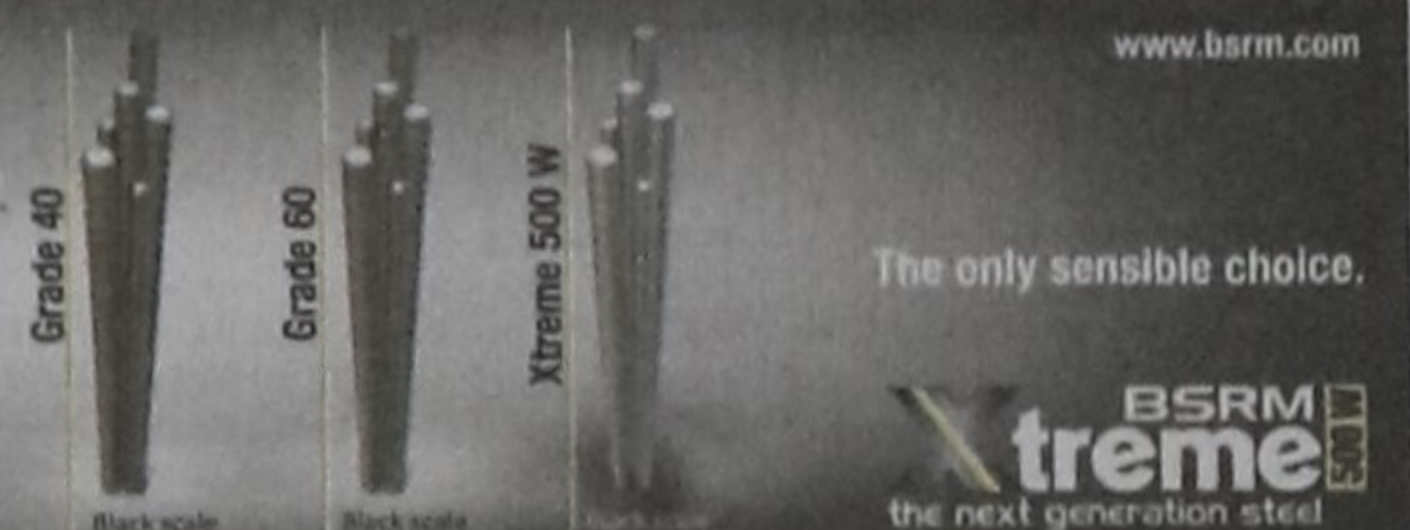


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## OIC chief due today

UNB, Dhaka

Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary General Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu arrives here today on a three-day visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

During the visit from November 3-5, the secretary general will hold bilateral meetings with the leadership of Bangladesh including the president and the prime

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# Rohingya trouble in jobs abroad

PORIMOL PALMA and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Apart from causing various internal difficulties, some Rohingya refugees, who have been staying in the southeastern part of Bangladesh, are now creating trouble abroad, threatening the country's overseas labour market and putting the government in a fix.

Officials and experts said many Rohingya refugees are becoming voters, managing passports illegally, and migrating as workers to different countries, which may thwart government efforts to repatriate them.

Around 700 Rohingyas, who already made their way to Saudi Arabia, put Bangladesh in a spot of bother after being captured. Saudi authorities arrested them and kept them in a deportation centre in Jeddah, and are now pressing Bangladesh to take them back.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the largest labour market for Bangladeshi migrant workers, also hinted that they would not address to Bangladeshi workers' problems if the arrested Rohingyas were not taken back.

The government, considering the seriousness of the problem, sent a three-member delegation to Saudi Arabia early October to talk with the Saudi officials and find a solution.

"The arrested Rohingyas are Myanmar nationals but Saudi authorities claimed that they entered the country with Bangladeshi passports," the delegation, headed by joint secretary (political) of the home ministry Md Nurun Nabi Talukder, mentioned in its report on return.

Officials at the home ministry and expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry said the Rohingyas usually destroy their passports and seek Saudi assistance for shelter and jobs, which were also provided to them on humanitarian grounds.

"But the issue has turned out to be a major concern as Saudi Arabia is Bangladesh's largest labour market with around 2 million Bangladeshis working there," said an official, adding that KSA significantly reduced the number of visas issued to Bangladeshis during the last two years.

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Out of their designated camp, Rohingya refugees are seen on a road at Kutupalong in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar. Rohingyas are now migrating as workers to different countries, which may thwart government efforts to repatriate them. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Parties get more time to place charter to EC

Failure leads to cancellation of registration; RPO amendment bill passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed the Representation of the People Order (RPO) amendment bill extending the deadline for another six months for political parties to submit their ratified constitutions to the Election Commission to retain registration.

The RPO was amended to give additional time to the main opposition BNP and five other political parties to submit their ratified constitutions to the EC as they failed to meet the earlier deadline of July 24 this year.

They will now get time till January 24 next year to submit their ratified charters to the EC. If any political party fails to do so this time, its registration with the EC will be cancelled, according to a provision of the bill.

BNP however has opposed the provision for cancelling registration. BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, a member of the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry, placed a note of dissent on the provision during the bill's scrutiny by the committee.

In his note, the BNP lawmaker said any attempt to cancel BNP's registration with the EC will lead to political unrest and hamper constitutional continuity.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed piloted the bill proposing its passage. The House passed it unanimously with the opposition lawmakers abstaining.

Another provision of the bill specified the

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## Rab starts manhunt for JMB chief

Wife remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) started a manhunt to capture the chief of banned militant organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Maulana Saidur Rahman and his son Bashar following information gleaned from Saidur's detained wife.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Saidur's second wife Nurunnahar Himu and her younger brother Muktasim Billah Rubel's wife Asma Mimi on a three-day remand each in a case filed with Sabujbagh Police Station.

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# Suicide bomber now strikes Pak workers

35 killed; twin blasts rock Lahore, UN pulls out staff from northwest Pakistan

AFP, AP, Rawalpindi/Lahore

A suicide bomber targeted workers queuing for their salaries outside a Pakistani bank and hotel yesterday, killing 35 people, as the United Nations pulled expatriate staff from the northwest.

The twin blows to Pakistan eclipsed the military's announcement that troops had captured a key Taliban-held town as it stepped up a major offensive in the tribal belt and offered five million dollars for Taliban chiefs dead or alive.

Monday's attack, near army headquarters in Rawalpindi, turned another routine day into bloodshed for the second time in less than a week, showing the enormity of the threat that al-Qaeda-linked militants pose in Pakistan.

The blast showered the area with human flesh, smeared blood on the ground and shattered the windows of a multi-storey bloc housing the bank and four-star Shalimar Hotel.

"Our building shook as if in an earthquake and when we came out there was smoke everywhere and body parts were thrown into our office," Raja Sher Ali, a marketing manager in a local company, told AFP.

Meanwhile, two suicide bombers blew themselves up at a police checkpoint near bus terminals at the entrance to Pakistan's city of Lahore late Monday, wounding seven people, a senior police official said.

The bombers struck after dark in the congested area on a link road to Pakistan's intercity

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## Cases filed on specific allegations

No political motive, says ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Golam Rahman yesterday said the cases they filed are based on specific allegations and evidence and there is no scope of political intention.

He also said if there are specific evidence and allegations against any person even from the ruling government would not be spared by the ACC, reports ATN Bangla.

"We don't have any affiliation with politics. Identity of the person is not important to us," he said.

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## 4TH ODI TODAY Tigers look to wrap it up

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be looking to build on the confidence gained from the last two matches to wrap up the series when they take on Zimbabwe in the fourth one-day of the Grameenphone Cup at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Cricket Stadium in Chittagong today.

This will be the first day match of the series after the

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## PROCUREMENT ACT TIB worried at changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed concern over the placement of Public Procurement (second amendment) Act, 2009 in parliament scrapping the provision of past experience in case of any internal government purchase up to Tk 2 crore.

In a written statement, TIB

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## Hyundai to build offshore gas platform in Myanmar

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries, the world's largest shipbuilder, said Monday it has won a 1.4 billion dollar deal to build an offshore gas platform in Myanmar.

It said it secured the order from Daewoo International, a South Korean trading company

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Jamming vehicles make an unending tailback at Chairmanbari of Banani yesterday afternoon.

# Form full district units by Dec 4

BNP asks grassroots as council slated for Dec 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite intra-party conflicts at all levels, BNP has asked all its district units to hold councils and form full-fledged district committees by December 4, four days ahead of the party's national council.

Although the party started reorganising itself in February this year, not a single district unit could hold its council till yesterday with only a month remaining for the national council of BNP.

Party insiders said the possibility of forming Dhaka city committee of the party before its national council is fading as the BNP high command apprehends that internal conflicts might escalate if the city committee is formed now.

The party's standing committee on July 9 dissolved 71 of the 75 district unit committees and formed convening committees,

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## Bangladesh should go with UN definition

UN official says about child's age

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marta Mauras, a member of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, said Bangladesh government should accept the UN definition for a child that refers to the age below 18 years, as there are different rules and laws in the country that define child differently.

The rules and laws refer nine, 14 or 18 years as age limit to define a child. So, the government should accept the UN definition, she told The Daily Star in an interview.

THE DETAILED INTERVIEW ON PAGE 3

# Karzai declared winner as Afghan run-off scrapped

AFP, Kabul

Election organisers yesterday declared Hamid Karzai Afghan president for a second term, cancelling a one-man presidential run-off following a diplomatic push led by UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

"We declare that Mr Hamid Karzai, who won the majority of votes in the first round, and is the only candidate in the second round, is the elected president of Afghanistan," Independent Election Commission chairman Azizullah Ludin said.

Ludin said the decision had been made in line with the provisions of the Afghan electoral law and constitution and "consistent with the high interest of the Afghan people".

The move came one day after the only challenger pulled out and after Ban met Karzai amid a diplomatic push to ensure the one-horse election did not take place and to bring a quick end to more than two months of chaos.

Karzai's rival, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, pulled out of the contest on Sunday, declaring he would not participate for fear that widespread fraud which discredited the first round would be repeated.

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## OnlinePoll

Do you think the government will probe into the extra-judicial killings neutrally as assured by Law Minister Shafique Ahmed?

☐ Yes (24.6%)  
☐ No (72.8%)  
☐ No Comments (2.7%)

Total votes: 790

## TODAY'S POLL

Who should be held responsible for the violent clash at Nippon Garments Industries Ltd in Tongi?

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

## Prayer Timing

November 3

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-55	6-30
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-30	6-34
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation