REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 286

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2006

People's Right to Know

KARTIK 20, 1413 BS

SHAWAL 11; 1427 HIJRI

24 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE: TK 12.00

BNP clashes

STAR REPORT

Forty-three activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP were injured in clashes at Ghagra Bazar in Purbadhala upazila under Netrakona district and in Matiranga upazila under Khagrachhari district yesterday.

At least 40 people were injured as AL and BNP men got locked into a clash at Ghagra Bazar in Purbadhala upazila yesterday evening, reports our Netrakona correspondent.

BNP brought out a procession protesting the 'terrorist' activities of AL at Ghagra Bazar. AL men attacked the procession with sharp weapons, police and witnesses said.

During the hour-long clash that SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Pre-poll C'wealth team due today

UNB, Dhaka

A two-member team of the Commonwealth Secretariat arrives in Dhaka today on a nine-day visit to conduct a pre-election mission in Bangladesh

The team comprising Syed Sharfuddin, special adviser and head of the Asia-Europe Section, and Julie Broadbent, political affairs officer, Democracy Section, will meet government and opposition officials, civil society, media and other parties concerned to assess whether the presence of a Commonwealth observer group during the elections is broadly supported.
The team will also seek to obtain

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Ex-IGP opts for retirement after made OSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police (IGP) Anwarul Iqbal on Thursday night went into voluntary retirement after he had been made officer on special duty (OSD).

Iqbal submitted a letter expressing his intent of voluntary retirement to the secretary of home ministry. He then vacated his Minto Road residence and moved to his Uttara house.

The interim government on Thursday night placed the IGP or QSD, made a few transfers and reshuffled a number of higher posts in the police administration.

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43 hurt in AL, | 11-POINT DEMAND

14-party extends deadline by a week

Wants non-partisan person as caretaker govt chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14-party alliance yesterday extended the November 3 deadline by a week and asked the president to appoint a non-partisan person as the caretaker government chief in addition to carrying out the previous 11-point task.

The alliance warned President lajuddin Ahmed that otherwise they would enforce indefinite blockade programmes across the

"The chief adviser sought time to implement our demands. We are giving him another seven days to see what effective measurers he takes to hold a free and fair election," Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina told a huge rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital.

"If he fails to do that, non-stop countrywide blockade programmes will be enforced from

November 11," Hasina warned.

They gave lajuddin the November 3 ultimatum to carry out their demands, but the interim administration could not show much success by then, she told the rally held amid unprecedented

"The chief adviser sent representatives to me seeking more time for reconstituting the Election Commission. We have agreed to extend the time. But the chief adviser will have to show that they are taking measures to reconstitute the Election Commission," Hasina

In her 35-minute speech, the AL president also emphasised distribution of election related ministries to other advisers, making Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) strong and independent, and investigation into corruption, politicisations, militancy, looting,

price hike, torture and repression by the BNP-Jamaat coalition after the 2001 elections.

Hasina repeatedly told the rally the president has become the chief adviser to the caretaker government violating the constitution's interim government.

The AL chief demanded the

She also pledged, if voted to

power, to give the deprived government officials and employees their due promotion, to follow the constitution and rules and regulations in appointing and promoting other officials, to keep administration out of political influence and check price hike, curb militancy, corrup-tion and crimes, and alleviate

jurisdiction of a non-partisan

charges of the ministries related to elections should be handed over to other advisers. "What are the duties SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Jail killing day observed

The Jail Killing Day, commemorating the assassination of four national leaders inside the Dhaka Central Jail, was observed yester-

On this day in 1975, four national leaders and Liberation War heroes--Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman--were gunned down inside the central jail.

To mark the day, Awami League (AL) and its front organisations, including Juba League, Swechhasebak League, Awami Mohila League, Krishak League and Chhatra League, held various programmes.

National and party flags were hoisted at half-mast while black flags atop all party offices across the country

Awami League leaders and activists wore black badges and placed wreathes at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 6:30am.

At 7:00am, the AL leaders and activists placed wreaths on the graves of the national leaders at Banani Graveyard and offered special prayer, seeking eternal peace of the departed souls.

Moudud's sudden move stays graft body work

ACC cannot take any action against corrupts throughout caretaker govt tenure

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Former law minister Moudud Ahmed Wednesday moved against a High Court order and got the functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) stayed up to January 21 amid growing demands for investigation into corruption of ministers and officials of the immediate past government.

The Supreme Court (SC) order means the ACC will not be able to function during almost the whole tenure of the caretaker govern-

However, the ACC was learnt to be preparing for applying to the court to modify the order so that it

Acknowledging that he is aware of the SC order, ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Ahmed Khan told The Daily Star Thursday night, "We will submit an application before the court to modify the order so as to make the ACC functional."

Moudud, who tabled a bill paving the way for the formation of the ACC and strongly asserted that the organisation will act independently to root out corruption to a great extent, himself made the move in the Supreme Court to halt

After its formation on November 21, 2004, the ACC absorbed over 750 staff of the erst-while Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) through a screening process and asked the government to withdraw the rest 263.

the commission's operation.

Ahsan Ali and a few other aggrieved Bac district anticorruption officers filed a writ petition seeking stay on the screening criteria, ACC's absorption of Bac employees and withdrawal of others, and the appointment of personal secretaries (PSs) to the ACC chairman and commission-

Justices Syed Mohammad

Rahman passed an order on March 5 in favour of the petitioners.

Turned literally inoperative, the ACC then moved in the High Cours (HC) bench of Justice Joynu Abedin for vacating the stay, Africa hearing for several days, the man was sent back to the bench of jus tices Dastagir and Mamnoon.

On August 24, the bench vacated its stay order on the ACC screening criteria, Bac staff absorption and withdrawal processes, and appointment of the PSs.

Bac district anti-corruption officer Ahsan Ali then appealed with the Chamber Judge's court of the Appellate Division seeking stay

on the August 24 HC order. On August 28, Chamber Judge Amirul Kabir Chowdhury stayed the operation of Bac staff withdrawal order for three months and directed petitioners Ahsan Ali and others to file a regular leave peti-

BNP wants actions Advisers met Hasina on against 2 advisers

Says Shafi, Sultana failed to maintain neutrality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhulyan has urged the president and chief adviser of the caretaker government to take action against two advisers who visited Sudha Sadan and met Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina on Thursday night.

"Ihope they will resign willingly as they failed to maintain neutrality by visiting the AL president's house in unflagged car and without any protocol," Bhuiyan said at a press briefing yesterday at the party central office at Naya Paltan in the capital.

"It is not important for what purpose they went to Sudha Sadan out they have done a mistake by when reporters told him that President and Chief Adviser lajuddin Ahmed instructed the two

advisers to go there. Asked about Adviser Justice

Fazlul Haque's controversial comment after placing wreath at the National Memorial at Savar, the BNP leader asked, "Is it fair that a person should resign only for a comment?' On the reported dual citizen-

ship of Adviser Sufia Rahman, Bhuiyan just said, "I don't know anything about it.'

President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed sent Adviser Shafi Sami and Sultana Kamal to Hasina's residence on Thursday night to inform her about the interim government's move to : called on the AL president to conreconstitute the Election : vince the 14-party combine not to Commission (EC) a day before : go for any tough agitation expiry of the 14- party combine's ultimatum to the caretaker government to prove its neutrality.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

council's consensus There's nothing to dispute,

says Adviser Akbar Ali

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Advisers to the caretaker government yesterday said two of their colleagues met Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina on Thursday night following a consensus decision and on instructions of President Iajuddin Ahmed and there is no room for controversy.

Such consultations will take place with the other political parties, civil society members and professional bodies as well to work out ways to reconstitute the Election Commission (EC) in a

Two advisers, CM Shafi Sami and Advocate Sultana Kamal, programmes on expiry of its November 3 ultimatum, said a number of advisers yesterday.

AL and its allies issued the ulti-

matum to the caretaker government to meet their 11-point

The advisers said in line with the consensus among themselves, they will keep consulting different political and professional bodies and civil society on how to make the EC effective

The meeting between Hasina and the two advisers has drawn angry reactions from the immedi ate past ruling alliance. BNP and its lawyers' wing at separate press conferences yesterday demanded resignation of the two advisers for what they said was losing neutral-

Meanwhile, some advisers said the Bangabhaban should come forward to clarify the situation by issuing a statement, but as of last night, no statement or clarification was sent to the media.

> "There is nothing to dispute. It is SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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Political assassinations, terrorism dimmed law and order

YEARS

ALLIANCE RULE REVIEW

admit the fact and banned some of

the extremist groups. Top leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB), which banged to the fore by

making countrywide bomb attacks

body) members have been

others are still at large

awarded death penalty, but scores

sigh of relief when immediate past

state minister for home affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar introduced the

crime-busting Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) soon after takeover

of the ministry that had come

under severe criticism for its utter

of the home ministry were in media

focus over the five years for both

positive and controversial state-

ments and moves. Babar has been

leading the ministry since March 25,

2004 when the portfolio of his senior

Altaf Hossain Choudhury, was

changed from home affairs to com-

merce following the biting flak for his

on June 21, 2004 saw slight

improvement in law and order,

particularly in the petty crime

scenes, but its reputation soon

withered with the beginning of a

series of extra-judicial killings that

recruitment process and a recent

desperate move to cut short the

training terms of a few thousand

police officials and constables to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Besides, politicisation of police

still continue.

The launch of Rab operations

failure in running the ministry.

Two ministers with the portfolio

failure to sustain law and order.

A section of people heaved a

last year, have

policymaking

The nation has witnessed with awe a new and grave manifestation of terrorism, political assassinations

and organised crimes as law and order figured supreme during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government that

totally failed to contain the aforementioned menace.

The home ministry, however, earned notable success in curbing nagging petty crimes like nonpolitical killings, mugging, burglary, small-scale extortion and cheating and fighting the outlaws. Besides, it earned credit by deploying mobile courts to check food adulteration and improving logistics of the law enforcing forces and other departments under its command

But the success has been greatly marred by alarming rise in Islamist extremism and militancy, a long queue of deaths in so-called crossfire, naked politicisation of the police administration, smuggling of huge quantity of arms and explosives, brutal political killings and bomb and grenade attacks, many of which are still unsolved.

Several gruesome bomb attacks by Islamist militant outfits over the past few years tarnished Bangladesh's image as a moderate Muslim-majority country enjoying a communal harmony. A rapid rise in Islamic fundamentalism challenged the very roots of democracy and the rule of law with an express

aim of establishing an Islamic rule. Although the government initially kept on denying the existence of Islamist militant groups, it had to

Adviser Sufia says she doesn't hold UK citizenship UNB, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Prof Sufia Rahman has said the report about her British citizenship

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina waving to the crowd gathered at the 14-party combine's rally at Paltan

"Those who do not like me are spreading such propaganda," she told the news agency over tele-

been captured Prof Rahman, an eminent cardiand seven includologist, said she had been in ing five JMB London for 13 years with resident Majlish-e-Shura status. "That's a different matter."

> According to article 58C(7) of the constitution, the president shall appoint advisers from among SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Commentary

Let the Advisers work

Unfortunate and unnecessary controversy hampering caretaker government

Very disturbing and completely unnecessary controversies are hampering the functioning of the newly formed caretaker government (CG). This group of well meaning, patriotic and committed people have come forward to perform a constitutional task forwhich they deserve our thanks. We must desist from drawing them

into any political controversy. We should, and we will, observe their every move to inform the public as to what they are doing and point out wrongs when we think they have made. But we should do so with a motive of helping them to perform their task and definitely not to question their every move with the aim of dragging them into one controversy after another.

The latest controversy sur-

rounding two advisors, Shafi Sami and Sultana Kamal, in connection with their visit to the house of Sheikh Hasina, is not only most unfortunate but also an example of deliberate distortion of facts and twisting of their intentions to gain short-term political mileage. The BNP secretary general has declared that by visiting Hasina these two advisors have lost their neutrality

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Comilla Shibir leader murder: 10 arrested

ple in connection with Thursday's killing of Chhatra Shibir leader Mohammad Shahiahan The arrestees are Nasir, Shibbir

Ahmed, Nurunnabi, Abdul Haque, Obaidul Haque, Syed Ahmed, Abu Taher, Fakhrul Hasan, Nizam Shahjahan was gunned down at Langolkot upazila headquarters on

Thursday. Meanwhile, Jamaat Ameer of

Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan. Asaduzzaman, relative of another

Others just gargle!

is here to help you drink from the fountain of

Some students drink at the

fountain of knowledge.

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Education trip turns excursion'

BNP-blessed men get the last minute chance; non-teachers included

A 10-day ICT training programme

SHEIKH SABIHA ALAM

for schoolteachers in Korea may be useful for skill building. But for the former education ministers and high officials, it was a perfect excuse to award a "pleasure trip" to their friends and cronies A 25-member team of "school-

teachers" on November 1 flew to Korea to take part in the training course organised by DAEGU Metropolitan Office of Education. Sources said among these 25, four are not even schoolteachers.

Theyare Director (training) of the

Sirajuddin Ahmed, assistant private secretary to the former education minister Saiful Islam, Personal Officer of education secretary Monirul Islam Milon, and stenographer of joint secretary Golam Mostafa. Milon is also a leader of the education ministry employees association.

Directorate of Secondary and

Higher Secondary Education Dr

The 21 others include two teachers from the constituencies of the former minister and state minister for education, and others who are related to the ministry

Sources in the National Front of

teachers, were sent to "supervise" the remaining 20 teachers. Former education minister Dr Osman Farruq and state minister Ehsanul Haque Milon played an active role in designing foreign trips that had started two months

of nepotism.

Teachers and Employees (NFTE)

said most of the participants are

involved in BNP politics. Education

ministry sources said this is a case

five, four of who are not school-

Shikkha Bhaban sources said

tenure expired on October 27. Among the latest participants,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

UNB, Comilla Police have so far arrested 10 peo

Uddin and Ahsan Habib.

Langolkot municipality Maulana SM Mohiuddin Thursday night filed a murder case against 51 people, including former BNP MP

ex-BNP MP AKM Quamruzzaman, vesterday filed another case against 79 people naming Gafur Bhuiyan as before the BNP government's the main accused of attacking and ransacking the house and clinic of AKM Quamruzzaman.