



# The Daily Star

TOSHIBA TV

The Latest and the best in TV technology

RANGS GROUP

VOL. IX NO. 273 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 1999

64 days to the  
3rd Millennium

KARTIK 13, 1406 BS

RAJAB 17, 1420 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TAKA 9.00

## AL candidate wins Faridpur-4 by-election

Saleha Begum of Awami League won the by-election in Faridpur-4 constituency held yesterday, according to unofficial results announced by the Election Commission, reports UNB.

She bagged 67,150 votes while her nearest rival Mustafa Amir Faisal of Zaker Party secured 1,488 votes.

The turnout of voters was 51.84 per cent, said the announcement.

It said Nasiruddin Ahmed Musa polled 593 votes, Krishak Mohammad Sadeq 539 and Moniruzzaman Titu 727.

The Parliament seat fell vacant following death of Advocate Mosharraf Hossain, husband of Saleha Begum.

## Sale of vetch banned

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday banned sale of vetch and ordered its withdrawal from the market.

The government directed the authorities concerned, including city corporations, municipalities and district administrations to stop sale of vetch and withdraw it from the market as per Article 7 of Pure Food Ordinance, 1959, according to an official announcement.

"Fax messages have been sent to all Deputy Commissioners to take immediate steps in this regard," a Health Ministry official said.

As a preliminary step vetch will be seized if found selling in the open market, he said.

The government banned import of the item on October 17.

See Page 11 Col 7

## Inside Today

### Article

## The Price of Complicity

By Mahmud Farooque

Page 4

### Focus

US attitude towards the army take-over

Page 5

### Business

Refusal to EPZ unionism may impact exports: Holzman

Pak finance minister upbeat on tackling challenges

DSE, CSE price quotations

Pages 6, 7 &amp; 8

## Prayer Timings

October 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:30	5:35
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Fresh attack, rampage: Patients helpless

# Doctors at DMCH go on indefinite strike

By Staff Correspondent

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital went on an indefinite strike from yesterday morning in protest against a fresh attack on doctors at the hospital Tuesday night.

Admission of patients including those from emergency department came to a halt as doctors refused to attend patients protesting the attack on four doctors at the casualty ward.

All scheduled operations at the hospital were cancelled 'till further decision' of DMCH intern doctors association, Teachers Association of the DMCH and the Medical Teachers Federation.

"We will not attend duties till the authorities ensure security and proper working atmosphere at the hospital," said A K M Mosharraf Hossain, General Secretary of the Teachers Association.

There were only 'limited services' for indoor patients as doctors refrained from attending their duties including emergency duty, sources said.

According to witnesses, four doctors at the casualty ward were beaten by attendants of an injured patient — Shamsul Haq Selim, 34, a city AL leader. The emergency admission slip or 'NOD ticket' for him, however, recorded 'patient is brought dead'.

Selim, still alive, was admitted to casualty ward through the emergency wing, witnesses said quoting his attendants.

"The duty doctor at casualty ward (31) examined the 'patient' and declared him dead," a fellow doctor.

The doctors assaulted and injured were identified as Dr Saifullah, Dr Mosabbir, Dr Abdul

Matin and Dr Nayan. The nurse on duty at the ward somehow escaped but two other nursing staff and a sweeper were also injured in the attack, witnesses said.

The attack and rampage by about 60 people accompanying Selim lasted about 15 minutes, causing damage to the Ward Master's room, furniture and telephone set in ward-31 and drug store at the new OT complex. The attackers also chased other doctors in nearby wards," one witness said.

Selim's body was later taken away from DMCH in a police van.

"Unfortunately none of the police personnel came to our help though they were present in the hospital during the incident," one of the doctors alleged.

"We also called Ramna police See Page 11 Col 7



Police deployed in front of the Emergency Wing of DMCH (left) and patients waiting near Out-patient Department of the hospital yesterday. — Star photo

## City AL leader shot dead: Doctors at DMCH 'assaulted'

By Staff Correspondent

An Awami League leader was murdered by a group of armed assailants on Tipu Sultan Road in the old city late Tuesday night.

The dead was identified as Shamsul Haq Selim, 35, a leader of Ward No 74 unit of Awami League, police and hospital sources said.

The motive behind the murder could not be known till filing of this report last night. Police yesterday arrested one person — identified as Sumon — as a suspect in the murder.

Selim left his Lalchan Mukim Lane residence with Sumon, police and hospital sources said. A gang of about 15 equipped with firearms, sharp weapons and explosives attacked Selim at about 10:45 pm when they were crossing Tipu Sultan Road in a rickshaw, they said.

The assailants shot Selim several times and stabbed him indiscriminately. Before leaving the scene, they exploded a number of crackers, sources

See Page 11 Col 8



Wife of murdered city AL leader Selim (inset) wailing. — Star photo

## Tame draw

By Sports Reporter

Vikram Solanki blasted a superb 185 as the three-day match between England A and Bangladesh ended in a tame draw at the M A Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Solanki's effort, who with tail-ender James Kirtley added 115 for the eighth wicket, helped England A make 388, a first-innings lead of 73.

The 23-year-old, 106 not out at the start of third and final day's play, struck seven sixes and 20 fours in total as he and Kirtley (32) took the score on from 269 for seven.

Bangladesh first innings hero Habibul Bashar, who scored an equally magnificent 143 on Monday, removed both in quick succession before Enamul Haque snared Alamgir Shierlyar for one, the left-arm spinner finishing with four wickets.

See Page 11 Col 6

## Siddiqui denied gamchha

By Staff Correspondent

Non-party candidate Kader Siddiqui was denied gamchha, the symbol he wanted for the Tangail-8 parliamentary by-election scheduled for November 15, in a ruling by the returning officer yesterday.

Gamchha (thin cotton towel widely used in rural Bangladesh) is one of the 15 added by the Election Commission to the list of election symbols.

Nor was gamchha granted to any of the 21 other applicants as returning officer Mollah Wahiduzzaman also deputy commissioner of Tangail, yesterday distributed election symbols among 32 candidates in the crucial by-polls.

It was Siddiqui who had proposed gamchha as an election symbol and convinced the authorities to put it on the recently-expanded list of symbols. He had also based his election symbol on gamchha.

See Page 11 Col 8

## Tripartite body planned to look after EPZ workers

By Rafiq Hasan

A tripartite committee will be formed to look after the interest of workers and employees in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs), BEPZA sources said.

The committee will have representation from investors, the government and workers, said the sources at Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority or BEPZA.

The sources said such a decision came after a series of meetings between the US ambassador in Dhaka and owners of EPZ factories on introduction of trade unions in the privileged areas.

According to the sources, it

was "agreed in principle" after the meetings that "trade union in its traditional form in the context of Bangladesh shall not be required for EPZs".

Ambassador John Holzman, however, at the meeting with the Chittagong EPZ investors on last Monday, reiterated the US position calling for freedom of association in EPZs, the sources said.

The ambassador was reported by BEPZA sources to have told the meetings that EPZ enterprises should work out some sort of alternative ways and means towards acceptance of freedom of association in

EPZs in future.

A USIS statement yesterday spoke of similar suggestions from the US envoy.

"Ambassador Holzman encouraged the investors to form a committee to help devise a resolution of the issue, which both ensures progress towards freedom of association and protects investors' legitimate interest in productivity," UNB news agency reported quoting a USIS statement.

The USIS statement said BEPZA Executive Chairman arranged the meetings between Holzman and the investors.

See Page 11 Col 6

## Four charged for planting bombs

By Court Correspondent

Four persons were charged yesterday for planting an anti-tank mine at the Janakantha Bhaban and grenades at Masjidul Ferdous in the capital on October 8.

Charges were brought against two leaders and two activists of Markazul Islam -- suspected by police of having links with international terrorist organisations -- who were already arrested and taken on remand for interrogation by the Detective Branch.

Shahidul Islam and Saed Al Mubah, leaders of Markazul Islam, were shown arrested yesterday on charges of planting an anti-tank mine at the Janakantha Bhaban.

See Page 11 Col 7

## DCC rejoinder & our reply

The Dhaka City Corporation in a rejoinder has contested the report published in The Daily Star under the headline 'Misappropriation of crores of taka detected' on October 23.

The rejoinder said that the report in respect of the Environment Development Project of DCC was not based on facts, figure and actual position. "It appears that the news was published intentionally to damage

See Page 11 Col 8

## Tangail-8: Some ministers violated code of conduct, says probe body

By Staff Correspondent

The Electoral Enquiry Committee for parliamentary by-elections in Tangail-8 constituency yesterday found that some ministers had violated electoral code of conduct and recommended to the Election Commission that warnings be issued against them, EC sources said.

Earlier, the two-member committee, headed by Sub-Judge Shahidullah Bakaul, heard the major contenders in the elections — Abdul Kader Siddique and Shawkat Momen Shahjahan.

Kader Siddique, accused Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Prime Minister's adviser on establishment affairs Khandaker Asaduzzaman of violating electoral codes.

In a written petition to the Election Commission, Kader Siddique alleged that the two ministers had visited certain areas of the Tangail-8 constituency on October 8 with policemen and government officials.

Accusing the Home Minister of violating the code of conduct, Kader Siddique said that the former went to the constituency with two platoons of police and a group of government officials on October 10.

See Page 11 Col 6

Starting from 1st November

TEN

Total Entertainment Network

A new international satellite Channel.

It will give Total entertainment from all over the subcontinent.

Programmes in Bengali, English & Hindi will be presented for all types of viewers.

Watch &amp; Enjoy

T.E.N. is an International Channel with a National Touch

## Armenian PM, Speaker gunned down inside parliament

YEREVAN, Oct 27: An Armenian television station reported today that gunmen killed the country's prime minister during a shootout in parliament, reports Reuters.

The A1Plus television station said Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan had been killed after gunmen broke into parliament. It said eight people died in the attack and 30 were wounded.

Yerevan's mayor earlier told Reuters that the premier had been wounded and taken to hospital.

An Armenian church spokesman later said the newly elected head of the church had been officially informed of the prime minister's death.

The Speaker and Deputy

Speaker of parliament and a cabinet minister were also killed in the shootout, an official told reporters.

Ararat Zurabyan, a city government official in the capital Yerevan, said parliamentary speaker Karen Demirchyan, deputy speaker Yuri Bakhshyan and Leonard Petrosyan, minister for operative issues, had been killed in the shootout.

Sargsyan, a former defence minister, was appointed prime minister in June after his alliance won the May 30 general election.

Russia's RIA news agency quoted a local TV station as saying that the gunmen had seized some of the deputies as hostages and that talks were being held to get them freed.



Vazgen Sargsyan

## Swarnakamol sealed: Arms seized

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 27: Police raided Swarnakamol, the luxury residence of notorious crime lord Ershad Shikdar at about 8 pm today and recovered a Spanish double barrel gun, a 7.62 mm pistol, 73 rounds of pistol bullets, 57 rounds of gun cartridges and an empty iron safe from a large secret cellar attached to the bathroom near the bedroom of his mother-in-law Farida Khatun.

Swarnakamol has been officially sealed with effect from 8:30 pm. The caretaker of the

house, Abdul Gani has been arrested while Shova, Shikdar's second wife, has been handed over to her parents at around 11 pm. Police said she may be taken into safe custody later tonight if required for questioning about the house and Shikdar's 'hidden treasure'.

The recovered arms and ammunition were found wrapped with polythene. They suspect there may be more arms and ammunition hidden in the house. KMP Commissioner Anwarul Iqbal, acting on a tip-

off, led the raid.

Shikdar will be brought to Swarnakamol at midnight tonight from Daulatpur thana to help police find out more secret places, if any, where arms, ammunition and other valuables like gold and diamond may be hidden, police added.

Meanwhile, four accomplices of Ershad Shikdar were arrested from Moulagram village under Pirojpur Sadar thana Tuesday night. They are Salim Shaikh, Alam Shaikh, See Page 11 Col 7

একদিন শূন্যে যে সুর—

ফুরায়েছে, — পুরানো তা — কোনো এক নতুন কিছুর  
আছে প্রয়োজন .....

গোলাম সারওয়ারের সম্পাদনায়

অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি ও

অকুতোভয় এক ঝাঁক কুশলী সংবাদকর্মী নিয়ে

আমরা প্রস্তুত

প্রিয়-অপ্রিয় সবকিছু প্রকাশেই সত্যনিষ্ঠ থাকার  
অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে নতুন শতাব্দী শুরু করছি

আমরা

নতুন সঙ্গীতের নিয়ন্ত্রণ THE DAILY JUGANTAR

যুগান্তর

স্বাভাব্য ও আধুনিকতায় উজ্জ্বল দৈনিক

১০/১১ উত্তর কলকাতা, (মহাশিব হাউস ফ্লোরের পাশে), ঢাকা।