

### Maj Gen Harun-ar-Rashid appointed army chief

Major General M Harun-ar-Rashid Bir Pratik has been appointed chief of Bangladesh Army, an official announcement said here yesterday.

He has also been elevated to the rank of Lieutenant General effective from December 24, 2000, the date when his appointment takes effect, said the military spokesperson ISPR.

General Harun succeeds Lieutenant General Mustafizur Rahman, PSC, who goes on retirement on December 23.

Outgoing army chief Mustafiz has been promoted to General with effect from December 23, 2000 as an end-of-career salute as he will go for normal retirement from the afternoon of December 23.

The 52-year-old General Harun, who now holds the post of Chief of General Staff (CGS), also served in key posts of the service,

including GOC of 19th Division (Mymensingh) and Principal Staff Officer to the Prime Minister.

A man from Infantry corps, the army's hardcore fighters, he served as Chief Military Observer under the UN peacekeeping force in Georgia.

Born in Chittagong on February 15, 1948, Gen Harun got commission in the Pakistan army on September 6, 1970.

He fought the liberation war in 1971 in sector 2 and earned the gallantry title Bir Pratik.

The new army chief is known to have a bent for academics, having often been involved in teaching. He taught at the School of Infantry and Tactics as well as the Army Staff College. He completed course at Royal College of Defence and Studies in London and staff course at Mirpur Command and Staff College



Students of Theol Medical College staged a demonstration in front of the National Press Club yesterday protesting 'fraudulent practice' by the college authority. -Star photo

### Women war victims demand compensation from Pakistan

#### Memo submitted to Pak High Commission

Women from different professions demonstrated in the city yesterday brandishing brooms and demanding that Pakistan apologize for its wartime atrocities, reports UNB.

The demonstrators, some of them victims of the war, also sought compensation for affected families and trial of the war criminals.

Lawmakers, academics, artists, activists and widows of those killed in the 1971 war joined the march in front of the Pakistan High Commission in Gulshan diplomatic enclave, chanting slogans against the atrocities committed by the Pakistani forces in 1971.

Among the demands voiced by the women under the banner of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmol Committee, were compensation for families affected by the Pakistani genocide and rape victims.

Police stopped the women

carrying placards and anti-Pakistan posters and banners, but allowed their representatives to submit a memorandum, addressed to Pakistan's Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf, to an official of the high commission.

Reading out the memorandum, sculptor Ferdousi Priyobhassine, a victim of war, said, "One woman harassed means harassment of womenfolk around the world."

"We will not allow these Pakistani criminals to go unpunished," she said seeking attention of the world community.

The memorandum states that more than 200,000 Bengali women were raped by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators during the 1971 war. "We have noticed with great concern that the Pakistan government have never admitted the crime and have rather tried by all means to conceal the true facts from people."

The women referred to audacious comments by the errand deputy high commissioner of Pakistan in Dhaka. "As the executive head of the Pakistan government you, too, have asked the Bengalis to forget the atrocities of the past," the memorandum, addressed to General Musharraf, said.

Forty-five leading women leaders have signed the memorandum.

Nirmul Committee's Advisory Committee President and National Professor Kabir Chowdhury addressed the rally presided over by his leader and martyr's wife Salma Haq.

Among the lawmakers who addressed the meeting were Prof Panna Kaiser, Mahmuda Sawgat, Mariam Begum and Razia Matin Chowdhury.

### 196 dev projects

From Page 1

men, the paper said.

In the 1999-2000 development budget, allocation for men was 22.66 per cent while that for women was 2.15 per cent.

In the current fiscal year, the allocation is 26.17 per cent for men and 3.10 for women, it mentioned.

The study report said although there was a positive increase in allocation for projects under the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs during the years 1997-98 to 2000-2001, those were not properly coordinated and implemented.

Despite rural women's sincere contribution in agriculture, no projects have been taken up for women in this sector.

An analysis of the 1998-99 budget showed that even in woman-related sectors like health, population and family planning, men had the privilege of getting Tk 510.77 crore allocation and women got only Tk 16.16 crore. This was so although it is the women in country who bear almost the entire burden of contraception with evil effects on their health, the report further said.

Similar is the discrimination in sectors like education, rural development, water resources, industry, power, oil, gas and other natural resources, transport, sports and culture, mass communication, public administration, scientific and technical research, labour and employment and food for work, it added.

Speakers at the seminar suggested appointment of a minister for Women and Children Affairs and raising of demands by women's bodies for increased allocation for women in the next budget and proper implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) for women

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### Build up movement to oust govt: Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia urged the people to build up movement from their respective position to oust the government, reports UNB.

"As the health of the country's people is not well now, likewise the country's health is also unwell," she told an assembly of physicians.

Doctors Association of Bangladesh, a platform of pro-BNP physicians, organised the assembly followed by Iftar at Ladies Club yesterday afternoon.

Deputy leader of the opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza

Chowdhury and DAB secretary general A Z M Zahid Hossain among others addressed the meeting. DAB president Prof MA Hadi presided.

The BNP chairperson, who has long been boycotting parliament and leading a four-party alliance movement, said voice was being raised across the country for a relief from the clutches of Awami League government.

Criticizing the violence kicked off by the ruling party activists after verdict of the High Court on death references of the Bangabandhu murder case, the BNP chairperson said the govern-

ment enacted the Public Safety Act and they were flouting the law.

"Hundreds of vehicles were damaged and set ablaze by the ruling party militants, but no cases were filed under PSA against the offenders," she told the meeting.

Khaleda Zia said government "repression" on opposition reached extreme levels. The PSA has been enacted to repress the opposition.

The opposition leader felt that it was time to save the country from the "oppressive regime."

### Ananda Mohan College teachers boycott classes

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Dec 18: The teachers of Ananda Mohan College refrained from taking classes today protesting the assault of a teacher by a student yesterday. However, the examinations were held as usual, sources said.

A meeting of the college teachers today decided to serve showcase notice on Rajput, a student of Management Department who allegedly assaulted Sarwar Jaham, a teacher of Philosophy Department.

A case was lodged with Kotwali thana accusing Rajput and his accomplices. But none was arrested till filing of this report.

### JU female teacher alleges harassment

From Staff Correspondent

A female teacher in the Government and Politics Department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) has brought allegations against a male teacher of the same department, saying that he has been harassing her in different ways for some time.

The complaint follows distribution of leaflets on the university campus against her.

Campus sources claimed that the leaflets contained rumours spread allegedly by the male teacher earlier.

Earlier, students of the MSS 1998 batch and new MSS batch accused the male teacher of depriving some meritorious students of their due marks. They had demanded his removal from their course.

Tension has been prevailing at the department since December 13, the day the leaflets were distributed against the female teacher.

The allegations have been brought to the notice of the Chair-man of the department.

Meanwhile, some teachers of the department have decided to boycott classes to protest the harassment of the female teacher. The teachers are Prof Al Masud Hazzaman, Prof Dilara Chowdhury, Prof Nasim Akther Hossain, Prof Abdul Latif Masum, Bashir Ahmed and KM Mofiduddin.

"We protest this kind of harassment of a female teacher," a fellow female teacher said in a statement last night.

### Dhaka proposes 2 more weekly Biman flights to New Delhi

Bangladesh has proposed to run two additional Biman flights to New Delhi to fill the gap caused by postponement of British Airways flights which used to connect the two capitals, reports BSS.

At a press briefing in the city yesterday, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami said the Indians have positively responded to Dhaka's proposal.

The foreign secretary was in New Delhi last week to lead the Bangladesh team to the bilateral consultation meeting.

At present, Bangladesh Biman has two weekly flights which touch New Delhi while bound for the West. The proposed flights are limited to Dhaka and New Delhi only, the Foreign Secretary added.

Before postponing its service, the British Airways used to connect New Delhi with Dhaka five times a week.

### Moulvibazar AL leader dead

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 18: Noted freedom fighter and senior Vice-president of Moulvibazar District Awami League Syed Abdul Matin died this evening. He was 60, reports UNB.

Syed Matin played an active role in all the political movements in greater Sylhet, said an official handout.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in a condolence message expressed deep shock at the death of Syed Abdul Matin.

He prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

### Set up third court

From Page 1

ster Tofail Ahmed, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and City AL President Mohammad Hanif and State Minister for Shipping and City AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also addressed the rally.

AL leaders said the split verdict did not fulfil peoples' aspirations. They hope that the 'final verdict' after the review will fulfil peoples' aspirations.

Abdus Samad Azad said that the international community was helping Bangladesh in catching the fugitives in the Bangabandhu murder case. "Now, if the convicts are acquitted, our image in the international community will be tarnished."

Zillur Rahman said, "If a Rajakar can get bail at dead of night, why a third court could not be constituted during vacation."

Sajeda Chowdhury named one of the 'convicts', Moslem, and said, "He shot Bangabandhu and Russell dead. If he is acquitted, the nation will never accept this."

Amir Hossain Amu expressed the hope that "people would see reflection of their aspirations in the final verdict."

Both Tofail Ahmed and Abdur Razzak called for expeditious completion of the trial process so that the convicts could be punished immediately.

Mohammad Nasim showed a copy of a register of Dhaka Central Jail to prove that it contained Moslem's signature and that he had killed the four national leaders on November 3, 1975. Nasim wondered how Moslem was acquitted.

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### Mob loots Saudi dates in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Dec 18 : A mob looted four metric tons of Saudi donated dates and palms from the district unit of Red Crescent Society here today.

Witnesses said people who came to receive dates and palms as relief materials at about 10 am, became agitated when Abul Kalam Azad, General Secretary of the Red Crescent unit, adopted nepotism in distributing the relief materials. They also beat up Azad.

When contacted, District Relief Officer Abul Kashem admitted the incident.

### JS body

From Page 1

changes to the jail code will be drafted for consideration by the Jatiya Sangsad, committee sources said.

In a bid to justify its decision, the meeting noted that the jail authorities are unable to ensure due status of politicians, including former ministers and MPs as soon as they are put behind the bars since the court now decides the matter.

Under such a circumstance, they (the prisoners) become annoyed with the jail authorities and insist on getting undue advantages including admission to the jail hospital, "the meeting resolved."

Nine of the 10 members of the standing committee attended the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The parliamentary committee is represented by influential leaders of both the government and the opposition. They include the home minister, chief whips of both the benches, two ruling party whips and the city convener of BNP.

### Violence against women

From Page 12

very rich in resources. It is the multinational companies, which are looking at the resources and exploiting them. We must unite to stop this process."

Organisations concerned about violence against women and children have been working at national and international levels to support the affected people in trafficking since 1996. A regional workshop was held in Bangladesh and it was organised by UBINIG titled 'Trafficking in Women and Children: Formulating Strategies of Resistance.'

Various women and human rights activists from the region at the workshop formed the Resistance Network to stop trafficking in women and children. UBINIG has been coordinating the collective actions on behalf of the regional network from Bangladesh.

One of the important purposes of Resistance Network is to take actions at the SAARC in order to sensitise governments on trafficking. Accordingly, the network urged the SAARC foreign ministers in December 1996 to take action against trafficking and formulate common position among people's organisation.

The participants also demanded formation of a regional court to try those found guilty of trafficking and finalise the 'Draft Convention to Combat Trafficking.'

The main slogan of the SAARC Peoples' Forum is 'Security of Livelihood, Security of Movement' and the theme is Trafficking in Persons, Migration and Strategies for Food Sovereignty and Crisis in Livelihood.

Meena Puodel, country programme manager for Oxfam Nepal office and also a member of the Resistance Network and Farida Akhter, Executive Director of UBINIG, also raised demand for an end to violence against women in the region.

The conference is supported by Oxfam, Nepal and USC Canada, Nepal.

### Four killed in Ctg road mishaps

CHITTAGONG, Dec 18: Four people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents here today, reports BSS.

District police sources said three people were killed and six others injured when a speeding truck knocked down a Chittagong-bound coach from behind at Madambirbhat under Sitakunda thana.

Two died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

All the victims were passengers of the coach. However, their identities could not be known immediately.

Two injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical conditions.

In another incident, one fish trader was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Sholashahar Railgate No-2 this evening.

The fish trader was identified as Siddik, 35. Police seized the truck but its driver fled the spot.

Separate cases were filed in these connections.

### Amendment

From Page 1

Administration Reform Commission (PARC) recommendation for recovering outstanding bills for residential utilities.

"For relieving the subscribers of harassment" the meeting entrusted Cabinet Secretary with the task of finding easy ways for collecting information about such overdue bills, an official release said.

It said the PARC had, so far, placed 30 recommendations to the government out of which six have already been implemented fully and four partially.

The recommendations that were implemented completely are: several steps for ensuring accountability of government utility services, letter-reception system at the Secretariat, easing travel tax collection and pension payment to government civil service-holders for removing their harassment.

Also implemented are the PARC recommendations for implementing existing rules and regulations, provision and orders, and revision of forms for annual report submission by different ministries and divisions to the cabinet division.

### DU JCD unit

From Page 12

or a fresh body formed shortly.

Khaleda Zia, who leads a four-party opposition alliance, plans vigorous movement after Eid side by side massive preparations for the next general elections.

"Whatever the decision is and whoever made leader, you will have to abide by my decision," she told the rival JCD leaders.

The DU committee, which was suspended following a clash between Pintu and Laltu groups leaving two people dead, was being led by Monir Hossain as president and Mustafizul Islam Mamun as general secretary.

Among the leaders of suspended central JCD committee present in the meeting were president Habibunnabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

Other leaders present were A B M Mosharrif Hossain, Sagor Ahmed, Hasan Mamun, Munshi Bazul Basit Anju and Pintu's main rival Shahabuddin Laltu as well as the president and general secretary of the revived DU committee.

Central BNP leader Mirza Abbas and BNP's student affairs secretary Amanullah Aman MP were also present.

### Khulna bypolls

From Page 12

The AL candidate will sweep in Dumuria where he was born and brought up and later started his career as school teacher, said former upazilla chairman Farhad Hossain. Narayan will bag almost all minority votes of Dumuria, Farhad said.

Meanwhile, The Election Commission barred all sorts of meetings, procession, milking, violence and application of force with arms and muscle in the next 48 hours from midnight tonight under the relevant provision of the Public Representation Order, 1972.

Violators of this order will be punished from two years to seven years' rigorous imprisonment or jail with fine.

The Election Commission under the clause 79 of the same order also banned canvassing and campaigning for particular candidate or trying to force the voters not to exercise their right of franchise within 400 yards radius of the polling centres, an EC press release said

### Economists

From Page 1

achieved over seven per cent growth, the WB Vice-president said. "Bangladesh should be both proud and not proud of its growth."

World Bank's lead economist Kopil Kapur and Senior Economist Zahid Sattar also spoke on the occasion. Among others, CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Dr Sajjad Zahir, Rashid Inam Rahman and All Rashid were also present.

### Condemned prisoner dies in KMCH

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 18: Sekander Ali, 50, who was sentenced to death in a murder case died of cardiac arrest in the KMCH early this morning. According to jailor of Khulna district jail, the condemned prisoner complained of chest pain on Sunday midnight.

He died soon after admission to KMCH.

Sekandar was sentenced to death along with three others in the same murder case recorded with the Mathbaria thana of Pirojpur district early last year. The judgement was delivered on March 3 last year by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Pirojpur.

Sekandar and three others were shifted to Khulna jail from Barisal jail for security reason, the jailor said. His body will be sent to his home at Khetachera village of Mathbaria upazila after autopsy, police said.

### DU expels Hemayet

From Page 1

Ziaur Rahman Hall on December 13 last year.

All the four were also served with show-cause notices asking them to explain within 15 days why they should not be expelled permanently.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of the university with Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof M Shadhat Ali in the chair. The meeting followed a probe report.

Those served with show-cause notices are M Abdul Aziz, a Masters student in Management, Mostafizur Rahman of final year in Islamic History and Culture, M Mizanur Rahman of Mathematics department, Ashraf and Babla. They have been asked to reply within two weeks.

The DU authorities also asked the law enforcing agencies to take necessary action against the students concerned.

An auto-tempo driver was killed and several others were injured when BCL activists clashed with shop-owners in Nilkhet and Kataban areas following the High Court judgement in Bangabandhu murder case.

### Death ref cases

From Page 1

killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family on August 15, 1975.

Justice Khairul Huiq confirmed the death sentence of all the 15.

Since the HC gave a split verdict, the matter would now be referred to the Chief Justice.

Defence lawyers are of the opinion that a third judge would now hear the death reference fully as it was a single reference, sources concerned said.

But the state attorneys think that death reference of only five of the 15 accused would be heard by a third judge, sources said yesterday.

In this connection, they mentioned that celebrated Indian jurist and former Chief Justice Hidayatullah in his book on code of criminal procedure, 1973 observed : Where there is disagreement among two judges and the case is to be referred to a third judge, it is only the case of the particular prisoner as to whom there is a difference of opinion which whole to be referred and not the whole case."

In a judgement on Babu v State of UP, Justice Hidayatullah further observed: When the judges composing the court of appeal are equally divided in opinion, the case, with their opinion thereon, shall be laid before another judge of the same court, and such Judge after such hearing (if any) as he think fit, shall deliver his opinion, and the judgment or order shall follow such opinion."

He went on, "The section contemplates that it is for the third judge to decide on what points he shall hear arguments, if any, and that postulates that he is completely free in resolving the difference as he thinks fit."

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### Rice named US nat'l security adviser

AUSTIN, Texas, Dec 18: President-elect George W Bush named foreign policy aide Condoleezza Rice as his national security adviser on Sunday, the first woman to hold the post, as he embarked on a post-election, peace-making trip to Washington, reports Reuters.

During a ceremony at the Texas governor's mansion, Bush picked two other long-time loyalists for key White House positions that reflect the president-elect's desire to appoint a diverse cabinet.

He chose a Hispanic, Texas Supreme Court Justice Al Gonzales, as White House counsel, essentially the chief lawyer's position under Bush, and a woman, his communications director Karen Hughes, as counselor to the president, a top-level advisory role that will take her out of day-to-day relations with the news media.

Rice, 46, will be only the second black ever to become White House national security adviser. The other, Colin Powell, was nominated on Saturday by Bush to be his secretary of state.

Bush said the message behind Sunday's appointments was that 'people who work hard and make the right decisions in life can achieve anything they want in America.'

"America will be better off than these three have agreed to serve,"

### BTTB plans

From Page 1

lation of individual network and ATMs, the source said.

"We are trying to introduce similar billing arrangements in other utility services for electricity, gas, water and sewerage," an ETN source said.

The system, it is expected, would cut down on the number of complaints regarding non-reporting of collected bills to the utility services concern for updating their ledger books.

Presently, some cellular mobile phone companies accept bills through ATMs. Non-branch ATMs have stretched banking beyond designated banking hours.

Agrani Bank first introduced ATM in the country at its Press Club branch.

Standard Chartered, Standard Chartered Grindlays, American Express and Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) have expansive ATM networks.

### Missing luggage

From Page 12

luggage hidden in a spot about 70 yards from the conveyor belt.

Later, two other complaints were lodged with the Director, ZIA and the Cantonment police station.

It may be mentioned that only recently, luggage handlers at ZIA ripped open the bag of Zarina Khatun, a poor woman of Muradnagar. Comilla and stole all her savings of 5000 dirhams from her employment in Oman. In a separate incident a few days back, six more pieces of luggage were also stolen.

Sources said that a section of loaders of Bangladesh Biman are engaged in pilfering valuables from passengers' luggage and authorities are virtually unable to take any actions against this organised gang of miscreants.

### Hitler

From Page 1

installation of Tk 2 lakh was paid in advance at a house of West Banianagar of the city.

Of the nine killers, names of eight killers were disclosed while remaining one was kept hidden for the interest of investigation. They are : Bitu, MoIn, Sayeed, Golam Mowla Sanu, Asik, Musle, Tapan, Tera Babu alias Kala Babu.

Hitlar also said that five firearms, including cut rifles and pistols, were used in the killing of Bab and the arms were supplied by Tapan and Kala Babu. Police recovered one of the guns used in the killing.

Tapan acted as the middleman among the conspirators and the killers.

Earlier, Hitlar was brought to the CMM Court amid tight security at 10 am and he gave the statement under section 164 at about 1.30 pm.