# **US** visa in exchange for information on terrorists!

Attorney General John Ashcroft has announced a new Department of Justice initiative that would give non-US citizens in the United States or persons abroad US immigration benefits if they provide the US government credible information about terrorists, says a US embassy

Under the new initiative, "the Department of Justice will provide immigration benefits to non-citizens who furnish information to help us apprehend terrorists or to stop terrorist attacks," Ashcroft said at a Department of Justice news conference November 29.

The message, he said, is this: "If you have any information you think might assist the federal government in its efforts to fight terrorism, please contact your local FBI office: or. if you're abroad contact the nearest United States embassy. If the information that you provide is reliable and useful, we will help you obtain a visa to reside in the United States and ultimately become a United States citizen.

Some persons in the United States, Ashcroft said, "may be hesitant to come forward with their information because of their immigration status. They may rest assured that the United States welcomes any reliable and useful information that they can provide to help us save lives in the future. In return, we will help them make America their home.

"People who have information about terrorist activity must make a choice: either they will come forward to save American lives, or they will remain silent against evil. The people who have the courage to make the right choice deserve to be welcomed as guests in our country, and perhaps one day to become fellow citizens." he said

The September 11 terrorist attacks, Ashcroft pointed out, "were not merely crimes against America they were crimes against humanity, they were crimes against civiliza-

# tion. The people of 86 different nations died in the World Trade

covers only a handful of localities in the city. The sewage through this 635km network is treated at Pagla and then dumped into the river Buriganga.

At the moment, the city needs nearly 3,000 kilometres of sewer

A lot of these existing sewers are over 50 years old and are in a dilapidated state giving rise to fear that the system might crumble any moment, inundating a vast area with untreated sewage or 'night soil', experts said.

"Now every underground or even surface drains irrespective of its specific function is burdened with sewage and a host of toxic wastes." said an official source. "As a result, huge bacteria and deadly wastes are spreading all around the atmo-

An official source said the residents are required to build in-house septic tank for sewage and clean it every year. But the practice is almost non-existent now.

"A homeowner wherever he lives in the city can easily get in touch with the local WASA people and even employ them to run his sewer to the storm sewerage just outside his boundary." an official source said.

The entire drainage system is warn that time is running out fast.

As per law, any arrested person

is to be produced before the magis-

trate during hearing but police did

not produce Mockbul before the

magistrate. Mockbul's lawyers said

they could not submit any petition

for his bail as the prosecution side

took the file to the chamber of

Magistrate Biman Bihari Barua

side, the court gave Mockbul one

month's detention and sent him to

under Section 54 of CrPc. No spe-

cific case was framed against him.

Meanwhile, a document for detain-

ing him under the Special Powers

Act, 1974 was forwarded to the

said the accused, with the help of his

Police in its forwarding report

Mockbul was shown arrested

After hearing the prosecution

without their knowledge.

the Central Jail.

Sewerage network collapsing rapidly, he added, "Whenever the WASA officials are confronted with an overflowing

sewerage line, they have an instant

solution," disclosed a source in the

"Instead of taking up a costly and time-consuming repairing work, the WASA workers quickly connect the line with the nearest storm sewerage and earn an applause from

suffering residents of the area." "This trend has gone on for a long time and the city's underground and surface drains have turned into potential explosives," said the

The overhauling of the Dhaka's drainage system seems a far cry. Sources said they needed thousands of crores of taka to bring a change in the drainage system. Several WASA proposals in this regard are now gathering dust and there has never been any government initiative to find a donor.

A source said the donors are not interested in investments in projects, which might upgrade urban life. Rather, they are interested to give money to schemes to alleviate poverty. While city dwellers wait for a better drainage system, experts

Mockbul arrested

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate vesterday's hartal in the city. It said

### PBCP cadre held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna Sonadanga police yesterday

arrested Ayub Ali Shaikh alias Arif, 32, an armed cadre of outlawed PBCP from Banargati area.

wanted in several murder cases and a close associate of Abdur Rashid, a ring leader of Rupsha-Terokheda-Digholia based unit of Puro Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

were arrested in last six months only from Banargati area where law and order situation has taken an alarming turn with frequent murders, muggings, rapes and toll collection.

# Two injured terrorists escape from hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two alleged terrorists escaped from General Hospital with severe injuries two hours after admission on Saturday

were identified as They Hemayet, 28, and Rafique, 25, of village Barasat under Terokheda

They escaped from the hospital as there was no policemen to guard them, a doctor on duty in the emergency ward said.

severely injured in an armed attack by their rivals on Saturday morning, Terokheda police said.

### DU authorities

of the university were disrupted due to AL sponsored half-day hartal yesterday

The scheduled examinations were postponed.

remained open, the attendance of students was very thin.

campus in protest against the hartal. No untoward incident was, however, reported during the hartal

### Winter

FROM PAGE 12

delayed arrival of the continental ridge. "The ridge brings the winter laced with cold air from the frosty Tundra in Siberia down Pakistan and India into Bangladesh," he mentioned

country for the last three days, many people started to use warm clothes, blankets and quilts. Quilt makers

People who live in the open or in slums in the city were seen warming

had long been involved in land grabbing in his area.

It also said Mockbul was involved in crimes like killing and had a plan to make attacks on government, semi-government and nongovernment organisations during the hartal, which could create a law and order situation in the country.

attempt to commit offences during

UNB adds: Awami League general Secretary Zillur Rahman condemned the arrest of Sechchasebak League (volunteers' league) convener Alhaj Mockbul

In a statement last night Zillur said the arrest of Mockbul without warrant manifests the fascist character of the BNP government.

He demanded immediate release of Mockbul and other AL leaders and activists arrested party leaders and activists, made an during yesterday's hartal.

# Police beat AL MP

random arrest of party activists. some policemen including a ranking officer caught him by the collar and beat him even after he showed his identity card. Police tore his clothing, witnesses said.

Earlier, at about nine in the morning, AL leaders and former ministers Abdur Razzak, Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya along with a handful of party activists tried to gather outside the party office to bring out a procession.

Police beat them indiscriminately, forcing the senior AL leaders

to get inside the party office. At around 10:20 am Motia Chowdhury along with a handful of female party activists tried to bring out a procession towards the Zero Point. But the tough-looking police officers stopped them at two points before they reached the Zero Point.

Motia asked the policemen whether the government had imposed Section 144 in the area. The policemen replied in the negative and could not say anything to justify their action.

Policemen and women police encircled Motia along with the group as they sat on the street in protest. Later, Abdur Razzak and Mohammad Nasim came out of the AL office to join the group at the Zero

A scuffle between them and police ensued. Abdur Razzak fell on

party office while Nasim made his

way up to the Zero Point. Some policemen then swooped on the sitting AL leaders and activists and on Nasim. They pulled one Faruq Ahmed by the collar, pushed him into a police vehicle and beat

whoever came by. Sitting there for over an hour, as Nasim, Motia and other party leaders and workers started returning to the party office, police charged batons again and picked up some of the activists.

At that stage, some AL activists vented their anger by throwing home- made bombs on streets

Except in Bangabandhu Avenue-Zero Point area, no untoward incident took place anywhere in the city during the hartal hours.

But shops and business establishments remained closed. Vehicles plied almost normally as there was hardly any picketing because police barred AL activists from assembling and bringing out any procession. Talking to newsmen later. Motia

Chowdhury blasted the government for "infringing on the right to assem-

Nasim wondered at the police action and said, " I do not understand what prompted them to be so ruthless while not a single vehicle was burnt or damaged in the city during the hartal."

A dagger was recovered from his possession. Sonadanga thana OC said Arif is

At least 24 armed cadres of PBCP

# in Khulna

thana of Khulna district.

Hemavet and Rafique were

## FROM PAGE 12

Although the Central Library

Besides, the JCD brought out a procession and held a rally on the

hour on the campus.

pressure in the Bay of Bengal and

As the cool air blew across the were also having good business.

themselves huddling around fire.

### Road accidents

FROM PAGE 12

about 45 succumbed to her injuries on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Those admitted to the MMCH are Chandra Banu. 40. Motaleb, 35, Joinuddin, 60. Rabiul. 35. Bakul. 22. Rashida Begum. Saiful Islam, Aklima, 30, Rupa, 20, Jalal, 32, Rasel, 20, Saiful Islam, 25, Jabed Ali, 50, Farida Yesmin, 18, and Abdul Khaleque, 50.

Our correspondent from Magura adds: Two persons were killed and another was injured in a road accident at Hoolinagar on Magura-Dhaka highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Jessorebound truck collided head on with a Raibari-bound private car at around 10:30 am.

The dead were identified as Akter Hossain, BTTB Engineer, Magura, and Khokon, driver of the car.

The injured Kazi Sohel Ahmed is a sub assistant engineer of BTTB,

# Suicide blasts

Palestinian cities Palestinian police were ordered to evacuate their stations.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was due to rush home from Washington after a meeting with US President George W. Bush was brought forward to allow him to return and oversee Israel's response to the devastating bomb-

Washington led an unequivocal chorus of international calls on Arafat to finally use his large, armed security services to jail extremists dismantle their organisations and live up to his promises to make 100 per cent effort against groups opposed to any peace with Israel.

Zinni said he had spoken with the Palestinian leader immediately after the suicide blasts and "made absolutely clear that those responsible for planning and carrying out these attacks must be found and brought

"This is an urgent task and there can be no delay nor excuses found for not acting decisively," said the retired Marine Corps general.

Secretary of State Colin Powell. who dispatched Zinni and Assistant Secretary of State William Burns to the region Monday to break the cycle of bloodshed, also called Arafat and demanded "immediate



# PM's statement a blatant lie: Hasina

various development works during AL rule, said there was upward trend in all the indicators of the economy and other sectors. "My question to her (prime minister) is, can she support her statement with proper statistics?"

She evaded repeated questions the law providing for state security to Nation. She did not say anything also about yesterday's hartal called by her party protesting scrapping of the security law.

Asked about assault of an AL lawmaker by the law enforcers doing is totally fascist."

She went on, "The signs are not good in the first 50 days of the fourparty alliance government." However, the Opposition Leader

ping a moratorium on the activities of the central committee of JCD, student front of the ruling BNP. "Although she (Khaleda) was forced to take the step as she couldn't control her (party's) student front's widespread terrorist activities, I thank her for realising the fact." When her attention was drawn to

the Khaleda Zia's statement that if necessary, the government would frame laws to ban student politics. the AL chief said, "This is like cutting one's head for headache. About Khaleda's statement that

creating chaos in the name of politics, Hasina said "Such threats won't work. They (the government) won't be able to save themselves from

### BNP denies anti-hartal programmes

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling party made it clear that neither BNP nor any of its front organisations had any programme in the capital during yesterday's hartal called by Awami League.

"But we came to know that some people chanted slogans near the Awami League central office in Bangabandhu Avenue area against hartal for mysterious reasons," said a press release issued by Emran Saleh Prince, assistant office secretary of BNP. Knowing about the matter, the

sure against the mysterious peo-"BNP or any of its front organisations has no relation with those people," said the release steering clear of the allegation of ruling party

BNP leaders instructed the authori-

ties concerned to take "legal mea-

activists' anti-hartal role. Seeking their immediate arrest for their outlandish behaviour, BNP asked the people to unveil the motives behind the 'mysterious

could not remain in power through "farcical election in 1996 and killing people. They were forced to quit power in the face of peoples' move-Giving statistics, the AL chief said

The AL chief said they (BNP)

per capita calorie intake rose to 2300 kilo calorie in 2000 from 2001 in 1996 and literacy rate was more than 65 per cent when they (AL) left power. She also said that due to the AL government's development efforts,

index was showing a downward trend, falling to 32 from 47 in 1996. Hasina said when they came to power, there was Tk 800 crore excess liquidity in banks, but they left

average life expectancy jumped to

62 years from 58.6 years and poverty

Tk 5000 crore excess liquidity. During her party's rule, she said, the country became surplus in food production. Export increased by US\$ 2993, revenue earnings jumped to Tk 24,173 crore in FY 01 from Tk 15,512 crore in 96, development budget increased to Tk 18,200 crore in FY 01 from Tk 10,016 crore in 96.

She also listed that the national savings rate went up to 23.78 per cent in FY01 from 20.17 in 96, public investment jumped to 2.36 per cent in FY01 from 1.99 per cent in 96 and private investment rose to 15.72 per cent in FY01 from 13.58 per cent in

"If there was no development during our tenure, how it was possible to achieve those," Hasina said.

### public wrath. People don't care such no one would be spared if found

threats."

from newsmen about scrapping of family members of the Father of the

yesterday, Hasina said, "Even before the four-party alliance took over power, their activists went for widespread terrorist activities, tortured opponents and members of the minority community. What they are

thanked the prime minister for slap-

"We're not in any rush," said Mohammed Anwar, an ally of Gul Agha, the former governor of Kandahar whose fighters held positions on a strategic road between Kandahar and nearby

targeted by airstrikes. Anti-Taliban forces claimed U.S. bombing raids had mistakenly destroyed one of their headquarters in Afghanistan's mountainous east early yesterday killing at least eight people. There was no immediate

Spinboldak, another Taliban outpost

comment from U.S. officials. More than 1,000 U.S. Marines are stationed at a desert base about 110 kilometers southwest of Kandahar, Aspokesman for the U.S. Marine task force said the patrols had had no direct encounters with

Taliban troops. As well as hitting positions around Kandahar in Afghanistan's south, air strikes pounded sites near Jalalabad. U.S officials say both locations are possible hiding spots for prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden and members of his alKabul he believed bin Laden was hiding in one of three provinces

around Kandahar Uruzgan, Zabul

or Helmand. Sources said Taliban forces, as well as an undetermined number of Arab and other foreign Muslim fighters loyal to bin Laden, were moving from place to place around

Kandahar to avoid air strikes. "The Arabs want to fight to the death." said one man who identified

himself only as Aminullah. AFP from Paris adds: A group of 40 French troops arrived in Afghanistan Saturday, landing at the airport in the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif, the French Defence

The group is the advanced party for a French force whose mission is "to secure the airport perimeter during work to repair the runway,' the ministry said in a statement.

Ministry announced.

Last month the full 60-strong French contingent arrived in southern Uzbekistan, which borders Afghanistan ahead of the deployment in Mazar-i-Sharif.

thing; laid the foundation, mobilised the funds and started construction works of the bridge," the finance minister said. "They have no right to name the bridge after Bangabandhu.

late AL leader MA Hannan, Saifur pointed out. "Hannan was a labour single paisa towards the construc-

The finance minister announced that he would guit the parliament if anyone could prove that there had been any significant development work in Sylhet during the AL term. "Credit goes to us for whatever development has so far taken place in Sylhet. The Awami League did nothing but putting names of Sheikh Hasina and Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury on various institutions

we had set up. Saifur came down heavily on his predecessor SAMS Kibria for the 1996 share market crash. "The firstclass-first finance minister does not understand the share market but the kitchen market in Mohammadpur. That the share market and the kitchen market are not the same is even better understood by MPs in the back bench," he said to the

Angered by the filing of two general diaries (GD) with the Kapashia and Sreepur police stations in Gazipur against Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the finance minister said. "Rule of law cannot exist in the country if a GD entry is accepted against the prime minister or the president. Law of jungle will then prevail. There should be a limit to making fun." an exited minister said. "There is no room for making

appeared oblivious of his present position when he behaved with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia the way he used to do as a BNP leader 'Keep an eye on time, because the madam will address the House," he told State Minister for Youth and

# Shun anarchy: Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

providing state security to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and . her sister Sheikh Rehana.

"Stop anarchy, join the parliament and discuss your problems here. We will extend all kinds of support to you," Khaleda, also the leader of the House, said. The prime minister also warned

the ruling party members of stern action if they were engaged in creating law and order. "We have got the mandate to serve the people and not any individual. We will take action against the troublemakers irrespective of their political affiliations," said Khaleda, reiterating her pledge to free the country of terror-In her 36-minute valedictory

speech on the presidential address to the House before the new parliaadded ment's maiden session was prorogued, the prime minister announced that a bill seeking restoration of women's reserved seats in the House would be placed in the parliament's next session. However the PM would not elaborate on the planned bill If needs be, she told the House

amidst cheers, her party would ban student politics in consultation with the lawmakers and people. The BNP chief referred to the suspension of activities of her party's student front Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal following allegation of terrorism against it. The prime minister assured the

House of setting up special tribunals to try the acid throwers and providng employment opportunities to the acid victims. She also promised to restrict the sale of acid to check its Alleging misrule, unbridled

corruption, nepotism and plunder-

ng of public wealth by the AL government, the prime minister commented: "The Awami League should have come to the parliament at least to make up for what they had done in the past five years. Instead, they called a hartal in the month of Ramadan although there was no eal issue whatsoever." Khaleda alleged the AL betrayed with the nation once again by calling

yesterday's hartal in complete

reversal of its earlier commitment

that it would never go for such kind

of agitation. "They talk tall but never

act accordingly. That's why, people no more trust them." She also accused the opposition party of betraying with the nation twice more earlier-- by contesting the national election in 1986 and by not keeping its election pledges

Khaleda also accused the AL government of failing to address pressing national problems like poverty and unemployment, which

she said, worsened during its rule "Prices of essentials had shot up and industrial production came to a halt. Price of electricity was raised nine times in the past five years." she said and promised developments in all sectors.

Dismissing criticism that the 60member council of ministers she is heading would cost the government hugely, the prime minister said so many ministers were needed to serve the people better and ensure development. "Expenditure can be substantially reduced if corruption is checked. Besides, there is nothing wrong with having 60 ministers in a coalition government. Similar number of ministers was also there in the past," she said. A large council of ministers could be a burden only for a corrupt government, she

She was in favour of more recruitment in the police, BDR and the civil administration to ensure good governance.

The BNP chief repeated her allegations that the AL had ruined the economy, politicised the administration and victimised the qualified civil servants while promoting its own people. The AL government borrowed heavily leaving the commercial banks bankrupt. "We don't want to do what the

Awami League has done." she said and thanked former president Shahabuddin Ahmad for touching on some of the misdeeds of the AL in his address to the parliament. "They should have thanked the president for not highlighting all their misdeeds. Had he done so, the Awami League would have no ground to go back to the people."

She also came down heavily on it for making allegation of massive rigging in the October 1 general election only after losing it. The AL chief did not accept the people's verdict despite the fact that she had promised to do so on many occasions earlier. The prime minister also cen-

sured the AL for "persecuting the Hindus and damaging temples as they vote for the four-party alliance". Train derails

FROM PAGE 12

Chittagong sections caused disruption of train communications on these routes for long eleven and a half hours. Later, the communication was restored after two relief trains from

Sadarpur and Rajapur on

Chittagong-Sylhet and Dhaka-

Laksam and Akhaura removed the derailed compartments at around 12.15pm. The cause of derailment could not be known as no high official of

the railway was available for imme-

# Symbolic role for Zahir ShadS tidbits

while in power.

Blasting the past government for naming the Chittagong airport after leader and he did not contribute a tion of the airport."

such kind of fun in a democracy." Hitting back at the AL for

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal while asking him to shorten his speech. When Patal asked how much

time he has been given, the speaker replied rather peculiarly. "Your time will be over whenever the light (on your microphone) will go off." Speaking on the presidential address to parliament, the state minister termed former home minis-

ter Mohammad Nasim a thoroughly

corrupt person. "But he would

appear to be the greatest angel

while speaking on the floor of the House. Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj found himself in an embarrassing position yesterday. He said 'no' while other members in the treasury bench had shouted 'ves' during the voice vote for passage of the bill seeking repeal of the law providing state security to former prime minister Sheikh

Rehana. Acknowledging the only 'no' vote, the speaker announced 'yes' vote had won. But a roaring treasury bench insisted that the Chair had better not acknowledge the 'no' vote and that the bill was passed unanimously. But the Chair declined to accept the treasury bench contention saying he had heard someone

At this stage, Communications

Minister Nazmul Huda jumped to his

Hasina and her sister Sheikh

feet, gestured at Siraj and said something, which was not audible in a noisy House. Siraj, who had probably said 'no' by mistake, refused to have done so. The speaker, however, was forced to ignore the 'no' vote and say

In a rather awkward attempt to have fun, Speaker Sircar called Land Minister M. Shamsul Islam a feudal lord. "You are the feudal lord of Bangladesh, Mr. Shamsul Islam," he said while giving him the floor.

that the bill was passed unani-

### Shatiqui

mously.

secretary was vacant since November 19 following retirement of Syed Marghub Murshed. Since the retirement of Marghub

but the government did not appoint any of those for their alleged controversial role during the tenure of the immediate past Awami League government. Sources in ruling BNP said the

government felt embarrassed when some top bureaucrats who will go on retirement soon started lobbying for the post. Moreover, the government

### warplanes were heavy and relent-FROM PAGE 12 the interim council in Germany, minister, Abdullah, told reporters in the Jamuna bridge. We did every-

Fawzi said. UN chief envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was prepared to travel immediately to Afghanistan to implement any deal.

It was not vet clear when an

international security force would be deployed, but Fawzi cautioned that it would take a little time to assem-Who exactly will have seats on the interim council is unclear, but envoys of Zahir Shah are demand-

ing a strong role for the exiled monarch. Northern Alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani's role also was unclear, although members of the ex-king's delegation said he would have none. Rabbani is currently recognised by the United Nations as head of state.

near Kandahar, the Taliban's last stronghold, yesterday as tribal warriors waited for a massive bombing attack to subside before resuming an assault on the city's airport.

Refugees who fled Kandahar for

neighbouring Pakistan said attacks

by U.S. B-52 bombers and other

house. But, on October 29 the BNP-

led coalition government cancelled

SSF security coverage, Hasina and

Rehana were eligible for some other

state facilities under the Act.

Apart from being entitled to the

Now that the Act has been

repealed. Hasina and Rehana will

get no special security. However,

Hasina being the leader of the

opposition in parliament is entitled

and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Moudud Ahmed was adopted

vesterday on the 50th day in office of

While moving the bill for its

passage, the law minister and

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, who

was in the chair, locked in an

uncalled for debate about the minis-

ter's scope for making a statement

However, Parliamentary Affairs

Advisor to Prime Minister

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar

intervened to resolve the difference.

consideration, the speaker asked

Delwar Hossain, an independent

lawmaker from Barguna-1, to move

Once the House took the bill into

The bill piloted by Law, Justice

to security as that of a minister.

the incumbent government.

on the bill.

In Kabul, armored convoys of

U.S. Marines patrolled the desert

State security law scrapped

his proposal to send the bill to the

Select Committee. But, the proposal

was not moved as the lawmaker did

not turn up at that time and the speaker went on to the next proceeding on the agenda. At one stage, the law minister rose to his feet and said, "Mr. Speaker, what's it?" showing his frustration at not being invited to speak on the bill. A visibly stunned speaker then repeated the proce-

dure. However, Moudud was

allowed to speak on the bill at the

final stage of the passage of the bill. Describing the provisions of the Special Security Forces Ordinance, 1986, the law minister said the Act was designed only to provide security to the president and the prime minister, not to any individual. "By enacting an special law, the immedi ate past Awami League government abused the SSF Ordinance," he observed.

Terming the law as ultra vires the constitution. Moudud said it was designed to manipulate the election process as the Awami League had sensed their defeat well ahead of the October 1 general election. "After repeal of the special law,

the leader of the opposition would

be provided with adequate security

administrative orders," Moudud told the House He referred to a letter from the leader of the opposition informing the government about her sched-

under the existing laws and by

of the law would save the national exchequer the additional expenditure, he added. The minister was also critical about yesterday's oppositionsponsored hartal in the city, saying that it was a shame to call hartal for

parliament yesterday witnessed the highest attendance since the first The speaker had to adjourn proceedings on November 29 when the number of lawmakers declined to 25 although presence of a mini-

next year. She also informed the House that the trip would cost the government Tk 78 lakh for her security purposes. The annulment

uled trip to the United States

between December 6 and January 3

Although the House has been facing lingering quorum crisis throughout the maiden session, the sitting on October 28.

an individual cause.

mum of 60 legislators is required to have quorum in the House.

delight of the House.

criticising the coalition government's move to export gas, the minister quoted from a production sharing contract (PSC) signed between a foreign company and the AL government on exploration of gas. "What was in your mind when you signed the PSC? Did you think of inhaling gas if not to export it?" a visibly angry Saifur said. He added that his government would export the gas if it was profitable. "What's wrong in exporting gas if it becomes surplus?"

# Murshed, some senior secretaries

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started hectic lobbying for the post

found none of them "reliable"