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**ADMISSION RULES DEMO**  
**13 madrasa students held for breaking EPR**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Police yesterday arrested 13 madrasa students on charge of violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) by trying to form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city.  
 Out of the arrested, 10 are students of Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrasa, one from Dhaka Alia Madrasa and two from Mezbahul Ulum Kamil Madrasa.  
 Sources said police detained 12 students as they tried to form a human chain in front of the National Press Club demanding cancellation of provisions made recently for admission into Dhaka University (DU).  
 DU authorities recently introduced new criteria for admission into some departments of the university according to which students having completed Allim exams under the Madrasa

**Dhaka welcomes artists from Asia, beyond**

**CA opens 13th Asian Art Biennale**

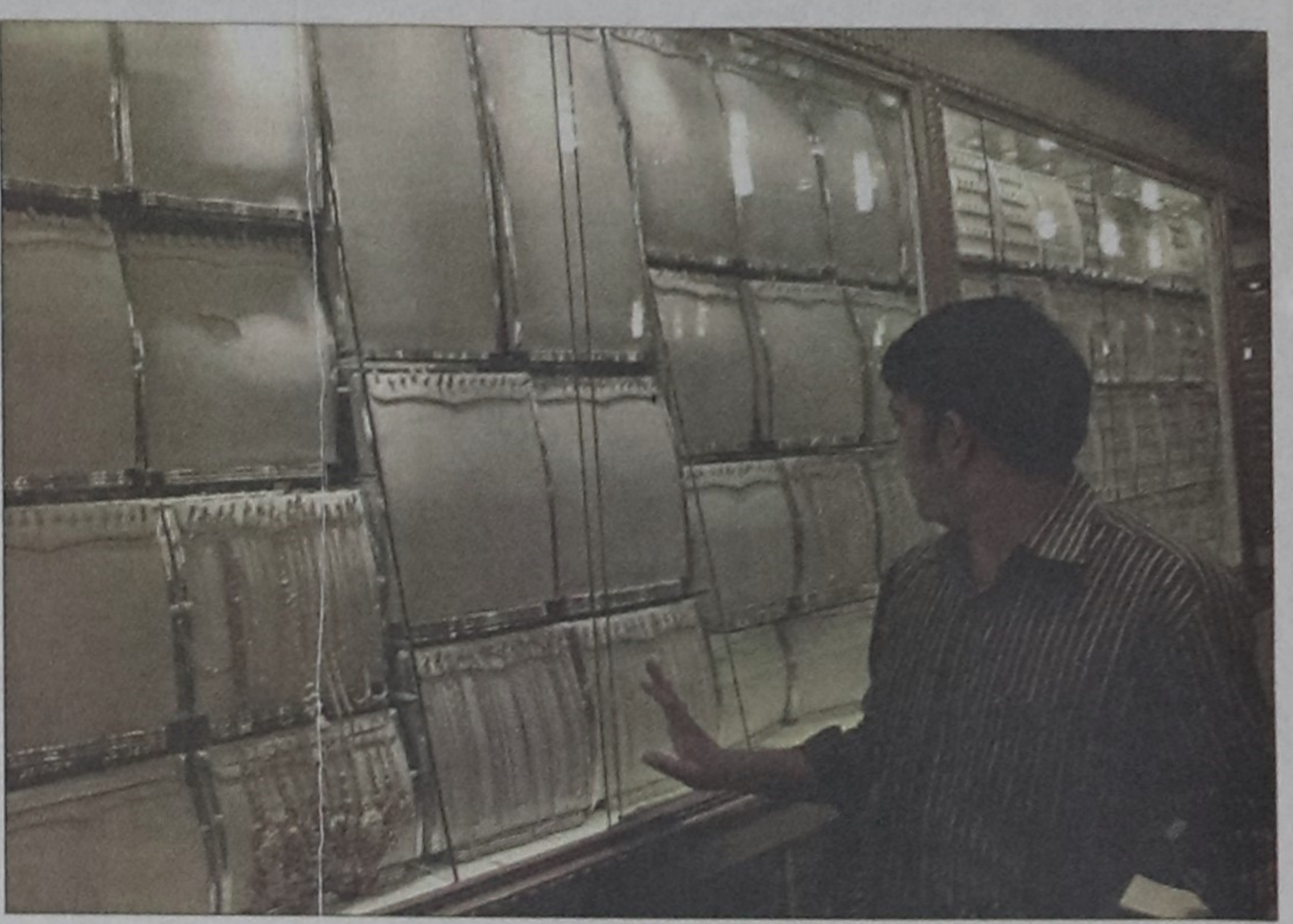
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Artists from 27 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America gathered in Dhaka as the month-long 13th Asian Art Biennale 2008 began at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.  
 Inaugurating the programme, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed urged artists to portray the hopes and aspirations and also the sufferings of people in their works.  
 "The rich tradition, values and glorious heritage of the orient are facing a challenge in today's extremely competitive globalisation era. The need to further concentrate on the development of our own art and culture is being felt more acutely in this age," the chief adviser said.  
 "It is my belief that the artists



A total of 481 art works -- including paintings, drawings, sculptures, printmakings, installations, woodcuts and works in mixed mediums -- by 319 local and foreign artists competed at the event.  
 The grand prize winners of the 13th Asian Art Biennale '08 are Anisuzzaman from Bangladesh for his woodcut work "Complexity 59", Budoor Rami from Oman for her video art titled "The Peak of Burning" and Mazem Al Miestikawy from Egypt for his cardboard work titled "Pattern".  
 Yasmin Jahan Nupur, Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed and Reza Asad Al Huda from Bangladesh, Mohammad Ali Atiq from Qatar, Jamil Baloch from Pakistan, Park Tae Hong from Korea, Thishath Thorandaina from Sri Lanka and

**JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY**  
**Teacher cleared of sexual abuse charge assaulted**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday assaulted drama and dramatics (D&D) department head Sanowar Hossain Sunny, who had been cleared of sexual harassment charges by the syndicate.  
 Five students were injured as armed cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) swooped on the agitating students allegedly at the dictate of a section of the university teachers.  
 An emergency meeting of the university syndicate was convened on the campus following the incident. The meeting was on till filing of the report at 9:00 last night.  
 Sunny submitted a written statement to acting vice-chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman demanding a fair probe into the attack. In the statement he accuses



A shop employee at the Prince Plaza branch of Amin Jeweller's show empty showcases after armed robbers got away with at least 300 tolas of gold from the shop at Sobhanbagh in the capital yesterday.

**RE-DEMARCATON**  
**HC to hear 3 pending writ petitions today**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The High Court (HC) has fixed today for hearing three pending writ petitions regarding the Election Commission's (EC's) re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies.  
 An HC bench comprised of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain yesterday fixed the date while hearing the EC's petitions for vacating the earlier HC order staying the re-demarcation of constituencies.  
 EC's counsel Mahmudul Islam told the court that the commission could not publish voter list based on constituencies till the HC order staying the re-demarcation remains in force.  
 So, the stay order has to be vacated, he added.  
 The counsel also said as per articles 125 and 102(4) of the Constitution, without hearing the



**CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS:** New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori works the ball on the inside during his match-winning knock of 76 on the fifth and final day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

**Pakistani airstrikes kill 11 militants near Afghan border**

**AFP, Khar**  
 Pakistani helicopter gunships and fighter jets yesterday pounded militant hideouts in a tribal region near the Afghan border, killing 11 rebels, a security official said.  
 The attacks took place in the Bajaur region, where Pakistani troops and militants linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban have been engaged in fierce fighting since August.  
 "Jets and gunships bombarded miscreants today in several areas. Eleven militants were killed and 10 others wounded," a senior Pakistani security official told AFP.  
 There was no independent confirmation of the toll.  
 On Monday Pakistani helicopter gunships, fighter jets and artillery pounded militant hideouts in a Pakistani tribal region bordering Afghanistan, killing 12 rebels, officials said.  
 The strikes were carried out at militants' hideouts across Bajaur.

**Daring robbery at city jewellery shop**

**Posing as customers, gang of 15 hold 17 staff hostage, get away with 700 tola gold**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Robbers posing as customers robbed a jeweller's, stealing at least 700 tolas of gold at Sobhanbagh in the capital yesterday.  
 They held the employees of the shop at gunpoint during the robbery in broad daylight.  
 Witnesses said a gang of at least 15, armed with firearms, explosives and sharp weapons, took part in the robbery at Amin Jeweller's on the first floor of Prince Plaza Shopping Centre.  
 Of them, seven to eight entered the shop at around 11:20am while four to five kept lookout in front of the shop. The rest took position at the entrance to the building.  
 According to witnesses, it took

**MK Alamgir freed on bail**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Former state minister and Awami League (AL) presidium member Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was released on bail from the prisons cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital yesterday.  
 Arrested on February 4 last year, the AL leader was freed at about 5:00pm after 20 months of his imprisonment.  
 Several hundred leaders and activists of AL thronged the BSMMU premises to greet their leader.  
 On July 26 last year, a special court sentenced Alamgir to 13 years imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and hiding information of his wealth.  
 The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on March 6 last year, accusing Alamgir of amassing wealth worth over Tk 3.27 crore beyond his known sources of income.  
 The freed Alamgir now faces a tax-evasion case. National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against him on September 21 this year for dodging income tax of about Tk 53.15 lakh from 2002 to 2007.

**3 suspected killers of Khulna AL leader held**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
 Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested three people in Munsiganj, Khulna and Jessore on charge of their involvement in the killing of Khan Ibne Zaman, senior joint secretary of Khulna city Awami League.  
 The arrestees are Sheikh Tayebur Rahman Iran, 18, son of Kiamuddin Sheikh of Sheikhpara, Sonadanga, Apurba Kumar Biswas, 18, son Mithu Biswas of Farazi Para Lane, Sonadanga, and Md Sohag, 18, son of Md Mujibar of Sheikhpara Bazar.  
 Iran was arrested in Louhajang upazila in Munsiganj on Monday, while Apurba and Sohag were held in Khulna and Jessore yesterday.  
 Maj Aslam of Rab-6 at a press briefing yesterday said the three youths have confessed to their direct involvement in the murder of the AL leader on October 13 in

**Vettori denies Tigers**

**MOHAMMAD ISAM in Chittagong**  
 Daniel Vettori, evoking memories of Inzamamul Haq in Multan and Ricky Ponting in Fatullah, played out of his skin to hand Bangladesh a close three-wicket defeat in the Brac Bank first Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.  
 The New Zealand captain, who took nine wickets in the match and scored a fifty in the first innings, played a crucial knock of 76 that spanned more than four hours as the visitors reached a record victory target of 317 in the fourth innings.  
 Ponting and Inzamam had both struck hundreds in similar circumstances to snatch the game away from Bangladesh and Vettori's knock only saw those bitter memories resurface in the port city.  
 This was New Zealand's highest successful chase away from home, beating their 164-4 in Australia in 1985-86, and their second best

**Thaksin jailed for 2 years over graft**

**AP, Bangkok**  
 A Thai court found former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra guilty of corruption yesterday and sentenced him to two years in prison, deepening the country's paralysing political crisis.  
 The guilty verdict was the first against the country's former leader since he was ousted by a 2006 military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power.  
 With a conviction widely anticipated, Thaksin, 59, jumped bail and fled to England two months ago along with his wife, Pojman, 51, who was also charged. The Supreme Court acquitted her on

**ECONOMIC CRISIS**  
**Pakistan holds key talks with IMF**  
**Seeks endorsement for stabilisation programme**

**BBC ONLINE**  
 Talks were being held in Dubai last night between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan, which faces the threat of defaulting on its foreign debt.  
 The IMF says Pakistan needs \$10bn over the next two years for loan repayments and to stabilise the economy.  
 Pakistani officials say they will only ask the IMF for money if other available options fail.  
 Pakistan's traditional allies, China and Saudi Arabia, have so far refused its request for help.  
 Correspondents say the country is going through its worst economic crisis in a decade, with massive trade and budget deficits, plunging foreign currency reserves and capital flight.  
 The BBC's Barbara Plett in Pakistan says Islamabad has prepared an economic stabilisation programme and is looking for IMF endorsement, hoping this will encourage international allies and financial institutions to release emergency funds.  
 Our correspondent says that if that does not work, Pakistan will be forced to accept an IMF programme to avoid defaulting on its debt obligations.  
 But that would be politically unpopular and an option of last resort because of the strict conditions attached, she says.  
 "NO CASH ADVANCE"  
 Although the Pakistani economy has recorded some quite robust growth in recent years, foreign exchange reserves have dropped by three quarters in the last year and it is believed there are sufficient funds for just a few weeks of imports.  
 The country also needs up to \$3bn within a month to avoid defaulting on loans.  
 In addition to strains on the country's foreign currency reserves there is a deficit in its trade with the rest of the world, approaching 9% of national income this year.  
 A balance of payments crisis is a possibility, analysts say, which would result in importers struggling to pay for foreign goods, including oil imports from the Middle East.  
 Soaring inflation and chronic power outages are also affecting the country.  
 A group of nations close to

**Bomb blast kills 11 in Manipur**

**AFP, Guwahati**  
 At least 11 people were killed and 15 others were injured when a powerful bomb exploded yesterday in Imphal city in northeastern India, police said.  
 The bomb concealed inside a parked scooter exploded near the barracks of a police commando unit in Imphal, the capital of Manipur state, a police spokesman told AFP.

**DEMONSTRATION FOR WAGES, OT ALLOWANCE**  
**50 RMG workers hurt in clash with cops**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Some 50 workers of a garments factory at Fatulla in Narayanganj were injured in a clash with police yesterday.  
 Workers of Ming Knitwear Ltd of Mohammadi Group at Pagla Delpara of Fatulla abstained from work since morning, vandalised the factory and barricaded Dhaka-Chittagong link road around noon to press home their various demands.  
 Their demands included payment of wages by the fifth day every month, overtime allowances and an end to termination of workers.  
 The agitating workers barricaded the link road at Jalkuri around noon suspending traffic movement for about two hours.  
 Police then charged batons to drive the workers from the spot and restore normal traffic. This led to a clash between the two sides, leaving about 50 injured.  
 Some pedestrians and two journalists -- one from the Ittefaq and the other from Amader Shomoy -- were also among the injured.  
 The workers then returned to the factory and went on the rampage causing damage to valuables.  
 Later, a meeting was held between the factory owners and workers in presence of Assistant Superintendent of Police Mir Abu Touhid, BKMEAV director GS Faruk and Sramik League leader Kawar Ahmed Polash.  
 Following the meeting, Faruk said an understanding was reached and demands of the workers were accepted.  
 Outstanding wages of the workers would be paid 'by today' (Tuesday), he said.



Workers of Ming Knitwear Ltd barricaded the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road yesterday, demanding payment of arrears wages.

**Prayer Timing**  
 October 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-39
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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