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**Writ petitions filed to delay Dec 18 polls**  
 AG tells HC at hearing on re-demarcation  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Salauddin Ahmed yesterday told a High Court (HC) bench that writ petitions challenging the Election Commission's (EC) ...  
 SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Anti-sculpture body warned against holding rally today**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police asked Biman Bandar Gol Chatter Murti Pratirodh Committee, a forum against Baul statues at the airport intersection, not to hold their rally, scheduled for today, as it would be a breach of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.  
 "The people concerned are requested not to hold the rally. Police would take legal steps against those who will breach the law," said a Dhaka Metropolitan Police press release yesterday.  
 The committee scheduled the rally near the Zia International Airport to press home their demand to construct a Hajj Minar ...  
 SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

**Prayer Timing**  
 October 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-39
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

RTI GAZETTED  
**8 agencies kept out of info access**  
 People have to wait 90 days to enjoy the right

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The Right to Information Ordinance, 2008 (RTI) came into effect with the government publishing a gazette notification Monday. However, people will have to wait 90 working days before they can use the law to get information.  
 Within the 90 working days, an information commission will be formed for proper execution of the law and resolving public complaints regarding information. All preparation for releasing information under the law would be made within these 90 days.  
 Even though at first six security and intelligence agencies were kept outside the purview of the ordinance, the gazette shows eight agencies.  
 The agencies are National Security Intelligence, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Defence Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Department of police, Special Security Force, intelligence cell of National Board of Revenue.  
 The Special Branch of Police and intelligence unit of Rapid Action Battalion were added later.  
 However, if the information is related to corruption and violation ...  
 SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Moudud, Falu get bail; Babar's bail upheld**  
 Tarique gets 3-month extended bail  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad-interim bail for three months to detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed and former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu in two separate corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).  
 Upon petitions filed by Moudud and Falu, two separate division benches of the HC granted them bail on health grounds.  
 Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the HC order granting six months' bail to detained former state minister ...  
 SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

**2nd PRSP okayed with high investment target**  
 Evaluation of the first one not done yet

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The government has set an ambitious target for domestic investment in the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) approved yesterday while the investment slid in the past three fiscal years.  
 The PRSP II, titled "Moving Ahead: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (NSAPR)," has set ambitious targets of 26.3 percent and 27 percent gross domestic investment out of the GDP for fiscal 2009-10 and 2010-11, higher than the projected 6.2 percent and 6.5 percent for 2007-08 and 2008-09.  
 The government however said the macroeconomic forecast has been made taking into account the uncertain global economic outlook and continued uncertainties in domestic developments.  
 "The forecast represents a cautiously optimistic scenario that is consistent with recent trends but also takes account of the impact of fiscal policy reforms," it said.  
 According to the projection, total cost of implementing the second PRSP for the period 2009-2011 is estimated at Tk 3,190.44 ...  
 SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Symbolic sculptures made by the students of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University yesterday to protest the removal of Baul statues from the airport intersection in the capital.

**42 trees being felled for a Rajshahi drain**  
 ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Around 42 large trees on the eastern side of Mohiuddin Jahangir Sarani are being chopped down after Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) authority sold those for a meagre price of Tk 1.98 lakh to make way for construction of a sewerage drain.  
 According to RCC sources, the trees are 10 to 20 years old and include Mahogany, Koro, Paikor, Babla and Epil Epil trees, which generally fetch a good price in the market for their timber value.  
 Environmental activists say the felling of the trees would hamper the ecology of the northwestern city generally known as Green City ...  
 SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

MADRASA STUDENTS  
**Pro-BNP teachers ask DU to bend admission rules**

**DU CORRESPONDENT**  
 The BNP-Jamaat backed 'white-panel' teachers of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday demanded relaxation of the admission criteria of several departments for the madrasa students.  
 Over 50 white-panel teachers made the demand at a meeting with DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at his office on the university campus.  
 They also told the VC that they would boycott all activities related to the admission process if the issue is not resolved immediately.  
 Although the white-panel teachers are now opposing the admission conditions, they were directly involved with the process of finalising those as out of 11 deans, nine are from the white-panel.  
 Earlier, the chairmen of four out of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the conditions to maintain academic ...  
 SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



**'Deranged' man decapitates young woman**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man beheaded an apprentice female lawyer and injured three others in broad daylight at a Segunbagicha house in the capital yesterday.  
 SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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**Pak madrasa struck**  
 AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's lawmakers have called for a review of its role in the US-led "war on terror" and a resumption of dialogue with militants amid a wave of violence by al-Qaeda and the Taliban while 11 people were killed in a suspected US missile strike on a religious school yesterday.  
 Parliament passed a special resolution late on Wednesday after a 15-day closed-door session focusing on the insurgency in Pakistan's tribal regions near the Afghan border.  
 "We need an urgent review of our national security strategy," a copy of the resolution seen by AFP said.  
 "The challenge of militancy and extremism must be met through developing a consensus and dialogue with all genuine stakeholders," it said.  
 SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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