

Your Right to Know

Vol. XXIII No. 269

LALON LEGACY

123 years on, Fakir Lalon Shai

shines his light on millions

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SATRE'S REFUSAL

Why writer-philosopher Jean-Paul Satre did not accept Nobel Prize PAGE 12

TO VISIT OR NOT TO VISIT

Indian PM considers a boycott of Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka

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PM for all-party govt

In address to the nation, she asks opposition to send names of MPs for inclusion in polls-time cabinet

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday proposed forming an all-party electiontime government and urged the main opposition BNP to nominate its MPs for inclusion in the interim cabinet.

Hasina, however, did not specify the size of the cabinet and its scope of work or who would head the cabinet. It is also not clear from her speech when the interim cabinet would be formed.

"We want to hold elections with participation of all political parties. My proposal to the opposition is that we can form an all-party government during the election," the PM said in her televised address to the nation.

Addressing the opposition, Hasina

said: "My proposal to the opposition party is that you give names of your MPs whom we can make members of the interim cabinet to form an all-party government so that, removing all doubts, we can hold a fair election through which people can form a government of their choice by casting their votes.

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PM TELLS OPPOSITION

Door still open for dialogue

Will write to president 'in due time' for holding election

Caretaker govt system will not return

Come to parliament



ISSUES STILL NOT CLEAR

Who will head interim govt

When the govt would be formed

How many ministers will be in polls-time cabinet

What will be the functions, jurisdiction of interim govt When JS will be dissolved

This will not end stalemate

BNP leaders react to PM's proposal

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The main opposition BNP yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposal for an all-party election-time government would not resolve the political crisis centring the next parliamentary polls.

There is nothing new in the proposal, according to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"In the proposal, she [PM] did not mention who would SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS

PM's offer and..

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to the opposition last evening to join an interim all-party government had all the elements of sincerity in it. An all-party interim government, in a trouble-free democracy, would be a good idea. The trouble, though, is that ours has consistently been a confrontational, often destructive democracy. The prime minister's offer will, therefore, not evoke an equal degree of response from those it has been directed at. Additionally, there is the argument, a rather credible one, that the offer is

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Inhabitants of this slum in Hazaribagh in the capital build makeshift tents out of bed sheets and plastic sheets yesterday after a fire gutted over 450 shanties Thursday night. Story on page 16. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Govt, opposition ready to face off

Fear, tension over October 25

STAR REPORT

Taking the cue from party high-ups, grassroots leaders of Awami League and BNP have intensified their preparations for a face off on the streets, on or after October 25, centring the next general election.

Grassroots units of BNP-Jamaat-led opposition alliance in many areas have formed committees to resist the next parliamentary election under Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The process of forming such committees in some districts was under way with the

intention to take to the streets on October 25, reported our district correspondents.

The ruling Awami League leaders are preparing for elections under the present government and will resist the opposition's bid to stop such an election. They have moved to form committees in many districts to counter the opposition plans.

Many leaders used the Eid to their advantage to rev up political activities. Senior leaders went to their constituencies and campaigned in the name of exchanging Eid greetings.

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Cop watch on BNP office beefed up Khoka's house raided

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have beefed up their watch over BNP leaders and activists ahead of the main opposition's October 25 rally in the capital.

This is because BNP Dhaka city unit Convener Sadeque Hossain Khoka on Monday at a programme in the capital's Bhasani Auditorium had directed party leaders and activists to be armed with cleavers and axes to counter any attack obstructing them from joining the rally.

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Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

UNB, Dhaka

Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims, was celebrated across the country on Wednesday.

After offering prayers at Eid congregations in the morning, Muslims sacrificed animals commemorating devotion of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) to Allah as illustrated by his readiness to give up his beloved son Hazrat Ismail (AS).

The country's largest Eid congregation was held at Sholakia Eidgah in Kishoreganj. Over 1 lakh devotees offered prayers there seeking divine blessings, peace and progress for the country.

In the capital, the main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah near the High Court at 8:30am. Mufti Muhibbullahil Baki Nadvi, pesh imam of the Baitul Mukarram National SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Devotees offer Eid prayers at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on Eid day.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Road crashes kill 10 during Eid holidays

STAR REPORT

Reckless driving on risky highways left at least 10 killed and

8 injured during the Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja holidays. The casualties were comparatively fewer this time as at least 52 died and 122 were injured in road accidents in four days during the Eid-ul-Fitr.

On Eid day, two motorcyclists died and three others were injured in a head-on collision on the Rajshahi-Pabna

The dead have been identified as Mohammad Raja

Bhuiyan, 18, and Mohammad Moti, 22. In Dhaka, two were killed in separate road accidents on Tuesday and Thursday. Pedestrian Bashonti, 42, was hit by a car while crossing a road in Nadda on Thursday.

Besides, police recovered the body of an unidentified man aged about 25 from a road in Ashulia area. Police suspects he was run over by a vehicle, but nobody witnessed the incident.

Relatives took the body from National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation by Sher-e-

Bangla Nagar where police took the body for an autopsy. In Natore, a woman, identified as Hajera Begum, 40, was hit by a motorcycle on the Dhaka-Rajshahi Highway in

Chandpur area on Tuesday night. She died on the spot.

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US shutdown ends

Govt gets back to business after debt deal

AGENCIES

The US federal government gradually came back to life on Thursday after a 16-day shutdown and a bruising political battle, as the political recriminations from the crisis reverberated around Washington.

Republican rancour over the budget deal boiled over with accusations that hardliners in the party had trashed their reputation and handed a gift to their political opponents. Democrats emerged from the crisis

united and emboldened. In remarks delivered at the White House, President Barack Obama was scathing about the Republicans' doomed bit to dis-

mantle his healthcare reforms and undermine his authority. Visibly angry, he told them: "You don't like a president? Go out and win an election."

He spoke less than 11 hours after signing a last-hour legislation that ended the government shutdown and a showdown over rais-

ing his government's borrowing authority. The bill brought a temporary end to a stand-off that had threatened to pitch the US economy into a historic default on

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October 17. Obama also warned that America's recent bout of political dysfunction had encouraged its enemies and dismayed its

Criminals kill bank guard

Loot Tk 72 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Robbers Thursday night made way with Tk 72 lakh of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd's Kaliganj branch in Jhenidah killing a security guard.

Ayub Hossain, 50, son of Babu Sheikh of Rajarhat Kachua in Jessore, was strangled to death.

Branch Manager Mahmud Hasan said Ayub was on duty since Thursday evening. Some unknown criminals killed him and took the money breaking into the vault some time Thursday night.

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PHILIPPINES EARTHQUAKE

Death toll rises to 172

she added.

AFP, Tagbilaran

The death toll from a 7.1-magnitude earthquake that struck the central Philippines rose to 172 yesterday as authorities warned it would probably climb even higher.

The tourist island of Bohol, which was the epicentre of Tuesday's quake, suffered the most with 160 people dead, the civil defence office for the region said.

Twelve others were killed on other central islands.

Bohol, an island of about a million people around 600 kilometres from Manila, is known for its beaches, its rolling "Chocolate Hills" and tiny tarsier primates. It suffered huge landslides, fallen

bridges, shattered roads and collapsed structures during the quake.

Government and aid groups have been rushing to deliver assistance to the affected areas, but travel has been hampered by the bridges and roads that

have been rendered impassable by the quake. Disaster management officials said helicopters were being used to evacuate some of the injured as well as resupply the isolated towns with emergency

food rations. Tens of thousands of survivors had taken refuge at government-run shelters in public buildings left standing on Bohol, while others were sleeping in tents beside their homes, terrorised by aftershocks,

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