

## Inside Today

### Article

#### The Presidential Sugestion

by M Arshad Ali

Page 4

### International

#### Top 3 Japanese parties discuss forming coalition

Sri Lankan forces destroy LTTE naval base

Page 5

### Business

#### Export earnings rise by 12 pc in July-August

16-member British trade team due on Friday.

7-point fall in DSE Index

Pages 6, 7

### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2128.13  
Market capital Tk 14889.56 cr  
Transactions in volume 1005708  
Transactions in value Tk 32.34 cr

### CSE MARKET

CSE price index 337.53  
Market capital Tk 9784.38 cr  
Transactions in volume 346635  
Transactions in value Tk 5.44 cr

### Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a three-page special supplement on the National Day of Holy See (Vatican)

Pages 8, 9 & 10

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Clinton greets Shahabuddin

US President William Jefferson Clinton has congratulated Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on his assumption of office as President of Bangladesh. In a message of greetings, the US President expressed his sincere desire to continue strengthening the ties of friendship and trust between the two nations into the next century.

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## Easy sail for Japan over India in Security Council election

UNITED NATIONS. Oct 21: Japan today obtained a non-permanent UN Security Council seat, beating off strong competition from India by winning an overwhelming vote of confidence by the international community, report AFP, Reuter.

The UN General Assembly voted in a secret ballot among seven countries for five rotating Council seats which are to be taken up on January 1 for a two-year term.

Kenya and Sweden were also elected today.

But voting to fill two other Council Seats was inconclusive and further balloting was needed. Costa Rica appeared certain to obtain one of them.

Japan, which had expected

to take its fight with India for an Asian seat into a second round, won outright in the first round with a total 142 votes. India only obtained 40 votes.

Japan is pressing for a permanent Security Council seat with veto power, which could be decided in the course of UN reform.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, in a speech to the General Assembly last month, stressed that Japan "with the endorsement of many countries is prepared to discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council."

He also noted that Japan would uphold "its basic philos-

ophy of the non-resort to the use of force prohibited by its Constitution."

Hashimoto pledged that as a non-permanent member, Japan "will continue to make every effort so that it can play an active role on the Security Council."

However, Asian sources suggested that Tokyo used "yen diplomacy" to buy votes with promises of economic cooperation and threats of aid cut-offs.

They cited Japan's invitation of African UN representatives to Tokyo in August for an all-expenses paid conference on development.

They also alleged that Japan promised to help pay UN dues for almost 10 countries unable to vote at the General Assembly because of their arrears.

### Election for AB Bank directors

## Nominations of seven candidates cancelled

Star Reports

The nominations of seven candidates for election to four vacant posts of directors of Arab-Bangladesh (AB) Bank have been cancelled following scrutiny by the election commission of the bank, according to sources concerned.

The nominations of six of them including three from Beximco Group — Salman F Rahman, Iqbal Ahmed and MA Kashem — have been canceled for not providing consent letters with their nomination papers.

Another candidate's nomination was cancelled for his holding an office of profit as advice to the bank, the sources said.

The election is scheduled for October 24 at the Annual General Meeting.

**Vice Principal of Siddheswari College allegedly commits suicide**

By Staff Correspondent

Vice principal of the Siddheswari Degree College M Yunus Ali allegedly committed suicide at his residence at East Hajipara in the city yesterday.

Sabujbagh Thana police said

Siddique Rahman, son of Yunus Ali, informed them that his father had committed suicide by hanging himself from a pipe in his house at 4/1 East Hajipara.

Police rushed to the house and found Yunus hanging from

See Page 12 Col 5

eral Meeting (AGM) of the bank. There are now three vacant posts from the quota of sponsors, and one from the quota of general public. Eight candidates had filed nominations for the election.

Salman F Rahman, Iqbal Ahmed and MA Kashem are former directors of AB Bank and they had resigned from their posts after Bangladesh Bank (BB) found that they had huge defaulting loans.

But they had again applied for directorship of the bank from the quota of sponsors despite their being bank loan defaulters, according to the sources.

The board of the bank consists of 12 members — three from the public, eight from the sponsors and one from the government.

Currently, the five sponsor directors are Morshed Khan, Azgar Karim, Mahmudur Rahman, Ramzul Siraj, and Firoze Ahmed. However, Mahmudur Rahman, who is also the MD of Beximco Engineering Ltd, has submitted his nomination in the public quota making four posts from the sponsor directors open for election, the sources pointed out.

Beximco group nominated Salman, Iqbal and Kashem for the election, banking sources said.

But another director, Ramzul Siraj has also nominated four contestants making it straight fight between the nominees of Beximco group and those backed by Siraj.

See Page 12 Col 1

## AL programmes for Nov 3, Victory Day

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) last night chalked out detailed programmes for observance of jail killing day on November 3 and formed a sub-committee to draw up elaborate programmes to celebrate on December 16 the Silver Jubilee of the nation's victory in the Liberation War.

The programmes for the jail killing day include hoisting of the National Flag at half-mast and black flag atop at Bangabandhu Bhaban, central party committee office and other offices throughout the country and wearing of black badges at 6 am on November 3, placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at 8 am, offering of *fateha*, *mildat*, *mafil* and *monazat* at the graves of national leaders and martyrs of the August 15 at 8:30 am.

Besides, Sheikh Hasina will chair a discussion on the day at 3 pm at the Engineers Institute in the city.

The ALCWC meeting also discussed in detail fertiliser stock position and supply.

It stressed proper distribution of fertiliser so that peasants get it

See Page 12 Col 1

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