## Life sketch of Khaleda

appointed Khaleda Zia a vicechairman of the BNP. On February 1984, she became the chairperson as Justice Sattar retired from politics. On August 10 the same year, the party elected her the chairper-

Meanwhile, the BNP had formed a seven-party alliance in September 1983 to step up movement against the autocratic regime of General Ershad.

Khaleda was detained seven times during almost nine years of autocratic rule

In the face of mass upsurge spearheaded by the seven-party alliance, led by Khaleda, and the eight-party combine, led by Hasina, Ershad resigned on December 6, 1990 and handed over power to neutral caretaker government, bringing an end to his nine-year autocratic rule.

In 1991, she became the country's first woman prime minister after a free and fair general election on February 27, 1991 and formed the

She became prime minister for the second consecutive term after the BNP had emerged landslide victors in the February 15, 1996 general election to the sixth Jatiya Sangsad. The election was, however, boycotted by all other major the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina but emerged as the largest opposition party in the country parliamentary history with 116 seats.

tary system through the 12th amendment to the Constitution in 1991 and introduced the Caretaker Government through 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1996.

Aiming to return to power, the BNP formed a four-party opposition alliance on January 6, 1999 with the Jatiya Party, the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Islami Oikya Jote and launched several agitation

## **Nobel Economics Prize**

about how that affected how information is exchanged and their contributions "form the core of modern information economics the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

from traditional agricultural markets in developing countries to modern financial markets in developed economies," the citation said.

explain everything from excessively than a private seller.

Akerlof's 1970 essay titled "The Market For Lemons," which refers to defective old cars, was described by the academy as the most important because it shows that "hypothetically, the information problem can either cause an entire market to collapse or contract into an adverse selection of low-quality products.

spending and Russia.

that "have transformed the way economists think about the working

announced Wednesday.

of Khaleda made considerable progress in the education sector, introducing compulsory free primary education, free education of girls up to class ten, stipend for the girl students and food for education programme. It also increased the age-limit for entry to government services from 27 years to 30 years and provided highest budgetary

programmes against the ruling AL.

The alliance then participated in

"Countless applications extend

Their research can be used to

high interest rates on local lending markets in Third World countries to why people looking for a good used car often will turn to a dealer rather

study in information economics 'godfather" of the violence-prone southeastern district of Feni, police

Stiglitz quit his job as the World Hazari, who lost his seat in the Bank's chief economist in 1999 to election, went into hiding in August after a police raid on his home return to academic life after a controversial tenure in which he publicly ordered by the caretaker governcriticised the austerity measures high interest rates and cuts in public that were favoured as solutions to financial crises in Asia

He was cited for contributions

Chief Advisor urges

The announcement of the Nobel Memorial Prize for Economic Sciences was the second award

peaceful atmosphere," he asserted

and said "by overall judgement, we,

think, we have performed our duty

huge turnout of voters at the polling

centres to exercise their franchise in

a festive mood and said the people

of the country had created yet

another glorious milestone in the

history of the country's democratic

political parties and candidates,

their workers and supporters for

their cooperation in holding the

elections in an unprecedented

efforts rendered by the members of

the administration in holding the

elections successfully and thanked

all including the returning officers,

assistant returning officers, presid-

ing officers, assistant presiding

special drive by the caretaker gov-

ernment to improve the law and

order and recover unauthorised

arms and thanked the members of

The chief advisor referred to the

officers, and polling officers.

He referred to the relentless

peaceful atmosphere.

He thanked all the contending

The chief advisor referred to the

successfully.

struggle.

came to the area.

There was a longstanding rivalry between Mizan and Delwar over a bid to take control of the Mirpur Shikder slum.

district, Mizan, father of three sons, was released on bail just three months ago.

in ten cases, including murder, extortion and mugging, filed with Mirpur Police Station.

The duty officer of Mirpur Police Station said last night that no case was filed in this regard

Shobna, 35, wife of Babul, a rickshaw-puller, was shot in the

Shobna said she was injured while the gang was escaping by

### Feud in IOJ

FROM PAGE 1

Hag however did not accept this.

Amini took this move when he came to know that Hag wanted to become a minister. "He wants to become a minister at this age. How can he?" Amini told The Daily Star last night. "All components of the IOJ have accepted me as chairman." he said. If Azizul Hag does not, he can do nothing, Amini added.

IOJ had proposed to BNP that one of its leaders should be made a cabinet member in charge of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and another a state minister in another

"We deserve two ministries. If we do not get, we will hold a meeting tonight at our policy-makers' level

Two MPs were elected from IOJ

### Minorities

FROM PAGE 12

be panicked.

Sources said that after the election, attacks on minority people increased in Goarea, Udoypur, Hashemkhali, Manikhat, Satbaria, Dulai, Char Dulai, Nischintapur and Bhatpara villages under Sujanagar upazila.

Terrorists set fire to the house of one Kantikumar at Jorpukur on Saturday. A case was filed with

Suianagar thana in this regard. Besides, extortionists demanded Tk five lakh from one Pradeep

Tala and Kazirhat villages. Shops belonging to minority community members were ransacked on

leave the country Those elements even damaged

election commissioners and all officials and employees of the Election Commission for holding the elections successfully. He also

responsible role played by the newspapers and mass media in holding the elections

## **Nobel Chemistry prize**

Cells generally respond to only one of these forms, while the other form might be harmful. Drugs often use such mirror-image molecules and the difference between the two forms can be a matter of life and death

The research has led to wavs of making only the proper form of these mirror-image molecules. The technology has led to methods of creating medicines like antibiotics, antiinflammatory drugs and heart medications, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its

Per Alberg, member of the academy's Nobel Committee, said the work of the three laureates had led to the development of betablockers, antibiotics, ulcer medicine and even flavoring and sweetening

"The discovery can move frontiers of research forward in medicine, chemistry and biology," he said at a news conference. "It's a breakthrough that started 33 years ago but the development is incremental.'

the process in 1968 while working at the Monsanto Co. in Missouri, when he discovered a hydrogenation reaction that was later applied to create industrial synthesis of the amino acid L-DOPA that is used to treat Parkinson's disease.

Noyori built on that research to develop better and more general catalysts for hydrogenation.

Sharpless developed catalysts for other important reactions called oxidations that created the possibility of building new complex mole-

His research has been described by many scientists as "the most important discovery in the field of synthesis during the past few decades," the academy said.

The economics prize was to be announced later yesterday. The literature prize will be

announced today and the peace prize tomorrow in Oslo, Norway, The prizes are always presented

to the winners on Dec 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

### **BNP** activist

spondent that commissioner Delwar was threatening to kill Mizan, if he

Hailing from Betagi in Barguna

Police said Mizan was accused

same incident while she was returning home along with her three-yearold daughter Amena at about 4:00pm yesterday.

Manzur held a meeting with IOJ

IOJ sources said inner conflict of the jote over ministership surfaced when Amini suddenly proclaimed himself IOJ Chairman on Tuesday night, 'removing' Haq from the post.

ministry.

and decide our next course of action," Amini said last night.

District BNP leaders however urged members of the minority community to remain at their houses and not to

Kumar at Hatkhali village. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khandakar Mokhlesur Rahman and Officer in-Charge of Sujanagar thana Mozammel Haq admitted that there were some attacks on minority community. But all incidents were not reported to police, they mentioned.

Additional police camps were set up and police patrol was intensified in those areas, they said.

In Bera Upazila, allegations of such attacks were received from Khanpura, Bamondi, Hatigara, Bat Friday. One person, Sukhan Goha of Khanpura village, allegedly remained missing for the last three

The minority leaders alleged that terrorists threatened and asked members of their community in Gunaighachha, Foiljana and Geroli villages in Chatmohar upazila to

an idol in a temple at Foiljana on Sunday, they said

In such a situation, members of the Hindu community have become reluctant to celebrate their greatest religious festival -- Durga Puja --the eaders pointed out.

### Islamic states

Arab leaders have both condemned the terror attacks that killed more than 5,000 people in the United States and expressed support for a

There is concern, however, over the possibility of US strikes widening to include Arab countries. On Tuesday, a Gulf official told The Associated Press that Arab

foreign ministers meeting in Qatar had rejected any potential strikes on Arab and Muslim states and called for holding an international anti-

tion of anonymity, said the ministers had agreed on a communique for foreign ministers of the 56-member Islamic conference to adopt Wednesday. The communique rejects linking Islam to terrorism and insists on the

official said The United States told the UN Security Council on Monday that it may have to attack countries other than Afghanistan to root out terror-

The United States and Britain began their strikes after Afghanistan's ruling Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, the Saudi dissident who is the chief suspect in the Sept 11 attacks and who lives in Afghanistan

## **Biggest ever Council of Ministers**

1,000 guests including a battery of journalists and photographers. The ceremony began 7:20pm and continued till 8:00pm.

The ceremony over, a confidentlooking Khaleda told reporters that the primary objective of the new government would be to restore law and order and create a climate of confidence and security.

She also expressed hopes that the opposition would join the parliament and play a constructive role. "We want to discuss (with them)

national problems and take decision on (their) constructive role in the House," she said. The prime minister said that the new government would give topmost priority to rejuvenation of the

economy, combat against terrorism and rooting out of corruption. In his remarks, Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, learnt to have been appointed the foreign minister, said thrust of the country's foreign policy would be on economic

diplomacy. He also expressed optimism that the Awami League would join the parliament. "The Awami League has never boycotted any elections, and it is sure to return to play its due

Saifur Rahman, tipped for the portfolios of finance and planning, said the main thrust of the new government would be to restore discipline in the economic sector.

Lutfuz Zaman Babar, tipped to become the state minister for law. said his main emphasis would be to conduct the home affairs with a very stern hand. "Violators of law and order will be punished irrespective of party affiliation."

Two full ministers - Matiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid - have been included in the cabinet from Jamaate-Islami Bangladesh, a component of the four-party alliance. This is for part of a government after independence. No ministers have been included from the Jatiya Party (Naziur-Firoz) and the Islami Oikva

Jote (IOJ). There are only two women on the council of ministers besides Khaleda. Khaleda's eldest sister Khurshid Jahan Haq has been inducted as a full minister. The other is Selima Rahman, who has been made a state minister.

Oli Ahmed, Morshed Khan and Jamiruddin Sircar have not been included in the council. The swearing-in ceremony

with Khaleda arriving at 7:10pm followed by Chief Advisor Latifur The President entered to the sound of the bugle at 7:20pm. After

his entry, the national anthem was

began 20 minutes behind schedule.

played. Cabinet Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan read an announcement that as per clause 56(3) of the constitution, the president has been pleased to appoint Khaleda Zia as the prime minister. Wearing an off-white chiffon, Khaleda walked to the rostrum and took oath of office and later the oath of secrecy adminis-

signed the affirmed pledges. Immediately afterwards, the names of the 27 full ministers were announced and they were administered the oath of office. They signed their pledges and returned to their seats. The last round of oath taking

tered by the president. Later she

was for the four deputy ministers. Afterwards the ceremony was declared closed by the cabinet secretary and all were requested to go for refreshments.

A vibrant mood was palpable with everyone moving to congratulate the prime minister and other

The ministers and diplomats

## **List of ministers**

Huda; M Shamsul Islam; Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf; M K Anwar; Tariqul Islam; Shahjahan Siraj; Lt. Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain; Kurshid Jahan Haq; Abdullah Al Noman; L K Siddique; Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan; Mirza Abbas; Sadek Hossain Khoka; Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury; Barrister Aminul Haq; Altaf Hossain Chowdhury; Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed; Harunur Rashid Khan Monno; Dr Osman Faruq and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid

(Jamaat & Technocrat). The state ministers are: Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad; Fazlur Rahman Patal: Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan; Major (Retd) Quamrul Islam; Redwan Ahmed; Barrister Shahiahan Omar, BU: Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin (Technorat): Reaz Rahman (To Selima Rahman (Technocrat); Alamgir Kabir; Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir; Ziaul Haq Zia; Amanullah

Aman; Major Gen (Retd) Anwarul

cabinet ministers, 23 state ministers

and four deputy ministers. Most of

the cabinet ministers have been

chosen from among the ministers in

the past two BNP governments. The

first-time cabinet ministers are

Khurshid Jahan Haq, elder sister of

the prime minister, LK Siddiqi, Amir

Khosru Mahmud Choudhury, Air

Vice Marshal (retd.) Altaf Hossain.

Harunur Rashid Khan Monno and

Rahman Nizami and its Secretary

General Ali Ahsan Mohammad

Mujahid are the two other new

ministers. This is for the first time in

the country's history that the

Jamaat, notorious for its role during

the country's War of Independence.

had been in Khaleda's governments

of 1991 and again in 1996 could not

effect our manpower export and the

volume of remittances." he said.

'Any forecast regarding global

recession and its effect on the

Bangladesh economy at this

moment is like hitting a moving

target. The government will need to

devise a firm but flexible strategy to

cope with the changing global

economic scenario as it unfolds," Dr.

"The range of measures will

have to include vigorous economic

diplomacy, aggressive export efforts

and a mixing of fiscal, monetary and

trade policies designed to adjust the

economy to a lower growth in import

demand while minimising any

Some senior BNP leaders who

has shared state power.

FROM PAGE 1

Mahmud said.

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur

Dr Osman Faruk

Kabir Talukder: Prof. Rezaul Karim A K M Mosharraf Hossain: Lutfuzzaman Babar: Salahuddin

The deputy ministers are: Moni Swapan Dewan; Asadul Habib Dulu: Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and Abdus Salam Pintu (Tech-

Meanwhile, Re-polling in Munshiganj-4 constituency was while election in Cox's Bazar-3 was rescheduled for November 1 due to death of BNP candidate

### 30 more MPs

Khaleguzzaman.

4 brothers and a sister. The body was sent to the morgue for

The incident took place as a sequel to clashes between the groups on Tuesday in the town.

third time in 24 hours. Taliban militia, which had previ-

> unscathed. As the US-led air assault against Afghanistan's rulers moved into a fourth day, bin Laden's al-Qaeda network praised the "good deed" of hijackers who commandeered planes for the fiery airborne attacks

> the Pentagon on Sept 11. the storm of airplanes will not stop, God willing, and there are thousands of young people who are as keen about death as Americans are about life." Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, a spokesman for Al-Qaeda, said in a

> bin Laden's communications with

assault against Afghanistan. "Now that America has begun its

man for the Taliban information ministry, said "the Americans are killing us and attacking us, and we don't need this food."

## Fire at Pak army hqs

Darbar Hall. Present among the

guests were the chiefs of three

services, diplomats and secretaries

However, no representative from

the Awami League was present

although invitations had been sent

out to AL President Sheikh Hasina

and other senior members of the

and leader of the Tuesday Group

said, "It was a great day for democ-

by US Ambassador Mary Ann

Peters, French Ambassador Michel

Lacombe and Australian High

Ahmed and Latifur Rahman along

with former president Abdur

Rahman Biswas sat in the same row

exchanging pleasantries with

seemed to be Justice Rahman.

whose caretaker government

completed the task of holding

elections three days inside

the constitutionally mandated 90-

day timeframe. Chief Election

Commissioner M A Syed was also

were seen embracing one another

and acknowledging congratula-

Council, Bangladesh Tafshiljati

Federation, Bangladesh Open

University Students Union,

Jativatabadi Sangskritik Jote, Dr

Millon Shishu Sangsad, Jatiyatabadi

Matshaiibi Dal and Bangladesh

Federation of Public Workers

Employees Unions issued separate

statements congratulating Khaleda

In their statements, they

expressed the hope that BNP would

run the state with utmost honesty

sincerity and skill defying the chal-

lenges of terrorism, extortion and

expressed the hope that the Jatiya

Sangsad would be the focal point of

The organisations also

The district JCD president

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said

Fakhrul was an activist of his group.

The rival group led by Quamrul

Hassan Shahin killed him

Sylhet district JCD vice-president

Shahin had been leading a group of

JCD known as 'supply group' for

long. Shahin was in jail for two

Ministers, MPs and quests

seen close to them.

Khaleda

greeted

Zia and her Cabinet.

all political activities.

FROM PAGE 12

Sylhet JCD

corruption.

FROM PAGE 12

The most relaxed among them

Khaleda Zia, Shahabuddin

Commission Robert Flynn.

Canadian High Commissioner

Similar sentiments were echoed

of the government.

racy.'

guests

Fire tore through Pakistan's army headquarters early yesterday, burning buildings, furniture and paper for more than five hours before it was brought under control, authorities said. The president's spokesman attributed it to "short-

The fire broke out shortly after 4 am local time at the Pakistani army's General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, just outside the capital Islamabad, said Maj Gen Rashid Quereshi, chief spokesman of Pakistan's army and its leader, President Gen Pervez Musharraf.

There were no injuries, and the extent of the damage was not immediately clear, according to Islamabad fire chief Mohammed Yagoob. He said the fire was brought under control shortly after 9:30 am local time.

"The entire structure of the GHQ

has been gutted. Furniture has been reduced to ashes. Dozens of offices have been burned completely," said firefighter Abdul Qayum, who super-

vised firefighting effort. Quereshi said the fire, which he said began "as a result of shortcircuiting," started in a stationery store within the headquarters complex and spread through the wooden structure into other build-

In-house firefighters called municipal colleagues for help, he

Hundreds of army officers are

based in the headquarters. The fire came two days after Musharraf reshuffled his army leadership in an apparent attempt to strengthen his power base after deciding to support the US-led campaign against terrorism in neighbouring Afghanistan.

A detailed investigation was under way, Quereshi said.

## AL siege programme

the siege programme in the capital. A handful of central party leaders showed up and organised a small rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue. Except at two points in the Mirpur area, there was no serious picketing elsewhere in Dhaka.

Traffic movement was quite normal in the city area while interdistrict road transports also left for their destinations from Mohakhali Bus Terminal. However, transport operators at two other inter-city bus terminals at Gabtali and Savedabad was a bit cautious till 9:00 a m in operating their long-route coaches. Normal operation began after nine

in the morning, though. Station Manager of Kamalapur Rail Station Md. Solaiman Shikdar told The Daily Star that movements of trains were normal although the number of passengers was less than normal. He attributed it to postpolls situation. Operation of riverine vehicles and airlines was normal.

Some pro-AL activists carrying bamboo sticks tried frantically to divert minibuses at Mirpur Circle 10 without allowing those to run down to Pallabi. At Mirpur Mazar Road, some other AL activists tried in vain to do the same as police intervened promptly.

AL presidium members Abdur

Razzak and Tofail Ahmed and

Organising Secretary Mohammad

Nasim addressed a small gathering

of party activists in front of the

party's central office. They took part

in a procession that briefly paraded the stretch of road between Bangabandhu Avenue and Topkhana Road.

The AL leaders asked party rank and file to get prepared for an all-out movement to pull down the 'vote thieves' from power. They feared that the new regime may arrest many AL leaders and asked the party men to get ready for a difficult time ahead.

ment instead of the caretaker government there would not have been so much of rigging. Abdur Razzak said the AL got more than 40 per cent of the votes cast while another 14 per cent were

Tofail said had there been an

election under a political govern-

rigged. He alleged that the BNP activists were forcing the Hindus to leave the country. Mohammad Nasim said 'many of us' may be arrested. So, the party

has to be reorganised at the rural level. Meanwhile, our correspondents from Khulna. Kushtia and Netrokona reported that life was as normal as any other day yesterday during the AL-enforced siege programme. However, Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that six trains on some northern routes got stranded for sometime at different

stations till the authorities intervened. The UNB reports said all modes vehicles, including inter-district and local buses, plied as usual in

Faridour and Mymensingh.

# Taliban: Laden free

FROM PAGE 1 States would face further attacks by hijacked planes in a jihad against

the nation. "It's a chilling challenge. But I sure vou we will meet lenge. We will pursue this campaign until that spokesman will no longer have any reason to make such boasts." Powell said in response to comments by al-Qaeda spokesman

AP adds: With the United States claiming supremacy over Afghan airspace, warplanes pounded areas around Taliban's home base of Kandahar vesterday morning for the

ously claimed to be restricting Laden's communications ability, told BBC there now are "no restrictions" on him. The Taliban also reported that their supreme leader. Mullah

against the World Trade Center and "The Americans must know that

The Taliban, which have claimed up until now to be curtailing Osama the outside world, say those and any other restrictions on him have

ended. Abdul Hai Mutmaen, spokesman for Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, told the BBC's Pashto-language service that the move was justified by the US-led air

war against Muslims, the situation is totally changed, and there are no restrictions on Osama," Mutmaen said. US intelligence officials have said bin Laden has maintained a sophisticated array of communications equipment all along.

The United States had coupled the air assaults with a humanitarian effort, dropping packets of food aid into Afghanistan from planes. The Taliban defiantly announced yesterday that Afghans were burning the packets rather than eating the food.

Rebels trying to topple the Taliban, meanwhile, claimed they were being bolstered by the American-led air campaign. Waisaddin Salik, a spokesman for tne nortnern opposition ailiance contacted by telephone from

Taliban positions in the district o Shakardara late Tuesday. The district, 15 miles north of Kabul, is along the battle line where the alliance has been facing off against Taliban troops. It was the

Pakistan, said US jets had bombed

front-line position by US forces. The Taliban, though, said they had repelled a rebel assault in northern Gur province. Himat said

pendently verified. In Washington, defence officials said Tuesday that the US led assault on Afghanistan had established supremacy in Taliban airspace, disabling all but one of their air bases, knocking out air defences,

The next phase of the US strikes could include raids by small groups of Army Special Forces soldiers ferried in by low-flying helicopters to rout out terrorist or Taliban leaders. military analysts in the United States say. The forces would likely use Black Hawk helicopters, which can carry up to 14 commandos and their gear and have equipment allowing them to fly low and fast at night or in

bad weather. In the airstrikes early yesterday jets dropped three bombs near the Kandahar airport, which has been

### No further scope

Although none from Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), an ally of BNP, was inducted into the council yesterday, a strong possibility for one or two leaders from the BJP of becom-

strong contenders for ministerial job, was elected MP in the October 1 eneral election. So, their induction as technocrat ministers will necessitate wide

induction into the council of minis-

In the 1996 polls, the BNP lost to

The BNP restored the parliamen-

When in power, the government

allocation in the education sector.

the October 1 general election and won the polls with two-thirds major-

The economics prize was established separately in 1968 by the Swedish central bank, but it is grouped with the other awards. Last year's economics prize was

### won by Americans James J Heckman and Daniel L McFadden for their work in developing theories to help analyse labour data and how

200 AL men FROM PAGE 12 told AFP by telephone from Tripura's

Police said some 200 Awami

League supporters fled to India

capital Agartala.

people make work and travel deci-

fearing lack of security following landslide victory of the BNP-led Four-party Alliance in the October 1 Among those who entered Tripura was Jainal Hazari, a former Awami League MP known as a

ment. He is wanted on charges of possessing illegal firearms and Bangladesh newspapers have said several former Awami League MPs have been keeping a low

profile fearing arrests by incoming Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the BNP leader and a Feni native. An Awami League source in Dhaka told AFP the party was unaware of Hazari's whereabouts.

police for making the drive a success. In this regard he also extended thanks to the members of BDR, Ansar and VDP. The chief advisor said the members of the army, navy and airforce who were deployed in the country to ensure the voting right of the people had also performed their duties with utmost patriotism, sincerity, effi-

He acknowledged the advice and cooperation given by the president to the caretaker government at different times and on different occasions and expressed thanks and gratitude to him. The chief advisor also thanked the chief election commissioner,

ciency and neutrality and extended

his sincere thanks to the members

of the three services.

thanked the foreign and local poll observers in this connection. He appreciated the positive and

campaign against terrorism.

The official, speaking on condi-

legitimacy of resisting occupation and the right for self defense, the

damage to the economy's growth prospects. "Such fine-tuning of policies is an art, not a precise science; and one would hope that the new finance minister could prove himself to be

Ahmed: Igbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku: Barkatullah Bulu: Shah Abul Hossain; Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury; Ahsanul Haq Mollah; Ehsanul Haq Milon; Mizanur Rahman Sinha: Ukil Abdus Sattar (Technocrat): Goutam Chakraborty and Zafrul Hasan Chowdhury.

Oli Ahmed, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Shamsul Islam Khan Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, MA Hannan, Major (retd.) Abdul Mannan, Prof. Abdul Mannan, Kabir Hossain and Harun-or-Rashid.

The government Khaleda had

formed in 1996 on winning the controversial February 15 election had a very short life. Five state ministers have seen their status elevated to cabinet ministers. They are Dr. Abdul Moin Khan Sadek Hossain Khoka Shahjahan Siraj and Major (retd.)

Hafizuddin Ahmed Six of the 60-strong Council of Ministers have been chosen from technocrat guota, those who are not members of parliament. The constitution permits a maximum of onetenth of the ministers from such guota. Jamaat leader Muiahid is the lone cabinet minister from techno-

enough of an 'artist' to do the job," Hard choices are ahead for the new government in fiscal management as well, although the prevail-

ing low inflation and a comfortable

food supply situation will give the

government some respite, the

economist pointed out.

the target in the first two months of the current fiscal, for which the data are available, but there seems to have been a rapid increase in the government's domestic borrowing as well. An increase in the government employees' salaries and benefits, as pledged in the election manifesto, will seriously aggravate the budgetary situation and does not seem to be a feasible proposition at the moment. Even if steps are initiated to reduce the losses of public sector enterprises, it will take some time to reap the budgetary benefits, Dr Mahmud observed.

Council of Ministers:34 new faces this time. They include Col. (retd.)

> unchanged, though. State ministers in the previous BNP governments, they have again been made state ministers. Fourteen senior-most BNP leaders have again been made cabinet ministers. They are Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Choudhury, Dr. Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain Barrister Nazmul Huda, M. Shamsul

### make it to the Council of Ministers (retd.) Akbar Hossain, Abdullah Al crat quota. Former mayor of Noman and Mirza Abbas. **Prof Wahiduddin**

earnings during July-December of said Dr Mahmud. 2000 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. "If the global economic recession deepens, ultimately, it will adversely

Revenue collection has touched

(Details on Business Page)

Narisuddin, BNP leaders Selima Rahman, Ukil Abdus Sattar and Abdus Salam Pintu, and former bureaucrat and advisor to the BNP chief Reaz Rahman are the state ministers who are not MPs.

Status of Lutfur Rahman Khar

Azad, Fazlur Rahman Patal

Mosharraf Hossain Shahiahan and

Redwan Ahmed has remained

Islam. Choudhury Kamal Ibne

Yusuf, MK Anwar, Tarigul Islam, Col.

# Only 2 ministers

FROM PAGE 1

Cabinet positions.

alliance, Jamaat secured 17 seats, BJP four and IOJ two. Sources however said it was almost certain that at a later stage. at least one person from BJP would be appointed a minister although

the party is bargaining for two

polls under the banner of four-party

That one person is clearly going to be BJP Chairman Naziur Rahman Monzur. But Monzui cannot become a minister right at the moment as he was convicted and jailed for corruption as a minister and is forbidden by the Constitution from becoming one within five years of serving his sentence. Monzur was granted a presiden-

the same year Meanwhile, at least one IOJ man might also be given the status of a state minister, sources hinted. But the IOJ leadership is currently divided over the issue of securing ministerial job.

tial amnesty on October 8, 1996 and

released from jail on November 18

## months. Fakhrul was the eldest among

Abu Ghaith

Mohammed Omar, had survived the latest round of American airstrikes

statement broadcast on Qatar's Al-Jazeera television.

Abdul Hanan Himat, a spokes-

first reported bombing of such a 35 opposition fighters were killed. The claims could not be inde-

and hitting some ground troops and several suspected terrorist training

the target of multiple assaults since the raids began late Sunday. The area is home to key Taliban air defence systems, housing units that lodge at least 300 bin Laden followers, and the compound housing the home and offices of the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Omar.

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ing ministers remains there Neither of BJP chairman, Naziur Rahman Manzur, and secretarygeneral, Kazi Feroj Rashid, both

expansion of the already big-sized council Sources said Manzur reached an understanding with the BNP on his