

26 CHANGHONG

Customer Care Center:

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 29, 2009

www.thedailystar.net

People's Right to Know

MAGH 16, 1415 BS
SAFAR 1, 1430 HIJRI
28 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TK 10.00

# New seat order unsettles JS

Opposition loses 13 seats in front two rows; PM sees no logic behind BNP walkout; meeting with speaker today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

arrangements, the BNP-led opposition ment. lawmakers yesterday walked out of parfrom a two-day recess.

Hamid of partisanship.

"It's not the ruling party, it's the Jamiruddin Sircar. speaker who has allotted us only four future of parliament under him," BNP leader MK Anwar told reporters after the walkout.

conducted himself today. Even though we termed the walkout 'unfortunate'. are a small opposition, he doesn't seem to

"In the circumstances, it will be tough In protest at the rearranged seating for us to play a constructive role in parlia- making it vibrant.

liament shortly after the House returned treasury and opposition failed to resolve the row over seat plans Tuesday, the They also accused Speaker Abdul speaker made some changes to the arrangements laid out by his predecessor

front-row seats. We are anxious about the eight seats in the first two rows on the left of his chair, down from 21.

Taking the floor to reply to queries from lawmakers, Prime Minister and "We are disappointed with the way he Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina

"I don't get the logic behind their

walkout," she said, urging the opposition to return to parliament and contribute to

About redistribution of seats, the After talks between chief whips of the prime minister said the present opposition has been given more than what the one in the last parliament got.

Jamiruddin Sircar, who was elected speaker in the previous parliament from BNP, gave the opposition lawmakers nine He gave the opposition lawmakers seats in the front row and 12 in the next.

His decision on the seating arrangements ignoring the treasury bench proposals annoyed the AL-led ruling alliance as many of their senior lawmakers and even ministers did not get seats in the front and second rows.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

#### Special JS body formed to check ordinances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday constituted a 15-member special committee to scrutinise ordinances to be tabled as bills and make recommendation on those till the formation of standing committees on different ministries.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee (Bac) at a meeting decided that the inaugural session would continue till February 26.

The legislature sits today at 4.45 pm and will have a 20 hours discussion on thanksgiving motion on the president's speech. On behalf of the Leader of

the House Sheikh Hasina, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid proposed the formation of the special committee and it was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## PM declares war on terror

Tells House that patrons, financiers to be tracked down; asks for steps to form regional taskforce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would not hesitate to take the stringent measures to curb militancy in the country.

"I have already directed all ministries and the authorities concerned to find out the militants' patrons, financers and sources of illegal arms and ammunitions to root out militancy," Hasina, also the leader of the House, said in her first question-answer session in the ninth parliament.

It was the previous Awami League government that introduced the prime minister's question-answer session in the seventh parliament



amending the rules of procedure.

Terming militancy a major problem in the country, the premier said she has already asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to form 'South Asian Anti-

terrorism Taskforce' in line with her party's election manifesto for curbing cross-border terrorism.

It will help track down militants and bring them to justice. It will also strengthen cooperation between the police forces and courts of the South Asian nations.

The lawmakers of the ruling AL-led alliance welcomed the premier's replies thumping desks amid boycott by the BNP-led opposition lawmakers who walked out of the House before the proceedings began.

Replying to a query from a lawmaker, the prime minister said she would not hesitate to SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## MRP alive again

Govt rushes with Tk 350cr project as int'l deadline ticks

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government has moved to expedite the introduction of machine-readable passports (MRP) as an international deadline for its implementation ends April next year.

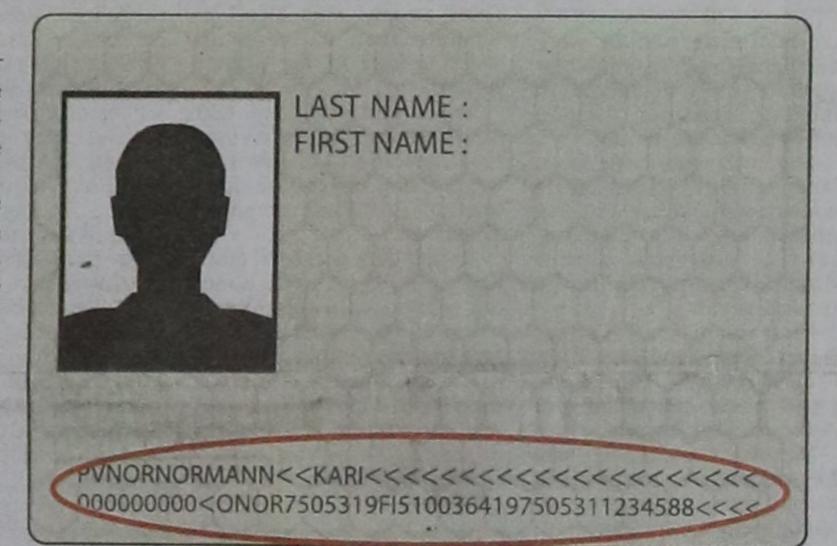
In a bid to implement a Tk 350 crore project for MRP and machine-readable visas (MRV) within this year, the government already finalised almost all necessary procedures to appoint a consultant firm.

An international tender will also be floated soon to start the implementation of the project, said officials at the home ministry.

The home ministry needs Tk 7 crore to appoint the consultant firm HJP Consulting. Based in Paderborn, Germany, HJP is an international firm of consultants specialised in planning and testing of smartcard solutions with a particular emphasis on epassport and the health sector.

The home ministry yesterday held a meeting with the Department of Immigration and Passport and other officials concerned at the ministry to review all aspects of the project.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7



Machine-readable passports must follow the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). ICAO specifies standards regarding passport size, photograph size, arrangement of biographic data fields, and two lines of text as letters, numbers and chevrons (<<<) at the bottom of the data page, along with the passport holder's picture. Machine-readable passports contain data [machine-readable zone shown in red circle] that can be scanned automatically by a special device.

#### PM calls for constructive student politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she is not in favour of banning the student politics in the country's educational institutions but she said students' approach should be positive and constructive.

"I myself was involved in the student politics. I find nothing wrong with the student politics. But their (students') approach should be positive and constructive," Hasina told Foreign Secretary of Germany Reinhard Silberberg when he called on her at the Prime Minister's Office.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed this to the newsmen after the meeting.

Press secretary Azad said the prime minister stressed the need for motivating the student community to involve

## Telecoms watchdog made all too mighty Ordinance passed skirting ministry's

opposition, existing laws

SHARIER KHAN and MD HASAN

The caretaker government on December 22 approved an ordinance amending the Telecom Act, 2001 bypassing the telecoms ministry and in contradiction with existing laws, making BTRC extraordinarily powerful. The approval appears surprising as earlier

that month the finance ministry rejected BTRC's proposal to amend the Act to make it more powerful and financially independent. The finance ministry observed that many of

the proposals violate the constitution.

The ordinance gives Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) authority to call law enforces for any reason and any time to arrest persons violating the Act without warrant. It also says in dealing with telecoms related crimes, the punishment outlined in the ordinance will overrule any other laws of the land.

One of the major parts of the amended ordinance styled "Amended Telecom Act-2008" is SEE PAGE 2 COL 5 | that the telecom watchdog will have full control

of inquiry and investigation of any violation and at the same time no court can execute trial without report from BTRC investigators.

appoint any of commission officials as an

investigation officer to investigate related As per the amended ordinance (Section-18, clause-18), BTRC can recruit manpower and fix

It empowers the BTRC chairman is to

up their salary as per their wish without notifying the government concerned bodies concerned. Besides, it dictates a maximum financial penalty of Tk 500 crore instead of earlier Tk 10

lakh for violation of any section of the Act. Telecoms ministry sources say in the all inter-ministerial meetings the ministry officials stood against the BTRC proposals. But the

commission had it approved apparently by convincing the Ministry of Law and other authorities concerned, they add. Finance ministry insiders say the new judi-

cial power of BTRC officials enacted in the ordinance was beyond their knowledge. In the SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

### EC will not entertain anymore UZ complaints

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) said yesterday it will not entertain any more complaints concerning the election to upazila parishads, and complainants have to lodge cases with the election tribunals in districts.

The EC announcement came as BNP, and many defeated contenders in the upazila polls continued to come up with complaints of massive irregularities in the January 22 polls. Talking to reporters at his

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### Modern education policy soon

Policy to be based on Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission report, says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will formulate the National Education Policy within three to four months based on the Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission report of 1974.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said this at a meeting with 30 renowned academicians at the secretariat yesterday. He said the entire education system from primary to tertiary

level would be re-designed according to the education policy. "There is no need to form a new education commission. Considering recommendations from the academicians, we have decided to prepare a National Education Policy based on the Qudrate-Khuda Commission's report," the education minister said.

He hoped that government will able to complete the education policy by three to four months adding the policy will guide us to free the country from illiteracy.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

#### 3-tier security for Biswa Ijtema

KAILASH SARKAR

A three-tier security system including helicopter patrol and close-circuit television (CCTV) monitoring has been set up in and around the Biswa Ijtema venue at Tongi. The three-day congregation will

start tomorrow. Around 11,000 security personnel from the Police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Armed Police Battalion (APBn), Ansar and several hundred members of various intelligence agencies will be deployed for the second largest Muslim congregation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



CO-SPONSOR REHAB FAIR CHITTAGONG

> Chittagong Club January 29 - 31

তভানুধ্যায়ীকে শোকের সাগরে ভাসিয়ে অকালেই এ পৃথিবী থেকে নিলেন চিরবিদায়। বিজ্ঞাপন শিল্প ব্যবস্থাপনায় অপরিমিত দায়িত্বোধ, কর্তব্যনিষ্ঠা, মধুর আচরণ এবং অনবদ্য সাংগঠনিক যোগ্যতা দিয়ে খুব অল্প সময়েই তিনি সমগ্র গণমাধ্যম শিল্পে হয়ে উঠেছিলেন সবার প্রিয় এক ব্যক্তিত্ব। এই কর্মপ্রিয় তরুণ নির্বাহীর অকাল মৃত্যুতে তাই শোকের ছায়া নেমে আসে দেশের সমগ্র গণমাধ্যম শিল্প ও জনসংযোগ জগতে। আগারগাও জনতা হাউজিং জামে মসজিদে জনাকীর্ণ নামাজে জানাজার পর মরহুমকে সাভারের চাপাইনস্থ গোরস্থানে দ্বিতীয় জানাজা শেষে দাফন করা হয়। আগামী শুক্রবার

মতহুম (মা) শহীদূল ইসলাম পানু

## াক করে বহবো এ শোক?

দেশের গণমাধ্যম, বিজ্ঞাপন শিল্প ও জনসংযোগ জগতের অতি প্রিয় মুখ, সম্ভাবনাময় তরুণ বিজ্ঞাপন ব্যক্তিত্ব সারা এ্যাডভারটাইজিং লিঃ এর প্রধান নির্বাহী ও পরিচালক মোঃ শহীদুল ইসলাম পানু আর নেই। গত সোমবার ২৬ জানুয়ারী ভোর ছয়টায় নিজ বাসভবনে অকমাৎ হৃদযন্ত্রের ক্রিয়া বন্ধ হয়ে তিনি ইস্তেকাল করেন (ইন্নালিল্লহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তার বয়স হয়েছিল ৩৪ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, একমাত্র পুত্র সন্তান, স্নেহময়ী জননী, পাঁচ ভাই, দুই বোন, অসংখ্য আত্মীয় পরিজন, গুণগ্রাহী ও

৩০ জানুয়ারী ০৯ বাদ-আছর বাড়ী নং-১৩, রোড নং-৫, জনতা হাউজিং, পশ্চিম আগারগাঁওস্থ নিজ বাসভবনে মরহম মোঃ শহীদুল ইসলাম (পানু)র কুলখানি অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। কুলখানিতে অংশ নিয়ে দোয়ায় শামিল হ্বার জন্য মরহুমের অগ্রজ জনাব আলহাজু মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম সিকদার, জনাব মোঃ হারুন-অর-রশিদ, অনুজ জনাব মোঃ আনোয়ার হোসেন মিন্টু, ইঞ্জিনিয়ার মোঃ জাকির হোসেন ও মোঃ মনির হোসেন মরন্থমের সকল আত্মীয় পরিজন ও গুণগ্রাহীর প্রতি বিনীত অনুরোধ জানিয়েছেন।

ত্রী সারা এ্যাডভারটাইজিং লিমিটেড-এর পরিচালকমন্ডলী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মীবৃন্দ

Home... Live n' Enjoy Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd 8857230, 8857231, 8857232, 8857233, 8857234 8857495, 8857496, 8857497, 8857498, 8857499 91 Gulshan Avenue Dhaka Fax: 880 2 8828272 E-mail: asset@agnl.com (Office Of Corporate & Management Services)

Mobile: 01713 018405, 01713 032448, 01713 044911 01713 005055, 01714 018887, 01714 039847 01714 039843, 01711 438431 01711 426854, 01713 048558