



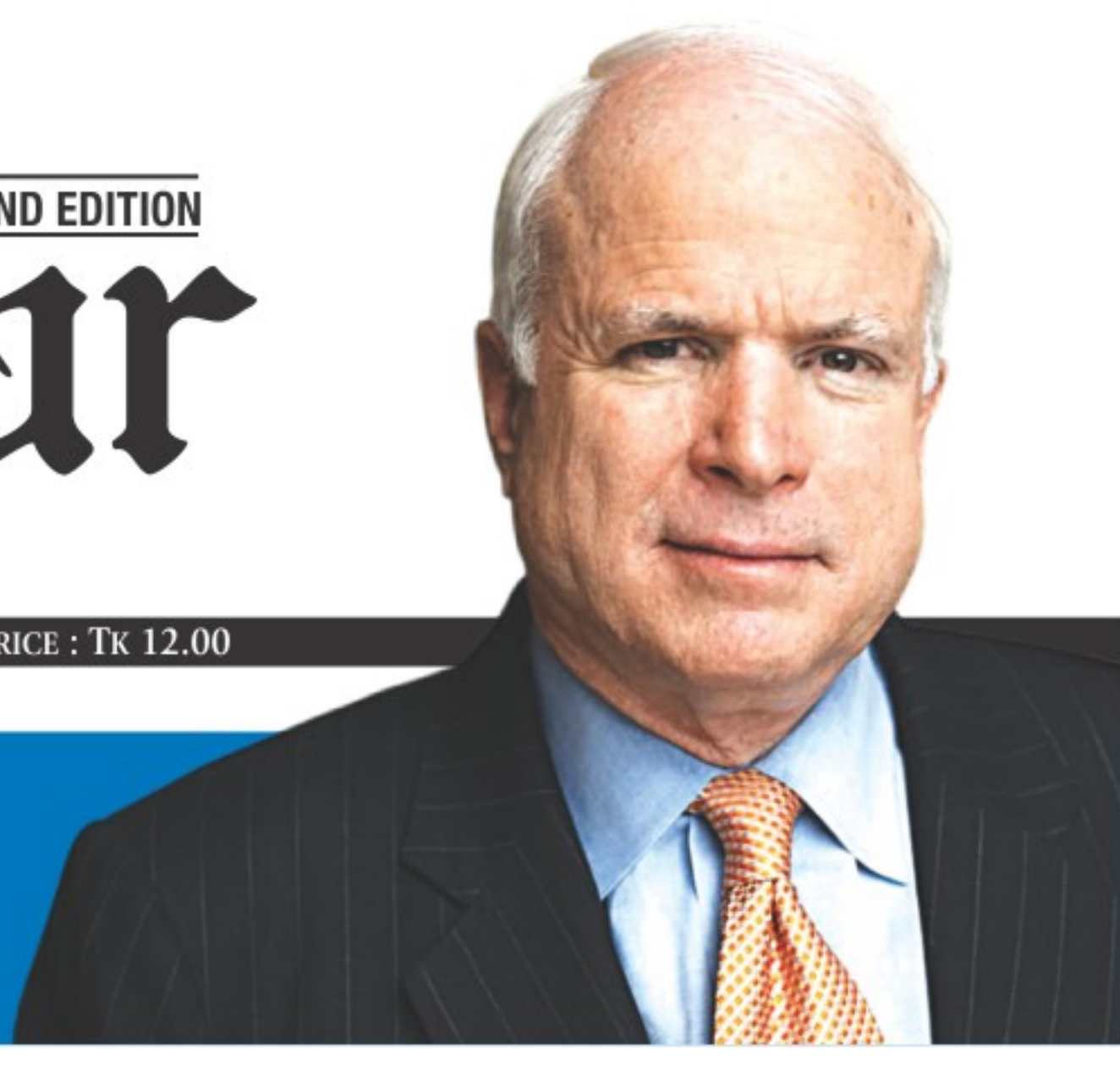
The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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20 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: TK 12.00



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
LIFE
 style

IMPACT ON RMG
 Buyers avoid Dhaka trips due to unrest and hartal violence
 PAGE B1

"QUIT OR BE FIRED"
 Senator McCain says about NSA chief over info leak by Snowden
 PAGE 8

MINISTERS RESIGN TO FORM ALL-PARTY GOVT PM invites new controversy

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER
 A constitutional debate is brewing over the ministers' resignations to pave the way for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to form an all-party polls-time government. The government's announcement that the PM will decide on the ministers' resignations has sparked the controversy, as the constitution leaves no room for the premier to do anything about a minister's resignation once it is submitted, say some legal experts. The office of a minister other than the PM shall be vacant if he resigns from office by handing over resignation letter to the PM for submission to the president, according to article 58(1) (a) of the constitution. All 52 ministers and state ministers completed handing in their resignations yesterday, and the premier would now decide on them, Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said at a press briefing after a cabinet meeting yesterday.

However, no date was mentioned in any of the resignation letters submitted, said sources at the Cabinet Division. Musharraf said if the PM does not accept the resignation of any minister, he or she will continue holding the portfolio. "The other resignation letters will be sent to the president for the next course of action. The whole process will be completed soon." The interim cabinet will have some new members, he said. On Thursday, 20 cabinet members, including four senior ministers, resigned in response to the prime minister's call. Those who had stepped down as ministers earlier were also present at yesterday's cabinet meeting. None of the PM's seven advisers, enjoying the status of ministers, has resigned yet. Meanwhile, talking to reporters at the secretariat, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said, "There is no bar for a minister



PHOTO ON PAGE 5, AL NOMINATION PAPERS SALE -- PAGE 3

Beyond PM's authority

Talking to The Daily Star's Ashutosh Sarker and Pankaj Karmakar, jurists and civil society members said resignation letters of ministers must reach the president to become effective.

<p>M AMIR-UL ISLAM Renowned jurist and one of the framers of the constitution Barrister M Amir-ul Islam said the ministers could hold their offices and enjoy state facilities until their resignation letters were sent to the president. He said the letters were given to the prime ministers, who had not</p>	<p>SHAHDEEN MALIK Noted Jurist Shahdeen Malik said the prime minister did not have any jurisdiction to decide or accept the ministers' resignations but she could mistakenly think that she is an employer of the ministers. "She can accept or decline to accept the resignation letter of any</p>	<p>ALI IMAM MAJUMDER Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder said, "To my knowledge, if any minister submits resignation, the post automatically becomes vacant. The president's signature and other things are considered official procedure only." Referring to the resignation of four advisers in</p>
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5	SEE PAGE 2 COL 5	SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Aren't all citizens equal before law?

Asks anti-graft body boss; laments special privilege for govt officials; donors worried
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Badiuzzaman yesterday termed "unconstitutional" the newly introduced provision that requires the anti-graft body to take the government's permission before filing graft cases against public servants. Besides, civil society members and development partners have expressed their concern over the provision, and said it would make the anti-graft body dysfunctional. Justifying his contention, Badiuzzaman cited article 27 of the constitution which reads, "All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law." When his attention was drawn to the ACC chief's remarks, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik echoed his views. "The provision is discriminatory because it treats one group of people, who are government employees, differently than others as there is no necessity to take permission to file any case against other people," he said. He cited a recent High Court judgement that upheld the constitutional provision prohibiting making any discrimination.

NEWS ANALYSIS Govt making all but people happy

SHAKHAWAT LITON
 It is the practice that an outgoing government will refrain from making any controversial decision or legal provision to avert public wrath ahead of a general election. But the Awami League-led government proved this wrong on Sunday when it made a controversial legal provision to protect civil bureaucrats from graft charges. Close to the end of its tenure, it enacted the provision that requires the Anti-Corruption Commission from now on to take the government's permission before filing graft cases against public officials. The story goes on. To pass a bill amending the ACC Act, 2004 to this effect, the government on Sunday used parliament like a rubber stamp. Parliament was made to stand against public sentiment regarding introduction of the controversial provision to please the bureaucracy.



With almost his entire body burnt and bandaged, Montu Paul lies motionless at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Doctors there believe only a miracle can save Montu, a victim of a petrol bomb hurled inside a human haulier in Laxmi Bazar Sunday night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

POLITICS GO VIOLENT People stand by people

ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH
 Pickets are killing and injuring innocents to enforce hartals for days. At times, it becomes evident that humanity is lost. But then we are taken back to see that there are still some people who risk their lives in these circumstances to rescue those in danger. Amjad Hossain Sumon, helper of a human hauler, is one such person. He brought danger on himself



Amjad took a road-accident victim to Pangu Hospital in his human haulier but while returning, pickets hurled a bomb at his vehicle.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS ANALYSIS Save war trial from blushes

INAM AHMED
 Given the political turmoil hogging the headlines, this particular news did not get the importance it deserves but it has great national significance -- four prosecutors of the International Crimes Tribunal and two investigators of such crimes have sought tickets from the Awami League. We are shocked and dismayed at such behavior of these important persons who were entrusted to carry out one of the most crucial tasks for the nation -- to bring to justice

In the name of politics THIS IS WHAT THEY DO TO PEOPLE

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ZYMA ISLAM
 Hartals have always been violent, more or less, and have often taken innocent lives. Yet there is something gory about the BNP-Jamaat's shutdowns this time. The number of people killed and injured in pre-hartal and hartal violence in the last three weeks is alarming. At least 19 people were killed and over 100 injured, mostly in arson and crude bomb attacks, during the three spells of shutdowns since October 27. Most troubling is the number of child victims -- at least 16 wounded so far. After the disturbing death of 14-year-old Monir on Thursday, another boy came under a similar attack on Sunday, the first day of the 84-hour hartal. The 13-year-old victim, Rony, broke through a window of a bus in a desperate attempt to save himself when hartal supporters set it ablaze in the capital's Mirpur. He survives but the escape bid has left his right foot peppered with shards of glass, and over 15 percent of his body got burnt by the time he jumped out. He also suffered deep cuts in the right leg. Rony, being the conductor of the bus, was sitting inside after the driver parked it on the Diabari embankment. The attackers came out of nowhere around 5:00am, an hour before the hartal began, and hurled a petrol bomb inside the bus, said the boy's father. The boy is now taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The ongoing 84-hour hartal is thus drawing fresh blood when the old wounds have yet to be healed.

Reshuffle in 15 key army posts 4 DCs withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The government has made changes to 15 important posts in the army, including the president's military secretary and commander of 46 Infantry Brigade based in Dhaka Cantonment. The Ministry of Defence issued gazette notifications in this regard yesterday. Maj Gen Abul Hossain, engineering corps chief at the Army Headquarters, was appointed President Abdul Hamid's military secretary. Abul Hossain would replace

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1