Reshuffle

FROM PAGE 20

the cabinet secretary while Water Resources Secretary Sheikh Md Wahid-uz-Zaman has taken over as the principal secretary to the prime minis-

The two posts have been vacant since September 29 following the expiry of contractual appointments of cabinet secretary M Abdul Aziz and principal secretary Md Abul Karim.

The government also changed portfolios of five other senior secretaries working in different ministries and divisions.

Of them, Iqbal Mahmood, secretary of public administration, has been made economic relations division secretary while home secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder has taken over the post made vacant by Mahmood. Planning division secretary Monzur Hossain was transferred to the home ministry.

Meanwhile, Fazle Kabir, director general of BCS Administration Academy, has been made the railway division secretary and chairman of Rural Electrification Board Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam has been made the acting secretary of the planning division.

Sources in the administration said the reshuffle plan was waiting for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's approval. She returned home from the USThursday night.

Officials in the public administration ministry said more changes in the top-level of the civil service are likely as the government has decided to promote 13 additional secretaries, currently working as acting secretaries, to the rank of secretary.

New cabinet secretary Musharraf, of 1981 batch, had served as the private secretary to former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria during the last Awami League-led gov-

ernment. New principal secretary to the prime minister Wahid is a freedom fighter and of 1979 batch. He is the senior-most civil servant. Last year, he got two years' extension in service under the freedom fighters'

Rights worry

ROM PAGE 1 We never wanted this Bangladesh. This cannot be the spirit of our Liberation War; this is certainly violation of human rights."

The programme was organised to mark the fifth founding anniversary of Bangladesh Human Rights Forum at the National Museum.

tion," said a lamenting

In a report published yes-

terday, human rights group

Odhikar said 17 people have

been missing since being

picked up by law enforcers in

It called on the govern-

ment to put an end to all extra-

judicial killings, torture and

On November 25 last year,

rights organisation Ain o

Salish Kendra said 22 people

were reported to have disap-

peared in eight months since

Citing newspaper reports,

its officials said the actual

number would be much

higher. Many families are too

scared to report that law

enforcement agencies are

behind the disappearance of

In October last year, three

youths disappeared during

clashes between villagers and

law enforcers in Rupganj over

purchase of land for an army

The Daily Star ran a report

a month after that incident.

tims at that time said they

were certain the three would

milad mahfil (special prayers)

Dhaka City Corporation

councillor and BNP leader

Chowdhury Alam has been

without a trace since he was

allegedly abducted by some

law enforcers late in the eve-

The number of secret-

murder victims has also

increased in the city over the

The Daily Star on May 6 last

their "departed souls".

ning of June 25, 2010.

last few years.

the last nine months.

forced disappearances.

January 2010.

their loved ones.

housing project.

Mizanur.

"Human rights cannot be protected without assistance from the state. Unfortunately, the state itself violates human liberation forces. rights, and yet we have to turn to it for redressing the situa-

FROM PAGE 1

march.

Family members of the vicnever return. They even held at local mosques to pray for

Chittagong.

25 due to Hajj and Eid. by standing committee members Khandaker

year reported that seven marches. people were killed in mysterious circumstances in last nine days. It was a clear indication that such killings were on the

Aug 21 attack

framing against BNP Senior

Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman and 29 others accused in the supplementary charge sheets in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the order after lawvers of nine accused, including Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, defence lawyers said they could not scrutinise the pieces of evidence seized by investigators from some of the accused during the investigation of the cases.

Following their petition, the judge of the tribunal permitted the defence lawyers to go through the evidence kept in the court from October 3 to 5 in presence of the prosecu-

The court also requested the lawyers to complete their scrutiny the stipulated time as it will not extend time in this regard.

Earlier, the tribunal deferred the hearing on charge framing four times following time prayers from defence lawyers on different

including Mojaheed and Babar, who are now behind bars, were produced before

Ward Councillor Ariful Islam Arif, now on bail, was also

supplementary charge sheets on July 3 mentioning 30 names in addition to the 22 accused on the main charge sheets. Twenty-four people were

killed and around 200 others injured in the grisly grenade attack on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21 in 2004.

The then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attack.

SQ Chy 'involved'

confinement, torture, rape, genocide, and attempt, abetment or conspiracy to commit

Hannan said they will submit the report to Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arieff Tipoo today for producing it before the International Crimes Tribunal.

Nearly 8,000 pages of statements of witnesses, victims and their families and docusaid.

had recorded statements of 146 witnesses to crimes committed by SQ Chowdhury, who is now in prison on charges of crimes against humanity.

Nurul Islam, who led the probe, said they had taken snaps and videos, and collected maps of the scenes of the crimes allegedly commit-Chittagong.

He said the BNP leader committed the crimes with the help of Razakar, Al Badr, Al Shams and other anti-

against four Jamaat-e-Islami humanity.

dent.

October 18 and 19.

But Amir Khasru said it won't be possible to organise road march on October

Party insiders said the chairperson formed two coordination committee led Mosharraf Hossain and Nazrul Islam Khan to organise Sylhet and Rajshahi road

Both the committees will sit separately today at her Gulshan office to discuss the

grounds. Thirty-two accused

the tribunal yesterday.

present in the court. Criminal Investigation Department submitted the

Police filed two cases -- one under the Explosive Substances Act and the other for killing people -- in this connection.

such crimes.

Replying to a question, Hannan said the agency will complete by November 1 the probe into the allegations leaders, who are now in jail with links to crimes against

The tribunal on August 1 asked the prosecution to submit by November 1 probe reports on allegations of war

Road march

But the party has started its activities for making Sylhet and Rajshahi road marches programmes successful. Sylhet road march will be held on October 10 and 11 while Rajshahi road march will be organised on

Dhaka City Corporation

ments have been attached to the 119 page probe report, he Hannan said the agency

ted by SQ Chowdhury in "We have collected evidence and examined media reports and government

documents on the allegations of war crimes against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury."

was earlier set for October 25 and 26, said Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowhdury Chittagong city BNP presi-

Sources said the party will make a formal announcement regarding this matter after their Rajshahi road

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on September 27 had announced three road marches towards Sylhet, Rajshahi and

day long Durga Puja, devotees will celebrate preparation, sources said. Mahasaptami today.

crimes against Jamaat Chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, and assistant secretary generals Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Mollah.

On May 30, the agency submitted to the prosecutors the final probe report on Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee. The prosecutors brought formal charges against Sayedee before the tribunal on the basis of the probe

The tribunal today decides on framing charges against

Sayedee. Sanaul Huq, senior investigation officer, said they will submit a primary probe report on the allegations of war crimes against former Jamaat Ameer Ghulam Azam to the tribunal within a month.

Durga Puja

receive Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati Kartik and Ganesh on earth.

Hindus believe the goddess descend on earth at the invocation and supplication of the devotees through Bodhon rituals during Shashthi, the formal start of

the puja. "The Saptami Puja rituals at Dhakeshwari National Temple will begin before 9:57am," Pradip Kumar Chakrabarty, Shebait, Chief

Executive of the temple said. Devotees will recite hymns and offer flowers seeking blessings from Durga the Durgatinashini - saviour

of humankind from all evils. The main puja mandaps in the capital are at Dhakeshwari National Temple, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramakrishna Mission, Ramna Kali Mondir, Siddheshwari Kali Mondir, Tanti Bazar and Shankhari Bazar as well as in

Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani and Uttara. Babul Debnath, general secretary of the Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee yesterday told The Daily Star that the ceremonies went well yesterday. Puja committees in the city arranged various programmes including discussions, cultural programmes and distribution of new clothes among

poor people to mark the day. Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday evening inaugurated the Banani Puja Mandap organised by Gulshan-Banani Sarbojaneen Puja Parishad.

About 28,000 mandaps have been erected across the country with 199 mandaps in the capital alone, according while the initial cut-off date to Mohanagar Sarbojaneen was September 30, Aminul Puja Committee and Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad.

Like in the capital, Hindu devotees are celebrating their biggest religious festival across the country with due religious fervour. 9,20,005 tax returns. On the second day of five-

arranged tax fairs in six divisional cities to encourage people to pay tax.

FROM PAGE 20 section of the Jagannath University Act-2005.

Jagannath

They demanded freeing university dormitories from illegal occupants, withdrawal of cases against several hundred students, more buses for students and relocation of a Bangladesh Bank branch from the campus.

"We shall continue our agitation until our demands are met," said Faruk Ahmed Abir, one of the agitating students, at a press briefing at Madhur Canteen in Dhaka University. The students said their

up four to five times, if the government stops funding the university. "We had planned to organise the press briefing at Jatiya Press Club but later changed the plan fearing police

action," said Shariful Islam,

tuition and other fees will go

another agitating student. Meantime, the education minister said elements in the BNP-led alliance are inciting Jagannath University students to take to the streets over the issue of amending the

He urged the opposition not to confuse students with lies and disrupt their educa-

The minister said the last BNP government had passed the law. But the present government has not yet implemented it.

"We have increased the allocation of funds to the university. An additional Tk 100 crore had been given for its infrastructural development," he told reporters at his office in the secretariat.

"It is an act passed in parliament. It cannot be repealed at Nahid said the prime min-

provision, the minister said,

Asked about repealing the

informed about the matter. "The government is sympathetic to the student demands and a solution will

ister has already been

be worked out soon."

BLOGGERFREED Police vesterday freed Asif Mohiuddin, who was detained on charges of fuelling the protests by a blog post

on the Web, said his family. Monirul Islam, spokesman of the Detective Branch of police, said police picked up the blogger to get some

information. Transparency

FROM PAGE 20 Shahabuddin Panna, executive director of a Bargunabased NGO called NSS, said there is a serious lack of information about how the government is spending the

climate fund. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of allparty parliamentary committee on climate change, said no transparent set of guidelines is being followed in allocating

the climate fund for nongovernment organisations. The climate change fund is meant for the most vulnerable and affected areas but it has been disbursed for areas which are not exposed to

climate change fallout, he alleged. He suggested a couple of model projects under the direct supervision of the parliamentary committee and TIB to demonstrate how to ensure transparency in spending climate fund to

achieve the desired goals. Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, said effective use of climate fund by the government will help get a bigger fund from donors

in future. Sultana Kamal, chairperson of TIB trustee board, presided over the consultation.

l'ax return

FROM PAGE 1

Aminul Karim. The last day for submitting tax returns is now October 16.

The second extension came after business communities' requests, claiming that many could not file theirs due to Eid and Durga Puja. The deadline of the first extension ended yesterday

added. The NBR official said as of Saturday, 7 lakh tax returns were filed by taxpayers and Tk 956 crore were collected. Last year, Tk 899 crore tax was collected against

This year, the NBR tion papers, both Shamim and Ivy, however, said they are "confident" about get-

Politicians confident

FROM PAGE 1

that sure sense that the time is here for a storming of the ramparts, for a final, grand push for glory. Which is of course all very good, even a trifle inspirational.

Nations which suffer

from an absence of politi-

cians confident in their ability to mould the future to their liking are societies condemned to live out their times in the sun in dreary dejection. Ours happens to be a land where politics constantly and insistently operates in varied thrilling ways. In short, politics in Bangladesh may have slipped to the level of the mediocre, but you cannot quite say that the drama has gone out of it. The thrills are yet there, and they do some wonderful things to our souls.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's confidence in her ability to steer the ship of state and have it drop anchor on happy shores cheers us to no end. She has just informed us, yet once again, that the next spate of general elections in Bangladesh will be held under the present government, her own, and that there will be no room for a caretaker administration to fill the interregnum between the end of the term of the present parliament and a fresh new round of voting at the national level.

Her self-confidence is remarkable, for she has made it clear -- and she believes she is right -- that the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party must take part in the elections if it means to remain part of the political process. As citizens,

judgement will turn out to But, of course, they are conhave been fashioned on a correct reading of the national pulse, that her government will push on with its plans to give the country a credible election. One only wishes that her confidence were infectious, that we could truly believe

the prime minister will be

able to pull off a coup, of

sorts. Her confidence is her

own. Somehow it does not

seem to be percolating down

city

to us. And there's the pity. Now watch BNP chief Khaleda Zia's spirited demonstration of selfconfidence. She predicts that the days of this government are numbered, that it will soon fall on its face, indeed that by September next year the nation will be celebrating its triumph through pushing Sheikh Hasina and her administration out of office. You would think, listening to Khaleda despot-driven spot somewhere in the Middle East where the winds of a new spring blow, of the kind that brought down Hosni

Ben Ali. The leader of the opposition has absolutely no time to speak for her party's constituents in parliament. Nor is there any sign of a willingness to do so. Obviously, she and her party colleagues are little inclined to explain why they have thus turned their backs on those who sent them, in however diminished a number, to the legislature in the last election. They will not go to parliament and yet they are reluc-

Mubarak and Zine al Abidine

we honestly trust that her tant to give up their seats. fident, all of them, that the next electoral exercise will be conducted by a caretaker government, that those holding power today will come by no more than 30 seats, that indeed the Bangladeshi nationalists will lead the country once more into the future. They are not willing to explain their past. Confidence, then, is in the air -- everywhere you

look around, in every sight and in every sound. There was a moment in times past when Hasina was confident that the caretaker system would propel Bangladesh toward liberal, secular democracy. For Khaleda, confidence was in decrying the call for a caretaker form of government as sheer naivete or the ravings of a lunatic. Sit back and reflect on how the tables have turned, on how ideas have and her acolytes, that we risen or fallen, on how irony happen to inhabit some has made inroads into national politics.

In all this quotidian demonstration of confidence and self-assurance on the part of the nation's leading politicians, it is the selfconfidence of the hapless citizens which has plumbed the depths. Their selfesteem is low. The future, for them,

always comes in dark shades

and ubiquitous political uncertainty. And we succumb to the shrill call of somnambulism

in the gathering night.

Ex-jail super found guilty

Islam.

like staying outside their cells after hours with the help of former senior jail superintendent Tauhidul

The three-member probe

committee discovered that Tauhid provided division facilities to other Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and people accused of attempting to kill Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Tapash as well. The committee even

found evidence that Tauhid had illicit relationships with female jail guards.

failed to reach Tauhid for his response. The committee was formed following a newspaper report that Tauhid had been allowing three Jamaat leaders--Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed and Nayeb-e Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee--to talk on

mobile phones from the prison. The 29-page probe report stated that Tauhid also let BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu use his phone. He apparently used two to three mobile phones so that the four could talk to people at home and abroad for

All four are first-class Fazle Noor Tapash by

former Awami League law-

maker Shamim Osman,

former mayor of

Narayanganj municipality

Ivy and president of

Narayanganj town unit BNP

Taimur are considered

BNP has picked Taimur as

As the AL high command

was yet to choose between

Shamim and Ivy, many lead-

ers and workers of the ruling

party looked confused and

been lobbying hard for party

support for their candida-

Hasina, also the AL presi-

dent, last night sat with the

duo at her Gono Bhaban

residence, but none of them

was confirmed as the party-

backed candidate, party

After filing the nomina-

Prime Minister Sheikh

Both the leaders have

FROM PAGE 1

frontrunners.

its candidate.

tense.

cies.

sources said.

prisoners of Dhaka Central

The probe body talked to witnesses, mostly jail guards, who said on several occasions Tauhid was seen sharing food with the four during Ramadan.

The witnesses said they

do not know what the four

prisoners talked about over the phone since Tauhid did not allow them near the prisoners. They said the inmates talked over the phone for as long as four hours. The probe body found The Daily Star last night that Tauhid did not lock up

the four leaders in their

cells before sunset; he even

let them stay out till

11:30pm during the last Ramadan. Three other Jamaat leaders--Assistant Secretary Generals Abdul Kader Mollah, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Dhaka City Jamaat Ameer Rafiqul Islam, also detained in connection with war crimesenjoyed the status of firstclass prisoners at Dhaka Central jail with the help of Tauhid. He gave them mosquito nets, quilts, chairs, tables, and rechargeable battery-powered fans violat-

ing the jail code. Five prisoners accused of trying to murder lawmaker

8 in N'ganj mayor race

ting party support.

Earlier, party insiders told

The Daily Star that many

local leaders have sided with

Shamim who used to be

considered a godfather of

local criminals during the

1996-2001 tenure of AL

government. Some said they

cannot openly support Ivy

nation papers submission at

the town's Shaheed Zia Hall

Auditorium, hundreds of

leaders, workers and sup-

porters of AL and BNP gath-

ered since morning on the

enforcers were deployed in

front of the auditorium to

avert any untoward inci-

dature is October 12.

A good number of law

Centering on the nomi-

"for fear of Shamim".

premises.

dent.

exploding a bomb also enjoyed the status of firstclass prisoners courtesy of Tauhid. The five were even given couches to receive their visitors.

The probe body received depositions of 11 jail guards including the chief jail guard on September 26 and 27 at the Dhaka Central Jail. Some of the witnesses still work at the jail while others have been transferred to other Inspector General of

Prisons Brig Gen Ashraful

Islam Khan yesterday sub-

mitted the probe report to

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder at his office, said Sikder. The body recommended imposing restrictions on onduty officers' entering jails with their mobile phones, locking up prisoners before sunset in all jails of the country, punishment of Tauhid and letting the incident be

known to all so that it does not happen again. Deputy IGP of Khulna and Barisal AKM Fazlul Haque was the chief of the committee while Jamil Ahmed Chowdhury, senior superintendent of Comilla Central Jail, and Mohammad Forman Ali, superintendent of Bogra District Jail, were members.

ration areas to arrest crimi-

election.

deployment.

north of Baghdad yesterday of the past. The centre cankilled six people, including not hold. The world caves in. four anti-Qaeda militiamen, a Life loses much of its meanpolice officer and a doctor ing in the tumult of rising prices, relentless corruption Two Sahwa, or Awakening

Two roadside bombs in a

former al-Qaeda stronghold

Sarhan said. When two other Sahwa fighters rushed to the scene of the blast, their vehicle was hit by another roadside bomb, killing both of the car's passengers and two nearby civil-

A doctor at a hospital in the

that was a stronghold of al-Qaeda at the height of Iraq's

and 2007.

Govt to free

FROM PAGE 20 Gha Khal and Ramchandrapur Khal. Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa)

had freed the two canals of grabbers.

ing a new measurement after the rainy season. He said Wasa recovered

nals and recover illegal weap ons to ensure a free and fair encroachment, Wasa officials will also keep an eye The drive will begin soon, on the canals until walk-Election Commissioner Muhammad Sohul Hussein

deployment as the local administration is "acting neutrally". But Ivy yesterday reiterated her demand for army

told reporters at the EC

does not see a need for army

He said the commission

secretariat in the capital.

Meanwhile, BNP has decided to oppose the electronic voting machine (EVM) in the election. The party is likely to make its stance clear on the issue tomorrow.

The nomination papers Other mayoral hopefuls will be scrutinised on who also filed nomination October 4 and 5, and the last papers include SM Akram, date for withdrawal of candiconvener of district AL, Habibullah Kanchpuri, Meanwhile, the Election Atiqur Rahman Nannu Commission yesterday Munshi, Atiqulla Jibon and decided to conduct drives in Sharif Muhammad. the newly formed city corpo-

Roadside blast kills 9 Afghan

AFP, Gardez

A roadside bomb has ripped through an Afghan army vehicle in southeast Afghanistan, killing nine soldiers and wounding four others, an official said yesterday.

The blast hit a vehicle out on patrol in Paktiya province Saturday, said provincial spokesman Rohullah Samoon, blaming the attack on the Taliban. "The incident hap-

pened yesterday afternoon in the Sahak area of Zurmat district," he told AFP. "It was a roadside bomb that blew up the Afghan army vehicle and martyred nine soldiers and wounded four.' The wounded soldiers

were taken to a nearby

hospital, he said, adding that their injuries were not life-threatening. Twin blasts north of

Baghdad kill six AFP, Baghdad

Council, fighters were initially killed when their car was struck by a roadside bomb at around 9:30am local time in the Al-Nibaie area, north of the town of Mashaada, 30 kilometres from the capital, police First Lieutenant Uday

ians, Sarhan said. He added that there had been no wounded from the two explo-

nearby town of Balad confirmed that four Sahwa fighters and two civilians had died. Al-Nibaie is a desert area

Sunni insurgency in 2006

Responding to questions about wrongly-setup pillars along Dhaka rivers excluding the foreshores, Shahjahan, chairman of the taskforce formed to recover rivers and canals in the city, said the boundary pillars will be reset follow-

four canals last year and

"We will recover all 26

canals of Dhaka city by the

two canals this year.

next two years. "We will not just recover the canals, we will apply the law so we can protect them from reencroachment," said the minister. To stop re-

ways are built along them. About the progress of development works along the canals already recovered, the shipping minister said the authorities have already completed 4 km of the 5km walkway along the Buriganga river.

Besides, development

works around seven canals-- Abdullahpur Khal, Khilgaon Khal, Basabo Khal, Manda Khal, Shahjadpur Khal, Baunia Khal and Digun Khal-have been going on under Dhaka Wasa's supply and sanitation project financed by World Bank. Chairman of Dhaka

Wasa Board Golam Mostafa and Managing Director of Wasa Taqsem A Khan, among others, were present at the briefing held at Dhaka Wasa office.

troops