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in Short



Gen Masud  
recalled from  
Australia

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

The government has called back Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury and placed him in his former position in Bangladesh Army.

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Altaf, Hafiz  
freed on bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP ministers Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Hafiz Uddin Ahmed were released on bail yesterday in a case filed against them on charge of torching a vehicle on June 11.

First Additional  
Chief Metropolitan

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

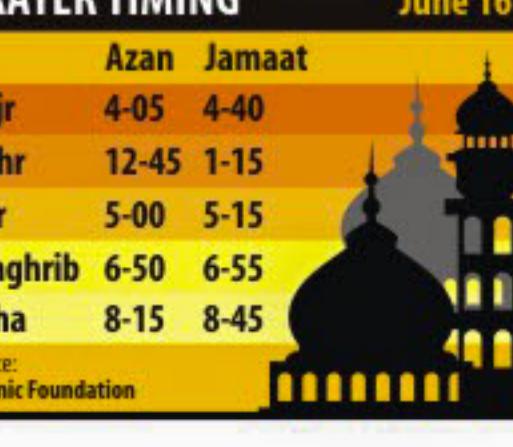
Moon  
eclipsed  
last night

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The longest total lunar eclipse of the decade took place last night. It was the first of two total lunar eclipses of the year. The next one will occur on December 10, 2011.

This was a relatively

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PRAYER TIMING June 16

Fajr 4:05 4:40

Zohr 12:45 1:15

Asr 5:00 5:15

Maghrib 6:50 6:55

Esha 8:15 8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## BCL to choose new leadership

Age limit creeps up as council date announced

RAKIB AHAMMED

Bangladesh Chhatra League will hold its national council next month to elect a new leadership, its central leaders announced yesterday as the pro-Awami League student organisation struggles to overcome crippling infighting and factionalism.

The two-day national council will begin on July 10 after a gap of five years, BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan told a press conference yesterday at Dhaka University's Madhur Canteen.

The present BCL central committee was elected for a two-year term at the national council held in 2006.

Also yesterday, the Dhaka University unit of the country's oldest student body announced its council will be held on June 30. BCL was formed in 1948.

Since the Awami League-led alliance came to power two years ago, BCL has come under fire for tender-related violence and factional infighting leading to the murders of at least four activists of the student body.

The central committee had to suspend dozens of lower level committees after violence erupted between

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## PRICES AT KITCHEN MARKET JS body happy, buyers not

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body expressed "satisfaction" over the prices of essentials after visiting three kitchen markets in the capital yesterday, but customers say the shopkeepers misled the committee by lying

about the price.

Accompanied by market association leaders, the parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry visited Karwan Bazar, Mohammadpur Town Hall Super Market and Mohammadpur

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Muhith  
unhappy at  
absence of  
ombudsman

Blames negative  
politics for it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday in parliament said it is unfortunate that an ombudsman

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## PSC for 2 deep-sea gas blocks today

Petrobangla, citizen group at odds over export options

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The government signs a production sharing contract (PSC) today with US oil company ConocoPhillips for oil and gas exploration from two deep-sea blocks.

The signing will be held at the head-

quarters of state-run Petrobangla in the capital. Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur yesterday said, "We are making the deal protecting the interest of the country."

A citizen group, however, protested

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Horn and mic rental places are seeing brisk business in the capital as political demonstrations are on the rise. At the same time sound pollution is also on the rise. The photo was taken yesterday in front of National Press Club.

## It was another Quader Molla!

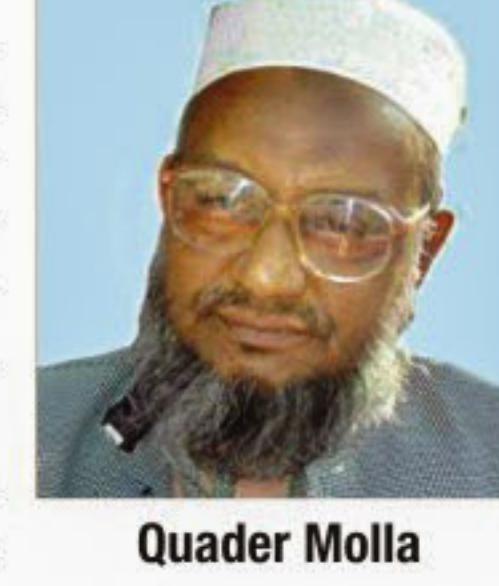
Jamaat leader 'tells' war  
crimes investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Molla told the war crimes investigators yesterday that it was another Quader Molla, and not him, who committed the war crimes in 1971.

A member of the investigation agency, however, said they have "enough evidence" to prove the Jamaat leader's involvement in the crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War in capital's Mirpur.

"He [Quader] admitted that several heinous crimes



Quader Molla

The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the opposition's 36-hour hartal was successful?

Yes (56.5%)

No (38.9%)

No Comments (4.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 565

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with prime minister that only the elected representatives of the people should decide under what mechanism and whose authority the next parliamentary election should be held?

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