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# Rajuk goes tough on fake TIN submission

Deposit for plot to be confiscated if tax number proves false

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and HELEMUL ALAM

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) will cancel allotments of plots and confiscate deposited money of applicants for both Purbachal New Town and Uttara Residential Model Town (Third Phase) projects, if they submit fake Tax Identification Numbers (TIN).

"We will cancel plot allotments to those applicants who will get the plots using fake TINs, and a move is underway in that regard," said a Rajuk official.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) sources said it will start an investigation to identify fake TINs for which they will verify all submitted numbers.

NBR will also check all applications, especially the TINs of those applicants who came under the tax net after the announcement of application invitations for plots in the housing development projects, the sources said.

They said if anybody gets a plot using a fake TIN then NBR will recommend to Rajuk to cancel the allotment and to also confiscate the money deposited by the

applicant.

Representatives of Rajuk, NBR, different banks including the Bangladesh Bank, and of Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority will meet on December 22 to discuss the matter, and to fix a timeframe for the investigation, the sources said.

NBR and Rajuk sources also said a large number of applicants submitted fake TINs, depriving the government of a huge amount of revenue.

The NBR sources said fake TINs are not

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## Birds falling prey to traps

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Around 200 birds of various species were killed in the last 20 days after getting tangled up in illegal fine nets while flying around a fruit orchard at Chandipur in the city.

The birds include sparrow, bulbul, haludia, firingi, oriole and vampires and bats.

Two fruit growers covered their joint orchards on over one acre of land with fine nets 20 days ago to protect fruits, especially plum, from birds.

On an average 10 birds are getting trapped in the nets and dying every day, said labourers at the orchard. Around 12 birds were found dead yesterday.



An orchard keeper trying to untangle a bird from illegal fine nets put up around the farm at Chandipur of Rajshahi to protect fruits on trees.

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A worker sorts official seals to be used on ballot papers during polling at the Election Commission office yesterday. The seals are being sent out to all the polling centres across the country.

PHOTO STAR

## Tk 1CR EXTORTION Plaintiff wants to drop case against Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businessman Amin Ahmed Bhuiyan has decided to withdraw the case he filed against former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's eldest son Tarique Rahman for extortion of Tk 1 crore.

Talking to reporters at his Dhanmodi office yesterday, the owner of Al-Amin Constructions claimed that he was forced to file the case against Tarique with Gulshan police "amid an adverse situation against his will".

"The case is now stayed following a High Court order and Tarique Rahman was not shown arrested in the case," he said.

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## Appellate Division running with fewer judges for long

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Two posts of judges in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) are lying vacant for long although the Supreme Judicial Commission recommended names of possible appointees more than two months ago.

At its first meeting on October 16, the commission headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin recommended four senior-most judges of the High Court Division for the two vacant posts of Appellate Division judge.

The judges are Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, Justice Md Abdul Quddus, Justice Md Abdul Aziz and Justice Bijan Kumar Das. The president is due to appoint judges to the posts lying vacant since July 2.

Meanwhile, the president appointed seven additional judges to the HC.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Supreme Judicial Commission member and Supreme Court Bar Association President barrister Shafique Ahmed termed the government's not filling the vacant posts at the Appellate Division "unfortunate".

"Two benches of the Appellate Division cannot be

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## ETV reporter, 2 others hurt in accident

STAR REPORT

ETV reporter Rashed Ahmed and two crewmen of the private TV channel were injured in a road accident in Sirajganj as a bus hit their microbus following BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade yesterday.

Two other injured are cameraman Asaduzzaman Asad and microbus driver Rabiul Islam.

Immediately after the accident, they were taken to a local hospital and then shifted to Bogra Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where doctors said they were 'out of danger'.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred near Bhuiyangazi in Sirajganj

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## SC asks EC to accept Zafar's nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday directed the Election Commission (EC) to accept nominations of Kazi Zafar Ahmed of Jatiya Party and engineer Abdus Sobhan and Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan of BNP for contesting the next parliamentary election.

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## Fugitive JMB convict held

BSS, Barisal

Members of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) in a pre-dawn drive yesterday arrested a fugitive convict belonging to the outlawed militant outfit - Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) - from Savar in Dhaka.

Police said the arrested JMB cadre Abdur Rahim was jailed for 64 years for his involvement with militancy.

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## POLLS CAMPAIGN CPB accuses big parties of violating rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday alleged that the two major political parties being favoured by the administration are violating electoral code of conduct during electioneering.

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Prayer Timing		
December 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Indian parliament debates tough anti-terror laws

AFP, New Delhi

India's parliament yesterday debated tougher anti-terrorism laws and a plan to set up an FBI-style agency designed to plug gaping security holes exposed by last month's Mumbai attacks.

The legislation includes provisions allowing police and the judiciary to hold suspects for up to 180 days, rather than the current 90 days, and allows for a financial clampdown on suspects.

"It's important that we strike at the root of terrorist funding," said Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, who presented the legislation.

He said the government had taken into account the views of human rights activists and lawyers and promised "the best possible balance" in prosecuting terror suspects "without disregarding what are considered fundamental human rights."

Chidambaram said the government would address the "gaps in intelligence gathering and

sharing," as quickly as possible.

The setting up of a National Investigations Agency, styled on the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), also comes after decades of opposition from India's 29 states which had argued such a body would decrease their local law enforcement powers.

Chidambaram proposed special nationwide anti-terror squads and regional divisions of the counter-terrorist National Security Guard, currently headquartered in the capital New Delhi.

"Each state should have a dedicated police group which focuses on prevention, investigation and prosecution of terror crimes," the minister said.

The security establishment, long criticised for lacking a cohesive counter-terrorism strategy and poor intelligence gathering and analysis, came in for fierce criticism after the Mumbai attacks.

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## Opec okays record output cut of 2.2m barrels a day

AFP, ORAN, Algeria

Opec yesterday approved a record output cut of 2.2 million barrels of oil a day as the cartel that pumps 40 percent of world crude seeks to boost tumbling prices.

An Opec statement said the reduction -- larger than had been expected by markets -- would take effect from January 1. The cartel had in September and October approved cuts totalling 2.0 million barrels a day.

"The (Opec) conference agreed to cut 4.2 million barrels per day from the actual September 2008 OPEC ... production of 29.045 million barrels a day effective January 1, 2009," said the statement issued following a meeting in Oran.

Opec moved to slash production for the third time since September as oil prices tumble on world markets, severely denting its members' incomes.

Oil prices have fallen by as much as 70 percent from record high points of 147 dollars a barrel in July, as demand dries up in recession-hit industrialised consuming nations.

In the run-up to the Algeria gathering, Opec's and the world's biggest oil producer, Saudi Arabia, had said the cartel would slash output by 2.0 million barrels a day.

"We did better than what you were expecting," Opec president Chakib Khelil told reporters following the decision to cut output by 2.2 million barrels a day.

"I hope we have surprised you," he added.

The price fall is already placing significant financial strain on

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