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## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

# Govt to leave the act alone

### Says under-donor-pressure finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pressured by developing partners including the World Bank, the finance minister has moved to restore in Public Procurement Act the previously dropped provision for having prior experience and discontinue the lottery system for getting government work up to Tk 2 crore.

A cabinet meeting had recently dropped the provision and included the lottery system in the act.

A few senior colleagues of Finance Minister AMA Muhith, however, raised objection to the move at a meeting yesterday, but no decision was finalised.

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Planning Minister AK Khandker and prime minister's adviser Dr Moshir Rahman, among others, attended the meeting at the Cabinet Division.

A proposal was made early this month to amend the PPA to include the provision for having no experience and a lottery system for getting government development work up to Tk 2 crore. But donors reacted to the move negatively, planning ministry sources said.

In September, an initiative was taken to amend rules under Public Procurement Regulation (amendment). The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank wrote letters to the government, expressing their strong negative reactions.

A relaxed amendment was then gazetted, accommodating both streams of the thoughts. But under pressure from ministers

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Patients stand with dismay at Salimullah Medical College outdoor, which was closed for several hours yesterday following a demonstration of a Chhatra League faction. Inset, family members move a pregnant woman to another hospital getting no treatment there.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

## MITFORD HOSPITAL

# BCL men shut emergency for hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The outdoor department and emergency ward of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital remained closed for several hours yesterday due to a demonstration staged by a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League in protest at Saturday's attack on them by another BCL faction.

Hospital sources said the outdoor service came to a stop at 11:00am while the emergency ward was closed for two hours.

Several hundred outdoor patients had to leave the hospital without receiving any treatment and some patients at the emergency ward moved to other hospitals. No classes were held in the college, the sources added.

On Saturday night, at least 20 students were injured and 12 dormitory rooms ransacked as two BCL factions clashed at the college.

The demonstration led by Javed and Liton was staged in front of the college at about 8:00am yesterday demanding

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## Declare Hafiz winner in Bhola-3

BNP asks EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) either to declare Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed winner for Bhola-3 constituency or hold re-election only among the valid candidates in December 29, 2008 polls.

The party said any initiative to hold by-election in the constituency will be a step towards injustice and a transparent election will not be possible under the present Election Commission.

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## 2 Hizb ut offices raided

### Publications seized; banks asked to freeze all accounts of the banned outfit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday raided the Dhaka central office and Sylhet divisional office of recently banned Islamist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, and seized its publications, and various other documents and properties.

The same day Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued an order to all banks across the country to freeze all accounts of the banned outfit.

The central bank gave the instruction according to the Anti-terrorism Act 2009 which empowers the authorities to freeze bank accounts of any banned outfit.

Meanwhile, police kept Mohiuddin Ahmed, coordinator and spokesman of Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, who is also an associate professor of the Institute of Business Administration,

confined to his residence on Green Road in the capital all through the day yesterday.

"We'll arrest him if the authorities instruct us to do so," said a Detective Branch official, wishing anonymity.

A large contingent of Motijheel police raided the head office of the banned outfit on the fourth floor of Siddique Mansion at Purana Paltan around 12 noon and seized several computers, several hundred CDs, a large number of books, leaflets, posters, and various other materials.

The raid came after a Dhaka court permitted it along with seizure of publications and properties of Hizb ut-Tahrir which the government had banned on October 22 saying the group is a threat to public security. After the four-hour drive police shut down the office.

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## PM leaves Sweden for Qatar

AGENCIES, Stockholm

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left here yesterday morning for Doha on a two-day official visit to Qatar after ending her five-day official visit to Swedish capital Stockholm.

She will meet Qatar Amir Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at Diwan Amiri today to discuss mainly issues of manpower and investment.

The prime minister will also visit a Bangladesh school in Doha.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes will

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## Nuke agreement with Russia signed

### Deal aims at setting up power plant

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh signed with Russia a protocol deal on cooperation in the field of peaceful usage of atomic energy as the country plans to install a nuclear power plant.

The agreement was signed in the Russian capital, Moscow, on October 21 during the visit of a nine-member Bangladesh delegation headed by State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman, according to a message received here yesterday.

M Neazuddin Miah, additional secretary of the Ministry of Science and ICT of Bangladesh,

and Mikhail N Lysenko, director of the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" of Russia, signed the accord on behalf of their respective governments.

The Bangladesh delegation visited Russia on October 18-22 for spot inspections of Russia's nuclear sites preceding the deal signing, following a series of talks between the two sides.

According to the protocol, a joint working group between Bangladesh and Russia will be formed and its composition and schedule of work be defined in the working process, the message said.

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A police official pulls a sign off the door at the Hizb ut-Tahrir's Purana Paltan office yesterday. Law enforcers busted the Dhaka central office and Sylhet divisional office of the recently banned organisation.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Govt to plug illegal entry of Rohingyas

### Law enforcers asked to take steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday directed the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Coastguards and the local administration in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to take measures to prevent further illegal entry of Rohingyas into Bangladesh.

The National Committee on Prevention of Smuggling at a meeting with Home Minister Sahara Khatun in chair also asked the local administration to bring the patrons of the Rohingya intruders to book.

"A number of steps have been taken to stop influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar into Bangladesh" home secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told reporters after the meeting, held at the conference room of the home ministry.

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## SWINE FLU

# Emergency declared in US

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama has declared swine flu a "national emergency" as the United States reels from millions of cases of infection and more

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
October 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-50	6-25
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-32	6-35
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## DRIVE TO FREE PARKING SPACE

# 150 basement shops knocked down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhan Unnayan Kartipakkha pulled down about 150 shops in Mirpur yesterday in an eviction drive to retrieve designated car parking spaces in efforts to ameliorate the city's nagging traffic jam.

A Rajuk team led by Executive Magistrate Md Rokon-Ud-Dowla knocked down shops in basements of Muktabangla and Baghdad shopping complexes at Mirpur-1 intersection on Mazar Road.

The 650-foot long Muktabangla Shopping

Complex had two archways in its basement with signboards reading that the basement houses the largest market for crockery.

Joint Secretary of Muktabangla Shopping Complex Owners Society Saidur Rahman Ratan said, "There are only 65 shops in the basement."

The entire basement of the shopping complex was designated for car parking, said an official of Rajuk Aminur Rahman.

Rajuk pulled down the archway with a bulldozer.

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### OnlinePoll

Do you think 17 MPs intentionally or unknowingly violated electoral laws by not submitting tax returns to EC?

☐ Intentionally (93.0%)  
☐ Unknowingly (4.7%)  
☐ No Comments (2.3%)

Total votes: 811

TODAY'S POLL

Would you support BNP if it starts a movement to make the government step down before completing its tenure?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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সাতার শাখার

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