



Plus 32-page Star Campus

TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 264

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 2006

www.thedailystar.net

ASHWIN 24 1413 BS

RAMADAN 15, 1427 HJRI

24 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

## Fury at REB over controversial appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government Thursday appointed a retired officer as member of finance in the Rural Electrification Board (REB) although the post was filled just two months ago under appropriate rules and regulations.

Sources said this has created strong resentment at the REB as this single contractual appointment has affected at least four posts where four officials were duly promoted two months back.

The sources said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has signed the one-year contract of Latifur Rahman as the REB's member of finance Thursday. The power ministry is now formalising his appointment.

Latifur Rahman retired as the controller of accounts and finances of the REB about 18 months ago.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## BHUIYAN, JALIL SIT FOR THIRD DAY Hope for settlement over Hasan issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wrapping up the third-round negotiations over electoral reforms yesterday, both the BNP and Awami League (AL) hoped for an amicable settlement of the dispute over Justice KM Hasan.

Sources said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan hinted at the dialogue that his party might soften its stance on resolving first the issue of Justice Hasan who is supposed to take office as the next caretaker government head on October 28.

The AL-led 14-party combine has long been opposed to his taking over as the chief of the next

interim government.

Coming out of around an hour-long one-to-one dialogue at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Bhuiyan and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a joint news conference declared that they hope they will be able to arrive at a consensus.

"The discussions will continue, and we will be able to work out a fair solution if all of you continue to support us," Bhuiyan told the press gathering.

Echoing the view, Jalil said: "We are continuing the discussion to create a proper atmosphere for the conduct of a free and fair election to advance the democratic process."

The talks will resume tomorrow morning at the same place, declared the leaders adding that the negotiations so far have been cordial.

Sources said at one point during yesterday's discussions, Bhuiyan, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, wanted to know from Jalil whom do they prefer in Hasan's place.

In reply, the AL general secretary said the government side should first affirm that they will accept the opposition's demand for a consensus appointment to the post of chief adviser.

He also told his ruling party

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Bombs hurled at BNP MP's motorcade 8 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Unknown criminals hurled two bombs at a motorcade of lawmaker Shahidul Islam at Mirpur upazila in Kushtia yesterday leaving at least eight people injured including a police constable.

The injured are: Mirpur Upazila BNP president, also Mirpur municipality chairman, Saiful Haq Khan Chowdhury, BNP activists Alek, 32, Luthfor, 29, Manik, 23, Rahat, 31, Mostafa, 35, Rehana, 28, and police constable Dinesh, 42.

Alek's left wrist was blown off in the attack. The injured were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital and local clinics.

Shahidul blamed industrialist MA Khaleq, an aspirant for the BNP ticket in the next election from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, left, shakes hands with Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil ahead of the third day's talks on reforms at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

## CEC advises journos to learn journalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday advised the journalists to 'learn journalism' prior to making any questions.

"Why are you throwing wild questions at me regularly? Learn journalism first and then question

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## ATTACK ON SHOOTERS Judicial enquiry ordered

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a judicial enquiry into the attacks on three shooters including Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Asif Hossain Khan on October 2 after an official of the National Shooting Federation filed

an attempted murder case against five police personnel.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Joint Commissioner (Detective Branch) Shahidul Islam, the one-member probe committee investigating the police atrocities, extended the time

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Commentary A little respect for truth would help

MAHFUZ ANAM

One significant feature that separates our leaders from those elsewhere is their total lack of accountability in practically everything they do including what they say. What goes on here in terms of political speech making is nothing short of calling names and hurling abuses. It is with the same habit of irresponsible uttering that the Awami League (AL) chief spoke about the editors of The Daily Star

and Prothom Alo last Saturday.

That Sheikh Hasina may find things to criticise this writer and the editor of Prothom Alo either for what is published in the papers we edit or for our columns is natural. As a citizen, as a reader, and of course as a leader, she has every right to take issues with us and even to publicly criticise us. This, we not only humbly accept and wholeheartedly welcome, even encourage. That is not our point today. Our point deals with something

far more fundamental. It deals with the basics and universal values of truth and lies. What we find extremely disconcerting is that in criticising us the AL chief threw facts to the wind and took recourse to fiction. Her accusation that we had mediated the case between Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya of CPD and Mr Mahmudur Rahman of Bol and that we visited the residence of the US Ambassador for that purpose is downright false. So is her

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## 24pc population live in extreme poverty Reveals study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 19 percent of the rural households cannot afford three meals a day while around 10 percent subsist on two meals or less for a number of months every year, reveals a study.

"While Bangladesh has come out of the 'shadow of famine', the problem of starvation persists. About 24 percent of the total population currently live in extreme income poverty," it said.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in cooperation with the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) of

UK carried out the study titled 'The State of the Poorest 2005-2006--Chronic Poverty in Bangladesh: Tales of Ascent, Descent, Marginality and Persistence'. It was jointly edited by researcher Binayak Sen and David Hulme.

The study mentioned that around 31 percent of the rural population presently suffer the indignity of chronic poverty -- low consumption, hunger and under-nutrition, lack of access to basic health services, illiteracy and other deprivations, for more than a decade.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 3 Jubo Dal men shot dead in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

Three Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activists were shot dead by unknown assailants in Sadar and Harinakundu upazilas on Saturday night.

Police said a gang of criminals shot fires at Lutfar Rahman Shanto, 35, publicity secretary of Jubo Dal's Sadar upazila unit, when he was sitting at a grocery shop at about 11.45pm.

Shanto died on the way to hospital.

In another incident, Jubo Dal activists Sagar, 22, and Altaf, 45, were chopped and gunned down at a tea stall at Parbatipur in Harinakundu upazila at about 8.30pm.

Later, Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddha) claimed the responsibility of all the killings to journalists over mobile phone.

Local Jubo Dal staged demonstration in the town protesting the killings and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

## 50 injured in AL-Shibir clash in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between Awami League (AL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists in Chouddagram upazila headquarters Sunday after a Jamaat lawmaker came under "attack" during AL's protest programme.

In protest against the "attack on the MP", local chapter of Chhatra Shibir called a half-day hartal in Chouddagram on Monday.

Witnesses said Chouddagram Awami League organised a meeting in upazila headquarters at about 11:00am and later brought out a procession to protest the killing of Jubo League leader Hedayetullah at Cheura in Chouddagram on Thursday.

At one stage, the demonstrators started hurling brickbats at Jamaat leader Dr Syed Abdullah M Taher MP's car passing by -- triggering a battle between AL and Shibir that left 20 injured on each side.

A BRTC bus on the nearby Dhaka-Chittagong highway was caught in the middle of the clash and 10 of its passengers were injured.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



...HSBC can help

Visit our KIOSK at Level 1 of Bashundhara City from 9-15 October 2006.

Our representatives will be there from 10 am to 10 pm at your service with exciting offers on Lifestyle loans.

Enjoy Eid in style with HSBC

Call 01199 88HSBC (4722), 01199 88LOAN (5626)  
Dhaka (02) 9143423, 9143427, 9143429  
Chittagong (031) 725740, 717479, 01199 708985-86

HSBC The world's local bank



Shoppers World Makes Shopping a Festival & Eid a Grandour!

Shoppers World invites all customers to experience its latest collections through a FASHION SHOW to be held today, 9th October at its premises at 8.00 pm

NOKIA Connecting People

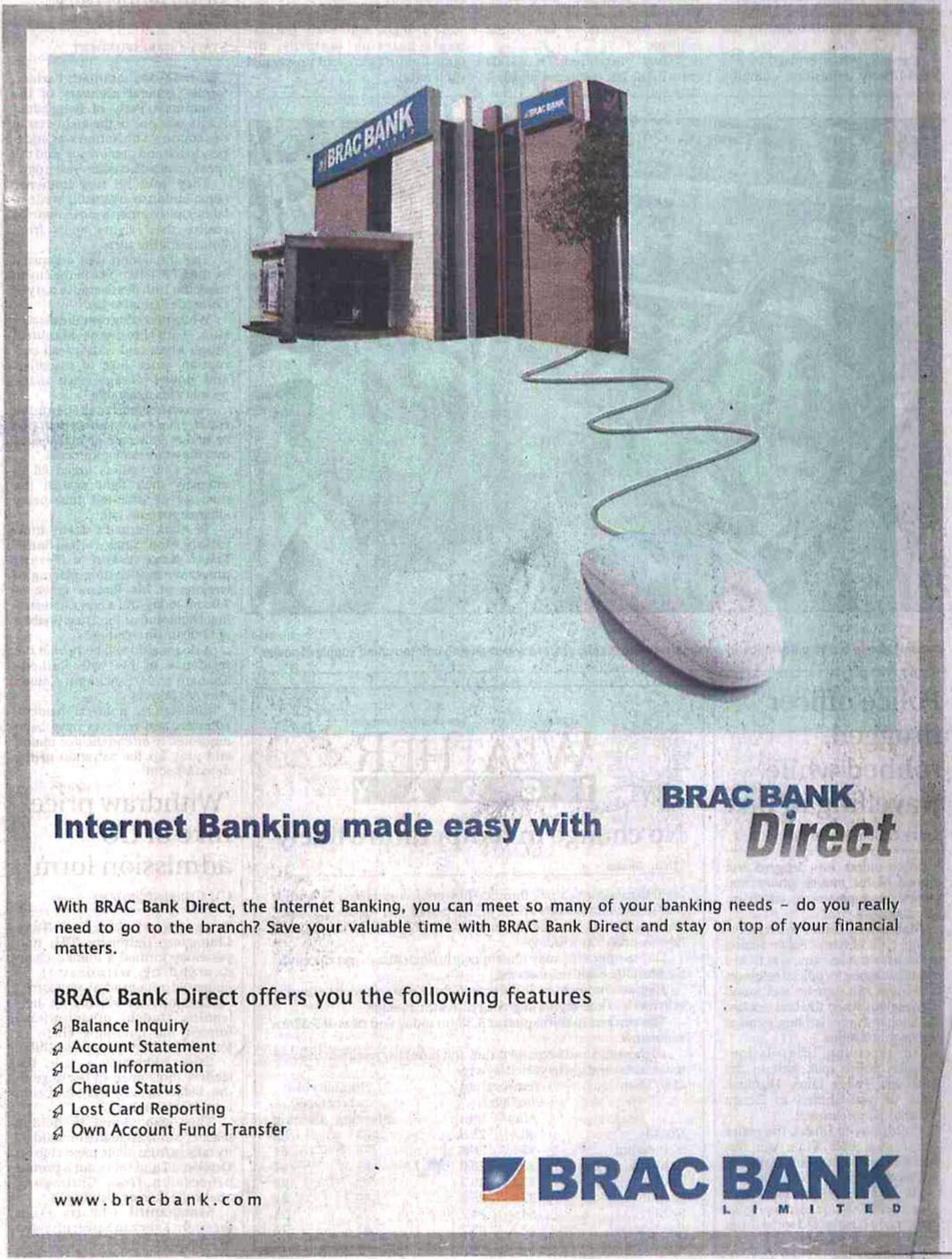
DIAMOND WORLD LTD. the art of beauty.

shoppers world THE JOY OF SHOPPING

88/1 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka Tel: 8857557-9 www.shoppersworldtd.com

Mega Raffle Draw, Daily Raffle Draw, Unbeatable Discounts, Surprise Gifts, Attractive Instant Prizes, Fun-filled Games, Complimentary Snacks & Much More!

\* Event is supported by Diamond World & NOKIA  
\* Event is a part of Shoppers World Eid Festival 2006 & Diamond World Festive Offer 2006  
\* We are open till 2.00 am everyday.



Internet Banking made easy with BRAC BANK Direct

With BRAC Bank Direct, the Internet Banking, you can meet so many of your banking needs - do you really need to go to the branch? Save your valuable time with BRAC Bank Direct and stay on top of your financial matters.

BRAC Bank Direct offers you the following features

- Balance Inquiry
- Account Statement
- Loan Information
- Cheque Status
- Lost Card Reporting
- Own Account Fund Transfer

www.bracbank.com

BRAC BANK LIMITED