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RE-DEMARCATION HC hears 1 of 3 writ petitions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday started hearing one of the three writ petitions regarding the Election Commission's (EC) re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies.

An HC bench comprised of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hossain later adjourned the hearing until today.

During the hearing yesterday, EC's counsel Mahmudul Islam told the court that as per Article 8(1) of the Constitution, the EC has to delimit parliamentary constituencies before holding each general election, and after each population census in the country.

He also said if the EC fails to do so, it has to explain the reasons behind this.

Mahmudul Islam, a former attorney general, will continue his

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Toxic ship being dismantled in Ctg

Court order flouted, environmental outcry ignored

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Defying a court order, dismantling of MT Enterprise—an oil tanker blacklisted by Greenpeace for containing hazardous substances—continues at a ship-breaking yard in the coastal upazila of Sitakunda.

Madina Enterprise, locally known as Siko Steel ship-breaking yard, has been dismantling the vessel secretly for some time ignoring protests from environment-conscious people.

Priest of Madina Enterprise Nazim Uddin admitted the dismantling of the ship and claimed that he has all the required clearances from the authorities concerned.



Oil tanker MT Enterprise, blacklisted by Greenpeace for containing hazardous substances, is being dismantled near the Sitakunda beach in Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT Mirpur college students protest 'fake' charges against teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of students of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) College at Mirpur in the capital yesterday staged demonstrations on the campus and in adjacent areas demanding expulsion of some female students of the college for making 'baseless allegations' of sexual harassment by some teachers.

The demonstrators barricaded nearby roads creating severe traffic jam for about three hours around noon and damaged five vehicles. They also attacked journalists injuring two from a private television channel.

The college authorities suspended classes on the day and also for today.

Police however attributed the incident to feuds between two

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Recession fears hit currency markets, stocks

AFP, London

Growing warnings of an "inevitable" global recession and the expectation of more interest rate cuts triggered turmoil on the currency markets and sharp falls on stock exchanges Wednesday.

The British pound fell to a five-year low against the dollar as Prime Minister Gordon Brown indicated Britain was "likely" entering a recession, while the euro and other high-yield currencies saw sharp falls.

On the stock markets, Japan's Nikkei share index closed down 6.79 percent after Wall Street's Dow Jones index sunk 2.50 percent Tuesday while Europe's major markets were all down.

In late morning trading, London

was down 3.35 percent, while Paris lost 3.44 percent and Frankfurt fell 3.25 percent near the half-way stage.

Europe faced "inevitable" recession which would begin "almost in synch with the US," said a forecast by Swiss bank UBS, with a "dramatic" downturn for countries that have overvalued real estate markets like Spain and Britain.

Brown reached a similarly gloomy assessment as he appeared before lawmakers, saying the downturn would need to be confronted with the same vigour with which governments have moved to safeguard ailing banks.

Having taken action on the banking system, we must now take

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

ADMISSION RULES DU white panel teachers back madrasa students

DU CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-Jamaat backed 'white-panel' teachers of Dhaka University (DU) will back the madrasa students on the issue of relaxing admission criteria of several departments of the university for them.

The white-panel teachers yesterday said they would urge DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz to ask the departments concerned to 'cancel' or 'relax' the conditions that disqualify the madrasa students from getting admission to several departments of the university.

"We shall meet the vice chancellor today at 12:30pm and urge him to ask the departments concerned to revise the admission criteria," said white-panel convener Prof Sadrul Amin while talking to The Daily Star last night.

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Bogra NGO swindles poor depositors

Tk 6.5cr collected from
10,000 women; 2 held

STAR REPORT

Two officials of Protikar, a non-government organisation (NGO), were held by locals in Bogra last night while allegedly making away with Tk 6.52 crore collected from about 10,000 women for providing them with training.

Meanwhile, about 50 people were injured in a clash between two groups over the money swindled by an NGO Freedom Unnayan Sangstha (FUS) at Nimtala bazar of Puthia upazila on Monday night.

Our Bogra correspondent reports: locals handed over Protikar officials Ratan Kumar Rabidas and his brother Jatish Kumar Rabidas to the police.

"The NGO set up several cooperatives in and around the area and collected Tk 6,525 from each woman in the name of creating job opportunity by providing them

with training," said Dhunat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdullah Harun.

Ratan Kumar told the journalists that they had collected Tk 22,837,000 from the members of the organisation. However, the members alleged that the organisation collected about Tk 6.52 crore from around 10,000 members of the NGO.

Abdullah Harun said there had been allegations against the NGO after it launched its activities at the beginning of this year. Later, Protikar was compelled to discontinue its activities. But it continued its operation secretly at Dhunat and in several areas of Sherpur and Sirajganj.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Local people alleged that Freedom Unnayan Sangstha (FUS) in collusion with some administrative officials made away with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Alaska funded Sara Palin kids' travel

AP, Anchorage, Alaska

John McCain's running mate Sarah Palin charged the state for her children to travel with her, including to events where they were not invited, and later amended expense reports to specify that they were on official business.

The charges included costs for hotel and commercial flights for three daughters to join Palin to watch their father in a snowmobile race, and a trip to New York, where the governor attended a five-hour conference and stayed with 17-year-old Bristol for five days and four nights in a luxury hotel.

In all, Palin has charged the state \$21,012 for her three daughters' 64 one-way and 12 round-trip commercial flights since she took office in December 2006. In some other cases, she has charged the state for hotel rooms for the girls.

Alaska law does not specifically address expenses for a governor's children. The law allows for payment of expenses for anyone conducting official state business.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

India launches first moon mission

AP, New Delhi

India launched its first mission to the moon yesterday, rocketing a satellite up into the pale dawn sky in a two-year mission to redraw maps of the lunar surface.

Clapping and cheering scientists tracked the ascent on computer screens after they lost sight of Chandrayaan-1 from the Sriharikota space center in southern India. Chandrayaan means "Moon Craft" in ancient Sanskrit.

Indian Space Research Organization chairman G. Madhavan Nair said the mission is to "unravel the mystery of the moon."

"We have started our journey to the moon and the first leg has gone perfectly well," he said.

Chief among the mission's goals is mapping not only the surface of the moon, but what lies beneath. If successful, India will join what's shaping up as a 21st century space race with Chinese and Japanese crafts already in orbit around the moon.

To date only the U.S., Russia, the European Space Agency, Japan and China have sent missions to the moon.

As India's economy has boomed in recent years, it has sought to convert its newfound wealth built on the nation's high-tech sector into political and military clout. It is hoping that the moon mission coming just months after finalising a deal with the United States that recognizes India as a nuclear power will further enhance its status.

Until now, India's space launches have mainly carried weather warning satellites and communication systems, said former NASA associate administrator Scott Pace, director of space policy at the George Washington University.

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This undated handout picture received from Indian Space Research Organisation yesterday shows India's PSLV-C11 blasting off from the launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

PHOTO: AFP

Taliban militants kill 15 Pak security men

PTI, Islamabad

Fifteen Pakistani security personnel were killed when Taliban militants targeted their convoy with bomb and rockets in the restive northwestern Swat valley, reports said yesterday.

The convoy of six vehicles carrying supplies was attacked late last night with a roadside remote-controlled bomb at Sarsenay, 30 km from Swat's main city Mingora, local residents said.

An exchange of fire erupted between security forces and militants after the blast. The Taliban used rockets and automatic weapons against the group of over 40 security personnel.

Local residents said they saw 15 bodies of security personnel at the site of the attack this morning. Three vehicles were destroyed in the attack, they said. Officials claimed five Taliban militants were also killed.

Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan claimed responsibility for the attack. Six security personnel were reported missing and Khan said the militants were holding one

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National Film Award to be given after 6yrs

BSS, Dhaka

The National Film Award for six years from 2002 to 2007 will be distributed today at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will distribute the awards among the artists, filmmakers and others.

A total of 81 awards will be given to the best films, directors and artists under different categories, sources said.

A 27-member committee headed by Information Secretary Jamil Osman has been working for smooth holding of the function.

A souvenir was published on the occasion and a grand cultural function will be held during the award-giving ceremony.



Brac founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed receives the 2008 Conrad N Hilton Humanitarian Prize on behalf of Brac at a ceremony in Geneva on Monday. Steven M Hilton, president and CEO of the Hilton Foundation (left) and American music legend Quincy Jones (right) are also seen.

PHOTO COURTESY

JEWELLERY SHOP ROBBERY CCTV cameras found turned off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are trying to find out who turned off the close circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed at Amin Jewellers of Sobhanbagh in the city before Tuesday's robbery.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) detectives and Mohammadpur police are going on with their investigations apprehending that the video footage mystery is the key to the robbery case.

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| Prayer Timing | | |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| October 23 | | |
| | 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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