



Shahabuddin's first state trip takes him to Turkey in Nov

By Diplomatic Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will be going on a five-day official trip to Turkey in the first week of November.

The President leaves Dhaka on November 1 and will return on November 5, diplomatic sources said.

This would be the first trip of President Shahabuddin Ahmed during his nearly three years in office.

The President would be visiting Turkey at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart President Suleyman Demerel.

The Turkish President has extended invitations to President Shahabuddin four times, including on all three occasions that President Demerel visited Bangladesh in the last three years. Former South African President Nelson Mandela also invited the Bangladesh President twice and the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami once.

A foreign ministry official said the decision of the President to take a trip to Turkey will contribute to boosting the image of the country as it will attract positive media attention in the host country, which was the prime initiator of D-8 group and the only Muslim member of NATO.

By-election in Tangail-8 Nov 15

Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced the schedule for by-election in Tangail-8 constituency on November 15, reports BSS.

The EC, in a gazette notification, has fixed October 17 for submitting nomination papers, October 26 for withdrawal of candidature and October 18 for scrutiny of nomination papers.

The Deputy Commissioner of Tangail has been made returning officer.

The Election Commission has sought cooperation from all to hold the election in a free, fair and impartial atmosphere.

City suffers water crisis

By Staff Correspondent

Sufferings of the city dwellers in different parts of the city increased beyond tolerable limits owing to inadequate water supply caused by power outage yesterday.

Residents of Elephant Road, Dhanmondi, Mirpur Road, Mohammadpur and other areas suffered due to the load shedding owing to a critical shortage of water.

Residents of Dhanmondi and Elephant Road experienced power disruption four to five times yesterday. The power situation had improved recently in the city and neighbouring areas. Yesterday's disruption in power supply caught many of the city-dwellers rather by surprise.

When contacted an official of Power Development Board said that the load shedding occurred due to fall in power generation at Ghorashal unit-3, which generated 210 Megawatt (MW).

"We are shedding 350-400 MW load today due to stoppage of production at the Ghorashal unit-3 and other related problems," a PDB official who preferred anonymity told The Daily Star.

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Prayer Timings

October 7

Fajr 4:30 5:00

Zohr 12:45 1:25

Asr 4:15 4:30

Magrib 5:50 5:55

Esha 7:45 8:15

BJP poised for landslide

Early results indicate 300-plus seats for Vajpayee's alliance

the northern constituency of Lucknow.

The prime minister said the results from what was India's third election in little more than three years were "going according to our expectations, barring one or two states."

Indian share prices on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

As vote counting continued across the country, three television projections all gave the alliance, led by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist BJP party, an overall majority in the 545-member parliament.

But the projected final tally from 273 seats -- just over the halfway mark -- to 303 seats.

Sonia Gandhi's main opposition Congress party and its allies were projected to win between 152 and 185 seats.

A slim overall majority of around a dozen seats would leave Vajpayee and the BJP vulnerable to the same internal bickering that brought down his coalition government in April after 13 months in office.

We are expecting a majority," a beaming Vajpayee told reporters at his residence, shortly after election officials announced his own victory in

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