20 Pages Price : Tk 12.00

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#### **NASHEED FOR RE-POLLS**

Maldives contender wants president to resign, Speaker to take over

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Your Right to Know

#### **COSTA GAVRAS IN MUMBAI**

The veteran filmmaker gets lifetime award at Indian fest

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POLLS-TIME GOVT

# Who to head it is only obstacle

Khaleda may propose today a search committee to find the person, threaten non-stop blockade from Oct 27

SHAKHAWAT LITON, RASHIDUL HASAN and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

In response to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's offer to form an all-party government to oversee the national election, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia may give a proposal today for making a non-partisan person the head of that polls-time administration.

If Hasina agrees in principle to the proposal, Khaleda will respond positively to her archrival's latest offer, said a BNP policymaker, mentioning the decisions made at Saturday's meeting of the BNP standing committee.

Meanwhile, the BNP-led 18-party alliance last night decided to propose forming a "search committee" with retired Supreme Court judges to find "an acceptable person" to head the polls-time government.

The decision came when top leaders of the opposition combine met at the BNP chief's Gulshan office in the capital, meet-

ing sources told The Daily Star.

Khaleda, the leader of the opposition, is likely to place the proposal at a press conference at 4:00pm today, according to the

"At the meeting, Oli Ahmed [the chief of Liberal Democratic Party, a component of the BNP-led alliance] made the proposal for forming a search committee, and the BNP chief accepted it," Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, chairman of National People's Party, a component of the 18-party combine, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

The BNP chief said their main concern was to find an "acceptable and impartial person" who could head the election-time administration.

She also stressed the need for holding talks with the ruling Awami League on how to select ministers, who would assist the head of that government, said meeting sources.

> SEE PAGE 10 COL 5 AL-JP MEET--PAGE 16



As all talks led to the pitch of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur in the lead-up to the second Bangladesh-New Zealand Test, Tigers captain Mushfigur Rahim, centre, is seen trying to read the strip in presence of team manager Akram Khan, right, and selector Habibul Bashar yesterday. The series-deciding Test starts today.

РНОТО: STAR

## Amendment not required

Say two jurists about constitution

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Formation of an all-party polls-time government, as proposed by the prime minister, is possible under constitutional provisions.

Two eminent jurists -- M Amir-Ul Islam and Shahdeen Malik -- gave the view to The Daily Star yesterday.

But Dr Kamal Hossain, another top jurist and constitution expert, refrained SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# No polls under Hasina

Reiterates Khaleda; says she would continue to fight for caretaker govt even if she finds herself alone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said she would continue the movement for a non-party administration to oversee the next national polls, whether or not anyone was with her.

She was addressing a pro-BNP professionals' convention, which was allowed to take place on certain conditions amid a police ban on political gatherings in the capital.

Khaleda said, "I hope you will stand by me. Even if you don't, I shall continue the agitation on my own and won't stop till the demand is met. "

The BNP chief reiterated that the opposition would not allow the next general election to be held under any government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



#### Ban relaxed after drama

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda: PANKAJ KARMAKAR Zia's resolve and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention finally made it possible for a pro-BNP professionals' convention to take place in the capital: yesterday despite a police : ban on political gatherings.

Tension ran high: throughout the morning over the fate of the conven-SEE PAGE 10 COL 4:

#### BAN ON RALLIES

## AL's allies vexed

Leaders of several Awami League-led grand alliance partners denounced the ban on political programme in the capital, demanded its withdrawal and said such bans impede the : practice of democracy.

They said the ban might reduce the chances of discussion about the formation of an all-party interim government, as : proposed by the prime minister on Friday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Saturday imposed the ban on political programmes for an indefinite period in the capital fearing violence. Opposition BNP had planned for a tion, organised by: rally in the capital on October 25 while ruling Awami Bangladesh Sammilito: League's Dhaka city unit had also called for a rally in Dhaka SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



'EXCESSIVE' LEAD IN TURMERIC POWDER

# Pran nonchalant, govt silent

The company insists it has no plan to recall product from local market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite detection of excessive lead in Pran's turmeric powder and recalls by stores in the US, the company and the government seem little concerned about acting to ensure health safety of lakhs of local consumers.

would not recall its turmeric powder from the home market. The food processor and exporter continues to claim that it has recently tested samples of the spice from the local market and is "over sure that it contains no lead".

The government for its part is moving slow. The only known government action, taken by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), is the issuance of a letter to Pran, seeking explanation on the matter.

And it is so despite multiple tests in Pran yesterday reiterated that it the US have found high level of lead, ranging from 28ppm to 53ppm, in Pran's turmeric powder.

> The permissible limit of lead in the product in the US could not be immediately known, but it is 2.5ppm in

Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

The limit may vary from country to country but it cannot exceed 2.5ppm in any country, according to a top BSTI

Since October 3, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the US posted several press releases on its website about the detection of high level of lead in the Pran product and the subsequent recalls by four US stores in New York, Dallas and Detroit.

The FDA also warned consumers SEE PAGE 10 COL 5





Filth and toxic chemicals of nearby tanneries accumulate on a piece of low land near the

the tanneries, it looks like it will take at least until the end of next year for them to move out.

embankment in Rayerbazar. Even though the High Court in 2001 asked the government to relocate

NEWS ANALYSIS

HAZARIBAGH TANNERIES

### Forex earning at what cost?

SHARIER KHAN and PINAKI ROY

After decades of persuasion, tanners, mostly based in Hazaribagh area of the city, have finally agreed to speed up relocating their industries from Dhaka to Savar by December next year.

The tanners, who exported leather goods and leather worth nearly US 1 billion dollars in the last fiscal year, had been resisting this relocation and demanding compensation. They feel that not only do they bring foreign exchange home, but also seasonally employ up to 60,000 people. But their core employment is less than 15,000.

They finally signed an agreement with Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) to relocate after the government agreed to provide them with Tk 250 crore as "compensation". Additionally, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



РНОТО: FILE