

The Daily Star

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XI No. 44

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2001

FALGUN 16, 1407 BS

ZELHAJ 3, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TK 6.00

www.dailystarnews.com

Govt working on creating new ministries, divn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The new government is working on creating two new ministries and one new division, sources said.

The ministries are being set up in line with the election pledge of the BNP.

The new ministries are likely to become functional within a week.

Although the exact names have not yet been decided, one ministry will be for overseas employment and expatriate community and another for the welfare of freedom fighters.

After considerable thoughts on whether there should be a separate ministry for garments sector which earns the highest amount of foreign exchange, the opinion now is for creating a new division for it.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Hassan Arif new Attorney General

BSS, Dhaka

A F Hassan Arif, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, was appointed Attorney General of Bangladesh yesterday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed made the appointment as recommended by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Advocate Arif was born on June 10, 1941 and joined the then East Pakistan High Court on September 15, 1970.

He was an assistant attorney general from April 1982 to August 1985 and served as a deputy attorney general from August 1985 to March 1996.

He was the assistant secretary and vice-president of the Supreme Court Lawyers Association from 1975-76 and 1996-97 respectively.

Hassan Arif is the president of human rights organisation, 'Adhikar'.

Nab trouble-mongers, restore law & order

No interference, home minister assures law enforcers

UNB, Dhaka

The new home minister has ordered law-enforcers to hunt down trouble-mongers to restore law and order in the country and assured them of non-interference in their legal actions against offenders.

"I assured them of non-interference in their legal actions against criminals, I talked to different levels of officials of law enforcement agencies who sought only non-interference," Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, the home minister, said in an interview with UNB yesterday.

The former airforce chief-turned politician said he ordered police to nab the troublemakers irrespective of party affiliations. If there are two one from BNP and the other from another side his instruction is to arrest the BNP man first considering that criminals have no political identity.

cal identity.

"Arrest identified criminals. No terrorists will go unpunished and no recommendation will work for any accused," the home minister directed the law-enforcers.

Instructed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, he ordered the police to undertake action plugging all holes for escape, Air Vice-Marshal (ret) Altaf Chowdhury said. "Even I instructed immigration and frontier posts to keep watch on the borderline so that none can flee."

The home minister made it clear, so did other senior ministers, that people voted the BNP-led coalition to power with an overwhelming majority with two main mandates: to free the country from terrorism and corruption.

"People gave us mandate so that they can live in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Arrest of minister's son ordered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has ordered arrests of the son of a state minister and the brother of a ruling BNP MP for their involvement in terrorist activities.

Henchmen of Reza Ahmed alias Bachchu Molla, son of State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Ahsanul Haq Mollah, reportedly assaulted Nuruzzaman, brother of Daulatpur correspondent of Daily Jugantor Zahurul Islam in Kushtia on Saturday.

Maruf Ahmed Bijon, brother of BNP MP from Meherpur Masud Arun, reportedly led an attack on the Meherpur police station and severely beat up the OC the same day.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

No change in foreign policy and accent on economic diplomacy

New foreign minister says

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the government's foreign policy will primarily concentrate on achieving economic freedom through increased focus on economic diplomacy.

He also said there will be continuity in the foreign policy although every effort will be made to bring qualitative changes to the diplomatic arena.

The foreign minister outlined three basic policy directions of the new government in the realm of foreign affairs and said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already directed the 48 overseas missions to work on achieving the ends.

"Bangladesh's diplomacy will be fully directed towards winning economic freedom. That could only be achieved by gearing our foreign policy apparatus," said the veteran BNP leader and newly appointed foreign minister during his maiden press conference at the foreign ministry.

He said with an overwhelming majority behind it, the new government will review many areas "to optimise the thrust sectors and minimise waste". It would attempt at greater co-ordination between related ministries like

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Prof. Badruddoza Chy



First day in office: Staff of the Education Ministry presenting a bouquet to Ehsanul Haq Milon, state minister for education and deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu in the chamber of Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk at the Secretariat yesterday.

Ministers without offices

STAR REPORT

Ministries and departments concerned are having great difficulty to arrange separate offices for 59 ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers while there are only 26 government houses vacant at the moment.

The ministers attended their offices formally for the first day yesterday although their portfolios were allocated on October 10. At the Secretariat, a number of ministers were found sitting in a room and gossiping among themselves, as they had no particular office.

Officials at ministries and departments concerned observed that it would be difficult at to solve the problem immediately. According to sources, at least 11 state ministers and deputy ministers

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

New ministers' first day in office

NAZMUL ASHRAF

Bangladesh Secretariat, the citadel of the civil administration, was in a convivial mood, as most of the ministers in the new government assumed their duties yesterday.

Although sworn in four days ago, all with a few exceptions attended their offices for the first time yesterday following the weekends. A handful of ministers made their brief presence Thursday afternoon following allocation of portfolios to the newly appointed ministers the same day, though.

Security system at the highly restricted Secretariat virtually collapsed with hundreds of party followers and well-wishers making their entries unhindered into different ministries to felicitate the ministers of their choices. Police or the security guards let the visitors, especially those introducing themselves as

ruling party men or carrying bouquets, in.

The visitors aside, civil servants from all tiers joined the traditional celebration. They wished the new ministers, presented bouquets to or exchanged pleasantries with them.

Distribution of sweets among ministers, officials and ruling party activists added grandeur to the joyous occasion.

There was a pall of gloom as well. A good number of state ministers were unhappy finding no space for them in the Secretariat. The authorities could not make fresh arrangements for offices for all members of the largest ever 60-strong Council of Ministers until yesterday.

Some of the junior ministers shared the offices of their colleagues in the cabinet, while others spent

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Steps to be taken for welfare of expatriates: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said her government will take all possible steps for the welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates.

She gave the assurance when a large group of Bangladeshis living in Riyadh made a courtesy call on the visiting prime minister yesterday, according to a message received here.

Khaleda referred to her party's election commitment of introducing a separate ministry to look into problems of Bangladeshi expatriates, especially to ease their difficulties in sending wages home.

The prime minister exchanged greetings and inquired about their welfare.

A large number of Bangladeshis in Riyadh who came to see Khaleda

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

The love's labour lost
Column: Perspectives
M Abdul Hafiz

Focus 5

Laila-Tul-Miraj: The momentous meeting with Lord Creator

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 15		5-32 pm
Oct 16	5-57 am	

Prayer Timings

Oct 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-10	4-25
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Al-Qaida 'orders' US, British citizens to quit Arab lands

More hijacked jetliner attacks threatened

AGENCIES, Doha

Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida network has "ordered" US and British citizens, as well as Arab allies of the anti-terror coalition, to leave the Arabian peninsula, in a message broadcast by the Qatar-based al-Jazeera television network early yesterday.

"Al Qaida orders Americans, the English and their Arab accomplices to leave the Arabian peninsula because the ground will burn beneath their feet," bin Laden aide Suleiman Abu Ghaith said in a recorded message.

The spokesman for Laden's Al-Qaida group warned of more

hijacked jetliner attacks to come against the United States and Britain.

"The storm of airplanes will not be calmed, if it is God's will," Abu Ghaith said.

"The storm will not calm, especially as long as you (United States and Britain) do not end your support for the Jews in Palestine, lift your embargo from around the Iraqi people, and have left the Arabian

peninsula, and stop your support of the Hindus against Muslims in Kashmir," he said in Arabic.

Abu Ghaith told the Muslims in the United States and Britain to avoid potential targets such as airplanes and skyscrapers.

"The news is what you see, not what you hear. The storms of planes will not stop until you drag your defeated tails from Afghanistan."

"When al-Qaida promises, it

delivers, God willing."

Asking Americans and Britons to leave the Arabian Peninsula, Ghaith said. "If the mothers of those (in the Gulf) have a say in their sons lives, they have to ask them to get out of the Arabian Peninsula, because the land will burn with fire under their feet, God willing."

The White House dismissed the threats as "propaganda", but was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Bangabandhu Murder Case Sirajul Haq to continue as Chief Special PP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior lawyer Sirajul Haq will continue to be the Chief Special Public Prosecutor in the Bangabandhu murder case.

The Supreme Court authorities yesterday discussed whether any government lawyer would be changed in the context of change of government, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said following the meeting.

After a 51-day vacation, the Supreme Court (SC) opens today.

Advocate Hasan Arif was made

new Attorney General yesterday. He was deputy attorney general during the tenure of the first Khaleda Zia government.

Briefing newsmen at his office, Moudud said all cases including Bangabandhu murder case would continue without any interruption.

Meanwhile, for the hearing of this historic case, another judge is being appointed on ad-hoc basis in the Appellate Division of the SC. The law minister will discuss the issue with the Chief Justice today.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Dhaka denies existence of Harkatul linked with Al-Qaida

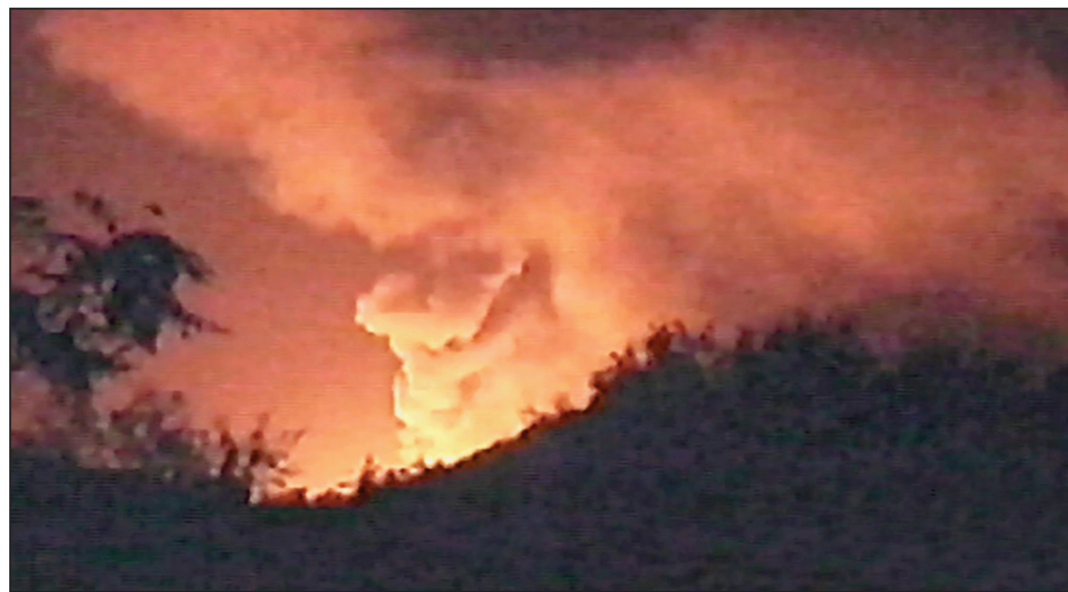
UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka dismissed as baseless a statement of the Indian External Affairs minister about presence in Bangladesh of a "terrorist outfit" namely Harkatul Jihadul Islam having link with Osama Bin Laden's Al-Qaida network.

"No such terrorist outfit is operating in Bangladesh," said a foreign ministry spokesperson yesterday terming the Indian allegation "untrue and baseless".

In a statement refuting the com

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



The impact of a bomb exploding near Kabul shown by the Qatar-based satellite TV station Al-Jazeera. Kabul and four other cities came under heavy bombardment from before dawn yesterday.

Development budget to be revised

Wasteful schemes will be dropped: Saifur

UNB, Dhaka

Development budget furnished by the past Awami League government would be revised after a thorough scrutiny, dropping out wasteful schemes.

Low-key projects having no direct implication for public interest or incorporated in Annual Development Programme (ADP) "just for boosting image of certain individuals or groups would be forsaken," said finance and planning minister, M Saifur Rahman.

In rewriting the recipe of development spending, steps will also be

taken to increase revenue income and check tax evasion, the finance minister said.

The minister disclosed the plans of the new government of BNP-led coalition at a reception hosted by the Finance Division in his honour on his assumption of the finance portfolio for a third time.

He alleged that the previous Awami League government had pushed the country towards a "dire economic disaster" as it implemented non-priority projects and failed to pursue prudent policies.

To tackle such a critical state,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Jubo Dal leader Shaikh Didarul Alam Didar, 32, was gunned down by unidentified assailants at about 2 pm near his residence at Haji Mohsin road in the city yesterday.

According to police and witnesses, five unidentified youngmen chased him from South Central Road up to Haji Mohsin Road. One of the attackers shot him in the head when he took shelter in the kitchen of a beauty parlour.

He was rushed to a nearby clinic where doctors declared him dead.

The Jubo Dal leader was arrested

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6