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The Election Commission

yesterday declared the Jatiya

Sangsad seats of BNP lawmak-

ers Dr. Md Alauddin and Hasi-

bur Rahman Swapan vacated

ernment of Sheikh Hasina

against their party decision in

Rahman Swapan MP, elected

Swapan

BNP Chairperson Khaleda

Zia has called a countrywide

dawn-to-dusk hartal on October

21 to protest Indian "aggres-

sion" and press the demand for

resignation of the Awami

The call was made from a

public meeting at Paltan

Maidan yesterday, organised as

part of "Anti-aggression Day"

programme of the BNP-led four

will call hartalstill ouster of

"I do not want to go for non-

this government," she said.

The other alliance compo-

League government.

from Sirajganj-7 constituency

The two MPs joined the gov-

The seats of Mr. Hasibur

with immediate effect.

February last year.

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 12, 1999

3rd Millennium

ASHWIN 27, 1406 BS

continue as ministers?

By Nazmul Ashraf

and Hasibur Rahman Swapan now plan to join the ruling Awami League and contest bypolls to return to the parliament.

For the last 20 months, the two have been in the Cabinet as minister of state and deputy longing to the opposition BNP.

Whether the two will retain their seats on the Council of Ministers was still not clear after the EC verdict stripping their parliamentary seats.

"technocrat" ministers. But the composition of the Cabinet raised questions about their

The law permits one tenth of the present 38-strong Council of Ministers to be from among non-MPs. With the addition of the two, the number of technocrat ministers is now four. Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and State Minister for Planning M K Alamgir were the only non-MP members of the Cabinet.

"I've accepted the Election Commission's verdict and have no plan to challenge it in the Supreme Court," Swapan said in his reaction to the EC judgement. Dr Alauddin could not be reached for his reaction.

See Page 11 Col 7

Shoaib Chy remanded

The CMM's Court yesterday placed Salahuddin Shoaib Chowdhury, managing director of now defunt ATV, on eight

Shoaib was arrested by Special Branch of police from his Uttara residence on Sunday night as an accused in a case filed with Motijheel thana for his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to kill the prime

in another case filed with the same thana alleging his involvement in "passing state se-

Shoaib was produced before the CMM's Court at about 6:30 pm yesterday. Police prayed for 12 days' remand in the cases.

Shamsur Rahman granted a three-day remand in the first case and a five-day remand in

Six more HC judges may

Six more judges are likely to be appointed for the High Court Division of the Supreme Court,

Oath taking ceremony of the new judges may be held on October 18, the day Supreme Court opens after one and a half months of summer vaca-

A law ministry proposal in this regard is now awaiting approval of the Prime Minister and the President.

HC judges, three are from the judicial officers and three from the lawyers.

for appointment include Araisuddin and Abdus Salam, both joint secretaries in the law ministry, and Marjiul Huq. Registrar of the Supreme Court From the lawyers' quota, 10 names have been proposed and three would be finally selected by the highest authorities, the

Inside Today

Article

Foreign Service and Foreign Office

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim Page 4

Focus

Primary education: Promises and perils Page 5

Prayer Timings

October 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-55
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Isla	imic Four	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN

EC verdict on floor-crossing

Alauddin vacant

By Staff Correspondent

and Dr. Md. Alauddin MP.

elected from Rajshahi-5 con-

stituency, stand vacated with

immediate effect". Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner Moham-

mad Abu Hena said in the ver-

dict in the much talked about

Commission headed by Abu

Mostaque Ahmed Chowdhury

Alauddin

stop hartal, but will be com-

pelled to do this if the incompe-

tent, unsuccessful and sub-

servient government does not

step down immediately and

hand over power to a caretaker.

t's call to businessmen to keep

their establishments open dur-

ing hartal. Khaleda asked how

could police protect those while

they failed to protect a judge

from attackers in court, preven

occupation of bank by hood-

lums, extortion by terrorists

and attempt to break jail gate to

The motive behind the gov-

ernment call is to allow AL ac-

tivists loot business establish-

ments and later shift the blame

on the hartal callers, she said.

Businessmen should be alert

See Page 11 Col 6

take away criminals?

Referring to the governmen-

Hartal called on Oct 21

blueprint: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

The three-member Election

Flanked by Commissioners

floor-crossing case.

Hena heard the case.

and Abidur Rahman, the CEC

also read out a portion of judgement at the EC office yes-

terday morning. It said: "Con-

sidering the facts and circum-

stances of the case and the law

involved, we are of the opinion

that the opposite parties

(Swapan and Alauddin), by

their conduct, have resigned

from BNP, the party which

nominated them in the general

seats of the MPs stand vacated

under Article 70 (1) of

elected as a member of Parlia-

ment in an election in which he

was nominated as a candidate

by a political party shall vacate

his seat if he resigns from that

party or votes in Parliament

of the judgement to the Speaker

yesterday afternoon, a top EC

make a gazette notification on

The EC has to hold by-elec-

tion to the seats in 90 days from

See Page 12 Col 3

Border incidents

BDR, BSF to

hold meeting

from Oct 24

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Rifles and Border

Security Forces of India will

begin a four-day meeting here

from October 24, home min-

They are likely to discuss re-

cent border clashes between

BDR and BSF killing of Banglidechis by BSF and push

in of Indian citizens into

Bangladesh by the Indian bor-

der guards which created ten-

sion in certain border areas of

This will be part of regular meetings between top officials

of BDR and BSF, held twice a

year. The last meeting was held

were killed in BSF firing in the

according to a home ministry

Border clashes, killing and

-Star photo

Drive against

illegal liquor

traders in posh

city areas

By Staff Correspondent

by Director General of Depart-

ment of Narcotics Control

(DNC) has recently been formed

aiming to curb drug and alcohol

conducted raids on some 23

guesthouses and clubs in the

city's Baridhara, Banani,

Gulshan and DOHS areas,

sources said. More will follow

into the activities of the guest-

houses and bonded warehouses

selling liquor is now in

houses however alleged that

raids were being conducted on

their business establishments

were found involved in selling

See Page 11 Col 8

progress, the sources said.

only to harass them.

A thorough investigation

Owners of some of the guest-

Some of these guesthouses

at regular interests, they said.

The committee has already

abuse in the posh city areas.

A special committee headed

See Page 11 Col 6

last ten months up to October 4,

Twenty-six Bangladeshis

in March in New Delhi

report.

the country, the officials said.

istry officials said yesterday.

The Directors General of

official told The Daily Star.

vacation of the two JS seats.

The Commission sent a copy

As per law, the Speaker is to

The Commission said the

The Article says: "A person

election held in June, 1996."

Bangladesh Constitution.

against that party."

RAJAB 1, 1420 HIJRI

16 PAGES, PRICE: TAKA 6.00

Will they JS seats of Swapan,

Losing their Jativa Sangsad seats. Dr. Mohammad Alauddin

minister respectively while still being MPs officially be-

By definition, they became

Senior Awami League lead-

Bomb planting a govt

By Court Correspondent days' remand in two cases.

minister and her close rela-

He was also shown arrested

party opposition alliance. nents - Jatiya Party, Jamaai-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote Metropolitan Magistrate. -- also simultaneously called

the hartal from separate rallies in the city. "We have observed hartal the second case. and will do so to topple this subservient government. We

be appointed

By Staff Correspondent according to official sources.

tion, the sources said.

Of the six likely to be made

The officials recommended sources said.

Murder of Jubo League leader

Shahidul confesses aiding Shikdar

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 11: Shahidul Islam who was arrested in Comilla on Sunday has admitted aiding and abetting notorious crimelord Ershad Shikdar in the murder of Jubo League leader Khalid Hossain in an ice factory at Skid Ghat on May 18

He made the confession to Comilla Sadar police on Sunday night, said DC (South) Mazharul Huq during press briefing in the city this after-

noon. Shikdar is believed to have masterminded the murder of the Jubo League leader

Shahidul, an accomplice of Shikdar, will be brought to Khulna on Wednesday, said a source in the KMP. Preparations are being taken to record a

Khalid Hossain, the source further said. Meanwhile, Ershad Shikdar underwent a medical check-up

case accusing him of murdering

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia leading a procession following a rally in the city yesterday.

again today as he complained of health problems including blood pressure. He has stopped eating saying that he is having a sudden decrease in appetite owing to indigestion, sources

In any case, he had to face an exhaustive interrogation session, worked on by 10 senior police officials, picked out by the IGP, the sources said.

Shikdar during the questioning admitted smuggling in Indian sugar and drugs for quite a long time but denied having played any part in the episode See Page 12 Col 6

proposal for reserved women seats for another 10 years By Staff Correspondent

Cabinet okays

The Cabinet yesterday ap-proved, in principle, a draft bill providing for a 10-year extension of the constitutional provision for 30 reserved seats for women in Jatiya Sangsad.

The decision was taken at the weekly meeting of Cabinet yesterday morning with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the

The present provision for electing 30 women MPs by 300 directly elected members of the House will expire on April 4

"But the tenure of the present parliament will end on July 17. 2001 - necessitating a constitutional amendment for a renewal of the provision," said a Cabinet member last evening.

The Cabinet also decided to open dialogue with the opposition parties concerned on the issue, as the implementation of the decision would require a constitutional amendment to be supported by two-thirds of the present 330 member Jatiya Sangsad, a minister attending the meeting said.

The PM also asked her Cabinet colleagues concerned to discuss with political parties the proposition of direct election to the reserved seats for women in parliament.

See Page 11 Col 8



Nobel Medicine Prize goes to Guenter Blobel

STOCKHOLM, Oct 11: Dr Guenter Blobel of The Rockefeller University in New York won the Nobel Prize for medicine today for protein research that shed new light on diseases including cystic fibrosis and early development of kidney stones, reports AP.

Blobel, 63, a native of Waltersdorf, Germany, was cited for discovering that proteins carry signals that act as postal codes. helping them find their correct locations within the cell.

Some hereditary diseases are caused by errors in these signals and the associated transport mechanisms, the Nobel Assembly said in announcing the prize. The work has helped scientists use cells in laboratories to churn out drugs. and has had an "immense impact" on studies of the cell, the assembly said.

Blobel was not immediately available for comment.

The prize announcement said Blobel's work explained the molecular roots of several genetic diseases. They include primary hyperoxaluria, which causes kidney stones at an early age, as well as some forms of inherited high cholesterol and illnesses like cystic fibrosis that occur when proteins fail to reach their proper positions within a cell.

Blobel, a cellular and molecular biologist, discovered in the early 1970s that newly made proteins carry the signals. During the next 20 years, he illuminated the details of how the See Page 11 Col 7

Police checking a box carried in an autorickshaw in front of the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday as part of vigilance after recovery of bombs from three places in the city recently.

-Star photo

Suspect in bomb planting cases held

Star Report

One person was arrested yesterday in connection with the recent planting of explosives in two mosques and the daily Janakantha office in the

The arrested person. Afsar Ali, is a BNP activist, police said. He was arrested from his Badda residence in the city under Section 54 of the Code of

Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Ali is "suspected of being linked with planting the explosives in those places", police said in the FIR.

The accused is involved in blasting bombs at mosques and public rallies," police said in a forwarding letter while praying for 10 days' remand before the CMM court. The court granted two days' remand. When contacted last night,

DMP Commissioner AKM Shamsuddin said one person was arrested for "interrogation" in connection with the inci-"The arrested person is a

notorious criminal of the locality", the Commissioner said without mentioning any specific evidence. Two explosives were recov-

See Page 11 Col 8

blast case

From Staff Correspondent

plosive experts are yet to submit

report on Friday's bomb blast at

the mosque of Ahmediya Ja-

maat in Nirala residential area.

soon, the police commissioner

of the Khulna unit of Ahmediya

treme fundamentalists for the

bomb attack without any

provocation'. But he remained

silent when asked about his

unwillingness in lodging com-

plaint with the police station

concerned about the bomb

the case filed with Khulna

thana in this connection will be

handed over to Detective

lice have been deployed in all

key installations in the city as

part of tight security measure.

Police forces have been put on

high alert to face any unwanted

Nabuwat

refutes

allegation

Meanwhile, additional po-

The DC (South) said today

community has blamed ex-

said today.

Branch.

The report is expected very

Shamsur Rahman, president

KHULNA, Oct 11: Army ex-

Hurriedly-called meeting with diplomats DB to take up Khulna mosque

Govt vows to stay till 14 July, 2001

The government yesterday told foreign diplomats that it was not willing to discuss the opposition's one-point demand and vowed to stay on till the end of its tenure, reports UNB.

The government briefed chiefs in Dhaka on the country's current political developments in the wake of opposition agitation as well as economic and investment scenario. Industries and Commerce

Minister Tofail Ahmed, at the hurriedly-called briefing at State Guesthouse Padma last night, apprised them of the government position on opposition's various demands and answered to gueries from Ambassadors, officials said.

The ruling party stalwart said there was no need for dialogue with the opposition on the means of changing government

since the modalities are incor porated in the Constitution. In an oblique reference to

the opposition plea, he told the diplomats that the present government got electoral mandate to rule the country for five "And accordingly," the minister said, "the government will

remain in power till July 14, 2001 as per constitutional provision and hand over power to a neutral caretaker government which will complete elections within three months and transfer power to a new government."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury also spoke at the meeting. Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed and senior officers of the Foreign Ministry were present.

See Page 11 Col 6

Power tariff up by 5 poisha per unit

By Staff Correspondent For the second time in three

months, the government has increased power tariff by five poisha per unit at consumers' end and four poisha at bulk sales level. The hike, that spares only

agriculture sector consumers will be implemented with retrospective from September. Domestic users will now have to pay Tk 2.05 per unit for

the first 300 units of power consumed. The tariff would be Tk 3.2 per unit for 301 to 500 units, Tk 4.35 per unit for 501 to 700 units. Tk 5.45 per unit for 701 units and upward. Small industries will pay a flat rate of Tk 3.4 per unit or Tk

2.65 per unit during off peak

hours and Tk 4.85 per unit during peak hours. Commercial users will pay a flat rate of Tk 4.55 per unit or Tk 3.2 during off peak hours and Tk 7.2 per unit during peak

The tariff for agriculture sec-

tor consumers will remain Tk

1.75 per unit as before. At bulk sales level, DESA and REB would pay four poisha more for each unit of power purchased from PDB. Bulk tariff for DESA has been increased to Tk 1.84 per unit from Tk 1.8 and that for REB to Tk 1.77 per

Earlier, the government had increased power tariff by five poisha per unit from July 1.

In addition, it restructured power tariff in the national budget for 1999-2000, virtually pushing up the tariff. Under the restructuring, the government imposed 15 per cent VAT on a truncated basis, instead of the previous fixed duty structure. Consumers are now paying 15 per cent VAT against 55 per cent of the power consumed per month. The charges under the new structure are virtually double the previous rates.

The energy ministry See Page 11 Col 6

situation, said KMP official. By Staff Correspondent

International Majlis-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatam-e Nabuwat, Bangladesh, an anti-Kadiani organization of theologians, in an emergency meeting yesterday strongly refuted allegation of attacks brought against it by the Ahmadiya sect. The meeting was held at its Purana Paltan headquarters

with the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Obaidul Haq, in the chair, says a press release. The meeting said that Khatam-e Nabuwat always adhered to the path of peaceful movement and protested the

Kadianis' claim of planting

bombs at the latter's places of

prayer at Dhaka and Khulna. They claimed that the "Kadianis are not the true Muslims and it has been well proved in more than 'hundred verses of the Holy Quran and in numerous Hadiths'. All the theologians in the world are of the same view", they said. It also vowed to carry on its

movement till the government declared the Kadianis as "non-Muslims".

Election rout: 4 Cong leaders resign

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Four senior leaders of India's main opposition Congress Party have resigned after its election rout, but officials said today that party chief Sonia Gandhi had

no plans to quit, reports AFP. The four sent their resignations to Sonia, who led the Congress to its worst-ever electoral showing in the September-October polls, which were won by the Hindu nationalist-led coalition.

The Congress bagged just 112 seats -- its lowest tally since India's independence in 1947. Sonia, 52, said the result needed "frank assessment, introspection and determined action," but so tar has not taken personal responsibility. Congress spokesman Kapil Sibal ruled out any possibility

of Sonia resigning. "There is no question of that," he told AFP. "The mood in the party is one of introspec-See Page 11 Col 8

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (L) displays the letter from President K R Narayanan (R) inviting him to form the next government, during a meeting at the presidential palace yesterday. -AFP photo

Vajpayee named Prime Minister NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Atal Bi-

hari Vajpayee was named India's prime minister today and said his National Democratic Alliance will speed up economic reforms, an assurance that buoyed the stock market, reports AP.

"I have pleasure in appointing you as the prime minister. President K R Narayanan said in a letter given to Vajpayee. acknowledging the election victory of his 22-party coalition. Stepping out of the sand-

stone presidential palace in a shower of camera flashes, Vajpayee told reporters. "We are committed to the second generation of reforms." Vajpayee has the support of 303 legislators, more than the

their five-year terms. The Congress government in 1991 began the economic liberalization programme to encourage foreign investment in See Page 11 Col 8

