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Mojahid sees uncertainty over polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid yesterday said uncertainty over holding the parliamentary elections on December 18 still looms large.

"The government and Election Commission (EC) will have to give explanation to the people if the polls are not held in due time," said Mojahid while speaking as the chief guest at a rally organised by Jamaat at Bhasani auditorium in Sirajganj.

He also said the government is unwilling to step down although it came to power for three months.

The Jamaat secretary general said Awami League would hatch conspiracy to foil the election if it sees no possibility of winning the polls.

He urged the party leaders to remain alert against such conspiracies.

Dhaka City Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Rafiqul Islam Khan, local

Remittance, exports to bear brunt

Unctad chief warns LDCs about economic slowdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unctad Secretary General Supachai Panitchpakdi has said the ongoing global economic slowdown would further affect remittances, which have become a major source of income for many least developed countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh.

The slowdown would affect developed countries' demands from the developing countries, which in turn will affect the latter's export earnings, he said in his keynote paper styled 'The next Fifteen Years - A Vision for Growth' presented at the International Business Conference yesterday.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the two-day long conference at



Supachai Panitchpakdi

Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre to mark the chamber's 50th founding anniversary.

In his paper, Supachai said, "While the impact on any individual country will therefore depend on the structure of financial liabilities and reserves of the banking sector and its export structure, it is safe to say that developing countries are unlikely to be decoupled from the crisis."

Citing statistics from a recent estimation of the International Labour Organisation, he said the financial crisis would raise global unemployment by 20 million in 2009 and push 40 million people into extreme poverty.

"Together with the global food crisis, the financial crisis thus risks undoing in a matter of weeks all the progress achieved in poverty reduction over the past six years."

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Khagrachhari hill dist chief held for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura was arrested yesterday in the capital's Raja Bazar in connection with the murder of former KHDC councillor Anupam Tripura.

Tejgaon police along with members of Detective Branch (DB) of police picked him up from the house of his relative Prabin Chandra Chakma at Raja Bazar at about 4:30pm.

Md Mahbubur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC) of Tejgaon zone, said "The Khagrachhari hill district council chairman was arrested following a request from Khagrachhari police."

Sub-inspector Oliullah of Tejgaon Police Station said Monindra Lal was taken to the police station first. Later, he was taken into DB custody, he added.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: Former KHDC councillor Anupam Tripura was allegedly

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Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed joins a prayer after opening the Hajj flights at Zia International Airport yesterday.

Hard to find

A party in Jessore mentions fake address for registration

STAR REPORT

The name of the political party was available, at least on papers, but the address 'Samajik Rajnaitik Andolan' mentioned as its office on the registration form of the Election Commission (EC) also exists only on papers.

The Jessore office of the party could not be found either in the mentioned address in Barandipara or elsewhere in the area.

During the search for the office, locals were found expressing their surprise as they never heard of the party name, let alone seeing its office, reports a correspondent from Jessore.

The party also mentioned its Manirampur upazila office address as Kamalpur, and Avoyanagar upazila office address as Janata Shoe Sore, Nawapara. But no offices were found there and the district EC informed the matter to

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The office address that Samajik Rajnaitik Andolan mentioned in its registration form could not be traced. Later the office was found at another address, a room in a residential building, which the owner said was rented out a week ago.

Siddhirganj 240 MW plant to be ready in summer

UNB, Dhaka

The 240MW Siddhirganj peaking power plant is likely to go into operation from next summer as its installation works are going on in full swing.

Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB), a newly established state-owned public limited company (PLC), is implementing the project to feed the power-hungry capital and its adjoining areas to offset load shedding.

According to official sources, the plant will have two generation units, each having production capacity of 120 MW. The second unit has already been installed at

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Ctg customs employee sued for ill-gotten wealth

UNB, Chittagong

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against an employee of Chittagong Customs House for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 66 lakh through 'illegal' means and concealing it in his wealth statement.

ACC Assistant Director filed the case with Double Mooring police station against Senior Assistant Clerk Rafiqul Islam yesterday.

The case statement said the ACC, in an investigation, found that Rafiqul illegally accumulated wealth worth over Tk 66 lakh.

Earlier, Rafiqul Islam had submitted his wealth statement of Tk 33.36 lakh to the ACC.

BNP plans to keep convicts out of polls

Looks for alternative aspirants

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP is collecting information about its leaders who are already convicted by trial courts on different criminal charges under emergency powers rules (EPR), as part of its plan to keep them out of the December 18 parliamentary race if necessary.

The party is also preparing an alternative list of prospective nominees, just in case the convicted powerful leaders with proven ability to clinch victory for the party ticket are finally barred from contesting in the election,

said BNP insiders. The move has been necessitated by the predicament the party finds itself in as a large number of its leaders with track records of winning elections are either convicted of different crimes under EPR or facing criminal charges or their reputations are marred by highly questionable past practices.

Party leaders, however, said the nominees will be finalised by the top leadership after getting the survey report and factoring in other 'related issues'.

"We are collecting information about our former lawmakers, who

are convicted by courts, as we might have to replace them with new candidates if the convicted are finally not allowed to contest due to the emergency," a senior leader of the party told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said his party believes that none should be barred from contesting in polls until the person's conviction is upheld by the highest court.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda on Wednesday said persons convicted by courts under EPR will not be

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Clarification

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) in a clarification said The Daily Star report headlined "Go for nuke power to tackle outage" published on October 29 misquoted BAEC Chairman Dr Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan.

The report quoted him as saying, "Bangladesh has already signed required deals with international organisations to set up the plant."

BAEC has clarified that Bhuiyan actually said, "Bangladesh has already signed required protocols/treaties/conventions such as NPT, CTBT, safeguard protocols with the IAEA and other international organisations."

Global markets wobble despite Japan's rate cut

AFP, Tokyo

Global stock markets struggled to keep up a recovery Friday despite continued efforts by policymakers to tackle a credit crunch, with Japan joining an international interest-rate-cutting campaign.

Shares fell sharply in Tokyo and Hong Kong, while European markets were mixed in early trade, despite overnight gains on Wall Street as hopes grew that cheaper borrowing costs will nurse the sick global economy back to health.

Japan's central bank cut its

super-low interest rates for the first time in seven years -- by 20 basis points to 0.3 percent -- but investors there seemed unimpressed and the Nikkei index tumbled 5.0 percent.

Hong Kong closed down 2.5 percent as investors locked in recent sharp gains sparked by hopes that the credit crunch was easing.

"The rally is seen to be over," said Francis Lun, general manager at Fulbright Securities in Hong Kong. "It's time to take profit."

Elsewhere in Asia the mood was

a bit brighter. Seoul rose 2.6 percent, Taipei added almost 4.0 percent and Sydney edged up 0.4 percent.

European bourses saw mixed fortunes at the open. London rose 0.12 percent but Paris slipped 1.66 percent and Frankfurt shed 0.2 percent.

Central banks from the United States to Asia have lowered borrowing costs this week as part of efforts to avert a financial system meltdown.

Speculation is growing that the

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আপনি কি খুব দিতে বাবা হয়েছে? কে বাবা করেছে? খুব খোর বাবিকে হাতেদোতে খরিয়ে দিন।

Oil prices tumble

AFP, London

Oil prices fell heavily again yesterday as the prospect of a shrinking global economic growth and weakening energy demand weighed on the market, analysts said.

London's Brent North Sea crude for December delivery lost 2.06 dollars to 61.65 dollars a barrel in electronic trade.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for December shed 1.85 dollars to 64.11 dollars a barrel.

Crude prices sank on Thursday after official data showed that the American economy -- the biggest consumer of energy in the world -- contracted in the third quarter of 2008.

The market was also dampened by news that the US government's Energy Information

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Prayer Timing November 1 Azan Jamaat Fajr 4-55 5-30 Zohr 12-45 1-15 Asr 4-00 4-15 Maghrib 5-30 5-34 Esha 7-15 7-45

Lankan jets strike rebel suicide bombers' base

Major LTTE base seized

AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan air force jets pounded a Tamil Tiger suicide fighters' base deep in the country's embattled north on Thursday, and ground troops seized a major rebel defence line on the northwestern coast, the military said.

The airstrike on the base of the Tamil Tiger suicide fighters, known as Black Tigers, in the rebel stronghold of Mullaitivu came during an intensified government offensive against the guerrillas' de facto state in the north. Officials have pledged to crush the rebels by the end of the year.

Air force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara said pilots confirmed the attack was successful, but details of damage and casualties were not immediately available.

In the infantry clashes, soldiers fought intense gunbattles for

nearly two weeks before capturing the rebel fortifications in Nachchikuda, a rebel-coastal stronghold, on Wednesday evening, the Defence Ministry said.

Troops "launched a multi-pronged offensive and marched toward Nachchikuda from three directions, destroying and capturing vital" rebel positions, the ministry said in a statement. The rebels "have withdrawn from the area as the security forces intensified their military thrust," it said.

The military did not provide casualty details, in line with a new government policy, but said its troops inflicted "heavy casualties" on the rebels.

Fighting has escalated in recent months in the 25-year-old civil war as the military has captured a series of rebel bases and large chunks of territory in the north.

Also on Wednesday, soldiers

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The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus Linking Young Minds Together The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation...