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No assurance yet about Hasina's participation in polls: Zillur

UNB, Dhaka
 Awami League's acting President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the caretaker government during Thursday's dialogue did not give them any assurance that party chief Sheikh Hasina would be able to participate in the coming general election.
 "But we will not join the polls without a free Hasina," the acting AL chief said while talking to journalists at his Gulshan residence.
 The veteran politician also asked the government to lift the state of emergency immediately for a free and fair election.
 Zillur further said the general election, now set for December 18, must be held on this date. "Without Sheikh Hasina, no polls will be held in the country."
 "For having an election on

AL, BNP wait on govt's next move

Want govt to act before declaration of polls schedule

SHARIFUL ISLAM and RASHIDUL HASAN
 Two major political parties Awami League (AL) and BNP are waiting to see the caretaker government implement the consensual agreements they reached at the last round of politico-electoral talks among the three.
 Insiders of both parties said they want the agreements to be implemented before the announcement of the detailed election schedule on November 2.
 Leaders of both parties said they especially want to hear specific

decisions coming from the military backed government regarding the state of emergency, and about participation of their chiefs Khaleeda Zia and Sheikh Hasina in the election.
 Top leaders of BNP-led four-party alliance are likely to meet soon to evaluate the post dialogue situation.
 AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said during the talks it was made clear to them that Sheikh Hasina will be allowed to contest in the election.
 He told The Daily Star last night, "I call upon the government to

implement the agreements immediately for the sake of creating an atmosphere conducive to holding a free and credible election."
 "There is no legal or constitutional obstacle to allowing AL President Sheikh Hasina contest in the election," he said.
 After the dialogues the two major parties and the government termed it as positive and said they reached a consensus on a number of the parties' demands.
 Commerce Adviser to the Caretaker Government Hossain Zillur who is also playing the role of

Amin says he killed Tuli for providing legal aid to his wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Mohammad Amin, who decapitated lawyer Nasrin Akhter Tuli on Thursday, in a confessional statement to a Dhaka court yesterday said he killed Tuli as she had assured his wife Yasmin of giving legal support against him.
 The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, sent Amin to jail.
 Amin beheaded Tuli, 28, an apprentice lawyer, and injured three others in broad daylight at a Segunbagicha house in the capital.
 Quoting Amin, officer-in-charge of Shabbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that Tuli often took the side of Amin's wife Yasmin during altercations between the couple and also

MONEY MARKET CRISIS Leaders pledge global finance reform

AFP, Beijing
 World leaders vowed to overhaul the global financial system and China on Saturday urged tighter regulation after a week in which recession fears plunged stock markets into freefall.
 Asian and European leaders meeting in Beijing promised wide-ranging and effective reforms while UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also called for quick and meaningful change.
 "Leaders pledged to undertake effective and comprehensive reform of the international monetary and financial systems," the 40-member Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) said in a statement released late Friday.
 "They agreed to take quickly appropriate initiatives in this respect, in consultation with all stakeholders and the relevant international financial institutions."
 China's Premier Wen Jiabao on Saturday called for more regulation of the world's financial system.
 "We need to draw lessons from this crisis," Wen told journalists after the summit wrapped up.
 "We need to handle correctly the relationship between financial innovation and regulation. We need financial innovation to serve the economy better, however we need even more financial regulation to ensure financial safety."
 Wen confirmed China's participation in a crucial summit in the

2ND BD-NZ TEST No play on Day One

SPORTS REPORTER
 Without a single ball bowled the first day's play of the Brac Bank second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand was called off at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.
 To make up for the loss, play will start half an hour early for the next four days from 9:00 am.
 However it's unlikely to see proceedings start on the second day as moderate to heavy showers are forecast for today and tomorrow as well following depression over the Bay of Bengal.
 Even the toss could not be held as the overnight drizzle continued yesterday due to the influence of the depression.
 New Zealand are leading the two-match series 1-0 after they snatched a three-wicket victory against the spirited Tigers in the first Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on October 21.



This launch, MV Bahauddin, sank in the Meghna close to Chairman Ghat of Hatiya in Noakhali yesterday morning due to inclement weather. The 40 passengers it was carrying made a lucky escape as the accident occurred close to shore and fishing boats were close by to rescue them. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

MADRASA STUDENTS' PROTEST DU deans to review admission rules of 7 departments

DU CORRESPONDENT
 The deans committee of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday decided to review the admission rules for seven departments after discussing the matter with the authorities concerned.
 The progressive teachers of the university said the move was taken considering the political interest of the BNP-Jamaat-backed teachers and ignoring the departments' rights.
 DU Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz in the wake of admission row over some rules called the emergency meeting following a written request from Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin, also convener of BNP-Jamaat-backed White Panel.
 Ten deans of the university -- eight from White Panel and two from progressive teachers' Blue Panel -- took part in the meeting with Prof Faiz in the chair, held at the VC office.
 However, chairmen of two of the seven departments yesterday told reporters they would not allow any kind of influence on the academic freedom of their departments. They would rather not admit

Cremation ground of indigenous people grabbed

RU CORRESPONDENT
 Fifty-two indigenous families in Naogaon yesterday demanded stern action against a group of local influential people for trying to grab their cremation ground at Sonapur village through fake documents.
 The Santal and Orav families yesterday made the demand at a press conference at the Metropolitan Press Club in Naogaon.
 The indigenous people have been using about 0.19 acres of land as their cremation ground at Sonapur village of Manda upazila for over a century.
 But recently a group of local influential people including Rakib Pramanik and Rafiqul Pramanik are trying to grab the cremation ground, they alleged.
 They were barred from cremating bodies there and also received death threats from the influential group, the indigenous people alleged.
 They said the henchmen of the influential group also attacked them in September when they went to the cremation ground carrying a deceased member of their community.
 Later, Ranjiti Orav, president of Lahanti Akra Forum, an organisation of indigenous people, handed over a written complaint to Manda Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO) Bipul Chandra Biswas at the latter's office.

Democrats on track for big gains in House, Senate

AP, Washington
 Democrats are on track for sizable gains in both houses of Congress on November 4, according to strategists in both parties, although only improbable Southern victories can produce the 60-vote Senate majority they covet to help

Key Taliban-held Pak town recaptured

1,500 militants, 73 troops killed in battle for Bajaur tribal region in last 2 months

AFP, Loissam
 Pakistani troops have recaptured a key town from al-Qaeda and Taliban militants after a two-month operation in which 1,500 rebels and 73 soldiers were killed, the military said yesterday.
 Security forces backed by helicopter gunships drove insurgents out of Loissam, a strategic town in the Bajaur tribal region bordering Afghanistan, which is at a crossroads of extremist supply routes, it said.
 Islamabad has previously hailed its operation in Bajaur as proof that it is responding to US and Afghan demands to take action against extremists in Pakistan's seven semi-autonomous tribal areas.
 The extremists are accused of launching attacks on US and other foreign troops operating across the border in Afghanistan.
 "Loissam has been captured after stiff resistance," Major General Tariq Khan, head of the paramilitary Frontier Corps force, told reporters in Khar, the regional capital.
 The capture of Loissam by hundreds of militants earlier this year prompted the launch of the operation in Bajaur in August. More than 200,000 Pakistanis have been displaced by the clashes.
 The army took journalists to

JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY 20 injured as Shibir, BCL clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 At least 20 students were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on Jagannath University (JNU) campus yesterday.
 Some of the injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and other clinics adjacent to the campus while the rest given first aid.
 The clash ensued when Shibir men gathered on the campus to protest physical assault of one of their activists allegedly by BCL men in the morning.
 The BCL leaders and activists along with general students drove

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ঢাকা ডেপুটি কমিশনার	০২৭ ০০০০০০০০	খুলনা বিভাগ	০২৭ ০০০০০০০০
সুন্দরগঞ্জ বিভাগ	০২৭ ০০০০০০০০	চুল্লা বিভাগ	০২৭ ০০০০০০০০
বাঁধানী বিভাগ	০২৭ ০০০০০০০০	মিলেট বিভাগ	০২৭ ০০০০০০০০

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Prayer Timing

	October 26	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation