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## ME peace Clinton's deadline to two leaders

WYE MILLS (Maryland), Oct 16: US President Bill Clinton has given Israeli and Palestinian leaders a Tuesday deadline for reaching an "all or nothing" agreement for a breakthrough in the peace process, Palestinian official said today, reports AFP.

Clinton told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during four three-way meetings Thursday at the Wye River Conference Center that the peace process had been deadlocked for far too long.

"Clinton told the two men that they had until Tuesday to come up with an agreement and that it was an all or nothing proposition," the official said on condition he not be identified.

"I have waited for 17 months. I know you both have internal difficulties but I have international concerns," the official quoted Clinton as saying to the two leaders.

## Promotion of 16 police officials may be finalised tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent  
 The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) will hold a meeting tomorrow to finalise the promotion of some police officials of the ranks of SP and Additional SP, according to Home Ministry sources.

Names of 16 police officials, eight of the rank of SP and eight of the rank of Additional SP are now under consideration for promotion.

"If approved by the DPC, they will be promoted to the ranks of Additional DIG and SP respectively," said a source.

## Govt politicising CHT admin, says Shantu Larma

BANDARBAN, Oct 16: PCJSS chairman Jotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma criticised the government for its daily tactics in implementing the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

The PCJSS chairman was talking to the local journalists at district Unnayan Board Rest House here this morning.

Shantu Larma said the people in the region are passing their days in anxiety and uncertainty in absence of the implementation of the peace accord.

He termed the rehabilitation of repatriated tribal and local landless tribal as the precondition of development of the region.

## PM addresses nation today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation at 7 pm today, reports BSS.

Prime Minister's speech will be broadcast simultaneously by Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.

## Top priority to backward linkage industries: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the entrepreneurs to set up backward linkage industries to reduce dependence on imported raw materials and survive in the competitive open market economy, reports UNB.

"Our government has laid utmost importance on setting up of backward linkage industries," she said urging the garments manufacturers to take appropriate measures to effectively face the challenges of the next millennium.

Inaugurating the BATEXPO '98, the largest readymade garment show of the country at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday morning, Hasina said the quota system will come to an end by the year 2005 due to merger of MFA (multi-fibre agreement)

and GATT (general agreement on trade and tariff).

"This free and unfettered trade will, on one hand, open up immense opportunity for our readymade garments and pose a great challenge to us on the other," she said.

## BATEXPO '98 opens

Finance minister Shah A M S Kibria, commerce and industries minister Tofael Ahmed, labour and employment minister M A Mannan, state minister for textiles K M Jahangir Hosain, commerce secretary Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury, BGMEA president Mostafa Go-

lam Quddus and BGMEA vice president Mahub Ali also addressed the function.

Ministers, MPs, industrialists, business leaders, diplomats, political leaders and buyers from home and abroad were also present.

The prime minister said from now on all concerned will have to take appropriate measures in a calculated way to effectively face the challenges of the 21st century.

"We have to show our skills and efficiency to consolidate our position in the world trade. Our entrepreneurs must be conscious of time, farsighted, dedicated and dutiful."

Hasina said garment industries have been playing an important role in steering the country's economic growth.



Foreign buyers take a look at some apparel on display at BATEXPO '98 at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

## Nov 8 verdict: AL gearing up to face opposition

The ruling Awami League is gearing up amid opposition warm-up in the wake of trial of killers of the Bangabandhu and the four national leaders.

The party has served a loud wake-up call for its leaders and workers and asked all its front organisations and organisational units to guard against "any destabilising move by the beneficiaries of political killings in the past."

In view of the much-awaited verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case scheduled for November 8, the party leaders and rank and file have been asked to keep vigil against any sorts of political fallout.

By Staff Correspondent

The decisions came from a three-hour crucial meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) last night. Emerging from the meeting at Gonabhaban, the official residence of the Prime Minister, the AL leaders circulated the decisions quickly to all concerned, especially the front organisations.

Party sources said leaders of the front bodies were asked to organise big processions and a rally in Dhaka on November 8 and in district headquarters.

Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina chaired the 67-strong ALCWC meeting, which started at 4:30 pm and continued till 7:30 pm yesterday.

Some 50 members of the ALCWC, including the ministers, were present. The last meeting of ALCWC was held on August 10 last.

The meeting expressed deep concern at what it feared, conspiracy being hatched by "some ambitious political elements" to spoil the post-flood rehabilitation programmes and create an artificial crisis in the country.

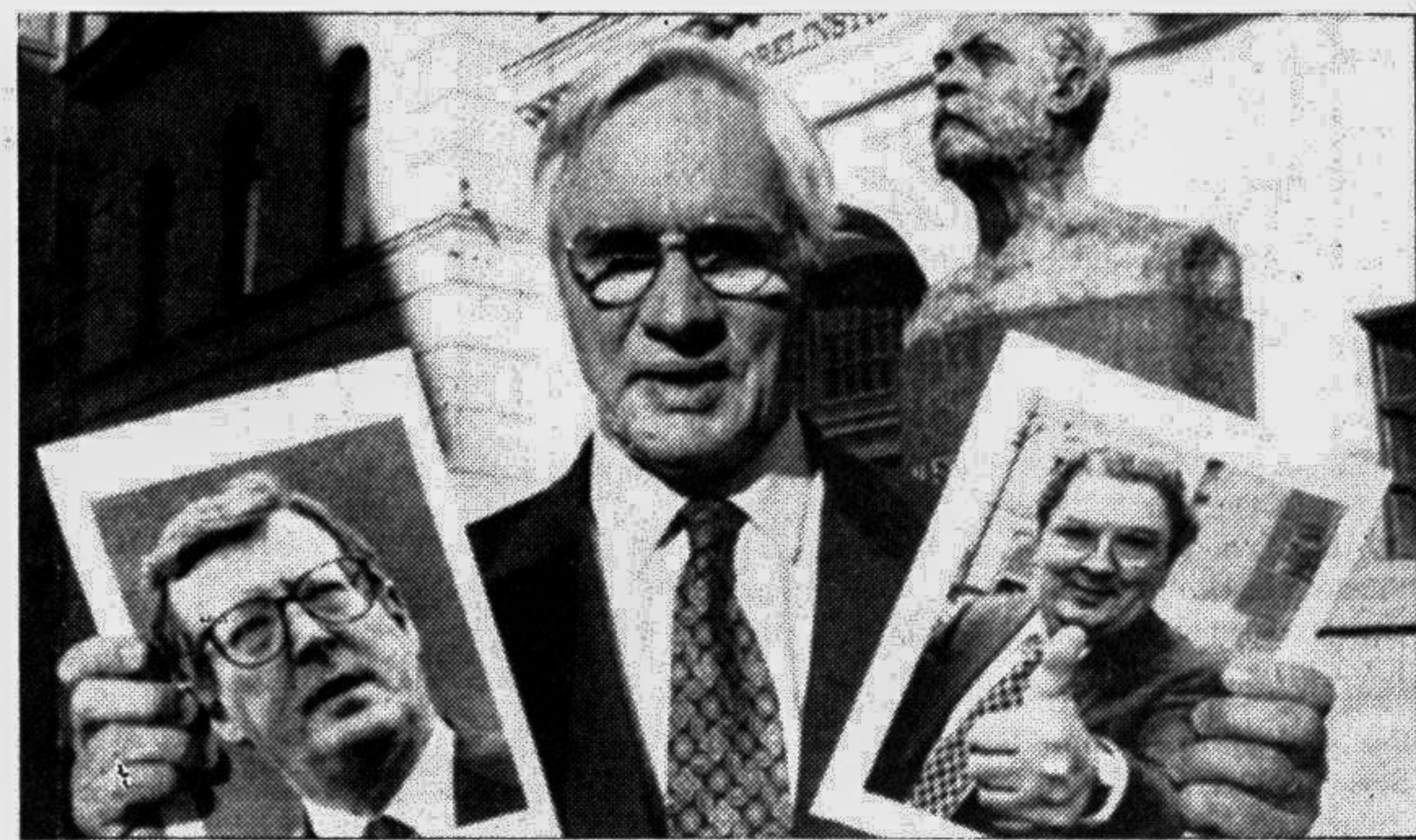
The AL leaders criticised main Opposition BNP and its allies which had called a hartal on October 18 that coincides with the birth anniversary of the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

## Hume, Trimble share Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Oct 16: John Hume and David Trimble, the leaders of Northern Ireland's two main political parties, won the Nobel Peace Prize today for their efforts to end the sectarian violence that plagued the British province for three decades, reports AP.

Hume, 61, head of the predominantly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, and Trimble, 54, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, were cited by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for work toward ending "the national religious and social conflict in Northern Ireland that has cost over 3,500 people their lives."

Their work culminated in a peace agreement signed this week in Belfast.



The Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Francis Sejersted, announced that the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize goes to David Trimble, pictured left, and John Hume for their work for peace in Northern Ireland, in Oslo yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

## The stories and jokes about cancelled ballot papers

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Election Board cancelled a total of 32 votes after Thursday's polling in the elections of the country's apex chamber giving rise to various questions in the business community.

They could hardly believe the grounds on which the votes were cancelled.

Two votes were cancelled from the chamber group, 30 from the association group.

Election Board sources said numbers such as 7, 12, 32 and 45 were found written on most of the cancelled ballot papers. Some had symbols like +, -, x and -.

"It's hard to believe that the voters of such an election are so ignorant," said one businessman.

## Tough task ahead, says new FBCCI chief

By Staff Correspondent

Abdul Awal Minto was elected FBCCI President for the next two years defeating his lone rival by a huge margin of 307 votes.

Samillita Parishad, formed by the outgoing vice president Kazi Shafiqul Islam who bowed out of the race as part of a deal following some back stage manoeuvring, bagged nine of the 15 association seats on the Executive Committee.

The panel backed by Minto managed only five while the remaining seat went to the Independent Panel.

Sources said the sweeping victory of Shafiq's panel shows the support he had among the business community. "Had he contested he would have surely become the next FBCCI chief," a business source said.

Minto polled 491 votes while his opponent MA Rouf



Abdul Awal Minto Chowdhury got 187. The unofficial results for president and 15 EC members from the Association Group

## MOU signed WB to provide \$6.5 m to fight air pollution

The government has taken up a massive programme to protect the environment from pollution by black smoke emitting from motor vehicles, reports UNB.

The World Bank will provide US dollar 6.5 million for the four-year "Air Quality Management" project. A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed here on Thursday.

The project included setting up of equipment at government and private workshops to detect limit of black smoke emitted by the vehicles, training to manpower and creating mass awareness.

Under the project, two-stroke engines, auto-rickshaws, will be withdrawn from the city roads in phases. A study of Environment Directorate shows that 65 per cent of black smoke polluting environment emits from auto-rickshaws.

## S M Ali's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth death anniversary of Syed Mohammad Ali, better known as S M Ali, Founder-Editor of The Daily Star will be observed today.

He died at a Bangkok hospital due to kidney failure on October 17, 1993.

A career journalist for over four decades, during which he held important positions in different leading newspapers at home and abroad, S M Ali was the Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star since its launching in 1991 till his death.

The management of The Daily Star has organised a programme to feed the orphans at Salmullah Muslim Orphanage today.

## BIMSTEC ministerial meet Setting up of air & road links may get go-ahead

By M Anwarul Haq

Five countries of South and South East Asia including Bangladesh may decide to connect their capitals through setting up a common airline and physically inter-link their nations through a Trans-Asian Highway. Both these ideas are likely to receive a go-ahead at the forthcoming BIMSTEC ministerial meeting in Dhaka, according to diplomatic sources.

Preparations are now on to hold the first policy-level ministerial meet of BIMSTEC, new regional grouping comprising five countries bordering the Rim of the Bay of Bengal. The Dhaka meeting would give a

lasting shape to BIMSTEC which was launched in the Thai capital of Bangkok on June 6 last year.

The date for the crucial ministerial meeting in Dhaka where Foreign Ministers or State Ministers of the five member countries would participate is expected to be announced shortly. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury told The Daily Star last night. The meeting, which was earlier scheduled for September, had to be postponed due to floods in Bangladesh.

The policy-level meeting of BIMSTEC in the Bangladesh capital will be held on October 17.



## Taylor equals Bradman's record

By Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), Oct 16: Mark Taylor equalled Don Bradman's Australian record for an individual Test innings today with an unbeaten 334 on the second day of the Second Test against Pakistan, reports Reuters.

Bradman scored 334 in the Third Test against England at

Headingley in 1930.

West Indian Brian Lara holds the world record for an individual Test innings with 375 against England 4 years ago.

The left-handed New South Wales batsman faced 564 balls, hitting 32 fours and a six during his majestic triple hundred.

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## Observe hartal in city tomorrow: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has urged the city dwellers to observe dawn-to-dusk hartal in Dhaka city tomorrow, reports UNB.

"The government did not give us permission to stage mass hunger strike at Paltan Maidan despite repeated requests from our side. So, we were compelled to call the hartal," she said in a statement yesterday.

Begum Zia said BNP had announced the hunger strike programme protesting the government's failure and misrule.

BNP demands free agricultural inputs for farmers, interest free agri-loan, massive development work in the flood affected areas, opening gruel kitchen and selling rice at Tk 10 per kg at all places.

It also demands withdrawal of 'false cases' and release of all detained people.

The BNP chairperson called upon the city dwellers to strengthen anti-Awami League movement observing hartal.

## Relatives concerned at health condition of Obaid, Manjur

By Staff Correspondent

Relatives of two imprisoned BNP leaders, accused in the Jail Killing Case, Thursday expressed concern over the health condition of detainees.

They also accused the jail authorities of ignoring the inmates' deteriorating health conditions by refusing to take them to hospitals.

When contacted, the jail authorities, however, rejected the claims of the relatives Thursday night.

Shaheda Obaid, wife of BNP leader Obaidur Rahman, told The Daily Star Thursday evening that her husband had recently "suffered a heat stroke inside the jail where there is no

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## Indo-Pak peace talks resume

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16: Top Indian and Pakistani diplomats resumed stalled peace talks in Islamabad today, reports Reuters.

Pakistan's foreign secretary Shamshad Ahmad told reporters there were no quick fixes between Islamabad and New Delhi. Both of which conducted a series of tit-for-tat nuclear tests in May despite international outcry.

"We are dealing with very complex and difficult issues," he told reporters as he went into the meeting with his Indian counterpart K Ranghu-

nath at a hillside guest house overlooking the Pakistani capital.

"One has to be patient. We are not going for quick-fixes or let us say miracles," he said. "So that's why we have to proceed very realistically."

Ranghath declined to answer reporters' questions as he went into the meeting.

Today's talks are due to focus on issues of peace and security while Kashmir is to be tackled tomorrow. The last meeting of the round would be held on Sunday morning.



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