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# SC lawyers fight it out in ballots

WASIM BIN HABIB and  
NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

With clean personality and family glory of Bangabandhu, Awami League-led grand alliance's Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh is ready for a tough battle with BNP's previous lawmaker Khandaker Mahabub Uddin Ahmed in Dhaka-12 constituency.

Voters in the area said although eight candidates are contesting from the seat in the December 29 parliamentary election, the main fight would be between the two lawyers—one experienced and the other fresh—who hail from Gopalganj.

Dhaka-12 consists of Dhanmondi residential area, Hazaribagh tannery area, New Market, Kalabagan, Jigatola and Green Road areas with 2,60,859 vot-

**DHAKA-12**



Khandaker Mahabub Uddin Ahmed

ers of which 1,14,844 are women. In the last election these areas were under Dhaka-9 along with areas under Mohammadpur Police Station.

Taposh is the son of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's nephew Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni who was assassinated on August 15, 1975 along with Bangabandhu and his family. Taposh is one of the lawyers who represented AL President Sheikh Hasina in many cases.

Talking to The Daily Star Khorshed Alam, a middle-aged voter in the constituency, said, "Taposh has a clean personality and he is young, which would give him more advantage. Being a member of Bangabandhu's family will also help him."

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mahabub, who won the last election from the constituency by a big margin of 28,954 votes against AL candidate Makbul Hossain, will face strong

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## 4-party slams 'plot to kill' Khaleda

STAR REPORT

The BNP-led four-party alliance yesterday held rallies in the capital and elsewhere in the country protesting what they called 'a plot to assassinate BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.'

Meanwhile, in Chittagong a BNP rally, organised to protest the 'attempt on Khaleda's life' was foiled following clashes between two factions of the party.

Pointing to the caretaker government, the alliance leaders alleged that a quarter with vested interest wants to assassinate BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia after failing to force her to quit politics.

The four-party leaders at a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

A rally in front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan in Dhaka yesterday protesting "assassination attempt" on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.



## Xmas today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Christian community of Bangladesh, as elsewhere across the globe, celebrates Christmas today commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is the most important festival for all the Christians of the world. According to Christian belief, God appeared on earth through

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Pintu freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu was released yesterday from Kashimpur jail after the High Court (HC) granted him bail in all the nine cases filed under the Emergency Power Rules 2007.

The Anti-Corruption

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## 2 killed as bus ploughs into procession

UNB, Laxmipur

Two people were killed and ten others wounded as a bus ploughed into a procession from behind after the driver lost control over the vehicle at Kamal Nagar in Laxmipur yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Gordo lottery winners plan to open restaurant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two young Bangladeshis living in Barcelona, Spain, are among the winners of this year's El Gordo Christmas lottery, receiving 3 lakh euros worth Tk 2.9 crore each.

They are Jamal Sahid, 18, and Shalim Ahmed, 29, Jamal,

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Prayer Timing		
December 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## No intensive care for burns

*Fund, equipment available, yet the unit fails to take off in 7 years for manpower shortage*

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Garment worker Sumi, 28, who struggled for 18 days with burn injuries sustained in a collision between a bus and an acid-laden truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Comilla on November 6, died without receiving intensive care.

As the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) has no operational Intensive Care Unit (ICU), critical burn patients like Sumi, Faysal and others had to die without receiving the care they deserved.

About 15 patients out of 190 receiving treatment at the unit need intensive care, said hospital authorities.

"Those who receive 40 to 60 percent burns in their bodies require intensive care. Unfortunately we are yet to make the eight-bed ICU operational at the burn unit despite having modern equipment and funding," said Shamantala Sen, project director of the unit.

Equipment worth more than Tk 2 crore has been lying idle at the ICU since its inception in 2003. The authorities failed to run the well-equipped ICU in five years due to lack of manpower. The ICU is equipped with ventilator, Pulse Oxymetre, cardiac monitor and blood analyser.

This forces financially solvent patients to move to private hospitals.

"We tried to run the ICU twice as we receive three to four patients every day who need intensive care. In ICU every patient should have a nurse dedicated to him or her. We do not have enough manpower for general beds even, how can we run the ICU with such an insignificant number of nurses and doctors?" said Shamantala.

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A woman holds her child with burns in front of the closed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the DMCH burn unit; the empty beds (inset) of the ICU.

## 3 lakh cases pending with High Court

Judges tell president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the High Court judges to quickly dispose of the cases pending with the court.

He made the suggestion when six newly appointed judges of the High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

The judges apprised the president that over 3 lakh cases are pending with the High Court Division.

Presently, there are 67 judges in the High Court Division. "It is a difficult task to dispose of the pending cases," the president was told.

The six judges—Justice Md Delwar Hossain, Justice Md Azizul Haque, Justice Md Abdus Samad, Justice AKM Abdul Hakim,

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## Public investment, ADP major challenges

Mirza Aziz unveils 16 tasks for next govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday identified 16 challenges for the next government in the context of present global situation and said as the country's economic base is strong it would be possible to face those.

"Possible onslaught can be faced with the level of overall economic condition of the country now," Mirza Aziz said at a press briefing at the National Economic Council (NEC) conference centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Listing the challenges for the next government, Mirza Aziz stressed that public invest-

ment has to be increased. The Planning Commission and the IMED will have to take immediate steps to strengthen implementation of the ADP.

He said public investment in power and energy sector has to be increased, the money saved from import subsidy on fuel may be invested in power sector and the on-going social safety net programmes should be continued in 2009-2010.

Subsidy in public sector has to be cut, and there should be public-private joint management.

The adviser said without hampering

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Pakistan MPs trash Indian claims on Mumbai attacks

AFP, The Dawn, Islamabad

Lawmakers in Pakistan yesterday condemned what they called India's "unsubstantiated" allegations against Islamabad over the Mumbai attacks and called for the neighbours to conduct a joint probe.

Federal MPs also called for an end to "war hype" whipped up between the nuclear-armed South Asian countries following last month's attacks, which New Delhi has blamed on a banned Pakistan-based militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"The National Assembly of Pakistan condemns unsubstantiated allegations levelled in haste against Pakistan," the lawmakers said in a resolution approved unanimously after a week-long general debate on national security.

The resolution called upon India "to respond to the constructive proposals made by the government of Pakistan, namely joint investigations and high-level engagement with a view to

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**অভিনন্দন**

টিএমএসএস এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা নির্বাহী পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ ছাত্র কল্যাণ ট্রাস্টের ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান, টিএমএসএস মেডিকেল কলেজ, টিএমএসএস নার্সিং কলেজ, টিএমএসএস মেডিকেল এ্যাসিস্টেন্ট ট্রেনিং স্কুল (TMATS), টিএমএসএস হেলথ টেকনোলজি ইনস্টিটিউট, হিউম্যান ইন্সফ্রাকচার ফাউন্ডেশন (HIF), টিএমএসএস ট্রান্সলেক্স এন্ড ট্রাডিজ লিমিটেড, টিএমএসএস CNG এর চেয়ারম্যান, পাট প্রেসিডেন্ট রোটারী ক্লাব অব বগুড়া নিউ টাউন, টিএমএসএস টেকনিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট (TTI), গৌরামারা আনহার হোসেন-আরা নৈশ কলেজ, বগুড়া আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন পাবলিক স্কুল ও কলেজ, বাংলাদেশ ক্রেডিট এ্যান্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট ফোরাম (CDF), বাংলাদেশ ফেডারেশন অব গুমেস এন্ডহারমানার (BFWE) এবং বাংলাদেশ NGO ফাউন্ডেশনের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য-অধ্যাপিকা ড. হোসেন-আরা বেগমকে বাংলাদেশ মাদার তেরেসা কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক "মাদার তেরেসা পোস্ট মেডেল-২০০৮" প্রদান করা সম্মানিত গ্রহীতাকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন এবং মাদার তেরেসা রিসার্চ কাউন্সিলকে অশেষ ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করছি।

কৃতজ্ঞতায়  
বাংলাদেশ ছাত্র কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট  
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