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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 294

DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2008

www.thedailystar.net

KARTIK 27, 1415 BS

ZILQAD 12, 1429 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

## Saifur, Nizami, Mojahid sent to jail on surrender

Jamaat men block road in front of special graft court for release of their leaders; next hearing in Barapukuria case tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

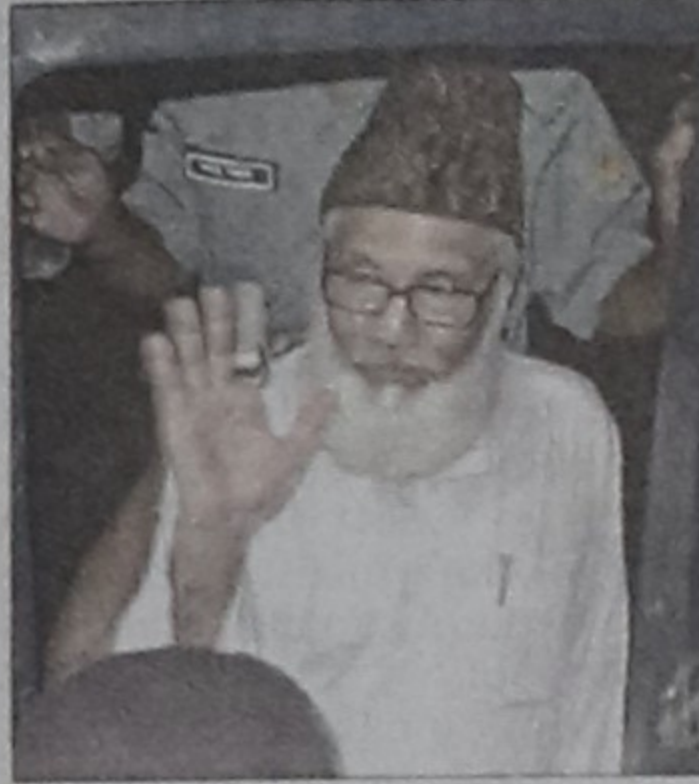
A special court yesterday sent BNP leader M Saifur Rahman, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid to jail in Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

It rejected bail prayers of the three after they surrendered on directives from the High Court (HC).

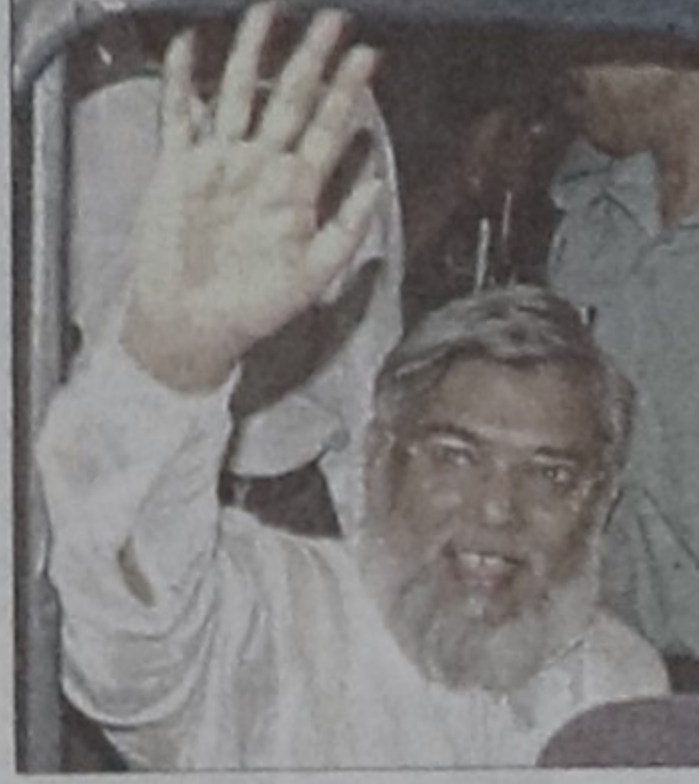
Judge Amar Kumar Roy of the Special Court-2 said since the case is under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), there is no scope for



Saifur Rahman



Matiur Rahman Nizami



Ali Ahsan M Mojahid

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### Jail order a bid to keep 4-party out of polls

Says Jamaat; 4-party declares agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has alleged that its Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid were sent to jail yesterday as part of the government's move to keep the BNP-led four-party alliance off the coming elections.

BNP condemned the sending of party leader M Saifur Rahman and the top leaders of Jamaat to jail saying the action was aimed at leaving the alliance outside the election process.

Four-party senior leaders during an emergency meeting last night announced fresh country-wide protest rallies tomorrow to press home their seven-point demand and to get these alliance

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## Retest samples of 8 brands locally

HC asks govt to submit test results from DU, BAEC, BSTI within 3 weeks; all other brands also to be tested

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and ERSHAD KAMOL

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered the health ministry to send again samples of the already tested eight brands of powdered milk to three of the local laboratories that had earlier tested those for melamine contamination, and to submit the new results to the court within 21 days.

The designated laboratories are of the chemistry department of Dhaka University (DU), Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), and

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

The court also ordered the government to publish in newspapers the results of all the tests done so far in order to let the public have access to those.

It, however, lifted for 21 days the earlier ban imposed by itself on sale and display of the five popular brands among the eight --- Dano, Red Cow, Diploma, Nido and Anlene --- while ordering to continue the ban on the three Chinese brands Yashili 1, Yashili 2, and SweetBaby2.

The HC in addition directed the

government to test all brands of powdered milk available on the market in the three designated laboratories by collecting samples of those, and to submit the test reports to the court 'as soon as possible'.

The test results must be submitted through the registrar of Supreme Court (SC), the order said.

An HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui ordered the government to collect the samples from the market in presence of the representatives of

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### BNP in talks with govt to create 'level playing field'

Khaleda tells envoys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A negotiation is going on between BNP and the caretaker government on creating a level playing field for the upcoming polls, Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, chief of BNP's foreign affairs subcommittee, has

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### Stock plunge sparks protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police detained at least one person after hundreds of investors, angered by a midday fall in share prices, took to the streets in front of Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

Around 10 people were injured in half an hour of clashes. The police controlled the nery situation by clubbing the protesters, who broke the windshields of a car.

The key index lost 40 points on

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## 'Sick' Pintu sent to jail for assaulting deputy jailer

His division cancelled; criminal case filed against him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities yesterday stripped detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu of division status in confinement and brought him back to Dhaka Central Jail from the prison cell of BSMMU after Pintu assaulted a deputy jailer.

The jail authorities also filed a case against Pintu last night in connection with the assault on Deputy Jailer Nasir Ahmed.

Nasir said Pintu swooped on him around 1:00pm when he went to his cell to request him to appear before a court.

"Today was scheduled for his appearance before court in two cases. As I requested him to appear before the court, he started slapping and punching me indiscriminately. He used filthy language while he was assaulting me," said the deputy jailer who filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station.

Pintu, accused in 14 cases including murder, extortion and corruption cases, was sent to jail on



February 15 last year after he surrendered before a court. He spent around 10 months in the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in three phases. Pintu is on bail in eight cases.

BSMMU sources said Pintu was discharged from the hospital around 8:00pm following jail authorities' request. They said the jail authorities took him back to jail.

Termining the incident regretful Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star, "It is shocking that a former lawmaker can assault a prison official."

"We must take punitive measures against him, including the cancellation of his division status, in accordance with the jail code. He would not be allowed to meet his relatives for a certain period," the IG-Prisons said. He said, "We will inform the court about the attack."

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star last night that Pintu was kept in a regular prison cell named Banaphul.

Sources said he stayed at BSMMU making excuses of fake illnesses with the help of a number of unscrupulous doctors. He had been skipping most of his court appearances claiming to be sick.

Earlier, a court issued a notice upon the jail authorities asking them to explain as to why they

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### Jamaat protesters violate EPR, block roads

STAR REPORT

Jamaat-e-Islami brought out processions across the country yesterday in violation of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) to protest the jailing of three leaders of Jamaat and BNP.

The protests took place after a trial court in Dhaka sent Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid to jail after they surrendered before the court in the morning.

Thousands of Jamaat leaders, activists and followers took to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Tension lessens in Bay, mounts on border

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh and Myanmar continue to mobilise troops along the border although the tension over Myanmar's attempt to explore oil and gas in Bangladesh waters in the Bay of Bengal seems to be dying down.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the crisis in the Bay ended following the withdrawal of the fossil fuel exploration rig of

Korean company Daewoo Saturday afternoon.

The negotiations over the issue resulted in a win-win situation for both Bangladesh and Myanmar, Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury told reporters at the ministry yesterday.

"Bangladesh has always wanted to establish close relations with Myanmar and our policy will be directed towards that end," he said.

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### New CEO for GP

STAR REPORT



Grameenphone yesterday appointed Oddvar Hesjedal as the company's new chief executive officer (CEO).

Hesjedal replaces Anders Jensen, who announced his plan in September to cut short his tenure.

Hesjedal, 58, has been serving Grameenphone as its chief technology officer (CTO) since June.

READ MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

### CHITTAGONG AL Manipulation in grassroots poll results alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Local Awami League activists have accused Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury of manipulating the process of candidate selection for the upcoming parliamentary election.

The mayor took away the ballot boxes of party's candidate selection process in Chittagong city Sunday evening and declared the results from a place other than the polling centre, the party activists alleged.

AL city unit leaders and activists during an extended meeting Sunday voted to prepare four lists

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### New schedule created doubt over polls: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday said the new election schedule announced by the Election Commission (EC) recently created fresh doubts about the polls.

"We had started work on finalising nominations keeping the Election Commission's poll schedule in mind but the schedule was changed. This is unexpected," AL spokesman and Joint General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said.

Ashrafur was speaking to reporters after Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty made a courtesy call on AL President Sheikh Hasina that lasted around 90 minutes.

Ashrafur said the elections must be held on December 18.

He said, "We heard that the

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