from various schools for basic training at the PTI also kept its Superintendent Abdul Wafab confined in his office and allegedly assaulted the trainers.

Five people including senior instructor Alhaj Nasir Uddin, Uttam Kumar Datta and Sabuj Kanti were injured during the attack. Nasir Uddin was rushed to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Police said the teachers left the hostel

## Florida recount blocked by divided Supreme Court

### High drama in US polls

WASHINGTON, Dec 10: A divided US Supreme Court, throwing the latest bombshell into the disputed presidential election, halted manual recounts of the vote in Florida on Saturday, freezing the battle between Al Gore and George W. Bush until it can hear arguments tomorrow, reports Reuters.

The decision, possibly robbing Gore of his best hope of victory, means that the nine justices of the US Supreme Court could well decide the winner of the Nov. 7 presidential election. The court scheduled 90 minutes for oral arguments on Monday morning.

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Presently, we are facing space



Eid is still two weeks away, but traffic jam in the city is getting worse. Photo shows a road in front of the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday.

-- Star photo.

## Expelled JCD leader, PBCP member held in Khulna

From Quazi Amanullah

### Chanchal, Rab murders

KHULNA, Dec 10: Khulna thana police arrested expelled JCD leader Rawshan Zaman Mithu, 32, and a member of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Rafiqul Islam Hitler, 30, from a three-storyed building at Sher-e-Bangla Road here early this morning.

Both of them are accused in several murder cases including that of JCD central Vice President Wahiduzzaman Chanchal.

Chanchal was hacked to death in the early hours of October 19, 1998 at the residence of now-defunct Muslim League leader late Mohammad Ali of West Banikhamar.

Police quoting the FIR said Mithu was acting organising secretary of the district committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) before being

expelled for his alleged involvement in the murder.

Police further said Mithu took Chanchal from party office to the place of occurrence where other alleged killers including Hitler and activists were present to execute the murder plan.

Chanchal's body was recovered from Nijkharam area near Khulna University at about 8 am on October 19, only four hours after he was killed.

In the evening of October 19, his mother Badurnessa filed a case with Khulna thana accusing Rawshan Zaman, Mithu, Moyeen, Mohon, Advocate Ruku and Khokon.

All these five accused named in the FIR were leaders of JCD's city and district committees.

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## DUTA polls: Lanslide win for Blue Panel

By DU Correspondent

Awami League supported 'Blue Panel' had a landslide victory in the 15-member executive committee election of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) for the year 2001, held yesterday.

The blues' captured 12 of the 15 positions including president and general secretary while their archrivals the 'White Panel', supported by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, secured only three. The other competing panel left leaning 'Pink Panel', did not get any seat in the DUTA committee.

The incumbent DUTA president Prof. RIM Aminur Rashid of the Physics Department was reelected president, polling 473 votes while his 'White' rival Dr. Zinnatun Nesa Tahmidia Begum of Botany got 450 votes.

Sharifullah Bhuiyan, associate professor of History was elected

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## Chargesheet in Bushra murder case likely by Thursday

Star Report

CID is likely to submit chargesheet in Bushra murder case by Thursday, accusing five people including her uncle Abdul Kader, a leader of Awami League, sources concerned said.

But even after four months of investigation, police have failed to identify the three hired killers who raped and killed Rushdania Bushra Phool, a student of the City College, at her residence on the night of July 1 as per a blueprint masterminded by Abdul Kader.

Police probe revealed that she was killed following a dispute over the house where her father retired ASP Serajul Islam and Abdul Kader were staying with their families.

The feud originated when the family of M A Samad, owner of the house who died in 1985, gave Serajul Islam the responsibility of looking after the house at West Hajipara on DIT road since 1996.

CID will file chargesheet against Social Welfare Secretary of city AL Abdul Kader, his brothers-in-law Ruhul and Kabir, sister-in-law Hena and maid Sofia under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

Four of the accused, except Kabir, have been detained in Dhaka Central Jail for the last few months. Kabir has been absconding.

Runu Kader, wife of Abdul Kader, was also accused by Bushra's mother Laila Islam. CID however failed to ascertain her involvement in the killing.

CID recorded statements of 22 people in connection with the case. No judicial statement of the arrested was however recorded.

Asked whether investigators' failure to identify the hired killers and lack of judicial statement of any of the arrested would affect the case, investigation officer ASP Shafiqul Islam Hawladar said, "It is not always possible to detect hundred per cent of a crime."

## TechBangla SHORT COURSES on IT in BUET

Short courses will be offered by Non-Resident-Bangladeshi experts as part of the "TechTransfer 2000: Bangladesh" (TT2000: BD) convention to be held in BUET on following topics:

- "Distributed Systems and Network Programming Architectures, Protocols and Techniques" (17-21 December 2000: fee Tk 5000).
- "Managing Information Technology Projects" (course & fees as above).
- "Software Development Methodology" (2-hour course).
- "Creating Scalable, highly available e-Commerce Solution Using Open Source Technology" (2-hour course).

Register by 15 December 2000.

For further details please contact: Room # 536, Computer Center, BUET. Tel: 966-5218, Fax: 861-3026.

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