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Le Clezio of France wins Nobel for literature

French author Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio, whose vast world travels form the poetic and descriptive backdrop for his body of work, won the 2008 Nobel Literature Prize yesterday.

The Swedish Academy hailed Le Clezio, 68, as an "author of new departures, poetic adventure and sensual ecstasy, explorer of a humanity beyond and below the reigning civilisation."

Le Clezio, speaking to Swedish Radio, said he was "very moved."

"It's a great honour for me, I'm sincerely grateful for the Nobel Academy," he said.

The newest Nobel laureate is one of the French writers best known outside his country and one of the most wide-ranging in his choice of subject matter.

The Academy cited his novel

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Prayer Timing

October 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

BNP not against registration

Sits with govt October 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will sit for a dialogue with the government on October 15 where it will raise issues like registration with the Election Commission (EC), lifting the state of emergency and ensuring a level playing field for all political parties for participation in parliamentary polls.

The party announced this yesterday following a meeting of its "dialogue preparation committee" headed by party standing committee member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky.

Talking to newsmen after the dialogue committee's meeting at the Naya Paltan party headquarters in the capital, Tanbir said BNP is

not opposed to registration with the EC. He however declined to elaborate.

Meanwhile, LGRD adviser Anwarul Iqbal had earlier told The Daily Star that they wanted to have a dialogue with BNP on October 8 but the party wanted to sit on October 15.

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Army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed sees off Vice Senior General Maung Aye, vice-chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar, at Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong, yesterday.

CONSTITUENCY RE-DEMARCATON EC worry deepens as HC stay drags on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Worried by the delay in disposing of a High Court (HC) rule on re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies, the Election Commission (EC) has moved for removal of the stay on the redrawn boundaries to clear way for announcing the election schedule.

Counsels of the EC applied to an HC vacation bench on Sunday for vacating the stay order considering the urgency. But the bench did not entertain the petition as it was its

last working day before the Supreme Court resumes October 12, EC sources said.

The EC might not be able to announce the schedule for the ninth parliamentary polls by November 2 if the HC stay on re-demarcation of the constituencies remains effective until November 6 as per HC orders.

But the commission must announce the election schedule early November in order to allow a required gap of 42 to 45 days

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

45 rebels, 8 soldiers die in Lanka fighting

Minister escapes suicide blast

A suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber attacked a convoy ferrying a Sri Lankan cabinet minister outside the capital Colombo yesterday, killing at least one person while 45 rebels and eight soldiers were killed in fighting in the country's north, a military spokesman said.

Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said a woman suicide bomber believed to be from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) triggered the blast at the passing convoy escorting Agriculture Minister Maitripala Sirisena.

The minister was not hurt, but the vehicle carrying his secretary was damaged in the attack and the deputy agriculture minister, Siripala Gamlath, was among seven people injured.

"As our group of vehicles passed by, I noticed a woman running towards our vehicles and then there was a very loud explosion," Sirisena told state television.

An AFP photographer at the

scenes said two jeeps were damaged. Nanayakkara said the minister had been returning to the capital after attending a harvest festival event.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, although Tiger suicide bombers have carried out similar attacks in the past.

The explosion came just days after a Tiger rebel suicide bomber killed 29 people including a retired army general in the northern town of Anuradhapura.

It was not the first time that Sirisena -- secretary of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party -- has escaped an assassination bid.

Earlier this year, police arrested a suicide bomber mingling with the crowds at a political rally the minister was about to address in the north central town of Polonnaruwa.

In January, the Tigers killed the buildings minister, DM Dassanayake, in a roadside mine attack, while highways minister Jeyra Fernando was killed in April by a suicide bomber.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Suicide blast at Pak police HQs

Roadside bomb claims 10, airstrike kills 20 militants

AFP, Islamabad/Peshawar

A suicide attack struck a police complex in Islamabad and a roadside bomb killed 10 people in Pakistan's northwest yesterday while 20 militants were killed in airstrikes, underscoring the growing threat posed by Islamist militants.

The blasts happened as intelligence chiefs held a rare briefing for parliamentarians in Islamabad on the fight against al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists who are launching attacks from hideouts near the Afghan border.

In Islamabad, seven people were injured when a suspected

militant blew up a car bomb outside an anti-terrorist squad building. The blast ripped off the facade of the red-brick building, an AFP correspondent said.

"A team of police commandos left the building minutes before and that led to confusion over the casualty toll, but now all of them are accounted for and we have seven injured," police inspector Ehsan Khan told AFP.

Islamabad police chief Asghar Gardezi told reporters that police were probing whether the bomber had tricked his way into the heavily guarded complex using a ruse of delivering candy to policemen.

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