

VOTER LIST
Hearing of writ petitions on Jan 2

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday deferred by a fortnight the admissibility hearing of two writ petitions challenging the validity of preparing a fresh voter list, as the copies were not served to the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the EC secretariat for reply.

After hearing both sides, the division bench of Justice MA Matin and Justice M Rezaul Haque, re-fixed the hearing date at January 2, 2006.

The two writ petitions -- one filed by Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil and another by AL lawmakers advocate Rahmat Ali and Asaduzzaman Noor -- will be heard on that day as public

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V-Day back with call for war on militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation today celebrates the 34th anniversary of the glorious victory in the Liberation War with a fresh call for re-igniting the spirit of 1971 to combat the rise of Islamist militancy in the country.

This year the Victory Day will be celebrated from a different perspective due to the rise in religious militancy and continuing bomb terrorism. With the public fear mounting high, different social and cultural organisations have been forced to curtail their celebration programmes due to lack of security.

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Jubilant crowd hails the victorious Mukti Bahini entering Dhaka on a pick up truck on the Victory Day in 1971.

Ctg JMB chief tells 2 more dens busted
Explosives, jihadi books seized; 3 JMB men, 2 suicide bombers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in Sunamganj.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday busted two more dens of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) at Keraniganj, Dhaka and in Sunamganj, arrested three JMB operatives and seized explosives, bomb-making materials and books on jihad.

Around 30kg ammonium nitrate and over 100 books on jihad were recovered from Keraniganj while three high-explosive power gels, six non-electric detonators and three safety fuses were seized

The police yesterday also arrested two JMB suicide squad members in Azad Miah Colony in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday put Ataur Rahman Sunny, military commander of the banned Islamist terrorist outfit, and his accomplice Fariduzzaman Swapan, arrested last Tuesday, on remand in custody for 14 days.

But, undaunted by the arrests including that of Sunny and the large hauls of explosives and fire

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Says intellectuals, NGOs were next targets; admits many militants have Jamaat past

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has close links with international terrorist outfit al-Qaeda and launched the August 17 and other bomb attacks as part of a blue print to establish Islamic rule in Bangladesh.

More than 200 suicide squad members and a few thousands former cadres of Islami Chhatra

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Call of duty

How journalists rose to the occasion to cover Dec 16

INAM AHMED and JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A photographer missed the final snap of General Niazi laying down his revolver in surrendering to the allied forces as he ran out of films; a reporter had only one chance to ask a question to Gen Niazi; a news editor did not know how to get his team members together to bring out the newspaper.

And yet another photographer, who had taken at least 300 rolls during the nine months of war, could not take the best shots in his life, as his assistant lay dying in a hospital with a bullet wound.

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Press curbing law planned

Provision made for cancellation of declaration, mainstream media sidetracked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surreptitious move without consulting the mainstream journalist community or the media, the Press Council has submitted to the information ministry a draft law that suggests punitive measures against newspapers including cancellation of declaration at least for a day.

The information ministry is now

examining the amendment proposal before sending it to the cabinet for approval.

The Press Council chairman claimed he had already discussed the law with the president, prime minister and the information minister who have expressed their interest in changing the Press Council Act 1974.

Except for Barrister Mainul

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Dhaka's RMG may not get duty-free access

Says US trade representative

UNB, Dhaka

The country's apparel products have been put on the major WTO trade negotiators' list of items to be dropped from the duty-free and quota-free market access, the main demand of Bangladesh and also of other LDCs.

US Trade Representative Rob Portman indicated the fate of the country's major export earning

sector at a briefing yesterday on the sidelines of the six-day WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong.

European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, however, said all the products from all the LDCs would get the duty-free and quota-free access.

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury

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WTO talks flounder

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Developing nations cranked up pressure on the rich to open their long-protected markets as world trade talks floundered on Thursday, while the United States and Europe blamed each other for

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star observes holiday today on account of the Victory Day. However, the newspaper will come out tomorrow (Saturday) under special arrangements. Today's 32-page issue includes 12-page Victory Days supplements.

Victory rooarr!
WE KNOW WE CAN.



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