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Namgyel new Bhutan king

AFP, Thimphu
The isolated Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan crowned a new king yesterday, placing a charismatic Oxford-educated bachelor as head of state of the world's newest democracy.
With the rest of the world gripped by the historic US election win for Barack Obama, all eyes in Bhutan were on 28-year-old Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, now

New alliance in the offing

Bikalpadhara, LDP target roping in BNP reformists, forge coalition to contest polls with or without AL

SURANIETH DEABNATH and WASIM BIN HABIB
The Bikalpadhara Bangladesh and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are targeting the BNP reformists to contest the upcoming national election as a separate electoral alliance if BNP boycotts the poll.
However, this new alliance, if formed by AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury-led Bikalpadhara and Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmad-led LDP, would join the Awami League-led grand alliance if BNP contests the December 18 election, say insiders.
Recently, many pro-reformation BNP leaders including former ministers and legislators have contacted LDP and Bikalpadhara top brass in fear of not getting party tickets, they added.
Around 30 to 40 reformist BNP leaders will join the new electoral alliance if they are denied BNP nomination or party chief Khaleda Zia refuses to take part in the poll, sources say.
"Some reformist BNP leaders have communicated with me and agreed to join us. But they have yet to take a final decision," Bikalpadhara President B Chowdhury told The Daily Star. He however denied revealing the names of the aspirant leaders.
Similarly, LDP presidium member Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan said around 10 to 20 BNP reformists are keeping in touch. "They will agree to join us because they know very well Khaleda Zia won't compromise with them," he said.
Some leaders from LDP and Bikalpadhara also said Dr Kamal Hossain-led Gono Forum, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan-led reformist BNP leaders, Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi-led Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), Major General (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim-led Bangladesh Kalyan Party and some other small parties might join them.
They would demand around 50 seats from the grand alliance if

ACC won't sue Khaleda, Hasina on wealth matter

No evidence found to prove illegal means

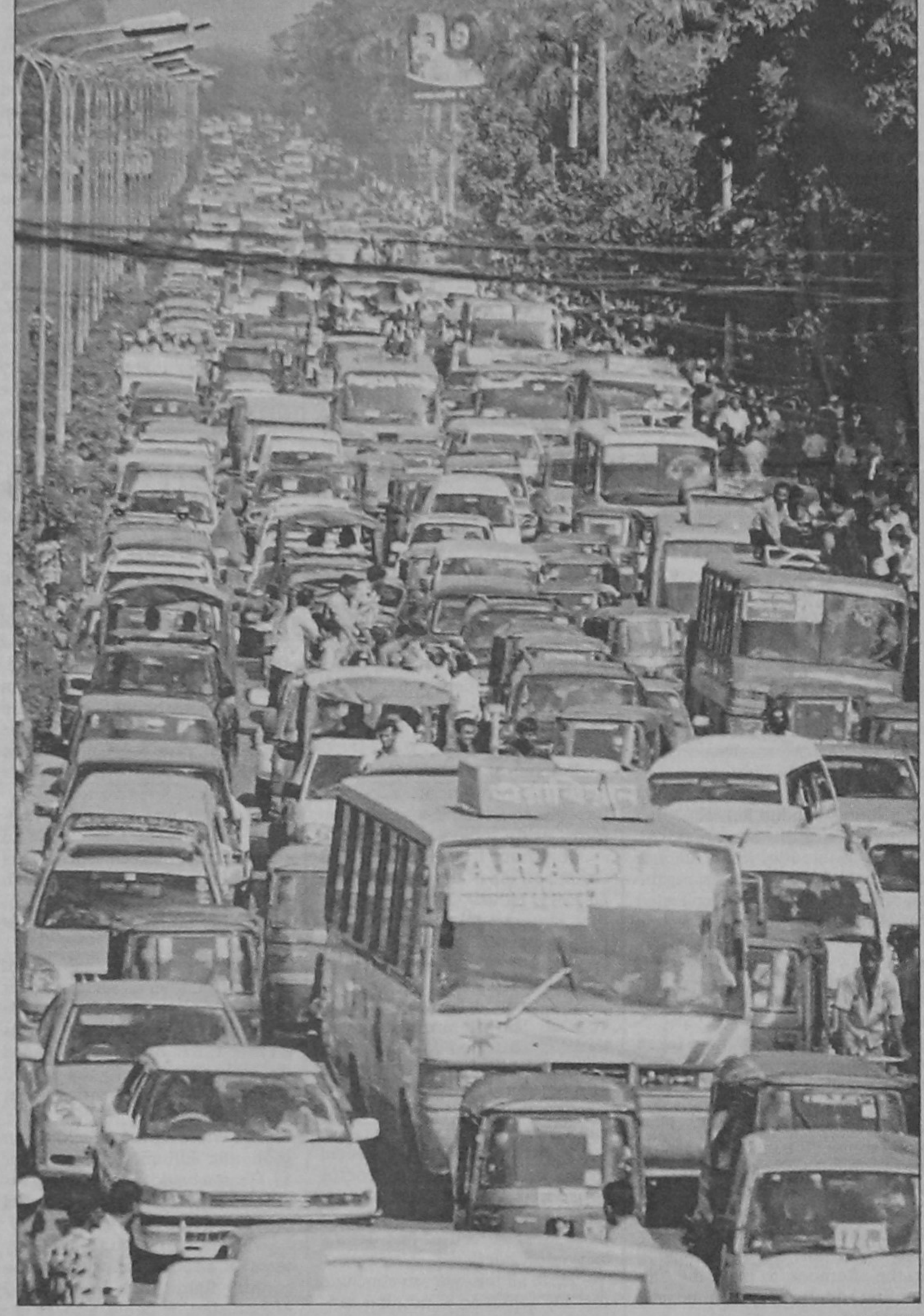
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will not file any case against former prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia regarding their wealth.
"The ACC has decided to add in its record that enquiry did not find any evidence regarding Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia amassing wealth through illegal means," said ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal at a routine press briefing yesterday.
The ACC took this decision after a year-long enquiry.
The commission yesterday also decided to forward to the government for disposal the allegation against ACC chief Hasan Mashhudi Chowdhury of laundering Tk 20.41 crore from Trust Bank.
Former executive chairman of the Board of Investment



Horn-speakers are brought in for today's BNP rally at Laidighi Maidan in Chittagong. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is scheduled to address the rally, the first since her release.

Concern over mosque-based child education project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Thirty-five eminent citizens in a letter to the chief adviser urged the advisory council of the government not to approve the "Mosque-based Child Education Project".
The civil society members strongly criticised the government move in this regard and sent the letter to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed Tuesday with their arguments against the project.
The renowned citizens said, "The project is discriminatory and contradicts the constitution."
Quoting a few recent newspaper reports, they said Tk 650 crore has been allocated to provide primary education to children in villages through 36,000 madrasahs (Islamic elementary schools), 12,000 Quran centres and



Vehicles on Airport Road at Banani crawl as the motorcade of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina trundles ahead of them yesterday.

Daewoo starts pulling out of disputed waters

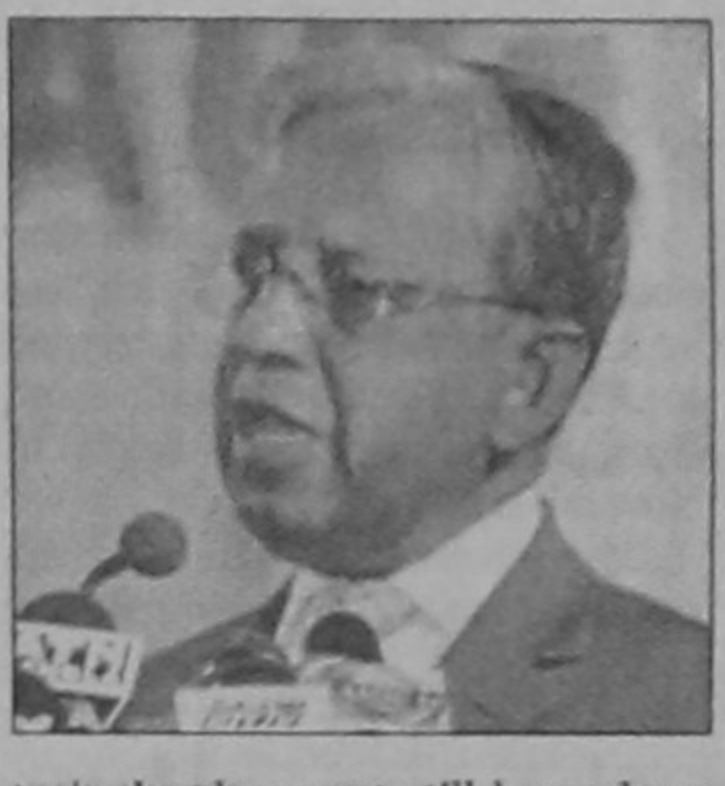
Adviser says after high-level meeting on Myanmar issue

UNB, Dhaka
The Daewoo-Myanmar Company has already initiated the process of withdrawal of the installation placed in the disputed waters of the Bay of Bengal claimed by Bangladesh as her territorial waters.
Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury stated this based on the information received from the government sources of the Republic of Korea.
"This is indeed good news, if true, and would mean that our initiatives have paid off," he said.

CA spurs businesses on to middle-income nation goal

Opens Batexpo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday suggested that the next elected government should maintain the current growth rate of businesses to make the country a middle-income country by 2020.
He said if the factories, industries, businesses and trade cannot be expanded further, the goal of poverty reduction will not be achieved.
Suggesting that manufacturers be more competitive by raising productivity, the chief adviser said Bangladesh should not be complacent about the ready-made garment (RMG) business as the sec-



tor's development still has a long way to go.
"Ensuring enhanced productivity in factories will ensure better life for garment workers, owners and customers," Fakhruddin said.
He said it is logical that the garment-factory owners give dearness allowances to workers as the government has already increased the salary of government employees last July through dearness allowance.
The garment factory owners should be more sincere in paying workers' salaries, dues and allowances, said Fakhruddin during the inaugural session of the 19th Batexpo at the city's Hotel Sonargaon. He was speaking as the chief guest.
Bangladesh Garment

BSMMU high-ups take charge amid protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The newly appointed administrative officials of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) took up their duties at the hospital yesterday amid strong opposition from BNP backed doctors, nurses and employees.
BSMMU employees involved with the BNP affiliated Doctors Association of Bangladesh (Dab) continued their opposition to the new appointments, holding meetings and processions and chanting slogans demanding removal of the administrative team.
Led by Dab's BSMMU unit President Dr Saiful Islam Selim, the protesters submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser's office at around 10:30 am yesterday demanding cancellation of the new appointment order issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

17 killed in Pak suicide blast

17 more die in airstrikes

AFP, Khar
Seventeen people died when a suicide bomber struck a tribal meeting, while airstrikes pounded extremist targets in a Pakistani region known as a Taliban safe haven, officials said yesterday.
The 17 were killed and 45 injured when a suicide attacker blew himself up as a government-backed tribal force or "lashkar" met in Batmalai, about 40km from the main town of Bajaur district, Khar.
Pakistani military airstrikes elsewhere in the semi-autonomous northwest tribal region killed 17 including militants, a day after 15 rebels died in similar strikes, local officials said.
Pakistani forces have been involved in fierce clashes with al-Qaeda and Taliban-linked militants since a military operation was launched in Bajaur in August.
The Pakistani military said last month that some 1,500 rebels and

10 burnt alive

Acid-laden truck hits bus

UNB, Comilla
Ten passengers were burnt alive and 30 others injured as a bus caught fire after a collision with an acid-laden truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Korpai under Burichong upazila yesterday.
Police and witnesses said the fatal accident took place when the Chittagong-bound Unique Paribahan bus from Dhaka collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound truck carrying acid containers from Chittagong at around 3:30pm.
Police quoted witnesses as saying that the collision occurred between the two vehicles as the driver of the truck suddenly took a right turn to save a female passer-by.
They said the bus caught fire as acid poured into it from broken containers. Five of the male passengers were burnt to death on the spot while 35 others injured.

AL NOMINATION 5 more forms collected for Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Some 949 nomination-seekers of Awami League (AL) collected forms from the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday, on the second day of selling nomination forms.
Five nomination forms were sold yesterday for AL President Sheikh Hasina for Khulna 1 and 4, Bagerhat-1, Barisal-1 and Gopalganj 3 parliamentary seats.

Prayer Timing		
November 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Speculation swirls about Obama appointments

AP, IANS, CNN, Washington
While President-elect Barack Obama enjoyed a few days with his family after a hard-fought election, speculation swirled in the nation's capital around potential administration appointees.
Obama pivoted quickly to begin filling out his team on Wednesday, selecting hard-charging Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel as White House chief of staff while aides stepped up the pace of transition work that had been cloaked in pre-election secrecy.
Several Democrats confirmed that Emanuel had been offered the job. While it was not clear he had accepted, a rejection would amount to an unlikely public snub of the new president-elect within hours of an electoral college landslide.
Obama has promised to hold a news conference later in the week. As president-elect, he begins receiving highly classified briefings from top intelligence officials Thursday.
In offering the post of White House chief of staff to Emanuel, Obama turned to a fellow Chicago politician with a far different style from his own, a man known for his bluntness as well as his single-minded determination.
Emanuel was a political and policy aide in Bill Clinton's White House. Leaving that, he turned to investment banking, then won a Chicago-area House seat six years ago. In Congress, he moved quickly into the leadership. As chairman of the Democratic campaign committee in 2006, he played an instrumental role in restoring his party to power after 12 years in the minority.
Emanuel maintained neutrality during the long primary battle between Obama and Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton, not surprising given his long-standing ties to the former first lady and his Illinois connections with Obama.
The day after the election there already was jockeying for Cabinet appointments.
Filling out his economic team is a top priority for Obama as he begins to implement a strategy to quell the economic crisis.
"This is one of the first times that I can remember that the secretary of the treasury is going to be almost as important as the secretary of state," said David Gergen, a senior political analyst for CNN, who served in the Reagan and Clinton administrations.
Names circulating for the secretary of the treasury position

Candidates' poll expenditure limit Tk 15 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced expenditure limit for candidates for campaigning in the next parliamentary elections, setting the ceiling of expenditure at maximum Tk 15 lakh for each contestant.
Each candidate will be allowed to spend Tk 5 for each voter, said an EC press release yesterday.
The commission also released the voter list as per the re-demarcation of constituencies.
A candidate will be allowed to spend up to Tk 15 lakh if the number of voters in a constituency crosses three lakh.
"As per the sub-clause of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) the Election commission has fixed Tk 5 to be spent by candidates for each voter in the parliamentary elections," said the press release.
According to the new list of

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Graduation Ceremony
Class of 2008

The Graduation Ceremony of Sunnydale school was held at Carnival of BCFC in the city recently. The chief guest renowned historian Prof. A.F. Salahuddin Ahmed along with the Chairman of the school Dr. Tanvir Ahmed Khan, Principal Tazeen Ahmed and Vice Principal Zeenat Afroza are seen with the students.