

Appointments, transfers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday made some fresh appointments, extension of services, transfers and cancellation of appointments of several officials.

Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division Prof Tahmina Hossain and Director General at the Prime Minister's Office MA Mazid were given a one-year extension each.

Prof AZM Iftekharul Awal of the history department of the Dhaka University has been appointed director general of the National Museum under a one-year contract.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 1		5-23 pm
Jan 2	6-42 am	

Prayer Timings		
Jan 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Jute bags to regain old glory today

REZAUL KARIM

With the ban on polythene shopping bags taking effect from today, different city markets are stockpiling environment-friendly jute bags.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) yesterday intensified its drive to sell jute bags and truckloads of its workers carrying festoons and banners raced to the city markets to drum up support for their use.

Eight jute mills under Khulna zone have gone on a jute bag production spree producing 80,000 pieces a day as polythene shopping

bags are going to be phased out across the country.

The production in the mills started following a decision at a high-profile meeting of the BJMC at its office Tuesday as the government banned production, sale and use of polythene shopping bags in capital Dhaka from Tuesday and elsewhere in the country from March 1. Officials said the bag-producing machines of the jute mills were closed for over a year as bag export virtually remained stopped for lack of market abroad. "And those machines now have gone into operation in full swing and bag production could be raised further by overhauling the faulty ones," said an official.

Of the total, 15,000 jute bags are being produced in People's Jute Mill, 20,000 in Crescent Jute Mill, 15,000 in Platinum Jute Mill, 7,000 in Daulatpur Jute Mill, 5,000 in Alim Jute Mill, 7,000 in Star Jute Mill, 6,000 in JJI Jute Mill, 5,000 Eastern Jute Mill per day.

The bags will be supplied to BJMC Dhaka office and later jute fabrics would be supplied to the businessmen so that they themselves could produce jute bags. The BJMC is currently producing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Toll collection JCD men at DU kidnap, torture egg trader

UNB, Dhaka

An egg trader, who was kidnapped and tortured at a Dhaka University dormitory on Sunday allegedly by ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Three JCD activists of the university's SM Hall unit allegedly kidnaped the trader.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Jubo League activist's house attacked: 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 10 people including a minor girl were injured when Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres attacked the house of a Jubo League activist at West Masdair in Narayanganj Sunday night.

The incident took place when Narayanganj district JCD president Zakir Khan and his men carrying firearms entered the house of Selim alias Tower Selim at 11:30pm Sunday and demanded Tk 5 lakh as

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

2001: Year of political significance

NAZMUL ASHRAF

The year 2001 saw many an event of enormous political gravity, the biggest one being the change in power that decided the country's destiny for the next five years, excepting eventualities, of course.

In fact, the year began with widespread speculations about the general election. And the early year politics revolved round the prospect of holding the election earlier than the schedule. Raging debates about whether an early election should take place or not continued punctuating the political front until the polls were finally held as per the schedule. Nevertheless, the last days of the Awami League government were marked by a series of explosions of powerful bombs that generated much of political heat and sometimes damaged the pro-election atmosphere.

The first bomb blast at a CPB rally at Paltan Maidan in January claimed four lives, the second one at the Ramna Batamul left 10 killed in April, the third one claimed 10 lives at the Baniachong church in June and the last one killed 22 at the Narayanganj AL office also in June. The mysterious explosions

prompted both government and opposition to blame each other for the heinous acts.

In February, the then AL government also had a testing time with Islamic zealots, who created law and order in Brahmanbaria and elsewhere while protesting a High Court verdict banning fatwa or religious edict and arrests of their leaders charged with inciting the murder of a police constable inside a city mosque.

The month long abduction of three foreigners at Rangamati hill district in February and a BDR-BSF battle leaving 19 dead at the Roumari frontier in April triggered a long-drawn political controversy and put the then government into an embarrassing situation.

The trouble-torn government seemed to have had a sigh of relief with the High Court reconfirming death sentence on 12 former army personnel in the Bangabandhu Murder Case in April when it was also widely appreciated for scrapping the notorious Vested Property Act.

At the fag end of its tenure, the AL government came under scathing criticism for enacting a special security law for the daughters of

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana. The controversial law came into being less than a month before the AL handed over power to the non-party caretaker government on July 15.

Although the AL's was the first ever government to complete a full term, it had to trudge a tough political road owing to mounting opposition pressure to quit and multi-dimensional events of great political fallout taking place.

The AL had even worse time with the caretaker government headed by Justice Latifur Rahman. The immediate-past ruling party was shocked, stunned and finally, angered by the steps the caretaker government took in a bid to neutralise the administration. The interim administration also dealt with some alleged irregularities by the AL government raising a constitutional debate on the mandate of such a government.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Tapan Chy new president of MCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tapan Chowdhury has been elected president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) for 2002.

Abdul Hafiz Choudhury has been elected Vice-president. The election was held at the 97th annual general meeting of the chamber body yesterday, said a press release.

C K Hyder will continue to work as Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer of MCCI, the press release said.

Tapan Chowdhury was the immediate past vice-president of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6