



Internal feuds weaken AL hope for consecutive term

By Reaz Ahmad and Abul Kalam Azad

Internal feuds among ministers, senior party leaders and district level leaders are demoralising workers, making Awami League's prospect for a second consecutive term appear bleak.

A fact-finding mission found that the AL high command knew of the squabbles but preferred to maintain status quo of sorts fearing backlash. Eighteen teams comprising 100 former and present leaders of Bangladeshi Chhatra League were dispatched to all 64 districts on September 1 to survey party morale and current status of the organisational activities.

Former BCL leader Abdur Rahman, who will submit the survey reports to AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has asked all those who failed to meet the September 10 deadline to finish their reports within a day or two.

Some 20 student leaders who visited different districts disclosed some of their findings to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Though people appreciated many welfare-oriented works of the government, the student leaders said, many local leaders earned a bad name for the party for engaging in power struggle ignoring party interest.

The rivalry between Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has vitiated AL politics in Sylhet district. Besides, several groups of its student front are at loggerheads.

Of the 19 parliament seats in six constituencies in greater Sylhet, AL has 15 seats and except in Habiganj, there are squabbles everywhere.

In Sunamganj, Abdus Samad Azad and prime minis-

ter Suranjan Sengupta patronise two rival AL groups. Suranjan's position is not so well at the moment and if he is to regain his seat in Sunamganj contentious issues between Samad Azad and Suranjan have to be resolved, according to a report.

In the absence of a committee for the last seven years, district unit of BCL is in a shambles, the report said.

There are two groups within the party in Moulibazar as well and there has been no meeting of the party unit for quite a long time.

In Habiganj, the party runs the risk of losing its seats in the leadership conflict in the district goes unabated.

The morale of party workers in Khulna is currently very low due to internal feuds starting from union up to district level.

See page 11 col 6

WFP opposed to rations for military, cops

By Mustak Hossain

The World Food Programme (WFP) has suggested the government to stop distribution of rations among government employees to give the poor more access to food.

"Why does the government have to give food to people like the military, police and other groups who get salaries?" WFP Country Representative Dr Werner Kiene asked.

"That is not necessary. The military needs to be paid good

salaries but the use of food is not appropriate," Kiene told The Daily Star in an interview on Friday.

"So we said go away from using food as a budgetary instrument or as salary supplement for fellow people, use food for the poorest people who needs it for better development," he said.

"Food is a special development instrument, it should not be used or abused for other

purpose. We are pushing for realignment of food assistance. It should not in any way be given to those who are not poor."

The WFP is advocating realignment of the food assistance as Bangladesh has now achieved a 'much more secured food supply situation'. Therefore time has now come to reassess the way food assistance is used in the country in order to close the remaining food

access gap', said Kiene who is leaving Dhaka shortly on completion of his assignment here.

The country's food production rose to 25.7 million tonnes in fiscal 1999-2000 from about 15 million tonnes in 1980-1981, he mentioned.

Bangladesh should continue its efforts to produce more food as half of its 125 million people live below the poverty line, he said. "One quarter of the

See page 11 col 6

Hoogenband snatches Popov's crown

SYDNEY. Sept 20: Dutch and US swimmers dominated the Olympic pool today, but the battle raged worldwide elsewhere with 14 countries sharing the 18 golds that were contested, reports AFP.

The pick of the day was Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband who asserted himself as the new king of the pool as he took gold in a race billed as the greatest men's 100m freestyle of them all.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) had rejected a Finance Ministry proposal to make defence personnel directors on the board.

The BB rejected the proposal on the ground that they do not conform to the policy of having persons with relevant background and knowledge who can play meaningful roles in financial institutions.

The Bank Reform Committee in its report had specifically mentioned that people with adequate knowledge about the banking system and those who can contribute to the development of banks should be put in the board.

Van den Hoogenband's unexpected victory of Russian Alexander Popov as king of the Olympic 100m was his second gold medal winning performance of the week. Earlier he defeated Thorpe in 200m free.

Van den Hoogenband's defeat of two-time defending champion Popov came moments after American Misty Hyman dethroned Australia's Susie O'Neill in the 200m butterfly, stunning O'Neill's hometown crowd.

O'Neill, the world record holder and undefeated since her triumph in Atlanta, was the overwhelming favourite to cap her Olympic career at home with a gold in her signature event.

O'Neill announced her retirement following the defeat.

Outside the Aquatic Centre

See page 11 col 7

Sabrina 38th among 42

SYDNEY. Sept 20: Bangladeshi shooter Sabrina Sultan ended her Sydney Olympic campaign on an utterly frustrating note, finishing 38th among 42 in her favourite event - women's 50 metre rifles three position - at the International Shooting Centre in Cecil Park here today, reports UNB.

Sabrina, the SAF games gold medalist in the event, scored 554 points from three positions - prone, standing and kneeling - worsening her previous best of 560, made in the Olympic qualifier in March this year.

See page 11 col 8



American cyclist Marty Nothstein makes a victory lap with his son Tyler, 5, on his bike to celebrate his victory in the men's sprint competition yesterday on the track of Dunc Gray Velodrome during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

- AFP photo

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Star Magazine



AL to keep its election pledge of autonomy for radio, TV

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that as per Awami League's election pledge, her government would give autonomy to the state run Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television on the basis of recommendations of the Radio-TV Autonomy Commission.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions from people from the National Betar Bhaban last night. She appeared for the first time in the live radio programme titled "Peoples' Question: Prime Minister's Answer." The state-run BTV and private television channel ETV also telecast the hour-long programme in which people from across the country asked questions over telephone.

The PM said the commission formed to recommend autonomy to Radio-TV submitted its recommendations to the government.

See page 11 col 7

The prime minister replying to questions yesterday.

PID photo

This week's cover story of the Star Magazine is on deforestation in the Modhupur Tracts. Due to indifference our deciduous forest with its unique biodiversity is slipping into extinction.

Inside Today

Article

Practice of Democracy in Bangladesh
By Anwar Hashim

Page 4

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 21	5.56 pm
Sept 22	5.47 am

Prayer Timings		
September 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Magrib	6:03	6:08
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Rajuk demolished yesterday parts of Segunbagicha Jame Masjid (mosque) built illegally on the under-construction Stargate-Notre Dame road at Segunbagicha with the consent of the mosque committee. Rajuk officials and local people alleged that the mosque was built to grab about five katha of public land.

— Star photo

To

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

Dhaka

প্রদেশ আয়কর পরিষারের করকুল এবং
 দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকারী আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

NOTICE

Regarding submission of income tax return for individual category of tax-payers

- The last date of submission of income tax return for individual category of tax-payers is 30-09-2000. The honourable finance minister has announced in his budget speech that the date for submission of income tax return will not be extended further.
- "Self-assessment" will have to be written on the income tax return submittable in self-assessment system.
- The directors of company can submit income tax return in self-assessment system irrespective of number of shares.
- Statement of asset and liabilities will have to be submitted with the return if total income is more than 3 (three) lakh taka.
- The acknowledgement receipt in case of submission of return in self-assessment system given by tax office will be regarded as the order of fixation of tax for that tax year.
- The income tax return form will be available free of cost in the concerned tax office. The photocopy of income tax return form will also be regarded as acceptable.
- For detailed information regarding submission of return and payment of tax, it is requested to contact Tax Consultant Centre, 133 & 133 2/2 Kakrail, New Bailey Road, Dhaka, Phone: 415369 or Second Secretary (Income Tax Law & Regulation), National Board of Revenue, Phone: 406593 or concerned tax office.

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G-1643

National Board of Revenue

Website: <http://www nbr bd org>

Raushan likely to chair joint rally in Mymensingh

By Rezaul Karim

Mymensingh arguing that there is serious infighting within the local chapter of BNP.

But BNP had vehemently opposed the JP contention, saying that there has been no committee of JP in Mymensingh for a long time. Moreover, BNP is the largest opposition party in the country with committees in everywhere and so the president of the BNP unit in Mymensingh town should chair it.

Sources said the JP has been requesting the BNP to allow local MP Roushan Ershad to chair the meeting in the Central Liaison Committee in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

Khaleda herself was averse to the idea of allowing a JP leader to chair the meeting. She told central and local leaders that AKM Mosharraf Hossain MP, President of Mymensingh (South) unit of BNP, would be the man for the job.

Before leaving for Saudi Arabia on September 13, the BNP chief had assigned Standing Committee member Dr Khan-daker Mosharraf Hossain MP and vice-chairman M Shamsul Islam MP representing the party in the Central Liaison Committee to settle the issue with JP.

She also instructed them to

See page 11 col 8

equipment cannot be operated due to shortage of technicians or those need repair or replacement.

The sources further said the outpatient department of NICRH where about 100 patients turn up daily is also facing problems. A good number of the patients seek treatment for ear, nose and throat (ENT).

See page 11 col 6

Cancer Hospital limping with shortage of docs, equipment

By Shehab Ahmed

kind in the country.

There is a heavy rush of patients who require hospitalisation but most of them are unable to find place in the 50-bed hospital. They are being referred to other hospitals, mostly to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, NICRH sources said.

Those lucky to be admitted to NICRH also do not get proper treatment as most of the

10 killed as bus, truck collide in Gazaria

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 people were killed and more than 20 others were injured when a passenger bus and a truck collided at Vitikandi of Bhaberchar in Gazaria near Daudkandi yesterday evening, eyewitnesses said.

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