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## GLOBAL RECESSION FALLOUT

# 24 lakh more to slip into poverty

## WB states in its economic update on Bangladesh

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, back from Istanbul

The World Bank has said around 24 lakh more people in Bangladesh would plunge into poverty in the current fiscal year (FY) due to the impact of global economic recession.

The number of such people would be higher in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions compared to those in Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

This was reflected in an economic update on Bangladesh prepared by the World Bank (WB), South Asia Region, prior to the WB-IMF annual meeting held in Istanbul recently.

WB sources said the countrywide

report has not yet been published but the World Economic Outlook released during the Istanbul meeting projected an overall situation in the world.

The economic update said due to the global economic meltdown, deepening of poverty and fall in income might be more intense in the FY 2010 than in FY 2009. In FY 2009, poverty rate and extreme poverty rate are estimated to be 0.5 and 0.4 percentage point higher respectively as a result of the global crisis.

In FY 2010, poverty and extreme poverty rates are projected to be 1.6 and 1.1 percentage point higher respectively. The update also said 'instead of a decline of nearly 11 percentage point between 2005

and 2010 in the absence of the crisis, poverty rate is now projected to fall by about 9 percentage point'. This would result in 'around 2.4 million additional poor (24 lakh) people in 2010 due to the crisis'.

The crisis is projected to raise poverty rate by similar levels in rural and urban areas, compared to the no-crisis situation in both years. In relative terms however the impact on urban poverty is higher than on rural poverty.

The eastern region of the country (Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions) had far outpaced the west (Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna) in poverty reduction

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A CNG-run auto-rickshaw struggles to ply a battered road on the Keraniganj side of the first Buriganga bridge. The road, vulnerable to water logging, has remained in this condition for the last three months.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## German author wins Nobel literature prize

AFP, Stockholm

German author Herta Mueller won the 2009 Nobel Literature Prize on Thursday for her work inspired by her life under Nicolae Ceausescu's dictatorship in Romania.

The Nobel jury hailed Mueller, 56, as a writer who "with the concentration of

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## AUGUST 21 ATTACK Grenades delivered from Pintu's house He admits to CID

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu admitted that the Argos grenades used in the August 21 blast were delivered from his Dhanmondi government residence.

Additional Superintendent of CID and investigation officer (IO) of the case Abdul Kahar Akond said this in his forwarding report yesterday. But he did not mention who delivered those grenades from the BNP leader's residence and to whom they were handed over.

The report also said Harakat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI) members held a meeting at his (Pintu) residence before blasting grenades on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004 that left 23 people dead and a number of people injured.

The BNP leader during the last three days' remand admitted that his brother Maulana Tajuddin, a HuJI member, had supplied

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## Three killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Three outlaws were killed and four policemen were hurt in "gunfights" between criminals and law enforcers in Kushtia, Khulna and Bagerhat early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sakmol, 40, a top cadre of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Delwar Hossain Delu alias Apu, 30, a cadre of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Lal Pataka) and Aslam Khan, 40, an activist of PBCP-Janajuddho faction.

Acting on a tip off, a joint team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-12) and police raided a place near ansar camp at Baria under sadar upazila in Kushtia around 3:30am. At least 20 GMF members were found holding a meeting there.

The law enforcers surrounded the area and asked the cadres to surrender. Refusing to surrender the cadres opened fire at the lawmen forcing them to retaliate. At one stage the outlaws fled and Sakmol was found dead.

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## CTG ARMS HAUL Ex-CID boss interrogated

UNB, Chittagong

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday interrogated former deputy inspector general (DIG) Farruk Ahmed Chowdhury of CID for four hours in connection with the sensational Chittagong arms haul case.

A three-member team, led by Senior ASP Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, started questioning Farruk at its divisional headquarters at Dampara at about 11:30am.

Sources said Farruk did not reveal anything about 10 truckloads of firearms during

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## SHIP-BREAKING YARD 3 workers killed in Ctg mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three workers were killed at a ship-breaking yard in South Sonachhari of Sitakunda upazila yesterday morning.

They were identified as Nasir Uddin, 35, of South Gohira under Anwara upazila, Nahid, 22, of Sonachhari, and Hazrat Ali, 26, of Gaibandha upazila. All were workers of Crystal Ship-breaking Yard owned by Nawshad Hasan.

The workers were under the shelter of a large iron-plate when it was raining accompanied by gusty winds around 9:30am. At one point the winds blew the plate down leaving them dead on the spot, said Sub Inspector Hasan of Sitakunda Police Station.

Police recovered their bodies and sent them to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Around 30 thousand workers are making their living at about 40 ship-breaking yards in the coastal belt of Sitakunda upazila.

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## GRAFT CHARGES AGAINST JS TRIO House to discuss fate next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House is likely to hold a discussion next week on the graft charges against former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain to decide the fate of the trio.

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) yesterday at a meeting chaired by Speaker Abdul Hamid, decided in principle to hold the discussion on the much talked about issue to decide the next course of actions, meeting sources said.

In that case, the discussion might be held on next Sunday or Monday before the current session of the ninth parliament prorogues on Tuesday, the sources added.

"The meeting discussed the issue and opined that a discussion can be held on it," former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, who is a member of the BAC, told The Daily Star after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

Sources said BAC member advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia, who led an all-party parliamentary body to investigate the graft charges against the trio and placed a report in parliament on July 9, raised the issue.

In response, the speaker said a discussion should be held since a thorough investigation into the allegations was carried out and the parliamentary body also placed its probe report in parliament, meeting sources added.

A member informed the meeting that the former speaker filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the probe body and the issue is pending with the court.

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His head covered with a poly bag as a protection against drizzle, this kid takes a ride on Dhaka University campus yesterday. The capital experienced intermittent rain throughout the day.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

## Car bomb strikes Indian embassy in Kabul: 17 die

AP, CNN-IBN, Kabul

A suicide car bomber detonated his vehicle outside the Indian Embassy in the busy centre of Afghanistan's capital yesterday, killing 17 people and wounding nearly 80 in the second major attack in the city in less than a month.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the 8:30 a.m. assault and said the embassy was the target.

In New Delhi, India's Foreign Secretary

Nirupama Rao said that driver of the sport utility vehicle "came up to the outer perimeter wall of the embassy in a car loaded with explosives." Three Indian paramilitary soldiers on guard at the embassy's watchtower were wounded by shrapnel, Rao said.

The Interior Ministry said 15 civilians and two Afghan police officers were killed. At least 76 people were wounded, the ministry said.

It was the deadliest attack in Kabul since

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## Lawmaker rallies behind 2 sons Bins land grab report; case, 4 complaints filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem Master yesterday evening claimed that the allegation of land grabbing against his two sons is baseless and meant for tarnishing his political image and business reputation.

"No incident of land grabbing took place here. My sons purchased lands to set up two ship-breaking yards and the persons who sold the lands went there along with the surveyors and workers to demarcate those," said the lawmaker at the press briefing at the Chittagong Press Club.

Meanwhile, one case and four general dairies (GD) were filed against the two sons of the lawmaker in connection with Wednesday's incident of alleged land grabbing and attack on journalists at Sitakunda in Chittagong.

"None even raised any objection to it or claimed those lands. A vested quarter spread the rumour of land grabbing," claimed the lawmaker.

"We don't have any dispute with Doula (proprietor of Pakija Ship-breaking Yard) since he has no land there," he said.

"The owner of Azadi Ship-breaking Yard and Prime Steel also

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## OnlinePoll

Do you think introduction of electronic voting system will stop vote rigging?

- ☐ Yes (54.1%)  
☐ No (42.7%)  
☐ No Comments (3.2%)

Total votes: 1218

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think oil and gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal under present contract with foreign companies has become necessary to ensure our energy security?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## Prayer Timing

October 9

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	6-53	6-56
Esha	8-30	9-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

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**Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque**  
 International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)  
 Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery  
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka

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passing stool (Fissure), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation, Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative colitis), Colonoscopy, excess gas in stomach, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer operation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Children's bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by:

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