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HR record worsens

Citing different human rights organisations, the US State Department's human rights report says "preventative and arbitrary detentions" increased after the declaration of the state of emergency, particularly after the anti-graft drive was launched. The report adds that in many cases suspects are arrested without having any formal charges or arrest warrants against them and kept in custody or taken to unknown places or at military cantonment either for having confessional statements on some issues under severe physical and psychological torture or to extract information about other suspects. It says the government in many cases files politically motivated and false cases.

Wari-Bateshwar one of earliest kingdoms

The discovery of silver punch-marked coins of the pre-Mauryan period dating back to 600 BC to 400 BC in Wari-Bateshwar reveals that the place was a Mahajanapada, one of the earliest kingdoms or states in the Indian sub-continent. Wari-Bateshwar could be a part of Gangaridae, which was described as a rich place of trade in the estuary of the river Ganges in Greek and Latin literature and was also mentioned by Ptolemy, Virgil, Strabo, Deodorus, Kartius and Plutarch, archaeologists claim.



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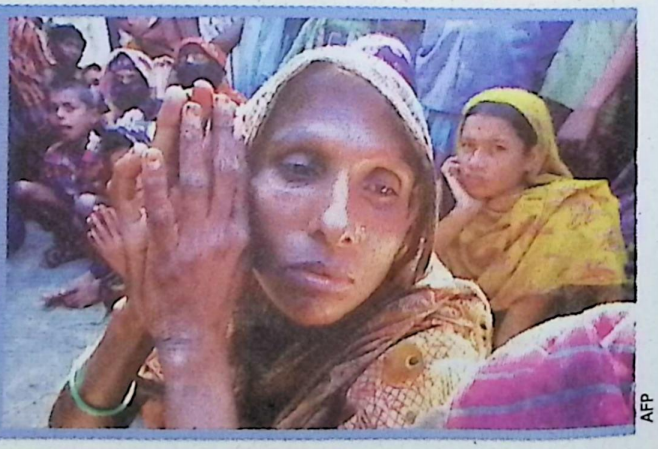


Row over control of Nam apartments

The Housing Ministry remains at loggerheads with the Parliament Secretariat over whether law-makers of the last Parliament are entitled to continue living there and whether they must pay increased rent. The lawmakers pay a monthly rent of Tk 400 for a 1,250 sq. ft. flat and Tk 500 for a 1,800 sq. ft. one and no electricity bill. Many former lawmakers vacated the flats by June last year when the caretaker government handed over the responsibility of the flats to the Housing Ministry and the ministry asked the Parliament Secretariat to ensure that the flats are vacated, but 160 flats are still occupied by former lawmakers and their families.

NGO skulduggery in Natore

Thousands of victims of Probhati Grameen Unnayan Sangstha go on the rampage March 6, assaulting a woman Union Parishad chairman and torching the NGO office and chief's house in Naldanga, as the NGO disappeared with crores of its members' money. It could not be immediately estimated how much money the NGO swindled out of its members, but police suspect the NGO collected over Tk 150 crore from around 60,000 members in the last one year through about 1,000 branches in Natore and surrounding districts. Last month Freedom Unnayan Sangstha vanished with Tk 250 crore.



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