

# A motley council

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Council of Ministers, understandably to ensure representation from all areas, different interest groups and so on.

Ministers from technocrat quota the non-MP leaders in the government were chosen from among those who were either denied party tickets to run in the election or had contributions towards the BNP's return to power.

Ukil Abdus Sattar, who sacrificed his long-held seat in Brahmanbaria in favour of IOJ (Islami Oikya Jote) leader Fazlul Haq Amini, has been made a state minister. Similar is the case with Barqatullah Bulu whom the BNP chief promised a ministerial job on condition that he would leave a Noakhali seat in favour of a businessman.

Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin was appointed state minister to contain intra-party conflicts in the BNP's Chittagong chapter. Two other state ministers from technocrat quota, namely Reaz Rahman and Selima Rahman, have been selected for their dedicated services to the party.

Most of the state ministers from among the MPs have been rewarded for their victory in consecutive elections, while others were promised such positions.

Yet, a few seem to have been rewarded for defeating stalwarts of other parties. The giant killers include Shahjahan Omar, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan and Lutfuzzaman Babar.

Once a bitter critic of Sheikh Hasina's 'consensus' government comprising three parties, Khaleda Zia herself has formed a four-party alliance's government. But the two other alliance partners have no representation in the government as yet.

As the opposition leader, Khaleda used to dub the formation of the 'consensus' government as an attempt to reintroduce the one-party system. However, Hasina was under some sorts of compulsion to share power with two other parties, as Awami League did not have majority in the parliament. But Khaleda, despite her party's winning an absolute majority, has done the same apparently to keep her words to the allies.

Fighting terrorism being at the top of her election agenda, the new prime minister has inducted into her government some party leaders who reportedly aid and abet terrorists.

Also vocal against her predecessor for the latter's bias towards her relatives, Khaleda has made her elder sister a cabinet minister.

In the distribution of portfolios among the ministers, the prime minister has opted for radical changes compared to the government she headed in 1991.

Excepting M. Saifur Rahman, none of the top ministers have been given portfolios they had held in the 1991 government. Saifur has been given the charge of planning ministry in addition to his finance portfolio.

Ministers such as Abdul Matin Chowdhury, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Tariqul Islam did not get important ministries this time. Conversely, Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Aminul Haq, Shahjahan Siraj, Dr. Abdul Moin Khan and Mirza Abbas have been given the charge of important ministries. Of the new entrants, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Dr. Osman Faruk, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Khurshid Jahan Haq, Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid have got vital ministries.

# Childhood blindness

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Quoting from a WHO data presented at the discussion, the speakers said cataract that leads to progressive loss of the clear lens in the eye is the commonest cause of blindness in South Asia followed by trachoma, one of the oldest infectious diseases which is world's leading cause of preventable blindness.

Two-thirds of the region's ten million blind people who have cataract die without their sight being restored. For every one million population, 5,000 people require cataract surgery against 1,800 now.

Globally, technology is available to eliminate most of the cases of childhood blindness and visual impairments. The societal implications of blindness and consequent economic burden are huge.

The burden of blindness on a country like Bangladesh would be a serious one that would add to the already fragile economy. Yet, blindness is preventable and the cost is not much. The return on the capital invested to prevent blindness is 1,800 to 3,000 per cent, which indicates that very few investments yield such high returns.

Some of the costs of blindness prevention like trachoma are less than US\$3 per person; and cataract is curable with simple surgery costing less than US\$20 per person.

Vision 2020 -- a global plan of action to eliminate blindness -- aims over the next 20 years to eliminate avoidable blindness by increasing awareness of blindness as a major public health issue, controlling the four major causes of blindness, cataract, trachoma, onchocerciasis (river blindness) and childhood blindness.

It also aims at making low vision services available including making devices and spectacles available mostly to the poor at a low cost, training sufficient eye-care professionals and establishing infrastructure to ensure high-quality and affordable services.

Professor Muddasser Ali, eminent eye specialist and director of the National Institute of Ophthalmology, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer, and Dr. Deen Mohammad were among the speakers. Fazlur Rahman, secretary to the Ministry of Health was present as the chief guest.

Journalist Mohammad Jahangir presided over the roundtable discussion, where M Jalauddin Khan, member secretary of the committee, was present.

By-election

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any seat.

According to a constitutional provision, the MPs who have been elected in more than one seat, must inform, within one month of the gazette notification, the EC of which seat they want to retain, otherwise all seats won by them will automatically be vacated after expiry of the deadline.

Naipaul wins Nobel

**FROM PAGE 12**  
explores with a moralist's outrage.

One of his first major works, "A House for Mr Biswas", looked at the almost impossible task for Indian immigrants in the Caribbean trying to integrate into society while keeping hold of their roots.

"He is to a very high degree a cosmopolitan writer, a fact that he himself considers to stem from his lack of roots: he is unhappy about the cultural and spiritual poverty of Trinidad, he feels alienated from India, and in England he is incapable of relating to and identifying with the traditional values of what was once a colonial power," the Swedish Academy said.

The latest Nobel laureate, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1990, will take home the prize sum of 10 million kronor (1.08 million euros, or close to one million dollars).

In a short statement, Naipaul said: "It is a great tribute to England, my home, and to India, home of my ancestors."

He added: "I am utterly delighted, this is an unexpected accolade."

At the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's largest publishing event, one of his German publishers, Hoffmann und Campe, said it was thrilled by the announcement and expected a surge in interest in the writer's books in Europe.

"Naipaul has been on the list for years and had a tough time finding readers in Germany until now," said managing director Rainer Moritz. "We hope that he will now receive the boost he deserves."

Naipaul was educated in Port of Spain, then Oxford University where he studied English literature.

# Taliban claim hundreds of civilians killed

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slammed into Tower 18 minutes later, and both collapsed within two hours.

Burly rescuers linked arms as they prayed for the victims and the haunting sound of "Amazing Grace" played by a bagpipe band echoed over the devastated site in downtown Manhattan.

Standing on a simple wood platform facing the three-storey-high pile of mangled steel and concrete, Mayor Rudy Giuliani called on the city to honor the victims whom he described as "heroes".

"We remember them, we will always remember them, and to them we will dedicate the rebuilding of New York and make certain that we do not allow the terrorists in any way to break our spirit," he said.

The New York Stock Exchange also stopped for a minute of silence at 8:48.

Kabul was bombed in daylight for the first time yesterday, an AFP reporter there said, as strikes on the capital and Kandahar followed the most intensive overnight bombardment of the five-day-old campaign.

The bloodiest raid, a Taliban official told AFP, hit the village of Kadam, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the eastern city of Jalalabad, killing more than 200 people, "mostly women, children and the elderly".

"There used to be an old training camp there but since those people heard that the Americans were going to bomb they all left," said Sher Sha Hamdard, an official with the Taliban's Bakhtar news agency.

US air attacks also killed 15 people when a mosque and nearby houses were hit in the eastern city of Jalalabad, 10 members of the same family in raids on Kabul and at least

18 civilians - with 30 more hurt - in Kandahar, reports from the Taliban and the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) agency said.

"This is not like before. The bombing is almost constant now, and much, much closer," said a Kabul resident. "The planes just keep coming."

The Afghan opposition, saying it was helped by civilians rising against the regime, claimed significant advances against Taliban forces.

In London, British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said the military attacks were "already having an impact" on the Taliban, as senior leaders defected to the opposition.

But Britain's chief of defence staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, warned against false hopes, predicting that the air campaign could last "through the winter and into next summer at the very least."

Pakistani officials said two southern airports would be made available to US forces to mount rapid search and recovery operations for threatened troops or downed pilots - but not for offensive action.

Witnesses told AFP that US cargo planes and helicopters began to arrive in the bases at Jacobabad, between Sindh and Baluchistan provinces, and Panni, a remote town on the Arabian Sea coast.

The bombing campaign was stepped up amid fears of a backlash against US targets.

US officials said they were now treating cases of anthrax contamination in Boca Raton, Florida, as "a criminal probe," after they identified a third person exposed to the bacteria that killed one person and infected a second, all in the American Media Inc. building, which houses tabloid newspapers.

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Outgoing Ambassador of Nepal Madhu Raman Achariya called on Awami League president and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday.

# Portfolios allocated

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The old stalwarts who have been retained in the cabinet this time around include Abdul Matin Chowdhury, M Shamsul Islam, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, MK Anwar, Dr Khondoker Mosharrif Hossain, Tariqul Islam and Nazmul Huda. All of them have been given new portfolios, however.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury has been given the portfolio of Textiles, Mosharrif Hossain Health and Family Welfare, Nazmul Huda Communications, M Shamsul Islam Land, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf Disaster Management and Relief, MK Anwar Industry and Tariqueul Islam Food.

Two Jamaat inductees -- Matiuur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid -- have been given the charge of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Welfare, respectively.

Khaleda left for Saudi Arabia yesterday on a five-day trip.

On her first day in office, the prime minister decided not to attend to government business, spending a quiet day and preparing herself for the trip to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. She had earlier expressed her desire to perform Umrah before starting the task of

governance.

The nameplate at the sprawling Tejaon office complex of the chief executive, which served as the Chief Advisor's Office for 57 days, was replaced by that of the Prime Minister's Office. However, the Prime Minister's Office itself wore a barren look. The administrative staff at the chief executive's office came to their personal offices and spent a quiet day.

The first thing the prime minister did yesterday was to visit the National Memorial at Savar at 10:30 p.m. to pay respect to the martyrs of the War of Independence. Later, she visited the Central Shaheed Minar and paid tributes to the heroes of the Language Movement.

The entire council of ministers accompanied her during the visits. It was for the first time that the Jamaat-e-Islami leaders visited both the National Memorial and the Central Shaheed Minar.

She then went to offer feteah at the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman. Some of the cabinet ministers went to their offices and held meetings with senior officials. However, only a few state and deputy ministers attended office briefly, as they came to know of their

# Minorities: BNP 'gangsters' run amok

**FROM PAGE 1**  
invariably think all Hindus voted for the AL.

"Anyone voted to power must be respected, and the Hindu community did the same," said Upen Mojumdar, a resident of Ziodhara, the remote village accessible only by waterway.

About a week ago, several hundred people who fled the area started to return home only after a police camp was set up at Luxmikhali. Still, the children of the minority community in the area are yet to return to schools.

Ramendranath Roy, assistant headmaster at Ziodhara High School, said the Hindus of the area with about 3,500 voters, have been living in insecurity since the election.

"Many children did not return to school, although the BNP and alliance leaders assured the community of a peaceful coexistence," Roy said.

Officer-in-Charge of Morelganj Police Station Yunus Ali admitted that the minority community left home in fear of reprisal, with the local AL leaders having left their villages.

There were reports from different parts of the area of BNP activists, mostly unknown, trying to intimidate AL supporters.

Abul Khair, Khaulia Union Parishad (UP) chairman, said the new "mastans" have embarked on

extortion.

"Most of them have never been involved with any political party. We have seen them soon after the election," said the UP chairman.

Rampant extortion and forced occupation of properties are everyday incidents in the area. Unlike the Hindu community, the Christian community of Bagerhat did not face any disturbance in the post- and pre-election periods.

At Khristanpara home to 600 people, the community leaders said they had both AL and BNP supporters.

Dominik Lankashar Biswas who had heard about the Hindu community's plight said, "We did not face any threat because they (gangsters) know we have supports in both camps."

# India won't join strike

**FROM PAGE 12**  
backed by arch-rival Pakistan, but Islamabad has reportedly told Washington it would not accept Indian or Israeli forces in the operation.

Singh said that the attacks against the Taliban and the al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden would benefit India, which is battling armed insurgency in Kashmir.

India had previously bristled at suggestions that Powell's visit here, expected to begin Tuesday, was aimed at smoothing India's ruffled feathers over Pakistan's new closeness to the US.

Experts here and in Islamabad have suggested that Powell will try and ease the growing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Last weekend, British Prime

Minister Tony Blair made a point of visiting both the countries.

But Blair's trip to New Delhi and Islamabad did little to advance India's demands that the Kashmir insurgency should also be tackled by the US-led alliance.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwell, said Thursday Washington "clearly recognised" India's concerns over Islamic insurgency in Kashmir, even though its attentions were focused on Afghanistan at the moment.

"Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is exactly kind of terrorism that must be condemned and must be rooted out. War against terrorism must include terrorism against India," Blackwell told reporters.

# Hepatitis B

**FROM PAGE 12**  
in ten-dose vials has been suggested for Hepatitis-B rather than separate vials.

The Hepatitis-B vaccine is now used extensively around the world and currently being incorporated into the EPI of WHO.

The Hepatitis-B vaccine has been available globally since 1982, and currently 90 countries are using the vaccine as part of their national immunisation programme.

Both plasma-derived and DNA-recombinant vaccines are available, safe and efficient; and both meet the WHO requirements.

Hepatitis-B virus is transmitted through body fluids, most commonly by sexual act, unsafe blood transfusion and sharing of needles. Sweat, saliva and other body secretions do not pose any serious threat, but may turn out to be a danger if one does not follow safety measures.

For a Hepatitis-B carrier, the chances of liver cancer are up to 300 times higher.

portfolios late.

All the members of the Council of Ministers spent a hectic day, exchanging pleasantries and receiving congratulations from their constituents and officials of their respective ministries.

At 6:30 yesterday evening, Khaleda led a 20-member entourage to Jeddah on board a Biman flight.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and her family members accompanied Khaleda Zia to Saudi Arabia.

The council of ministers, chiefs of the three services, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Sahata Zarab and senior civil and military officials were present at the airport.

Khaleda is due to perform Umrah today and also say her Juma prayers. She will later leave for Madina to offer ziarat at the ruz of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SA).

Tomorrow, the prime minister will have an audience with King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz in Riyadh.

She will leave Riyadh for home on Sunday and reach Dhaka on Monday morning (October 15).

# Vajpayee greets

**FROM PAGE 1**  
countries enjoy an abiding friendly relationship which draws shared history and heritage, commitment to democracy, and a commonality in problems in the region.

"We look forward to building on the friendship and to giving further momentum and content to our multifaceted bilateral cooperation for the benefit of our peoples," Indian Prime Minister said.

Recalling his interaction as Indian External Affairs Minister in the 70s with late President Ziaur Rahman, Vajpayee recognised that it was Zia's "vision of regional cooperation that crystallised into SAARC."

"We have to work together to fulfill the vision of Zia fully," he said in a full tribute to the Late President and founder of BNP.

The Indian Prime Minister also invited PM and BNP chief Khaleda Zia to India at a mutually convenient date in near future.

Alliance candidate Dr Osman Farook was elected from Kishoriganj-4 constituency. He defeated AL candidate Dr Mizanul Haq by 1215 votes.

In Dhaka-1, Nazmul Huda of the alliance won with a margin of 2,771 votes.

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Kalam and Ismail injured.

Mongu succumbed to his injuries at upazila health complex and Kalam, 40, at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday. Ismail was undergoing treatment at MMCH.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited the spot.

A case was filed with Nakla thana accusing Saiful and 12 others.

Police arrested four persons.

# Two killed

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# First session

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The election of a new president may take place sometime during the first session, not necessarily during the first sitting.

However, the allocation of time for House business will be finalised at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which is going to be reorganised soon. Speaker Abdul Hamid will convene the first meeting of the BAC, the sources said.

During the first session, the House may also move two bills to ratify two ordinances -- the Representation of People (Amendment) Order (RPO) and the Representation of People Order (Second Amendment). Otherwise, the ordinances will lapse after a certain period. Officials at the parliament secretariat informed that the Ministry of Law is yet to send any of these bills to the parliament for ratification of the ordinances.

Moreover, a bill seeking fourteenth amendment to the constitution for revival of women's reserved seat in the parliament is likely to be moved in the House. The provision for women's reserved seat lapsed with the expiry of the seventh parliament.

Sitting arrangements in the House will be finalised immediately after the election of the chief whip and the whips. "On her return from Saudi Arabia, Khaleda Zia will name the chief whip and other whips," a parliament official said.

# New govt won't last

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Showing his body draped in AL's party flag inside the coffin, Sheikh Hasina said, "Begum Zia took oath yesterday (Wednesday) and she presented a dead body today breaching her commitment to the nation for a terrorism-free society."

Sadly she recalled the killing of Bhutto's elder brother Iqbal in 1991, also allegedly by BNP terrorists, a day after Khaleda Zia took oath as prime minister at that time.

Agitated AL activists chanted full-throat slogans at this stage saying, "Why is my brother dead today, killer Khaleda, you must answer."

At the gathering of several hundred grief-stricken party workers, the AL chief alleged that after 'hijacking' people's verdict in the October 1 polls, "BNP-Jamaat terrorists" have now resorted to atrocities on AL leaders and workers throughout the country.

"They are looting property of our party men, raping women and are on a killing spree," she said.

While asking her party rank and file to show utmost restraint, the immediate past prime minister

urged the new government to stop such 'bloodshed' immediately.

She alleged that AL leaders and workers were being subjected to attacks at their houses and they can no longer live in their houses. "People would not tolerate such atrocities silently," she asserted.

Later, AL presidium members Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Abdul Jalil and other party leaders took part in the namaj-e-janaza.

Hasina then held informal talks with some of the senior party leaders for over an hour at the party office.

# Four jt secys

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Mohammad Abdullah to Bangladesh Water Development Board as Additional Director General (Finance).

Vice Principal of Planning and Development Academy Mosharrif Hossain has been made MD at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, according to an official release.

# So near, yet so far

**FROM PAGE 12**  
votes. In Nilphamari-4, alliance candidate Amjad Hossain Sarkar won, defeating Col (Rtd) Maruf Saklan of the AL by 2915 votes.

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu of the alliance defeated Haji Mohammad Selim of the AL by 1087 votes in Dhaka-8 constituency.

In Naogaon-5 seat, Abdul Jalil of the AL defeated Shamsuddin Ahmed of the alliance by 2,103 votes.

Abdus Sattar of the alliance won with 83,942 votes in Bagerhat-4, followed by AL's Dr Mozammel Hossain with 81,941 votes. The difference was 2,001 votes.

M Ekabba Hossain of the AL was elected from Tangail-7. He defeated alliance candidate Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui by 2,074 votes.

In Sherpur-2, Zahed Ali Chowdhury of the alliance won with a margin of 2884 votes. He polled 1,02,545 votes while his nearest rival Motia Chowdhury of the AL got 99,661 votes.

Dr MA Mannan of the AL won in Kishoriganj-2, defeating Maj (Rtd) Akhteruzzaman of the alliance by 1798 votes.

Alliance candidate Dr Osman Farook was elected from Kishoriganj-4 constituency. He defeated AL candidate Dr Mizanul Haq by 1215 votes.

In Dhaka-1, Nazmul Huda of the alliance won with a margin of 2,771 votes.

votes over his nearest rival Salman F Rahman of the AL.

Abdul Mannan of the alliance won Dhaka-2 seat defeating M Noor Ali of the AL by 2,544 votes.

Alliance candidate ABM Ashraf Uddin Nizam was elected from Luxmipur-4 constituency. He defeated ASM Abdur Rab of the Jatya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) by 2,524 votes.

In the 1996 parliamentary election, 48 candidates were elected with a margin of up to 3,000 votes. In 1991, the number of such candidates was 53.

# Homage to martyrs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
were present.

Later, Khaleda Zia drove straight to the Central Shaheed Minar to show respect to the memories of the martyrs of historic Language Movement.

The Prime Minister and her ministers also went to the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP, at about 12.15 pm to pay respect to the late leader and offered munajat. Khaleda Zia then returned to her Cantonment residence.

# EU team

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Mohammed Ali, EC Secretary M Saiful Islam and senior officers of the commission were present.

A total of 72 observers from the European Union visited over 500 polling stations in more than 30 districts across the country during the election, Salvia informed the CEC that the final report is now under preparation.

Salvia also put forward a set of recommendations including introduction of voters' ID card for improving the electoral system of Bangladesh.

The Chief Election Commissioner thanked Salvia and his mission for their significant role in the October 1 general election.

# BJP hopeful

**FROM PAGE 1**  
parties.

To review the overall situation, BJP Presidium will hold a meeting on Sunday while IOJ will hold a press conference in a couple of days.

BJP sources said the party is facing different types of problems. Party Chairman Nazirul Rahman Monzur had earlier asked BNP chief Khaleda Zia not to appoint any minister from his party. Monzur had been bargaining to become a minister under the technocrat quota. Due to legal bar, he is not eligible to become a member of parliament or a minister till November 17.

However, with the formation of the 60-member Council of Ministers that includes six technocrat ministers (10 per cent of the council members), there is no scope for Nazir to become a minister now. Technocrat quota has been exhausted.

BJP leaders and workers yesterday sought explanation from the party chairman and secretary general why none from the party was made a minister.

Nazir informed them that he would take oath as a minister when the legal bar is over on November 17.

Asked how that could happen when technocrat quota is already exhausted, Nazir said Khaleda Zia had promised to make him a minister anyhow.

Sources said, the aggrieved party workers were not convinced by Nazir's explanation.

Meanwhile, BJP Secretary General Kazi Firoze Rashid also wanted to become a minister. He also wanted to contest the October 1 election but he was restrained

# Jubo League leader

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Hossain filed a case with Kafrul thana.

Liton's body was brought to AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue where his namaj-e-janza was held. Party chief Sheikh Hasina went there to see the body.

Besides, police recovered the body of a newborn from a dustbin in front of the Radio Office at Argagon in the city.

Hands and legs of the two-day old girl were severed from the body. Police sent the body to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Tejaon thana.

# Who's who in new govt

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Abdul Matin Chowdhury: Textiles, Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain: Health and Family Welfare, Barrister Moudud Ahmed: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Motiur Rahman Nizami: Agriculture, Barrister Nazmul Huda: Communications, M Shamsul Islam: Land, Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf: Disaster Management and Relief, M K Anwar: Industries, Tariqul Islam: Food, Shahjahan Siraj: Environment and Forest, Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain: Shipping, Begum Khurshid Jahan Huq: Women and Children Affairs, Abdullah Al Noman: Labour and Employment, L K Siddiqui: Water Resources, Dr Abdul Moayeen Khan: Information, Mirza Abbas: Housing and Public Works, Sadek Hossain Khoka: Fisheries and Livestock, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury: Commerce, Barrister Aminul Huq: Post and Telecommunications, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury: Home Affairs, Maj (Retd) M Hafizuddin Ahmed: Jute, Harunur Rashid Khan Monno: Without portfolio, Dr Osman Faruk: Education, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid: Social Welfare

# The portfolios of Deputy Ministers:

Moni Swapan Dewan: CHT Affairs, Asadul Habib Dulu: Jamuna Bridge Division, Adv Ruhul Qudus Talukdar: LGRD and Cooperatives, and Abdul Salam Pintu: Education.

# Lankan

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Marxist JVP, or People's Liberation Front, to survive.

Despite the sacking of the parliament, Kumaratunga's own position as the chief executive is not threatened as she is elected directly by the people and her six-year term ends in December 2005.

However, a loss of legislative power could have forced her to work with a hostile parliament.