

President hosts farewell dinner for advisors

BSS, Dhaka
President Shahabuddin Ahmad last night hosted a farewell dinner for Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman and his Council of Advisors at Bangabhaban.
Cabinet Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor on Foreign Ministry, CM Shafi Sami also attended the dinner.
Earlier, the president welcomed the chief advisor and members of his council of advisors at Bangabhaban and thanked them all for successfully performing their constitutional duties as Caretaker Government.

Tanveer refutes allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP standing committee member Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui has refuted allegations brought against him on Sunday by Awami League MP-elect Rahmat Ali, who had said that the BNP activists were attacking the minorities in the Gazipur-1 constituency.
At a press conference in the city yesterday, Siddiqui, who lost to Rahmat Ali in the October 1 election, said there is no question of attacking or harassing the minorities in his constituency after the overwhelming victory of the BNP and its allies in the general election.
"As an elderly politician of the area, I have been nurturing them as a well-wisher and that's why they are very loyal to me... Even 80 per cent of the total 35,000 minority voters in the constituency cast their votes for me in the election. So why should I attack them?"
"The BNP men, in fact, need not attack the minorities. Rather, they have been safeguarding interests of the minorities for years," he said.
The BNP standing committee member said Rahmat Ali provided "false, baseless, motivated and misleading" information to the press to taint his and his party image.
Such falsehood is a part of blueprint to antagonise the minority people against BNP, Siddiqui alleged and added that no incident of attack on minority people has so far taken place in his constituency.
"But the Awami League is now instigating"
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

CA blamed for attack on minority community

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad (BHB COP) yesterday demanded immediate end to attacks on the minority community across the country.
Addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar here yesterday afternoon, the BHB COP leaders urged the minority people to be united to wage a tough movement in the country to protect themselves from communal attacks.
"It's the chief advisor for whom we are being attacked. He will be brought to justice soon for patronising the attackers," Prof Lohit Mohon Nath, president member of the BHB COP, told the rally.
He said BHB COP leaders had already talked to Khaleda Zia on the issue and will meet President Shahabuddin Ahmed within a day or two for taking immediate steps to stop attacks on the minority people.
"We are now living in a horrible situation. We were repressed in 1971 too and now the same thing is happening to us as a so-called former chief justice has been at the peak of power," said BHB COP president member Srimit Shumangal Mahathero.
In a note of warning to the caretaker government, BHB COP leader Prof Nimchandra Bhoumik said,
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



This CNN grab shows Ayman al-Zawahiri (R), the head of a wing of the Egyptian Jihad, and alleged intellectual power behind Osama bin Laden (L) in this video footage recorded on October 7 in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan aired by the Qatar-based satellite TV station al-Jazeera.

Munshiganj repolling AL men attacked, minorities allege false voting

RAZIUR RAHMAN, back from Munshiganj
A group of people belonging to the BNP has unleashed attacks on activists and supporters of the Awami League in and around the Munshiganj town. Fearing attack, a large number of people, mostly supporters of the AL, have left their homes in the shoal areas under Munshiganj Sadar.
Meanwhile, religious minorities in and around the town alleged yesterday that they could not exercise their franchise due to false voting. They, however, blamed activists of both the AL and the BNP in this regard.
There have been stray incidents of repression on the minority community in and outside the town since the October 1 general election. Munshiganj Sadar police, however, denied that any such attacks, either on the AL activists or the minority community, had taken place.
"We have so far not heard of or received any written complaint on such incidents. The situation is quite normal in the thana," SM Haider Ali, second officer of the Sadar police station, told The Daily Star.
Middle-aged Fatema Begum, mother of seven and a resident of Mirapara in the town, alleged that BNP cadres Moba, Lal Mia along with their group assaulted her and cut her hair at her residence Friday afternoon. "They did it only because I am an active supporter of the AL."
There were also allegations of looting valuables of and assaulting AL supporters at Khaskandi and Nayakandi areas in the town. Some shops at the
SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Khaleda retains Bogra-6 seat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The three BNP MPs including party chief Khaleda Zia who won more than one seat in the October 1 parliamentary election have vacated their old seats and retained the new ones, party sources said.
Khaleda Zia has retained Bogra-6 seat and vacated four seats -- Bogra-7, Feni-1, Laxmipur-2 and Khulna-2.
She is the only political leader elected from five constituencies in three consecutive general elections -- in 1991, 1996 and 2001. She retained Feni-1 seat in the last two terms.
This time Khaleda Zia decided to retain Bogra-6 seat as she got the highest 2,27,350 votes in this constituency with a big margin of 1,72,573 votes over her closest rival from Awami League. She got 78.09 per cent votes, the sources mentioned.
Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, elected from Sylhet-1 and Moulvibazar-3 constituencies, has retained Sylhet-1 seat.
Saifur has vacated his home
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Taliban

Political and military leader: Mullah Mohammad Omar

Troops: 40-60,000

Planes: 10 Sukhoi SU-22 ground-attack fighters, 5 MIG-21 fighters, 45 transport

Helicopters: 5 Mi-35 "Hind" attack 6 Mi-8/17 "Hip" transport

Tanks: T-55, T-59 Several hundred

Artillery and missiles: Exact number unknown

AL now working on feedback from grassroots leaders

REAZ AHMAD
The Awami League is working on the feedback it is getting from the grassroots leaders before committing itself to a non-cooperation movement.
The party appears to have absorbed the initial shock of the October 1 polls debacle and has already budgeted from its stand on scaling up a non-cooperation movement in defiance of the election results from October 11. But it is still rigid in its decision on not joining the eighth parliament.
It is yet to spell out any agitation programme beyond tomorrow's road barricade programme across the country. Party President Sheikh Hasina has decided to seek suggestions from party rank and file before swinging to a massive movement; and she is scheduled to embark on a cross-country tour after October 10.
She is also likely to meet the press today and make known her party's views on the post-election scenario in the country.
When MPs-elect from the BNP-led four-party alliance are all set to take oath tomorrow morning, the speaker of Jatiya Sangsad has kept two more days at hand for others, who are going to be elected in yesterday's re-polling in 15 constituencies, to take oath. This has given rise to speculations in some quarters that a dramatic shift in the AL mindset is on the cards.
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, some senior AL leaders, however, dispelled such a possibility. They said the party's stand on not taking oaths remained unchanged as on yesterday. Party president member Abdul Jalil also told Star last night that the position on not joining the parliament
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

SAS plane collides with Cessna: 114 killed

AP, Milan
An SAS airliner preparing to take off collided with a private jet on the runway of Milan's Linate airport, plowed into a building and burst into flames, killing all 114 people on both planes, officials said.
The Interior Ministry ruled out terrorism and said the accident was most likely the result of "human error" compounded by poor visibility due to heavy morning fog.
The SAS plane, an MD 87 with 104 passengers, six crew members and a tank full of fuel was accelerating for takeoff when it hit the twin jet engine Cessna that had taxied onto the takeoff runway, said Alessandra Tripodi, a spokeswoman at the Milan Prefect's office.
The SAS airliner swerved off the runway from the impact and plowed into a baggage handling depot, bursting into fire. The Interior Ministry said in a statement.
It said the Cessna, a citation II carrying four people, entered the takeoff runway by mistake after having been directed by air traffic control to taxi to a different runway.
An Italian pilots' union said the accident could have been avoided if the airport's ground radar, which can track aircraft movement of the runways, had been activated.

Hasina tells newsmen No talks with Khaleda as 4-party terrorists still killing AL men

BSS, Dhaka
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the question of having talks with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia does not arise when leaders and workers of AL are becoming victims of widespread killing and repression of the terrorists of the four-party alliance.
"The terrorists of the four-party alliance have resorted to violence, killing and repression on the one hand and the BNP chairperson is offering to hold talks on the other -- these two things cannot go together," she told journalists at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital here.
Sheikh Hasina went to the emergency ward of the hospital to see for herself the condition of Fakrudin, 45, of Sandwip, Dr Bijoy Dutta, an internee doctor of Dhaka Medical
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Fatema Begum (inset) breaks down as she relates how she was humiliated allegedly by BNP supporters in Munshiganj after the October 1 general election. Meanwhile, members of the Hindu community alleged that they could not exercise their franchise yesterday due to false voting.

Ban on Pakistan-based militants soon, Bush assures Vajpayee

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
Four hours before the US-led military operations against the Taliban in Afghanistan, American President George W Bush spoke to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee Sunday night and is understood to have assured him that Washington would very soon ban Pakistan-based militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed.
Bush, who spoke to Vajpayee as part of his consultations with world leaders on the eve of the operations, told the Vajpayee that the US would fight terrorism anywhere and everywhere in the world, including Jammu and Kashmir, highly-placed sources in Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi said.
Bush's assurance on the ban on Jaish-e-Mohammed is sweet music to Indian ears as the outfit was behind the recent deadly attack on Jammu and Kashmir state assembly last week which left 38 people dead. The US president he would soon sign an executive order proscribing the militant group, the sources said.
Jaish-e-Mohammed was founded in January 2000
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Concern over attack on minorities US attack on Afghanistan protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different socio-cultural and non-governmental organisations in separate statements to the press yesterday expressed concern over the continued attack on leaders and activists of rival political parties and members of the minority community at different parts of the country.
Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), said terrorists have unleashed attacks on the minority community across the country in a planned way following the just concluded Parliamentary election.
In a statement, ADAB President Dr. Quazi Farook Ahmed said members of the minority community are not only tortured but also their properties have been grabbed and damaged in different parts of the country.
He said even the freedom fighters who fought for the liberation of the country have come under such attack.
Leaders of different NGOs also expressed concern over the attack on the members of the minority community at different parts of the country following the October 1
SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Several organisations yesterday protested the US attack on Afghanistan and brought out processions denouncing it.
They also appealed to Bangladesh government not to allow use of the country's airspace and port facilities by US forces.
The organisations include Gano Sangskriti Parishad, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (M-L), Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM), Bangladesh-Libya Brotherhood Association and Socialist Party of Bangladesh.
Leaders of the organisations demanded of the US to stop its attack. They warned that otherwise the Muslim world would unitedly resist it and US would face the same consequence as the then Soviet Union faced.
Some of the organisations brought out a procession from Baitul Mokarram area and it marched up to the Jatiya Press Club. A rally was held there.
Participants in the rally chanted various slogans against US aggress
SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Members of the Sammilta Nari Samaj chant slogans during a rally in the city protesting the attack on Afghanistan in retaliation for the September 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington.

Post-polls situation in Bhola horrendous

Tofail tells newsmen in city
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Top-ranking Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed has termed the post-election situation at Bhola "horrendous" with "BNP people creating a reign of terror."
"The BNP-sponsored terrorism that began well before the October 1 general election is still taking its toll on Awami League activists as well as those who voted for the party," he told a press conference at his Banani residence in the city yesterday.
Tofail, who hails from Bhola and lost in all the three constituencies of the district he had run for, criticised the law enforcement agencies for inaction and bias to the offenders.
No area in Bhola, he claimed, has been spared from the reign of terror unleashed by the BNP activists.
Tofail said that BNP activists were continuing attacks on his party men and religious minorities, forcing them to leave their homes. "Houses, lands and business establishments of the Awami League activists and the minorities have been grabbed and their valuables looted. Freedom fighters and women have not been spared either."
A minor girl has been raped and several AL activists have been killed, he alleged.
A group of AL activists who had been subject to terrorist attacks in Bhola were present at the press conference and related their painful experience. Some showed signs of torture on their bodies while others narrated how they had escaped.
"The BNP candidates in associa
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Russia sends arms, Pakistan warns Northern Alliance set for major offensive

AFP, Moscow
Russia has begun to deliver weapons to the anti-Taliban forces of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, Interfax quoted Russian officials as saying yesterday.
Russia is believed to be planning a total shipment of up to 45 million dollars worth of arms, including Soviet-era T-55 tanks, combat vehicles, small arms and ammunition.
Russian President Vladimir Putin signalled last month, following the September 11 attacks on New York
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Betar to broadcast live oath-taking ceremony

BSS, Dhaka
Bangladesh Betar will broadcast live the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected prime minister and members of the cabinet from Bangabhaban, an official handout said here yesterday.
The oath-taking ceremony would take place at 7 pm on October 10 at Bangabhaban, the handout added.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 9		5-38 pm
Oct 10	5-54 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-45	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-13	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-48
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation