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AL acting GS for full resumption of indoor politics after Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday demanded resumption of indoor politics across the country immediately after Eid-ul-Fitr so that the political parties could make preparation for the local government polls.

"Elections to the city corporations and municipalities will be held in the coming days. So indoor politics should be allowed across the country so that we can get prepared," said Ashraf, who officially took over the charge of the AL acting general secretary on Sunday.

Talking to the journalists at the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital prior to the meeting of the party's youth front Jubo League's central working committee meeting, he also demanded lifting of the state of emergency as early as possible.

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## Ecneec gives go-ahead to Hatirjheel project

11 other schemes involving Tk 3,584cr also okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved Tk 1,474 crore Hatirjheel Integrated Development Project aimed to address much of the city's waterlogging and traffic congestion problems.

In addition, 11 other projects involving Tk 3,584 crore were also okayed in yesterday's meeting chaired by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed.

Starting this fiscal year, the Hatirjheel project will establish an east-west transport link in the capital stretching over Karwan Bazar-Tejgaon-Malibagh-Rampura-Gulshan belt. It will be

completed by 2010.

Once the project begins, the establishments falling under its 245-acre area including 15-storey BGMEA building, FBCCI and BKMEA buildings, fuelling stations and some residences, will come under demolition.

When the issue of demolition was raised at the meeting, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said that existing laws would take their due course in this regard, sources said.

Talking to the reporters after the meeting, Planning Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury could not confirm whether the BGMEA building will have to be demolished or not. "I can't confirm you as the project paper is not with me."

The meeting approved Tk 5,058 crore for implementing the 12 projects, including the Hatirjheel project. Of the total expenditure, Tk 1,609 crore comes from the donors.

The government will have to acquire nearly 245 acres of land involving Tk 1010 crore to implement the long-awaited project. Of the land, 133.40 acres are government properties while 111.3434 acres are under private ownership.

To acquire the private land, the government will have to pay Tk 459.48 crore while the government land will be acquired through book of transfer.

Under the project, the Begunbari canal will be dredged to prevent flooding and waterlogging.

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Markets buzzing with shoppers

WASIM BIN HABIB and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Although the residents of the capital usually go on shopping sprees ahead of the two biggest religious festivals -- the Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja -- the low-income group people are finding it hard to buy something new for themselves and for their family and friends this holiday season.

Readymade garments and fabrics are usually the items the holiday shoppers buy ahead of the Eid and the Puja, which are arriving back to back again this year.

Traders in different city markets, where the shoppers of modest income usually shop, said a large number of people are crowding the

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PHOTO: STAR

Women throng a boutique on Bailey Road in the capital yesterday as the rush to complete Eid shopping gathers momentum.

Trial of some offenders a signal to others

Says Mainul

UNB, Dhaka

Law Adviser Mainul Hossain has said it is not possible to try all the offences, but some offenders have been tried to send out a signal to others so they abstain from wrongdoings.

"It has not been possible to try all the offences in any country of the world, some offenders are tried to set examples," he told a function marking the distribution of share certificates of Dhaka Reporters (DRU) Unity's multipurpose cooperative Ltd at its auditorium.

Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury was present at the function as special guest.

The law adviser said now it is not that much important to detect who had committed how much corruption in the past as "we'll have to work with a positive attitude."

In his self-evaluation of the caretaker government's activities in the past eight months, he said, "We had to do many things out of compulsion, but now we perceive

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PHOTO: STAR

Ticket brokers encircle a couple on a rickshaw as they arrive at Sayedabad Bus Terminal in the capital yesterday despite law enforcers' attempts to keep homebound people free from such hassle during Eid.

'Knockout mice' earn US-British trio Nobel Medicine Prize

AFP, Stockholm

Mario Capecchi and Oliver Smithies of the United States and Martin Evans of Britain won the Nobel Medicine Prize yesterday for their work in creating "knockout mice," the 21st-century testbed for biomedical research.

The trio were honoured for discovering how to genetically manipulate mouse embryonic stem cells, leading to lab rodents that replicate human disease, the Nobel jury said in its citation.

Their ground-breaking discoveries concerning embryonic stem cells and DNA recombination in mammals... led to the creation of an immensely powerful technology," the committee said.

The discovery is technically called gene targeting but is commonly known as gene "knockout."

Engineered mice provide researchers with a lab model that is yielding insights into the fundamentals of diseases ranging from Alzheimer's to cancer and the response to new drugs, the jury said.

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## B Chowdhury calls for govt of national consensus for 10yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called for a "government of national consensus" for next ten years comprising all democratic and patriotic political parties that believe in common development programmes.

"In order to bring peace and prosperity in our country and to prevent hartal, demonstrations, damage of public property and bloodshed in the post-election period, we need a government of national consensus for at least ten years," Badruddoza Chowdhury said at an iftar party at city's Sheraton Hotel.

The former president arranged the iftar party in honour of leaders of political parties and civil society and diplomats.

Political party leaders including Awami League (AL) acting President Zillur Rahman, Jatiya Party (JP) chairman HM Ershad, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu, and BNP leader Lt Gen Mir Shawkat Ali appreciated his proposal of bringing unity among the political parties.

ties.

In his speech, B Chowdhury urged the political parties to end politics of hatred, retaliation, violence, killings and lies and also refrain from attacking processions or meetings.

He also called upon them not to spread hatred against national leaders of the past or present for political gain.

"Politicians will finally form government and rule the country. Politics cannot run without politicians and political parties," he also said.

He hoped that the present caretaker government will hand over power to an elected government by 2008.

B Chowdhury urged the government to allow holding council meetings as well as public meetings and organising political parties.

AL acting president Zillur Rahman told the journalists that it's a good proposal. Unity among the political parties is essential for the nation, he added.

HM Ershad in his reaction said division between the political parties should come to an end.

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Delwar protests Mainul's comment on 'govt plan' for Khaleda, Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising Law Adviser Mainul Hossain for his comment on the government's "exit-plan" for Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and BNP chief Khaleda Zia, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said

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Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

Iftar Sehri

5.41 PM 4.34 AM

Sehri, Iftar timings				
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar	
26	9		5-41	
27	10	4-34	5-41	
28	11	4-35	5-40	

Prayer Timing			
October 9			
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-34	4-44	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-15	4-30	
Maghrib	5-41	5-56	
Esha	7-30	8-00	

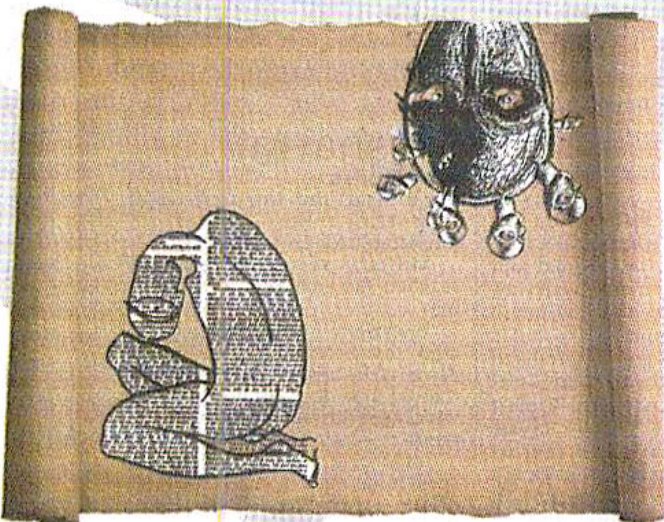
Source: Islamic Foundation

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Star Literature

Eid Special Issue!



Hitting the newsstands on October 10 with the daily newspaper, it contains original and brand-new translations of fourteen Bengali authors.

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Designed to give translation efforts in Bangladesh a much-needed boost, this volume promises to be both entertaining and provide food for thought.

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## Chopper escorting Musharraf crashes: 4 soldiers killed

AFP, Muzaffarabad

A helicopter escorting President Pervez Musharraf to an earthquake memorial crashed in Pakistani Kashmir yesterday, killing four troops and wounding his spokesman, officials said.

Musharraf was unharmed and his own chopper landed in Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, where he was presiding over a ceremony in remembrance of the 73,000 people killed in the October 8, 2005 quake, they said.

"The chopper was in the party going with the president when a technical fault developed, causing it to crash land and catch fire," chief military spokesman Major General

Wahed Arshad told AFP.

"Four troops were killed. Major General retired Rashid Qureshi was also injured but he is out of danger," said Arshad, referring to Musharraf's official spokesman.

Another three people were injured including two security officials while the pilot of the Russian-built Mi-17 military chopper was unhurt.

"The president himself has reached his destination. The helicopter that crashed was behind the president's," Arshad added.

The helicopter was completely burned out and smashed into several pieces, according to an AFP correspondent at the scene of the

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## Myanmar junta seeks reconciliation with monks

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's military junta has donated thousands of dollars as well as food and medicines to monasteries in Yangon, state media reported Monday, in an apparent gesture of reconciliation.

Buddhist monks had last month declared a boycott on donations from soldiers and their families as they spearheaded mass protests, which brought as many as 100,000 people onto the streets of the nation's main city.

The monks were beaten and arrested when the ruling generals reacted to the biggest threat to their rule in 20 years with a bloody crackdown that left at least 13 people dead and more than 2,100 locked

up.

The official New Light of Myanmar newspaper said Lieutenant General Myint Swe of the defence ministry Sunday distributed about 8,000 dollars in cash and huge amounts of rice, cooking oil, toothpaste and medicine to 50 monasteries and a nunnery in northern Yangon.

The paper, a government mouthpiece, said the donations were made on behalf of military members and their families, and were accepted by the monks.

In Buddhism, refusing to take alms is regarded as a snub akin to effective excommunication, and acceptance of the gifts would indicate the soldiers have been

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What does the opposition want to oppose?

Turning point Bangladesh Ec