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RICE TAKEOVER Morshed sees no US policy shift in key ME issues

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday hoped for a peaceful solution to the Iraq problem and intensified efforts to implement the roadmap to resolve the Palestine-Israel conflict under the stewardship of new US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"We don't see any radical shift in the US foreign policy" with the replacement of Colin Powell by Condoleezza Rice, the former national security adviser to President Bush, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told diplomatic correspondents at his office.

Welcoming Rice as the new secretary of state, Khan said, "We feel that perceived divide that has been going around in the air will be bridged. Condoleezza Rice will address these issues and harmonize global issues."

"We hope the problems in Iraq will have a peaceful solution with installation of an elected government for the Iraqis by the Iraqis," he said. "We will also be able to see a new momentum in the process of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

A dense fog keeps three ferries laden with passenger coaches and other vehicles stuck at Doulatdia Ghat for six hours from 3:00am yesterday before they could start for Paturia across the river with passengers mostly heading back to the capital after the six-day Eid vacation.

13 murdered in city in 5 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen people including a ruling BNP leader and three children were murdered and one woman allegedly committed suicide during the Eid holidays in the capital.

November 13
Muggers beat up Abdul Motaleb, a guard of Ahsan Ullah Market in Tejgaon, near Tejgaon Rail Gate when he was returning home on Friday evening.

Critically injured Motaleb, 40, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where he died Saturday morning.

The police retrieved the body of a 13-year-old unidentified boy from a pond at Koylarchat in Kamrangirchar on Saturday evening. Sources at the DMCH morgue said the body bore marks of bruises.

November 14
A mob caught alleged extortionist, Arju, 26, red handed Sunday evening

when he along with several others demanded toll from a shopkeeper at C&B Staff Quarters in Gulshan and beat him dead on the spot. His other accomplices fled the scene.

Another alleged extortionist Jahangir, 20, died after a mob beat him in Korail slum in Gulshan when he along with his gang demanded toll from a shopkeeper. The police admitted him at the DMCH where he died the same night.

In another incident, a couple of unidentified youths called Russell, 20, out of his Gajmahal Road house in Hazaribagh and stabbed him at a nearby place in Baubazar. He was later admitted to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

November 15
Kabir Hossain Sultan, a 28-year-old scrap metal trader, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in front of Kamalapur Astana Mosque on the Eid day.

The police said a gang of criminals in a private carwaylaid him and

shot him point blank in the head when he was returning to his Bashabo house. He was rushed to the DMCH where the doctors declared him dead at 12:30am.

Rina Parveen, a housewife, allegedly committed suicide at her house in Madarbari of Uttarkhan after strangling her two minor daughters -- two and a half years old Mohini Akhtar and eight-month-old Soheli Akhtar -- after a quarrel with her husband.

In another incident, unknown assailants shot dead 16-year-old Wasim at Balur Math in Sabujbagh. They called him out of a party at night and shot him point blank. The police rushed him to the DMCH where the doctors declared him dead.

The police later arrested two youths -- Liton and Imon -- in this connection.

November 16
The body of Russell, a garment

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

British hostage feared slain

31 Iraqi policemen abducted

AGENCIES, Fallujah and Baghdad

British aid worker Margaret Hassan was feared yesterday to have been murdered by her Iraqi kidnappers, as US-led forces declared the battle for the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah all over.

The authorities also disclosed yesterday that an armed group on Sunday had abducted 31 Iraqi policemen returning from training in Jordan. The police officers were abducted by gunmen who stormed the hotel the officers were staying at in the town of Rutba, near the Jordanian border, said a police spokesman in the city of Karbala, south of Baghdad.

Meanwhile a suicide car bomber yesterday rammed a US convoy north of Baghdad, killing 10 people, hospital officials said.

The attacks were part of a wave of violence that has swept across Iraq since Sunni Arab heartland during the US offensive to retake the insurgent bastion of Fallujah. The violence has made November one of the bloodiest months of the Iraqi insurgency.

As the US military pressed on with a campaign to pacify the north-

ern Iraqi city of Mosul, nine people were reported killed as clashes flared between US troops and rebels in Ramadi, another Sunni Muslim hotspot.

Care Australia, the charity organisation that employs Hassan, said it appeared she had been killed, after Al-Jazeera television received a video showing a blindfolded woman hostage being shot in the head.

As her family mourned, Britain voiced outrage over the apparent slaying and European Union aid commissioner Poul Nielson warned that it would make it almost impossible for relief work to continue in Iraq.

Hassan, who had British, Irish and Iraqi nationality, was one of the highest-profile victims in a scourge of kidnappings that has plagued Iraq in recent months and would be the first woman hostage known to have been killed.

"Our hearts are broken. We have kept hoping for as long as we could, but we now have to accept that Margaret has probably gone and at last her suffering has ended," her family said in a statement.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

ICRC worried over killing of injured Iraqi

AFP, Geneva

The Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Tuesday joined a growing chorus of concern over the killing of a wounded and apparently unarmed Iraqi prisoner by a US marine in Fallujah, while criticising US forces for denying access to the battle-scarred city.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
November 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

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16,000 species face extinction

Over-exploitation, climate change, habitat destruction are blamed by IUCN

AFP, Bangkok

Nearly 16,000 of the world's plant and animal species face extinction largely because of the destructive behaviour of mankind, according to a major new environmental report out yesterday.

Over-exploitation, climate change and habitat destruction are to blame for a crisis that has wiped out at least 27 species from the wild over the last two decades, according to the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) red list of threatened species.

The report says more than 7,000 animal species are threatened with extinction including 32 percent of amphibians, 42 percent of turtles and tortoises, 23 percent of mammals and 12 percent of birds.

Among the casualties since last year's report, the IUCN confirms the Hawaiian thrush has gone the way of the dodo with no sighting of the bird for 15 years. Costa Rica's golden toad has also been listed as extinct

largely through climate change, pollution and disease.

More than 8,000 plants are listed as threatened with the St Helena olive tree the latest to be declared extinct after the last remaining seedling withered and died in November last year without any seeds kept.

"Every time we lose a species we break a life chain which has evolved over 3.5 billion years," said IUCN chief scientist Jeffrey McNeely.

Less is known about marine species but the report says early signs showed it was equally serious with fishermen overexploiting the seas to the point of extinction for many species.

The humphead wrasse is listed as endangered after its numbers declined by at least 50 percent over the last 30 years after being heavily fished in Southeast Asia for restaurants and the destruction of its coral reef habitat.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Mother kills 2 children, then herself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother allegedly strangled her two daughters and committed suicide at Uttara in the capital following a feud with her husband over preparations of food on the night before Eid.

Rina Parveen, 30, married to shop-owner Jahangir Hossain Talukdar six years back, killed her two daughters two and a half year-old Mohini Akhtar, and 8-month-old Soheli Akhtar, and killed herself.

Jahangir, a resident of Madarbari, Uttarkhan, Uttara brought mutton for supper with which Rina cooked but the preparation did not satisfy him. He threw the food in the garden at 7:30pm and left the house with his

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

20 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least 20 people were killed and nearly 150 injured in nine accidents in Comilla, Bogra, Habiganj, Narayanganj and Keraniganj during last five days.

In Comilla 13 people died and 76 injured in two bus accidents in Daudkandi and Chandina on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Saturday and Eid-day.

A Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound bus from Noakhali at Chandina on the Eid-day morning.

In no time, another Dhaka-bound bus from Chittagong hit the Dhaka-bound bus from Noakhali

from behind, said an eyewitness.

Drivers of the first two buses and three unknown passengers died instantly. Six seriously injured passengers died in hospital and health complexes.

Twelve critically injured are now fighting for lives in different clinics and hospitals in Comilla.

A covered cargo van and a passenger bus collided head-on at Barpara in Daudkandi on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 10am on Saturday.

The van driver died on the spot and 10 people on the bus, including the driver, were injured.

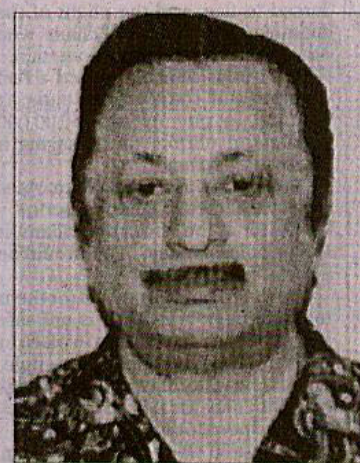
Seriously injured bus driver died

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, 2nd right, greets two children while meeting a cross-section of people Monday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr at the Prime Minister's Bhaban.



We Mourn

Badal Ghosh our most beloved has left us on the 15th of November, 2004 (Inna Lillahe). His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at the Gulshan Azad Masjid, after which he was buried at the Banani Graveyard on 16th November 2004. His Doa-e-Mehfil will be held on the 18th of November 2004, Thursday

after the Magrib prayers at his residence (House-NW (E) 3, Rd. 58, Gulshan-2). All friends, family members and well-wishers are requested to join us in prayers for his departed soul.

Beloved Family Members

BREAKING THE SPEED BARRIER

This Nasa handout photo dated November 16 shows the X-43A scramjet on the nose of a modified Pegasus booster rocket dropping away from the Nasa B-52B launch aircraft over the Pacific Ocean en route to breaking its own aircraft-speed record by flying the X-43A at about 7,000mph -- about 10 times the speed of sound, after taking off from Nasa Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California. The pilotless scramjet screeched across the Pacific Ocean with Nasa scientists nervously monitoring its second test flight. It was the second record to have been claimed in eight months.



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board Special Re-Notification Regarding Certificate on Telephone Bill Arrear/Issuance of Notice

It is notified for kind information of Telephone, Telex & Internet customers of Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board (BTTB) that, as per govt decision, certificate on payment/arrear of all Telecom services bills up to December, 2003, has already been issued for convenience of the esteemed customers.

Notice as "No arrear" to esteemed customers having paid all bills up to December, 2003 and as 1 "No other arrear" except the specific months to esteemed customers having arrear has been issued.

In case any esteemed customer has not received the certificate/notice in the mean time, it is requested to contact the undermentioned telephone numbers during office hours:

BTTB's Telephone Numbers

Director (Revenue)	8112216
Director (Finance & Accounts)	8314239
Senior Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue (North), Dhaka	8114802
Senior Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue (South) Dhaka	9550402
Senior Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Chittagong	711700
Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Rajshahi	774600
Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Rangpur	64476
Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Khulna	761113
Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Sylhet	710024

Ministry of Post & Telecommunications

Director (Telegraph) 7168160

The esteemed customers who may contact on phone shall be sent duplicate certificate/notice under special arrangement by BTTB.

It may be noted that this certificate/notice regarding payment of bill shall be treated as final document in support of your bill payment.

BTTB solicits cooperation of esteemed customers in this regard.

DFF-27219/9/11

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Customer service is our motto
Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board