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## BCS (Admn) assoc looks for new leaders Saturday

By Special Correspondent

The BCS (Administrative) Services Association holds its election on Saturday as efforts to "choose" a new set of leaders to run the premier association of the civil servants yielded no result till yesterday.

Association stalwarts could not find out someone to be the President and get one out of six contenders who staked their claim on general secretary's post.

According to association rules, the senior most civil servant, barring the principal secretary to the prime minister and the cabinet secretary, is chosen as its president. But the senior most bureaucrat, Kazi Shamsul Alam, who is the president of the association, has become the new cabinet secretary.

The two others behind him—Establishment Secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Farid and Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan—have reportedly declined to lead the organisation. It left the association leaders to look for an alternative. Next in line are Education Secretary Kazi Raquibuddin and Communication Secretary Syed Rezaul Haq. One of them is likely to be the president, association sources said.

So far, secretary Abdul Mueed Choudhury, additional secretary Azizur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division Nijamuddin and RAJUK member Khan Mohammad Belayet Hossain have been elected vice-presidents unopposed. ADC, Dhaka Mizanur Rahman was elected treasurer

unopposed. Besides A.S.M. Ali Kabir, Rabiul Alam, Obaidul Mukhtar, Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan and Ibrahim Hossain Khan have been elected joint-secretaries unopposed. The latter three are PS-1, former deputy press secretary, and assistant private secretary to the prime minister respectively.

The election of vice-president and joint-secretaries have created resentment among others who also filed nomination papers but their papers were rejected. As many as 12 filed nomination papers for the post of vice-president.

However there has been no consensus for the post of secretary general. As many as six officials are vying for the post. They are SJM Akramuzzaman, Mohammad Maqsoodul Haq, Dr Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, Choudhury Mohammad Babul Hasan, Mujibur Rahman Hawlder and Mohammad Aminul Islam Bhuiya.

But the main contest is likely to be between Akramuzzaman and Dr Mujibur Rahman. Some like minded members including a powerful section based in the prime minister's office have been trying to make one of them withdraw from the race. Several meetings were held but to no success.

## Recipients of Nat'l Sports Award '98

The government has announced the names of the recipients of "National Sports Award" for 1998, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

They are: Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed Organising (Posthumous), Almesh Sen (Football), Lt Commander Mohammad Bazar Rahman (BN) (Swimming), Mohammad Akram Khan (Cricket) and Sabrina Sultana (Shooting).

### AWARDEES FOR '97

Dr Qazi Motahar Hossain (Posthumous: Organiser), Captain (Retd) Siddique Ahmed (Organiser), Aman Chowdhury (Organiser), Jalal Ahmed (Organiser), Raisuddin Ahmed (Organiser), Sachindra Kumar Chaki (Posthumous: Organiser), Syed Ashrafur Haq (Cricket), Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury (Jewel), BB (Posthumous: Cricket), Ashraf Chowdhury (Football), Monwar Hossain Nannu (Football), Ibrahim Saber (Hockey), Sultana Kamal (Posthumous: Athletics), Phamida Hossain Luna (Athletics for Disabled), Parveen Laila (gymnastics).



Flanked by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, US President Bill Clinton presides over the trilateral meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Erez Crossing linking Gaza to Israel yesterday. Clinton failed to persuade Israel to resume the West Bank troop withdrawals called for under the Wye River peace accord.

## Clinton fails

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Marwan Kanafani, accused Netanyahu of "doing away with all the hopes" that Palestinians and Israelis had in Clinton's visit.

"He is intentionally crushing all efforts that Clinton exerted and is stopping the implementation of an agreement he personally signed," said Kanafani.

Netanyahu, the only leader to hold a formal news conference, described the meeting as "an open exchange."

The Israeli leader repeated his insistence that he would only withdraw troops in the West Bank if the Palestinians fulfilled their obligations under the Wye River deal. He said they would have to confiscate illegal weapons, stop inciting to violence against Israel, publicly drop plans to declare a state unilaterally in May and agree to Israel's criteria for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

When they do this, we will do what we are required to do," Netanyahu said, adding that the faster the Palestinians fulfilled their obligations, the faster Israel would withdraw troops. This phase of the withdrawal is supposed to begin Friday.

## Rallies banned

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link roads to SAARC fountain crossing, from eastern part of Panthapath to Farmgate, Shyamoli cinema hall to Dhanmondi-16 (old 27), Agar-gahe link road Shishu Mela crossing via Rokeya Sarani, Rokeya Sarani to Agargaon link road to Old Nine Division Crossing to Bijo Sarani's Parjatan crossing, from the eastern part of Indira road to western part of Manik Mia Avenue, Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area, Chandrima Uddan and all roads and lanes towards the EC.

The ban was imposed to maintain law and order as well as the security of government's establishment, the release added.

Meanwhile, BNP and six of its allies will march towards the Election Commission office on Thursday and submit memoranda separately to press home their demands for cancellation of Pabna-2 by-poll result and repolling in the constituency.

Leaders and activists of main opposition BNP will first assemble at Muktangan at 11 am and then bring out a demonstration towards the EC office in support of its demand and also to protest "failure" of the EC.

## Pabna by-polls EC's legal cell scrutinising RO's report

By Staff Correspondent

The legal cell of the Election Commission has started scrutinising the Returning Officer's report on the controversial results of 15 polling centres in Pabna-2 constituency.

The EC earlier asked the Additional District Magistrate of Pabna, Returning Officer for the by-elections, to submit a report after BNP had alleged rigging in those centres.

The report, "a voluminous one," reached the EC headquarters yesterday. The report said that polling in all the 15 centres were "normal," while election agents of the BNP candidate were not present in "one or two" booths of the centres, sources in the EC said.

"Our legal cell has already started scrutinising the results," Additional Secretary of the EC Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury said yesterday. "Once the scrutiny is finished, we shall submit the report along with the legal cell's observation to the EC."

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena told The Daily Star yesterday that he would give his decision on the subject after examining the observations by the EC's legal cell on the Returning Officer's report.

BNP candidate in the by-elections, Selim Reza Habib has already rejected the ADM's report.

## DU students

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investigate the alleged harassment.

They said the teachers involved in such heinous activities in the university deserved exemplary punishment.

They urged the authorities to include a female student in the fact-finding committee. They urged the authorities to create a female student-friendly environment on the campus.

Later, the students brought out a procession and marched towards the administrative building, which houses the VC's office. They submitted a memorandum to the VC.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) joined them and submitted separate memorandums to the VC.

Earlier, the BCU and SCF brought out separate processions on the campus and held rallies in front of the administrative building.

## Obaid, Moazzem

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ers said that they were suffering from various ailments including cardiac and diabetic complications.

Prof Shaheda Obaid, wife of KM Obaidur Rahman, yesterday told The Daily Star that the families of the detained leaders were not informed of the admission and not allowed to meet them.

She also criticised the delay in shifting the leaders to the hospital saying that the ailing leaders were admitted to the hospital on the last day of seven-day time frame. She also demanded that the relatives of the leaders be permitted to meet them once a week instead of present arrangement of once a fortnight.

The three leaders were arrested from their respective residences on September 29 in connection with the killing of four national leaders at the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

## Ershad

From Page 1

shad MP, Nazir Rahman Manzur, Sunil Gupta, Sardar Amjad Hossain, T I M Fazley Rabbi MP, Col (ret'd) A H Gaffar, Mahmuda Rashid Chowdhury, Noor Mohammad Khan, Neela Chowdhury, Iqbal Hossain Raju and Moniruzzaman Tito with city JP president Saifur Rahman in the chair.

Ershad further said that the country's independence and sovereignty are now at stake as a tenth of the territory—Chittagong Hill Tracts—is being handed over to (aliens).

"Along with Amartya Sen, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be awarded Nobel Prize as she, violating the sacred Constitution, created a new country which is the Chittagong Hill Tracts," he said, disapproving of the December 2, 1997 CHT peace agreement with the tribal insurgents.

## Foreign oil cos

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block.

Companies like Chevron-Texaco, Mobil and Petronas which had submitted good proposals for blocks 9 and 11 were given secondary priority because these did not have any agents with political backing, sources noted. Mobil-Petronas offer included a 20 per cent carried over share for Bangladesh explorer BAPEX—the highest share offered by any international company in a deal.

Instead, lesser known Irish company Tullow Oil was given the highest priority in the second round bidding.

"This again seems to have happened because of Tullow's local agent cum partner Kazi Shahid Ahmed," said a source. Kazi Shahid Ahmed, who is involved with the energy sector from the eighties, sought Awami League's nomination in the 1996 general elections.

To favour Tullow, the government went to the extent of finding it a "big" partner. Tullow, which had a gross annual income of 5.8 million Irish pounds then, was highly praised by the government for its proposal to drill 10 exploration wells for 56 million US dollars in Block 9 and another 10 wells for the same amount in Block 11.

Ultimately the partnership effort of the government was suspended, apparently, due to severe public criticism.

In addition, it became clear that the government did not have any oil and gas consumption plan. "It does not seem to know why it wants so many oil companies to work in all these blocks simultaneously. Some says the government wants to export gas and some says it wants to build the energy sector first," one source said. "But actually there is no vision at any policy-making level of the government regarding this sector."

The foreign companies are also shaky because of the poor PSC monitoring mechanism. Due to this, disputes are often arising between Petrobangla and the foreign oil companies over operation mechanism and cost.

In mid-97, the government floated second round block bidding and announced that since Bangladesh already had PSC negotiation experience, an energy policy, a model Production Sharing Contract (PSC), Gas Purchase Sales Agreement etc, it would complete the bidding process by December 15 of the year. This schedule was repeatedly emphasised but silently it was rescheduled again and again, sources pointed out.

## Victory Day today

From Page 1

will put on air special programmes highlighting the significance of the V-Day. In the evening the main public buildings will be tastefully illuminated with kaleidoscopic lights.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the occasion.

The President in his message called for tolerance and keeping national interest above individual and party interests for ensuring the progress and consolidation of democracy.

He also stressed the need for consensus on national issues and for establishing rule of law in the country.

He recalled the contributions of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Mujibnagar government and the freedom fighters. The President also prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

Sheikh Hasina called upon the people irrespective of party affiliation to regenerate the courage and unity that prevailed during the war of independence for the overall development and progress of the country.

The mission of the Liberation War was to establish a poverty and exploitation free society by achieving national economic emancipation for the poor," she said.

The Prime Minister recalled with gratitude the supreme sacrifices of thousands of martyrs during the war.

She said Victory Day this year has special significance, because it would be observed after getting rid of the disgrace of killing the Father of the Nation.

"It was being observed with a guilty feeling since the martyrdom of the Father of the Nation on August 15, 1975. Verdict of Bangladesh Murder Case has relieved the nation of the disgrace of killing the Father of the Nation."

Begum Zia urged all nationalist forces to unite and mount anti-government agitation to free the nation from "misrule".

"We have to oust this government to protect our independence and sovereignty and establish democracy and rule of law in the country," she said.

Begum Zia said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman declared independence from Kalurghat radio station and in the proclamation urged the nation to fight for freedom when Pakistani Army cracked down on March 26 in 1971.

"Zia called the independence war when some of the political leaders surrendered to the Pak army and some took shelter in India," said the BNP chairperson.

She reminded that the long-cherished independence came through a nine-month-long war and with the sacrifice of lives of 30 lakh patriots and chastity of two lakh mothers and sisters.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will pay homage to the memory of the martyrs of the War of Liberation by placing wreath at the National Memorial at Savar early in the morning. Chiefs of three services and members of the diplomatic corps will be present there at that time.

Next to place wreath there will be Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina. Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will also place wreath.

As of every year, besides different organisations, tens of thousands of people of all walks of life will through the National Mausoleum from morning to place wreaths.

On return from Savar, Sheikh Hasina will place wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum at 8 am and inaugurate the groundwork of an Independence Monument at the Suhrawardy Uddyan which will be constructed at a cost of Tk 81.27 crore.

Special prayers will be offered at all mosques, temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

President Shahabuddin will host a reception to freedom fighters, political leaders, eminent personalities and journalists at Bangabhaban at 3:30 pm.

The Prime Minister will attend a reception to be accorded to the freedom fighters at the North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad at 9:30 am on Thursday.

Improved diet will be served in hospitals, prisons and orphanages on the Victory Day.

Ruling Awami League has chalked out an elaborate programme. The National Flag and party flag will be hoisted atop AL offices and the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 5 am. AL's programme include placing of wreaths at Savar at 6:40 am, at the portrait of Bangabandhu at 8:05 am and a cultural programme at Paltan Maidan at 5:30 pm.

The AL will hold a "victory rally" at Paltan Maidan on December 18 at 2 pm on the occasion. Party chief Sheikh Hasina will address it.

The major opposition party, BNP, will hoist The National Flag and party flags atop the party's central office early in the morning. Leaders and workers will assemble at the party office and ten proceed to

wards Savar to place wreath at the National Memorial at 7 am. At 9:30 am, BNP leaders and workers will also place wreath and offer *fateha* at the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman. BNP will bring out 'victory procession' from the Engineers Institute at 3 pm and organise cultural function there in the evening.

Workers' Party, CPB, JSD, BSD, Gano Forum, Jatiya Party, Jagpa, Ganatantri Party, NAP, Democratic League, Jatiya Janata Party and other parties have also drawn up various programmes to observe the day.

Dhaka University's programme on the day includes hoisting of The National Flag atop main buildings of the university at 6:30 am and placing of wreath at the National Memorial at 7 am.

To mark the day, band groups of Army, BDR, Police, Ansars and VDP will present separate musical programmes at different points of the city.

Bangladesh Navy will keep its ships open for public at Chittagong, Khulna and Mongla ports as well as in Sadarghat, Narayanganj, Chandpur and the BIWTA ghat at Barisal on the day.

## Baby born in baby-taxi!

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 15: A woman gave birth to a baby boy in an autorickshaw on her way to hospital at Munsikhola in Paltan on Monday night, reports UNB.

Hasi Begum, wife of Adamjee Jute Mills worker Shah Alam, was earlier admitted to Narayanganj Hospital at 2 am Monday. As her condition deteriorated, Hasi was being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital by an autorickshaw, but the boy was born in the autorickshaw on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road. An autorickshaw is commonly called a baby-taxi.

Family sources said both the mother and the newborn were fine.

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