# 39 more rebels killed in Lankan fighting

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka troops backed by fighter jets have moved deeper into Tamil Tiger territory in the island's north. killing 39 rebels, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The military lost two soldiers during heavy clashes Thursday across several northern fronts, a ministry statement said.

The air force said fighter jets carried out three bombing missions Friday over the Tigercontrolled Kilinochchi area, attacking a communication centre and what it described as a training

camp for suicide bombers. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the bombs fell on a civilian settlement, killing two

Khaleda, Zillur

#### women and injuring seven others. Sri Lanka's agriculture minister,

lifting of the state of emergency scrapping the latest amendments to the Representation of People Order

parties' registration. The party sources said now the main aim of the upcoming party programmes will be to force the government to lift the state of emergency, and it will take a firm position on the issue during the talk, as party leaders think many of their colleagues who are accused, detained, or convicted in cases will like to contest in the upcoming election if the emergency is lifted before submission of nominations.

(RPO), and easing of the criteria for

"We are not against party registration, but the deadline for registration should be deferred as it will not harm the election process," said BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain while talking to reporters yesterday.

When asked about his four-party alliance colleague also the Jamaat ameer's comment that his party will amend the party constitution if need be. Delwar said the final decision will come after an alliance meeting.

He said BNP-led four-party alliance will take a joint decision about parties' registration and that meeting will be held after BNP's talk with the government.

He said a dialogue preparation committee, which met several times to chalk out the party's strategy, already finalised some proposals including lifting of the emergency, to be raised during the talk.

Meanwhile, other components of the four-party alliance said they are ready to register with the EC, but are waiting for the alliance's joint deci-

"We want to register, but the criteria should be relaxed," said Bangladesh Jatiya Party Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun, adding that they will follow the decision of the alliance.

Meantime, BNP Standing Committee Member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky urged his party leaders and activists to unite the people under the leadership of BNP 'to restore democracy'.

Tanbir said a new autocrat has emerged in the country due to mistakes of politicians.

"Why Ershad's party was not banned after the downfall of the autocratic regime?....It was a mistake of the politicians and an example of their lack of foresight," he added saying, that mistake is responsible for the current situation.

He went on, "Had BNP taken the right decision and banned Ershad's party in 1991, the current situation would not be like what it is now."

Shortly after the open, London and

Frankfurt wiped out more than 10

percent of their value and Paris

more than nine percent. All three

later trimmed losses but only

the globe in scenes reminiscent of

the 1987 stock market crash.

Investors dumped shares across

"The last time I can remember

this in the market was 1987," said

Justin Urquhart-Stewart, market-

ing director at Seven Investment

London's FTSE 100 index of

leading shares nosedived 10.20

percent to as low as 3,873.99 points

-- the first time below 4,000 points

since July 3, 2002 -- before pulling

back to show a loss of 7.81 percent

a complete bloodbath. The FTSE

was obliterated on the open," said

Capital Spreads managing director

Simon Denham in London.

"Today looks to be starting off as

slightly

Management.

at 1045 GMT.

markets."

Maithripala Sirisena, escaped an assassination attempt Thursday when a female suicide bomber

people and injuring six others. 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 those injured.

attacked his convoy, killing two

Sri Lankan troops are hoping to take control of Kilinochchi, which has been the rebels' administrative centre for the past decade.

Sri Lanka pulled out of a six-year Norwegian-brokered truce in January, since when the military says 7,366 rebels and 727 soldiers have been killed.

#### Road accident

FROM PAGE 16 The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College

In the capital, at least 30 people were injured in a bus collision on Cantonment staff road in the city yesterday morning, according to our staff correspondent.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at around 8:00am when a Dhaka-bound bus from Gazipur collided head-on with a Gazipur-bound bus on the road, leaving 30 passengers of both the vehicles injured.

The Dhaka-bound bus, Gazipur Paribahan, overturned while the Gazipur-bound bus, Ajmeeri Paribahan, caught fire after collision. Locals rushed the injured to different hospitals and clinics and put out the bus fire.

Of the injured, eight were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), five to Combined Military Hospital (CMH), three to Orthopaedic (Pongu) Hospital and one was admitted to Apollo Hospital. The remaining 13 are undergoing treatment at different clinics.

Traffic on the road remained halted for over an hour Cantonment police seized the buses.

### Ctg port

FROM PAGE 16 job. But the government cancelled the previous tender due to the cancellation of its agreement with Cotecna on charges of irregularities.

The NBR said the certificate of Cotecna was cancelled for violation. of the Pre-Shipment Inspection Rules 2002.

After scrapping the previous tender, NBR wanted to re-tender the installation of four containerscanners and thus sought permission from the ADB. But the ADB refused to do so.

Later, the NBR prepared a summary of the project and sent it to the higher authorities, suggesting that the project could be implemented from domestic resources.

Another PSI company, SGS Bangladesh won the re-tender of the container scanner installation as the lowest bidder. The NBR had moved years ago to

upgrade the container-handling facilities in the country's prime seaport that handles more than 80 percent of the imports and exports. The BNP-led government initi-

ated the scheme in 2003 after security agencies seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the port area.

Reserve Bank.

## Blast kills 32

FROM PAGE 16

The army says more than 1,000 rebel fighters have been killed since it launched an offensive in Bajaur in early August, including al-Qaeda's operational commander in the region, Egyptian Abu Saeed Al-Masri.

Pakistan's government has tried to enlist fiercely independent ethnic Pashtun tribesmen to back its military operations against Taliban and al-Qaeda extremists based near the Afghan frontier.

Taliban militants have killed dozens of tribal elders they accuse of backing the government in recent years using roadside bombs, executions and, less frequently, suicide bombings.

Pakistan's tribal zone has been wracked by violence since thousands of Taliban and al-Qaeda rebels sneaked into the country after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001.

Most of their attacks have however targeted security forces. In September, Taliban militants beheaded two police recruits one week after abducting 25 of them from Orakzai.

The United States has become increasingly concerned at Pakistan's failure to act against Taliban militants based in the lawless tribal belt and in the adjoining North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan.

In the latest of a series of strikes inside Pakistan, a US missile attack on Thursday targeted a high-level meeting of al-Qaeda and Taliban commanders in the area.

The two missiles hit the house of Pakistani Taliban leader Hafiz Sahar Gul in North Waziristan district, killing nine people including six Arab militants, officials said.

The prime targets of the attack had left the property minutes before the strike, they said

The incident in the lawless district, a known haunt of Taliban and al-Qaeda militants, comes after a string of US attacks on Pakistani soil that have raised tensions between Islamabad and Washington.

### Aman, Boro

FROM PAGE 16 yielding varieties, threshing manually using a drum or wood block and a wide threshing mat, and maintaining appropriate harvesting time.

According to a report of the World Food Programme, if farmers harvest one week before the paddy gets mature, production might be 0.37 percent less than the estimation while it is likely to be 3.63 percent less if harvested one week after the paddy gets mature. The loss may be 0.45 percent if harvested even on the date the crop gets mature.

#### Party reforms

FROM PAGE 1 Election Commission following the

amended Representation of People Order (RPO), hinted party leaders. "Some changes might come to

the party constitution but the decision will be taken only after the dialogue with the caretaker government on October 15," a senior leader of the party told The Daily Staryesterday.

According to the party leaders, the proposals include provisions for electing the secretary general, a senior vice-president, and at least a half of the members of standing committee.

They however said although the proposals say that the chairperson will be elected by the party council for no more than two five-year terms, the party leaders are not that eager now to bring the provision into the party constitution as 'the

situation has changed'. Councils of the party and its front organisations must be held within six months of parliamentary elections, the leaders quoted from the reform proposals.

of liquidity from the country's They also said if the new electoral law continues to bar having "It is ghastly," said Macquarie front organisations then the party will take 'necessary decisions' in Equities associate director Lucinda light of the law. Bhuiyan, who was expelled

from the party by the chairperson on the eve of her arrest, had announced his party reform proposals on June 25 last year, garnering support from over 100 former lawmakers of the party.

#### Knitwear

FROM PAGE 1

"The crisis in the US and Europe will definitely have impact on us since those are our two main export destinations. If it prolongs for three more months, total export will face a big blow," said the BKMEA president.

Being in the lower-end market has still kept Bangladesh's export off any major impact. "But it will not continue for long in case the crisis continues," said the BGMEA

He noted that price, which may fall due to the crisis, would be a big factor for holding the market.

"Although India has already seen about 19 percent depreciation and Pakistan 24 percent, they can still cope if they cut their rates. But Bangladesh will not be able to cope if we cut the rate," Anwar-Ul-Alam said, adding that the banks in India and Pakistan are cutting interest rates to help their industries.

Stressing the need for a joint strategy by the government, the manufacturers and the exporters, he said they have already talked with the commerce adviser.

"He [the adviser] said he would sit with us all to find ways to face the crisis," Anwar-Ul-Alam added.

# Kamal criticises

FROM PAGE 1

the veteran jurist-politician said. ing period during interim period.

He noted that the interim regime has enjoyed the support of the people for the last 20 months, "but now they seem desperate to give up. It looks like a stagemanaged performance in the name of an election, this is not acceptable."

"Right now, in the face of pressure and threat, the Election Commission is softening its stance on party registration and other matters saying they are compromising this in the interest of the elections," he said.

the existing the laws and regulations, he emphatically said in support of the sweeping changes being carried out since the January 11,2007

The eminent lawyer, known for his hard stance on clean politics, questioned the granting of over 200 bails to the accused in corruption cases at one go before the vacation bench of the High Court.

"I've never seen such a thing my 50 years of legal profession," he said, adding that the caretaker government and judiciary have the responsibility to inquire into how this happened.

procedure of granting bails should not be abused.

of corrupt persons as politicians and demands for their release as publication of the inquiry reports, charge sheets, trial proceedings and court verdicts against those convicted in corruption cases so these people later cannot claim to be innocent. Naming some BNP and Awami

League leaders and former MPs already convicted of corruption, Dr Kamal questioned if they are political prisoners at all.

they are deceiving the nation," he Asked if the caretaker govern-

ment has failed in its anticorruption drive, he said the government achieved some success in its mission as some have already been convicted while trial proceedings continue against some Criticising the two main politi-

cal parties for their frequent threats that they will not participate the elections unless their demands are met, he cited rules of international games like Olympics and questioned whether a player taking

He said in such cases, the organisers seize the medals back from such players and even disqualify them for a life term from future competitions.

The draft prepared by AL advisory

held at party chief Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi with acting party President Zillur onschedule. Rahman in the chair. On Thursday, AL acting

participate in the elections, Dr Kamal said Gano Forum would sit on October 17 to review the situation and take a decision. "We have been fighting for free and fair elections for the last three years. We've spelt out a 23-point charter of demands and mobilised people's support towards it," he confusion. Talking to The Daily Star HT

pointed out. He said the caretaker government and the election commission cannot deprive the people of a fair election. The laws, which were amended for fair elections, must be applied without any other considthe party constitution.

Asked whether the planned December 18 elections would be any different from the past, he said, "The next few weeks will show."

demanding the release of corrupt

politicians are basically deceiving

the nation. "I will continue to fight

against this. I will call a spade a

spade. A big lie is being foisted on

another big lie. We cannot remain

as slaves in an independent

Bangladesh," the verteran politi-

cian said in an emotion-charged

Asked if he and his party will

Asked if his party will join any alliance, Dr Kamal said they would join alliance with like-minded parties like the Awami League-led 14-party combine and Pro Badruddoza Chowdhury's Bikalpa

However Dr Kamal said that he opposes jumping on the bandwagon of the mega-alliance.

## 10pc cut

increased fuel prices on July 1 this year when the price of crude oil was around 141 dollars and of refined oil 180 dollars per barrel in the international market.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Chairman M Anwarul Karim said there is decision in principle to cut fuel prices and still to give subsidy, but it will take at least 15 to 20 days to implement the reduced

purchase of fuel from international market today, it takes no less than 20 to 25 days to get it here," he told The Daily Star. Meanwhile, Regulatory

"This is because if I order for

Reforms Commission Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan said it is not the responsibility of the government to revise the prices of fuel. "As per the act, Energy Regulatory Commission is the

authorized entity to fix prices of fuels. Let the Commission take the decision -- either to cut prices or to increase it. As a result, the government can not be blamed,' he told The Daily Star. Dr Ali, also former finance adviser to the previous caretaker

government, said when Energy Regulatory Commission fixes the prices, people have chances to suggest or to ask reasons for price hike or cut, which is not possible in the case when the government

#### AL debates

FROM PAGE 1

council member HT Imam and AL information and research secretary Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin also suggested that the associated organisations work independ-

The ALCWC meeting will be

President Zillur Rahman firmly said the associated organisations must stay with the party. But acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam had earlier said the party must not have such bodies. Their conflicting views created

Imam, a former cabinet secretary, said the draft prepared by them recommends making the associated organisations independent. In reply to a question, he said they wanted dropping their names from

"But obviously there must be associated organisations, which will work independently in line with provisions of the new electoral laws," he said.

The party's 1986 constitution when there was only one associated organisation -- Bangladesh Awami Mohila League.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said on Wednesday that political parties do not need to completely sever ties with all front or associated organisations but they have to sever links with students, teachers and labourers bodies in party constitution to meet the registration criteria.

The ALCWC meet will also take up issues like party registration, organisational situation, election strategy, manifesto, polls preparation and campaign, nomination process, formation of grand electoral alliance, and permanent release of Sheikh Hasina.

The meeting might take decisions like 33 percent quota for women at all levels of the party and nominations on the basis of recommendations from the grassroots level, party sources said ... Sources said decisions to be

taken at the meeting would be finalised after consultation with the AL chief now in London to see her sister Sheikh Rehana. Hasina has already talked to some senior leaders including Zillur and Syed Ashraful Islam, party insiders said.

#### AL, 11-party

FROM PAGE 1 "Gono Forum, Workers Party and other components of the 11-party will not accept Ershad-led JP and Islamist parties in any alliance. We formed 14-party coalition on the basis of a 23-point charter. According to this charter, Ershad and any Islamist parties cannot be allowed to join 14-party coalition," Pankaj Bhattacharya, presidium member of Gono Forum, told The Daily Star after the meet-

"Actually, 14-party coalition is now inactive. And Awami League had taken many initiatives violating the 23-point and without consulting 11-party. In the past, AL had formed grand alliance with Ershad and singed a fivepoint accord with Khelafat Majlish," Pankaj added. Zakir Hossain, coordinator of

11-party, said, "We will decide our stance -- whether to leave 14 party or not -- when AL will go for a grand alliance with Ershad.

In the last parliamentary election, 11-party fielded 172 candidates but none of them won. They bagged only 0.24 percent vote. In recent developments, the

AL expressed reservations about Dr Kamal Hossain's political role. It invited leaders of 14party components, except Dr kamal Hossain, to an iftar party.

#### Satkhira BNP

FROM PAGE 16 Tala upazila one after another.

The mob also burnt the houses of Zobeda Khatun to ashes who in her confessional statement before a magistrate on Thursday said they had killed the chairman Chanchal as per directive of Abdul Malek member and Ruhul Quddus.

BNP sources said Abdul Malek Lalu is the secretary of Dhandia Union BNP and Ruhul Quddus is the president of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal of Dhandia Union. Police rushed the spots but

failed to control the situation and later riot police were called to bring the situation under control. The fire fighters from Satkhira rushed there and extinguished the fire. The victim Arifuzzaman

Chanchal, son of Asir Uddin of Sharsha under Tala upazila, and a member of district BNP convening committee was abducted by miscreants and later strangled to death on Wednesday morning. Police sources said due to political rivalry, Abdul Malek Lalu and

Soon after the murder police arrested Shawkat Ali, Humayun Kabir, Zobeda Khatun and Rabiul Islam and recovered four fire arms from their possessions. Satkhira Police super (SP) Abu Sufiyan and other police officials

Ruhul Quddus hired the killers.

visited the spot. The police super said the situation is now under control and he asked the people to remain calm, as stern actions would be taken against the perpetrators.

## Hasina: Emergency

FROM PAGE 1

political parties are not being able to carry out their political activities, which she said, will hamper the process of parties' registration with the Election Commission (EC).

Hasina, who is now on parole and is expected to return home by the end of this month, said the parliamentary poll should be held "Bangladeshi citizens at home

and abroad should work to that end," she added and also sought assistance from the international community in that regard. The AL chief alleged that

Bangladesh has been held hostage by an 'invisible agent' since January 11, 2007. "The country can't run on suggestions of an agent," she quipped. Condemning the government's

anti-graft drive, she said the drive against corruption virtually became a drive against politicians, an effort that already proved to be futile. After the seminar, Hasina also answered various questions from journalist for the first time since she

about the much talked about

had been released from detention

on a government executive order on

attended the seminar.

expected dialogue between her and people.

On a seasonally adjusted quarter-onquarter annualised basis, real GDP declined by 6.3 percent in the third quarter after contracting 5.7 percent in the previous quarter, the ministry While it did not describe the

economy as being in recession, a technical recession is generally defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction in economic output. Economists polled by Dow Jones Newswires had forecast a 0.3 percent

quarter-on-quarter rise in GDP, the value of goods and services produced in the economy. Compared with the third quarter of last year, the ministry said Singapore's economy contracted by 0.5 percent in real terms, against 0.8

percent expansion foreseen in the

Dow Jones poll. In August the government had revised down its full-year GDP forecast to 4.0-5.0 percent but since then, external economic conditions have deteriorated more than expected and some sectors of the economy have weakened significantly because of industry-specific or domestic factors, the ministry said.

"Singapore's export-oriented sectors, such as manufacturing, will be affected," it added.

Analysts said the key drag on third-quarter growth was manufacturing, and the surprise was a sharp decline in growth of what has been a booming construction sector.

that manufacturing contracted by 11.5 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, more than the 4.9 percent drop in the previous quarter. Construction growth slowed to

bank Morgan Stanley said in a report. Last year the economy expanded 7.7 percent but after years of growth, signs of a slowdown emerged with recent disappointing trade data and contractions in the manufacturing sector, which includes the exportdependent electronic and pharmaceutical industries.

Morgan Stanley said things will likely only get worse for Singapore. With external conditions deterio-

demand support, Morgan Stanley forecast virtually zero growth of 0.2 percent year-on-year for 2009. Kazirhat-Paturia

rating and the lack of domestic

FROM PAGE 16 correspondent yesterday over telephone. The ferry 'Barkat' returned from

Kazirhat Ghat loading just 5 trucks

vesterday, he added. Join secretary of the ministry of water resources Md. Nurul Haque, Director (commerce) of BIWTC Mohammed Ali and General Manager (Commerce) of BIWTC Md. Mosharaf Hossain were present during the inauguration of ferry service at Paturia-Kazirhat.

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony said that Paturia-Kazirhat ferry service will not only reduce the transport cost of truckers it will also ease the pressure of Jamuna

Bridge. Paturia-Kazirhat ferry service will bring the northern districts and the capital closer, they added.

Kazirhat-Paturia ferry service came to a halt on July 30, 2007 due to the flood. Later, the service was

## Nobel Peace Prize

Namibia had been the highlight of his career. "Of course Namibia is the most important since it took so long," he

Namibia towards a peaceful inde-

decade of negotiations. He also oversaw the 2005 reconciliation between the Indonesian government and Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels, ending a three-decade conflict that killed

In Europe, he helped Kosovo, which declared its independence in February, even though his mediation efforts failed to clinch an agreement between Serbia and

government appointed Ahtisaari to co-head, with Cyril Ramaphosa of arms' dumps in Northern Ireland.

whether as a senior Finnish public servant and president or in an international capacity, often connected to the United Nations, Ahtisaari has worked for peace and reconciliation," Mjoes said. Although he most recently

named the UN envoy to Namibia. Democratic Party nominated him

restored on December 28, 2007. Then again the service was closed on December 29, 2007. The ferry service went into operation again on May 01, 2008 but went out of service the very next day, BIWTC

FROM PAGE 1 "These efforts have contributed to a more peaceful world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's spirit," committee head

pendence in 1990 after more than a

some 15,000 people.

And in May 2000 the British

"Throughout all his adult life,

displayed his talents as a mediator in Europe, Ahtisaari cut his diplo-

In 1994 Finland's Social

Roger Tsien won the chemistry prize for a fluorescent jellyfish protein that has become a vital lab

wraps up the awards on October 13.

#### "The markets are going to be absolutely mad throughout the session and hundred point moves in the indices and currencies -both up and down -- are going to be ten a penny and likely to occur on a moment's notice." He also warned investors: "Do

not bet the house on a turn in the

Frankfurt's DAX 30 shed more than 10.0 percent and in Paris the CAC 40 dived 9.68 percent at one stage. They later nursed losses of 9.06 percent and 7.99 percent respectively. Back in Asia, the Tokyo market suffered the biggest loss in two decades, surpassing Wednesday's

the past week. markets. Sydney plunged 8.3 perand Seoul slid 4.1 percent. first time in about a year.

plunge of 9.38 percent. The Nikkei

has lost more than 24 percent over

Stocks nosedive

Shanghai finished 3.57 percent Indian shares closed down 7.07 percent Friday, despite an injection

Chan in Sydney. "Investors are buying up gold. It's the only safe haven out there, otherwise it's red everywhere." Japanese Prime Minister Taro

Aso warned the slump "has

reached a point where it affects the real economy.' The Bank of Japan pumped a total of 4.5 trillion yen (45.5 billion dollars) into money markets, the most since the financial crisis started, while the stock exchange briefly halted some trading in futures and options. Singapore eased monetary policy for the first

time in more than four years. In New York, the Dow Jones index plunged 7.33 percent Thursday, closing below 9,000 points for the first time since 2003. Wall Street was due to reopen a 1330 GMT. In Russia, regulators ordered the

two main stock markets to remain closed after sharp falls in the United States and Asia, local media reported. Markets were hoping for even more radical action from finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven rich nations which meet in Washington later

Friday, after emergency interest

rates cuts by top world central

banks this week failed to calm the

The price of safe-haven gold rose while oil prices fell on worries about the prospect of weaker The rout quickly spread to other demand and as investors liquidate assets. Brent North Sea crude sank cent, Singapore lost 7.34 percent below the 80-dollar mark for the

face defeat, they must succeed,"

However, on a note of optimism, he expressed hope about a new beginning in national politics on a clean sheet following the painstak-

One must join the race within

Dr Kamal also said that the legal

He was critical of the projection 'political prisoners'. He demanded

"These people are telling lies,

steroids would be allowed in the games if proved to be using drugs.

Dr Kamal observed that parties takes decision.

**FROM PAGE 1** contract, light sweet crude for delivery in November, lost 5.12 dollars to 81.47 dollars a barrel, after earlier touching a low of 81.13. The sharp falls came despite news that OPEC will hold an emer-

impact of the markets crisis -- amid speculation that the crude producers' cartel could cut output to safeguard precious oil revenues. "The deteriorating outlook for world growth is leading to a violent correction in commodity prices,'

gency meeting next month on the

"Further deterioration in the global GDP (gross domestic product) outlook could act as a trigger for lower oil prices," he said, adding that prices could fall to about 60 dollars per barrel.

The price of crude oil has now

said Deutsche Bank analyst Martin

Lewis in a research note to clients.

slumped by 47 percent since striking record high points above 147 dollars per barrel on July 11. Meanwhile, global stock markets suffered another vicious selloff on Friday, as the ongoing financial crisis showed no signs of easing

up, dealers said.

tumble as fear over the uncertain outlook for energy demand continues to be the dominating factor, said Sucden analyst Nimit Khamar. "Markets are very much trading on fear, which has overwhelmed (the) fundamentals" of supply and demand, he added.

The 12-nation Organization of

Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC) announced Thursday that

it would hold an emergency meet-

ing in Vienna on November 18 to

"Crude prices continued to

discuss the effects of the international financial crisis. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Friday that a cut in output reportedly being discussed by producing nations would be "wrong for the world economy" "I'm concerned when I hear that

the OPEC countries are meeting, or

about to meet, to discuss cutting

production, in other words making

the price potentially higher than it

ing was scheduled for December 17

should be," he said. It would be "wrong for the world economy ... for OPEC to cut production and therefore keep prices high," he added. The cartel's next regular meet-

Oil prices plunge At its last ordinary meeting on September 9-10, OPEC decided to cut its production of 520,000 barrels of oil per day to sustain oil prices above 100 dollars a barrel

Prices have since plunged dramati-

In a monthly report published on Friday, the Paris-based IEA said that falling demand "in the face of higher prices is now being perpetuated by weakening economic prospects.

The IEA, energy policy adviser

to major industrialised countries,

cut its forecast for demand in the

30-nation OECD area this year by about 360,000 barrels per day. Overall world demand this year would be 86.5 million barrels per day -- a reduction of 240,000 barrels from the previous estimate, to show a rise of 0.5 percent from last

The world forecast for next year was cut by 440,000 barrels per day to 87.2 million barrels per day, showing an annual increase of 0.8 percent.

FROM PAGE 1

newcomer Mahbubul Alam who will take the place of the third Rasel had a torrid time with the ball as the left-armer conceded eighteen runs from his first two overs. Captain Mohammad Ashraful kept him away from the

attack throughout the match but it

would be a wise move to stick to the

same winning eleven.

a bearing on the result.

The New Zealand team, on the other hand, took a long hard look at the playing surface after a debacle for the world's number four ranked Kiwi captain Daniel Vettori

hinted after the first ODI that over-

head conditions and the pitch had

give them their second ODI series win after they beat Zimbabwe 3-2 backin 2005. The final ODI will be held in Chittagong on October 14. Details on page 17

A victory for the Tigers would

Trade ministry data estimated

7.8 percent from 19.8 percent, and service industries grew by 6.1 per-

cent, marginally down from 7.0 percent in the second quarter, the data showed. "Services deceleration should get

Ole Danbolt Mjoes said. Ahtisaari, a quiet, portly man now afflicted by rheumatism, told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that his work as the UN special envoy to

said, adding that he was "very pleased" to win the prestigious As the UN secretary general's special envoy, Ahtisaari guided

South Africa, the inspection of IRA

matic teeth in Africa. He was appointed Finland's ambassador to Tanzania in 1973, at the age of 36. He became UN Commissioner for Namibia in 1977 and in 1978 was

to run for the presidency and Ahtisaari became the first directly elected Finnish president.

Made fun of by the press for his large size and his limp, Ahtisaari was ill at ease with the largely ceremonial role of president. With his true passion in foreign affairs, Ahtisaari likened his tour in domestic politics, which lasted until 2000, to "an extramarital

talks on Kosovo, seven years after he played a key role in bringing an end to hostilities in the Serbian province. He recommended independence for the breakaway Serbian province, where there is an ethnic Albanian majority, but his inability

to get the two sides to agree was a

With its decision to hand the

blow for him.

climate change.

Le Clezio.

At the end of 2005, Ahtisaari was

appointed the UN special envoy for

2008 prize to Ahtisaari, the Nobel committee has returned to a more tradition interpretation of the award, after several recent prizes expanded its boundaries to take in environmental work, for instance. Last year's Peace Prize went to former US vice president Al Gore

and the United Nations panel on

Ahtisaari will receive a Nobel

diploma, medal and a cheque for 10 million kronor (1.02 million euros, 1.42 million dollars) at a ceremony in Oslo on December 10. The announcement of the prize came a day after the Nobel Literature Prize was awarded to

French author Jean-Marie Gustave

French and German scientists

credited with the discovery of the viruses behind AIDS and cervical cancer won the medicine prize, while the physics prize was awarded to Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa of Japan and Yoichiro Nambu of the United States for groundbreaking theoretical work in fundamental particles. Osamu Shimomura of Japan and US duo Martin Chalfie and

The Nobel Economics Prize

her traditional political archrival BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Leader of the British parliamentary human rights group, Lord Eric Avebury, in collaboration with International Bangladesh Foundation organised the seminar

attended by leaders of the London units of BNP and AL. Attending the seminar, members of the British parliament expressed concerns over the human rights situation in Bangladesh. They emphasised on good governance and accountability in government administration for improving the

situation. Hasina's special assistant also. AL's Foreign and Environment Secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud, the party's London unit President Shamsuddin Khan, the unit's General Secretary Professor Abul Hashem and Senior Vice-president Councillor Mostafa Qureshi, AL's Canada unit President Sorwar Hossain, and BNP's British unit President Kamar Uddin also

Kamar Uddin also demanded withdrawal of the emergency and urged the international community not to send election observers if the poll is held amid the emergency. He She however avoided a question also said the 'minus two formula should be left in the hands of the

### Singapore economy more severe from here on," the US