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Announcement of Raffle Draw results : 1st Dec. 2004. See The Daily Prothom Alo & The Daily Star.

## 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

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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.

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

## 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 but 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 Ruba, near the Jordanian border, said a police spokesman in the city of Karbala, south of Baghdad.

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

The attacks were part of a wave of violence that has swept across Iraq and Sumi 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
Fair	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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SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## 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

Another allegedly strangled her two daughters and committed suicide at Uttra in the capital following a feud with her husband over preparations off 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 Sohel Akhtar, and killed herself.

Jahangir, a resident of Madarbari, Uttar, 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.

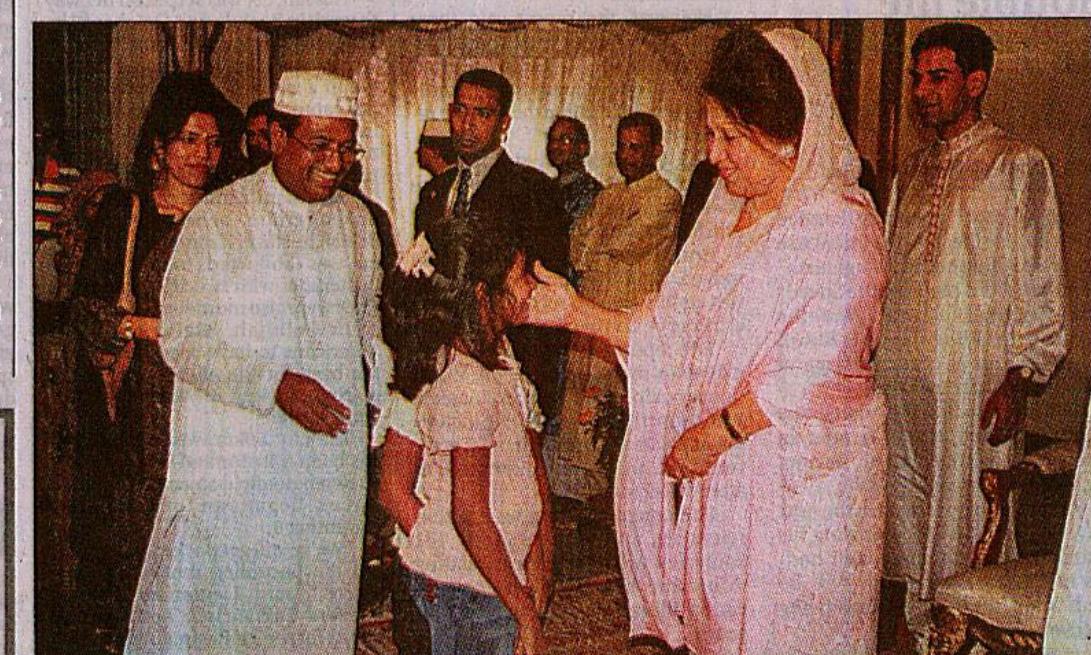
Twelve critically injured are now fighting for lives in different clinics and hospitals in Comilla.

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



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 Lillah .....). 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.

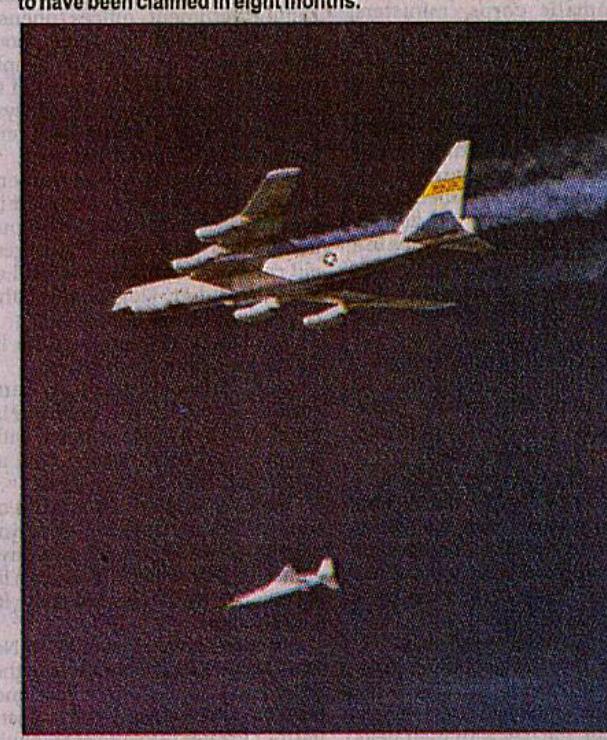


PHOTO: AFP



### 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)

Director (Finance & Accounts)

Senior Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue (North), Dhaka

Senior Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue (South) Dhaka

Senior Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Chittagong

Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Rajshahi

Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Rangpur

Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Khulna

Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Sylhet

#### 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.

DFP-27219-9/1

G-1114

Customer service is our motto  
Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board