



Chief Consultant of White Paper Cell M Muniruzzaman hands over the two volumes of the white paper to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

### 3 including alleged killer murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons, including an alleged killer, were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Unidentified hoodlums shot dead Sheikh Mostafa Kamal in front of his residence at Raj Narayan Das Road in Lalbagh area. Another young man, Sakhawat Ahmed alias Kawsar, 25, was shot in the chest during the incident.

Police and witnesses said the incident took place at about 11:30pm Tuesday when Kamal, an accused in at least 24 cases, was standing in front of a tea stall near Titas Biscuit Factory.

Of 24 cases, eight were registered with Lalbagh Police Station, police said. The cases include those of murder and illegal possession of arms and explosives.

Another source said Kamal was an accomplice of Tito who was killed recently by his rivals.

Fatally injured, Kamal was rushed to the Mitford Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim's brother, Sheikh Jalal, filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station.

In another incident, Mohammad Imam Hossain, 25, a salesman at a market at Sadarghat, was found slain on the rooftop of a four-storey building at Akhoy Das Lane at Sutrapur yesterday.

Imam, son of Raja Mian, and a resident of Dhalkanagar, Gendaria in Sutrapur area, left his residence for his working place Tuesday morning.

When he did not return home since then, his mother along with her relatives went to all probable places in search of him. In the morning, they came

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Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a rally at Shambhupura High School ground, Arahazar, Narayanganj yesterday.

### First Hajj flight leaves

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the Hajj Flight Operation '02 of Bangladesh at Zia International Airport yesterday morning.

Inaugurating the Hajj flight at the departure lounge of the airport at about 10:15 am, the Prime Minister greeted 274 pilgrims of the first flight.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said the national flag carrier Biman had operated Hajj flights with its own aircraft before 1998 but now Biman is weighed down with a burden of Tk 192 crore as it had to take aircraft on lease for operating Hajj flights for the last four years.

To avoid the huge expenditures and save foreign currency, she said, the government has decided to run Hajj flights with Biman's own aircraft, pilots, engineers, cabin crew and staff from this year.

Khaleda Zia said Biman could keep other relevant expenditures within limit by running flights with aircraft from its own fleet and hoped that Biman would be able to achieve its goal.

To minimise the sufferings of the pilgrims on their way back home,

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### Road accidents kill 12 in three dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 people were killed and 77 others injured in separate road accidents in Bagerhat, Magura and Jhenidah yesterday and on Thursday night.

Of them six were killed in Bagerhat and three each in Magura and Jhenidah.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Nine people were killed and 37 others injured in two separate road accidents at Mollahat of Bagerhat district and Maheshpur of Magura district.

According to witnesses and police, a bus bound for Bagerhat town with devotees of Biswa Ijtima skidded off the road and fell into ditch its driver lost control over the steering.

Six persons died on the spot who have been identified as Hafez Siddiqur Rahman, 55, Shona Mia, 50, Badsha Mia, 80, Fazar Ali, 78, Mansur Ali, 80 and Abdur Rashid, 65.

Most of the injured were admitted to Fakirhat and Gopalganj hospitals, police said.

Police said the tragic accident occurred at 3-45 am yesterday. Driver of the bus fled away soon after the accident.

In another accident at Maheshpur in Magura district, three persons died and seven others were injured when a bus bound for Kaliganj upazila dashed against a roadside tree at Purandapur village at 11 am yesterday.

One of the three dead could be identified as Masud, 30. The injured were admitted to Kutchandpur and Jibonnagar health complexes.

In Jhenidah, three passengers of a bus were killed and at least 40 others injured when the vehicle plunged into a canal on Kaliganj-Jibonnagar road at midnight on Tuesday.

Survivors said the driver lost control over the steering, dashed the railing of the small bridge at Bakharkhali and fell into the canal, killing three persons including a woman on the spot.

One of the dead was identified as Masud, 30 of village Sreerampur. The identity of others could not be known immediately.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to Jessore sadar hospital.

### Two pvt TV channels won't air Hasina's address

UNB, Dhaka

Pressure from the authorities has allegedly forced two private TV channels to back out from the earlier stand to air opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's "address to the nation."

But, this would not frustrate the previous ruling party Awami League (AL) as they are also making alternative arrangements on the cybernetic channels of the Internet.

The state-owned Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar are yet to hear from the government about the AL plea for broadcasting the speech of Hasina.

Awami League has requested all the four TV channels and Bangladesh Betar to make arrangements to air the "address to the nation" by Sheikh Hasina on the issue of the 100-day recipe of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government.

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### Haji Selim's bail petition rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The chief metropolitan magistrate's court, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of former Awami League MP Hazi Mohammad Selim, an accused in the Shamsul Haque Santi murder case.

Magistrate Al Mamun passed the order following a bail petition by the defence lawyers.

Advocate Pran Nath submitted the bail petition stating that the name of his client was not in the FIR.

His name was included in the charge sheet as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically, the lawyer said.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

After hearing both sides, the court rejected the bail petition.

Santi, 32, a BNP leader, was murdered at Killar Mor in the city's Lalbagh area on June 9, 1996.

Victim's mother filed a murder case with Lalbagh thana the same day, accusing six people, including Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, JCD leader and the ruling party MP.

But the investigation officer (IO) of the case on Sunday submitted a charge sheet against Hazi Selim and five others, showing 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO also dropped the name of Pintu from the charge sheet as the allegations brought against him, were not proved.

### Govt order to deposit licensed arms illegal: HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared illegal and issued without lawful authority a notification by deputy secretary of the Home Ministry asking for depositing firearms licensed between January 1 and July 15, 2001.

The order came on completion of hearing of 25 writ petitions together filed by aggrieved persons including former Home Minister Mohammad Nasim challenging the notification of December 29, 2001.

Division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haq and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana held that the notification was not in conformity with the Arms Rules of 1924 and the Arms Act of 1978.

Barrister Amirul Islam appearing on behalf of the petitioners argued that the license for firearms was issued after investigation to individuals who needed it to protect their life and property.

Attorney General AF Hasan Arif and Additional Attorney General Abdur Razzak Khan defending the government action submitted that it was necessary under the prevailing situation.

### Siddhirganj OC suspended

UNB, N'ganj

The OC of Siddhirganj thana was suspended on charge of negligence of duties and diverting a dacoity case in a different way.

Official order in this regard from the IGP office reached here yesterday.

Official sources said OC M Shahjahan allegedly harassed the plaintiff of the case.

## Govt gave nothing but rape, murder in 100 days: Hasina

UNB, N'ganj

Urging the people to resist the "tyrant regime", ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the alliance government could not give anything but rape, terrorism, termination and price spirals in the first 100 days of its rule.

"The four-party alliance government wants to consolidate its stolen power in all forms of repression ... we won't tolerate any longer injustice and torture ... build resistance, I'm with you," she said addressing a rally at Shambhupura High School ground after visiting the violence-ridden Agundia village.

Some 40 houses of the village were damaged in attacks allegedly by armed BNP men on December 21 in revenge on local UP member Mannan for supporting Awami League in the October 1 election.

The Awami League chief said she saw the marks of cruelty and repression in Agundia village where even a

beggar-maid was not spared by the terrorists.

"Such a situation prevails all over Bangladesh," she said, adding that had the government won election by people's vote, it would not have resorted to torturing common people.

Hasina said that after taking over power the alliance government started politicising the entire civil and military administrations by sacking "army generals, civil officers, police and employees like peons without any reason."

Referring to the 100-day lead-in programme of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, she said the government failed to present anything to the people other than terrorism, rape, murder and price hike of utility services like gas, water, electricity and essential commodities.

"What the prime minister does is give makeup and paint to bridges, buildings, roads and health complexes constructed by Awami League government and

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Three accomplices of alleged gangster Pichchi Kamal were arrested with illegal arms from a village in Comilla Tuesday night.

### 3 accomplices of Pichchi Kamal held with arms in Comilla

BSS, Comilla

Police arrested three accomplices of alleged terrorist Pichchi Kamal along with arms and ammunition from a village at Muradnagar upazila on Tuesday night.

Acting on a tip off, a team of CID police raided the Gakulnagar village and arrested Mohammad Khorshed Alam, Mohammad Salah Uddin and Alauddin while they were trying to sell arms to local miscreants.

Police also seized .22 bore revolver loaded with four bullets and one point 38 Japanese revolver from their possession.

### No classes held on first day of strike at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

No classes and examinations were held at Dhaka University on the first day yesterday of the two-day strike called by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Campus situation was tense but no untoward incident took place. Additional police forces were deployed on the campus.

University buses did not ply. However, Central and Science libraries remained open and administrative activities continued partially.

The opposition Awami League-backed BCL called the strike in protest against Tuesday's attack on its rally on the campus allegedly by activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP.

BCL also called a strike at other educational institutions in the country today.

The DU authorities with assis

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The Dhaka University wears a deserted look due to a strike the BCL enforced yesterday to protest attack on its rally allegedly by JCD activists on Tuesday.

## US-led coalition allowed to use Karachi airport

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan has agreed to allow the United States and its allies full access to its largest airport as a hub for Afghan peace keeping operations, a senior government official said yesterday.

Ali ud-Din, director general of Pakistan's Civil Aviation Agency, said an agreement to open Karachi International Airport to the US-led coalition is likely to be signed soon.

Ali said he expected that about 10 C-130 transport planes and two to three Jumbo planes will operate through the Karachi airport daily. Hundreds of troops will be able to transit through the airport each day en route to or from Afghanistan, he said.

Ali said the decision was made purely to generate revenue from landing and other fees. But the move to open the international airport in India's southern port city also appeared to compensate the United States for recently reduced access to an important military air base and to draw Washington closer at a time of high tensions with India.

Earlier this month the Pakistanis moved combat aircraft to part of an airport at Jacobabad about 600 kilometers southwest of Islamabad that they initially ceded to the Americans.

The decision was viewed as a possible prelude to fully reclaiming that airstrip and three others exclusively used by the Americans in combat support roles, in case

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