

Hasina on Dhaka-2 JS seat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday referred to an 'official communiqué' of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) to claim that her party candidate Md Noor Ali had won Dhaka-2 seat in the October 1 parliamentary election by a margin of 2,714 votes.

As per the official gazette, BNP-led four-party alliance candidate Abdul Mannan was elected from

SEE PAGE 11 COL

Attack on Hindus Ullapara OC suspended for not taking case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The officer-in-charge of Ullapara thana in Sirajganj, Abul Hossain Moral, was suspended yesterday for refusing to take a case following the attack on a Hindu family.

The action was taken as per directives from the police headquarters.

According to reports, terrorists attacked Anil Kumar Shil of Purba Delua and beat him mercilessly on October 8. They also assaulted his wife Basona Rani and daughter Purnima Rani who tried to save Shil. The terrorists allegedly raped Purnima Rani.

Officer-in-Charge Abul Hossain refused to register the case when Anil Kumar Shil came to the police station following the attack.

The police super of Sirajganj investigated the case and found Abul Hossain guilty. The police headquarters mentioned that the terrorists attacked Anil Kumar due to a land dispute.

HC asks govt not to demolish Ctg Court Building

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government not to demolish Chittagong Court Building.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Syed J R Muddassir Hussain and Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by litterateur and columnist Abul Momen and others.

APEC leaders back Bush but declaration silent on strikes



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L), US President George W Bush (2nd L), Chinese President Jiang Zemin (2nd R), and Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa walk to a family photo session of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shanghai yesterday.

REUTERS, Shanghai

After a round of whirlwind diplomacy in Shanghai, US President George W Bush won strong backing from Asia Pacific leaders yesterday for his war on terrorism.

A declaration at the end of a summit of leaders of the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum stopped short of endorsing US-led strikes on Afghanistan or naming Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the September 11 attacks on America.

But it said leaders "unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms" the hijack attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, which rocked the US economy and sent tremors through Asian nations that rely on US export markets.

A US official said Washington was "thrilled" by the statement, the first-ever political stand by APEC, which mustered support despite misgivings by predominantly Muslim Indonesia and Malaysia about US military action.

Russia and China have both made clear they want the hostilities to end as soon as possible.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

ETV transmission Govt withdraws appeal filed on stay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday informed the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that the state has withdrawn the appeal filed on the stay on the terrestrial transmission by the Ekushey Television.

The court further extended the stay order till October 29.

The newly appointed Attorney General A F Hassan Arif informed the court that the state would not go for further persuasion for extension of the High Court stay order on terrestrial broadcasting by the ETV.

The full bench of the Appellate Division asked the ETV to submit a regular leave petition before the court by October 28. The court will then hold a hearing on the case on October 29.

The Appellate Division comprising Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury, Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani, Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice Mohammad Fazul Karim deferred the hearing date.

The government and ETV had

filed two provisional leave petitions with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking permission for full hearing on the stay order of the High Court on the ETV's terrestrial broadcasting.

A vacation bench of the High Court consisting of Justice M A Aziz and Justice Sikder Mokbul Hoque issued a stay order on the terrestrial transmission of ETV on September 27.

Earlier, the full bench of the Appellate Division extended the High Court stay order on suspension of the ETV broadcast till October 21.

On September 19, the High Court, following a writ petition, issued a show-cause notice on ETV Chairman A S Mahmud and the secretary to the Ministry of Information asking them to explain why the licensing agreement forged on March 9, 1999 between the private television channel and the ministry should not be declared illegal.

Prof. Chowdhury Mohammad

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Pirates rape 2 female launch passengers, loot valuables

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Armed robbers looted belongings of the passengers on a Dhaka-bound launch on the Meghna River, and allegedly raped two female passengers in the early hours of yesterday.

However, the UNB said the number of raped female passengers was six.

Police said MV Bogdad-5 left the Chandpur Echoli ghat at 10:30 pm with about 300 passengers aboard.

When the launch reached Mohanpur under Matlab thana in Chandpur at about 1:30 am, a gang of 15 attacked its passengers with daggers, leaving 30 injured.

The pirates were travelling in the same launch in the guise of passengers.

After the holdup that continued for about 3 hours, the robbers made their getaway at Kuchikata char in Sariatpur district with the looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh. The river traffic police arrested Abul Kalam, master of the launch.

Cancellation of NAM meet: Team leaves for S Africa Oct 25

BSS, Dhaka

A high-level Bangladesh delegation headed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman leaves here on October 25 (Thursday) for South Africa to inform its president of Bangladesh's inability to host the 13th NAM Summit.

South Africa is the current chairman of the NAM.

A meeting of the NAM Coordination Committee held here yesterday at the foreign ministry discussed the situation under which the present government had decided against hosting the Summit.

Foreign Minister Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Information Minister Dr. A Moyeen Khan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, Secretary General of NAM Shafi Sami, Foreign Secretary Mohsin Ali Khan and high officials concerned attended the meeting.



Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh Hu Qian Wen called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Dilemma over weekend Sunday or Friday -- that's the question

M ANWARUL HAQ

The government is in a dilemma over whether or not to go for a one-day weekend. There is also an indecision over which day it would be -- Friday or Sunday -- should the government go for a one-day weekend.

The five-day week was introduced in the government calendar after the military regime of HM Ershad took over in 1982. The BNP government in its previous tenure reverted back to a six-day workweek while the Awami League switched back to a five-day schedule.

While most private firms, mills and factories have retained the six-day schedule, a majority of the foreign and private corporate organisations have settled for a five-day week in recent times.

Of late, leading chamber bodies and trade associations in the country have called for a switch to a six-day week with the weekend on Sunday, so that Bangladesh can stay attuned with international business and trading centres for one additional day, i.e. on Friday.

Retaining Friday as the weekend in a six-day working week will not bring about any intrinsic benefit, several business and community leaders maintain. In this regard, they have cited the example of Malaysia and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, there are others who do not want a change in the arrangement altogether. They have set forth several arguments to retain the five-day week format.

A large segment of public-sector employees, they say, cannot afford to live in the city with their families due to high cost of living. These people usually spend the weekend with their families in the countryside after five working days.

Moreover, the switch to a six-day week will require revision of office hours - from early in the morning to 2:30 in the afternoon. Many high officials feel that this will seriously put at a disadvantage most employees who have to drop their children at school on their way to work.

Should the office hours be rescheduled, these people would turn up late at work. Also, there is the likelihood that the general staff of govern

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Envoy tells PM China keen to strengthen ties with Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

China expressed its keen desire to further widen and deepen the existing relations with Bangladesh through cooperation in mutually beneficial fields.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Hu Qian Wen conveyed his government's desire to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when he called on her at the PM's office yesterday afternoon.

The ambassador also conveyed greetings of Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji as well as deep appreciation of his government of the landslide

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Alleged terrorist shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged terrorist was shot dead on Nawab Yusufullah Road in the city's Ramna area in the late hours of Saturday.

The victim, identified as Mohammad Nasir Uddin alias Chacha Nasir, son of Fazlur Rahman, was kidnapped from Gulistan area and taken behind a bar near Shahabagh where he

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

JCD factions trade fire on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Gunshots traded between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) rocked the Dhaka University campus yesterday, creating panic among general students.

About 15 rounds were fired during a clash between the two factions in Mall Chatter area on the campus at about 2 pm, according to witnesses.

However, none was injured.

The armed clash lasting about half an hour followed beating up of each other's activists by the two factions -- one led by JCD's DU unit general secretary Mostafizul Islam Mamun and the other by its or organising secretary Asaduzzaman

Asad. Mamun himself allegedly led his supporters during the clash.

Sources said earlier yesterday morning, a leader of JCD Zia Hall unit and supporter of "Asad group" assaulted an activist of 'Mamun group,' who joined JCD from Chhatra League.

In retaliation, activists of Mamun group, beat up two activists of Asad group. They also fired two rounds.

Mamun group activists came from Surya Sen Hall while their rivals who are dominant at Zia Hall came from Mach's canteen.

Later, activists of Asad group mostly consisting of JCD general secretary Shahabuddin Lill's supporters chased their rivals and fired

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Siddiky secy on special duty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamaluddin Siddiky, a former Secretary to the Prime Minister, joined the Establishment Division as Secretary on Special Duty yesterday.

Dr Siddiky got back his job as a secretary following a review of his case on an appeal after he was forced to resign, sources said.

Before he resigned, Siddiky was chairman of land appeals board. He was Secretary to the Prime Minister during the tenure of Khaleda Zia government previously. Afterwards, he was an executive director of the Asian Development Bank in Manila. Following the change of government, he was called back home. He then applied for a review of his case.

Muggers snatch Tk 5 lakh from JBC manager

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed muggers snatched Tk 4.70 lakh from the manager of Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) at the city's Halishahar in the morning yesterday.

Witnesses said, Shahidul Alam, Manager of JBC -- the local agent of Akij Group of Companies -- drew the aforementioned amount of money from the local branch of Arab Bangladesh (AB) Bank at Halishahar Baropole area at around 10am.

As Alam was getting on a baby-taxi in front of the bank, some miscreants led by a local terrorist and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

আলোচনা সভা

স মার্শাল (অবঃ) আলহাজ্ব আলতাফ হোসেন চৌধুরী, এম.পি.

মাননীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।

বিষ্ণু চৌধুরী, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর রাজনৈতিক সচিব ও

ঃ লুৎফুজ্জামান বাবর, এম.পি. মাননীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র প্রতিমন্ত্রী, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।

সুফ আল-জাহা হারুন, সভাপতি, ফেব্রিসিটিআই।

গারেশন অব বাংলাদেশ চেম্বার অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি

সিটিআই মিলনায়তন, তারিখ: ২০ মে অক্টোবর, ২০০১।



Home Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury (L), FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Haroon and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar at the discussion meeting on post-election law and order at FBCCI Auditorium yesterday.