



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 266

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2008

www.thedailystar.net

ASHWIN 29, 1415 BS

SHAWAL 13, 1429 HUIR

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

**BIGWIGS' BAIL  
SC's no to  
ACC plea  
for stay**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of Supreme Court (SC) yesterday declined to entertain the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) petitions seeking stay of the High Court (HC) orders granting bail to four political leaders in separate corruption cases.

The leaders who were granted bail by the HC include Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil and former BNP minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin also declined to entertain another petition filed by the ACC for halting the HC order staying a trial court conviction of former state minister Aman Ullah Aman in a case in connection with amassing illegal wealth and concealing information in his wealth statement.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

**Parties given 5 more  
days for registration****EC in for another trouble as parties revising constitutions  
by not fully complying with RPO changes**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday extended the time limit by five days for the political parties to apply for registration.

This means the closing date for applications now is October 20.

The time extension came in response to the demands of BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

The commission, however, still faces some difficulties as interim constitutions of Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Party (JP) contain provisions contradicting the registration criteria.

AL that yesterday finalised its provisional constitution to get registered with the EC retained the clauses allowing chapters abroad and associated organisations consisted of students and workers.

Okayed on Sunday, Jatiya Party's constitution still has the provision that grants its parliamentary board an absolute authority to nominate candidates for general election, JP insiders said.

According to the revised Representation of the People Order (RPO), political parties seeking registration must sever ties with

their front organisations and overseas chapters. They must pick contenders from panels selected by their grassroots.

BNP, meanwhile, remains opposed to discarding the provision for front organisations made up of students, teachers, workers and professionals.

A delegation of the party that met the EC Sunday argued strongly in favour of the provision, said meeting sources.

Meanwhile, AL is set to apply to the EC for registration tomorrow, said party sources. It already has

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**TALKS WITH GOVT TODAY  
BNP, Jamaat to press  
for deferring UZ polls,  
lifting emergency**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami will press hard for lifting of the state of emergency and deferral of the upazila election at talks with the caretaker government today.

Besides calling for a level playing field in the December 18 polls, they will oppose some provisions of the revised Representation of the People Order (RPO), they added.

The parties will keep on pushing for the government to cancel redemarcation of the constituencies.

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP leaders said as their Chairperson

Khaleda Zia has yet to register as voter, they will demand scrapping of the provision that says a non-voter shall not be allowed to contest polls.

The dialogue with BNP is scheduled to start at 11:00am and that with Jamaat at 3:00pm. The Chief Adviser's Office is all ready to host the crucial talks.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid will lead their delegations.

However, sources in the four-party alliance said Ali Ahsan M Mojahid may not participate in the talks as the court issued arrest warrant against him in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**AL to enforce 'free  
Hasina rally' Oct 19****Amends party constitution for registration**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time since imposition of the state of emergency, Awami League (AL) yesterday announced countrywide protest rallies scheduled for October 19.

The rallies are aimed at pressing home the party's demands for making permanent and unconditional the release from detention of its President Sheikh Hasina, and complete withdrawal of the state of emergency before the December 18 national election.

AL's announcement of the demonstrations came following BNP-led four-party alliance's countrywide protest on Sunday to press home its five-point demands

including complete withdrawal of the emergency, withdrawal of cases against party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other leaders, cancellation of the amendments brought to Representation of the People Order (RPO), and deferral of the upazila polls.

Meanwhile, AL yesterday amended its constitution keeping the provisions of having 'associate organisations' and foreign chapters, which clearly contradict with the party registration law in the revised RPO.

According to the revised RPO, political parties willing to get registered with the EC must have in their constitutions specific prohibitions

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Polls under  
emergency  
won't be  
credible**

Says US envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty yesterday hoped the political parties and the government will reach a compromise over the state of emergency to make the upcoming general election credible.

"Basically an election held under the state of emergency would not be as credible... I hope there will be compromises that make the election credible," he said after meeting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the capital in the evening.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**HC set to hear  
today petitions  
by two former  
premiers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) is set today to hear petitions filed by former prime ministers Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina for quashing the proceedings of three separate corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Jute-made car steering wheel and dashboard, top, and handbags, right, on display at the International Jute Study Group show-room at Khamarbari in Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

**Product innovation lost  
on lax govt marketing**

PORIMOL PALMA

A large number of jute products developed by local scientists have not made it to the market despite their huge commercial potential, mostly due to the laid-back government attitude towards promoting and marketing them.

Efforts to encourage more use of traditional jute products like sacks in packaging food grains, cement and fertiliser and increase the use of jute-based geotextile are also non-existent.

The sepia-toned picture is largely due to the fact that the

**GLOOM OVER  
GOLDEN FIBRE-3**

make good policy decisions if it has strategic market information," Dewan Sayeedul Hassan, media and information officer at the International Jute Study Group (IJS), said.

This has not been the case for the government when it comes to the jute industry, which provides huge employment and adds 100 percent value to its export items.

Bangladesh raked in \$318.34 million and \$165.06 million from jute-product and raw-jute exports in the past fiscal year. The figures could be much higher if the sector

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**Khulna AL  
leader brutally  
murdered**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Senior Joint Secretary of Khulna City Awami League (AL) Khan Ibne Zaman was hacked to death yesterday at his residence at Khalishpur in the city.

Police said the murderers entered Zaman's three-storey house scaling boundary wall at about 8:15pm during a power cut in the area. They tied the hands and legs of the AL leader who was taking rest at his bedroom on the first floor of the house after returning from the party office.

They hacked him to death and escaped through the main gate in presence of security guards Makbul and Tufani.

Police arrested the two security

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Fallout from global crisis  
looms over exports**

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The global financial turmoil appears to have an impact on garments as orders from buyers are slowing.

Exporters have also said buyers are trying to cut down costs of imports to cope with a slump in consumer confidence.

"Generally, September is a golden month for knitwear exporters, but this year's orders appear to be declining for the first time in four years," said Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

However, remittance inflows, also allied with the global economies, are still immune to probable

fallout from the unfolding financial crisis that rattled depositors and investors worldwide.

Bangladeshi exports, mostly to the US and Europe, are set to become vulnerable to the debacle, although knitwear and garments registered 84 percent and 58 percent growth in July from the same period a year ago.

"Buyers are now bargaining for price reduction," said Habibur Rahman, owner of Pandemic Fashion Ltd that exports knitwear to Scandinavian countries.

"The growth of orders received by the exporters in July has slowed down in the last two months," said Centre for Policy Dialogue Executive Director Mustafizur

Rahman, citing his talks with knitwear exporters.

Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), has said buyers seem slow to place orders in an apparent sign of businessmen losing confidence in the world markets.

"They (buyers) are now waiting out the turmoil," the BGMEA president said.

Mamun Rashid, chief of Citibank NA in Bangladesh, thinks the problems might run deeper because of the likely delay in export receipts and the possible cancellation of orders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**4 die as cargo  
vessels collide  
in Buriganga**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people including a mother and her four-year-old were killed and three went missing in a head-on collision between two vessels in the Buriganga in Keraniganj early yesterday.

Thirty-three other people, mostly labourers who were on their way to Gabtali, swam ashore from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

A car on Road-15 of Gulshan in the capital tries to negotiate a large pothole. The road has been in this state for over a month due to lack of repair.

**International Islamic University Chittagong  
Dhaka Campus**  
www.iiucdc.org

**Admission  
Going  
on**

**Bachelor Programs:**

**BBA** Bachelor of Business Administration (Total Credit 131, Total Cost 2,33,050/-)

**EEE** B.Sc. In Electrical & Electronic Engineering (Total Credit 161, Total Cost 3,27,550/-)

**CSE** B.Sc. In Computer Science & Engineering (Total Credit 161, Total Cost 3,06,250/-)

**ELL** B.A. (Hons) in English Language & Literature (Total Credit 126, Total Cost 1,68,250/-)

**LLB** Bachelor of Law (Total Credit 126, Total Cost 1,40,850/-)

**ALL** B.A (Hons) in Arabic Language & Literature (Total Credit 121, Total Cost 27,000/-)

**Master of Business Administration (MBA)**

MBA for	Credits	Duration	Total Cost (Tk.)
Executives/ Honors/ Masters Degree Holders	60 CH	2- Year	96,000/-
4-Year BBA Graduates/CA/CMA	36 CH	1-Year	67,000/-
Friday MBA Program (EMBA)	48 CH	20-Month	86,000/-

**Tuition Fees Waiver:**  
10%-100% on HSC GPA

**SEPARATE & SECURE FEMALE CAMPUS**  
HOSTEL FACILITIES FOR BOTH MALE & FEMALE STUDENTS

- Rich Library including supply of all textbooks
- One of the two siblings 50% tuition fee waiver
- Rich Lab (EEE) (Circuit Lab, Digital Lab, Machine Lab & Communication Lab, CSE & Physics Lab)
- Credit Transfer to foreign universities
- Open Credit Hour system
- On Campus Doctor facilities

**Vice-Chancellor:**  
**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mahub Ullah**  
Former Member, UGC

**ADMISSION TEST** Under Graduate: 16 October at 11:00 am, MBA at Dhanmondi: 18 October at 6:00 pm, EMBA at DCCI Center: 23 October at 6:00 pm

Contact : House # 23, Road # 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.  
Tel : 9670193, 9670220 And 8629947, Ext : 211, 228, 8620115, 8652578, Ext : 112, Cell : 01915 453284  
**DCCI Center: 9552562 Ext.232, 01818 233844**  
Download admission form: www.iiucdc.org  
Main Campus: 154/A, College Road, Chittagong-4203

**Hossain Zillur  
trashes JS seat  
sharing report**

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur yesterday dismissed a report that Awami League, BNP and pro-government quarters will be given 100 seats each in parliament.

"Our responsibility is to hold a successful and meaningful election. We don't have any involvement with this report. We don't know what is being published for what purpose," he told reporters at secretaryariat after a meeting with Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Ghulam Quader and LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**VIQARUNNISA FUND EMBEZZLEMENT  
Iqbal told to pay  
Tk 8cr to school**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court in a verdict of a law suit yesterday ordered former Awami League (AL) lawmaker and ex-chairman of Viqarunnisa University Foundation HBM Iqbal and seven others to pay Tk 8.09 crore to Viqarunnisa Noon School and College by October 31.



Hossain filed the law suit with District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka for the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Metro rail by 2013****Tk 10cr feasibility study from December,  
work to start next year**

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government has decided to start construction of a subway in the capital in the middle of next year to be completed by 2013 to improve communication and ease the nagging traffic congestion.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting on construction of metro rail and elevated expressway held at the communications ministry yesterday.

Overcoming the long bureaucratic wrangling, the meeting decided that feasibility study on construction of the subway will be

funded by the government, meeting sources said.

Tender for the Tk 10 crore study will be floated next month. The study is likely to be started in December and completed by June next year.

The ambitious project for building a 60-km metro railway with an estimated cost of Tk 10,000 crore aims at carrying 4,000 people per hour adding a new dimension to city transport.

The underground railway system will be built on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis under the supervision of Bangladesh Railway

(BR), meeting sources said. "We want to start the task so that the next government finds it easy to complete it smoothly," Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader told reporters after the meeting.

Yesterday's meeting was convened to resolve all problems relating to the subway construction.

Initiated in 2002, the feasibility study could not be started with the issue of its funding unresolved. The communications ministry wanted government funding of it while the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**50% OFF**

Enjoy reduced subscription fees for a whole month!

AKTEL Call Block  
To register SMS reg to 8181

AKTEL Missed Call Alert  
To register SMS reg to 8272

AKTEL Phone Backup  
To register SMS reg to 8583

Best Service | Best Network

Offer is valid till 30th October, 2008. Conditions apply.  
For details call AKTEL helpline 123 (from any AKTEL number) or visit www.aktel.com

AKTEL CLEARLY AN ANAR