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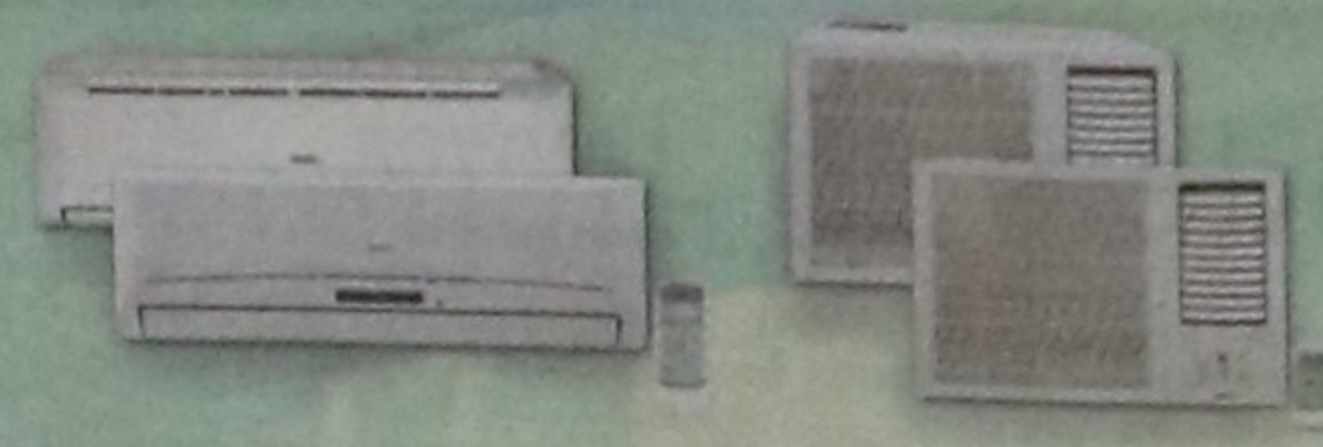


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### Attorney dept formed to move cases for state

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government has set up a new institution named Government Attorney Department for dealing with cases in courts and performing other duties on behalf of the state.

"The department will appoint lawyers to conduct the cases on behalf of the state and ensure transparency and accountability of their works," an official announcement said yesterday.

It said the Attorney Department was formed through a notification

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### Body formed to protect interest, freedom of media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee comprising the editors and journalist leaders has been formed to protect the interest and freedom of the print and electronic media in the present context of the country.

The body styled 'Committee to Protect Freedom of the Press' was formed as per decision of the recently held meetings of the editors and journalist leaders, said a press release of the newly formed committee.

Ataus Samad, advisory editor of the daily Amar Desh, is the

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### Diplomats have respect for Bangladesh's internal matters

UNB, Dhaka

Dutch Ambassador Bea Ten Tusscher has said they have every respect for Bangladesh's internal political matters and that they are not to judge any political development in the country.

However, she said the Vienna Convention drafted in 1960 allows each other to comment on international issues like human rights.

"In the Netherlands, we are

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## UN for urgent steps to tackle food crisis

Ban Ki-moon calls for food production increase

AFP, Rome

UN chief Ban Ki-moon called for a huge rise in food production Tuesday as world leaders started a summit on the food price crisis that threatens to plunge millions more people into poverty.

The UN secretary general said food output had to rise 50 percent by 2030 to meet rising demand, increased finance for agriculture and the elimination of "trade and taxation policies that distort markets."

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda urged fellow world leaders to release excess stockpiles of food to ease shortages in poorer countries, offering more than 300,000 tonnes of imported rice held by Japan.

"I believe that this not only constitutes an emergency response measure towards food shortages, but also serves as a short-term measure to return some degree of equilibrium to the food market," he told the summit.

Ban said it was also essential for the Doha round of World Trade Organization talks to be completed as quickly as possible to alleviate the crisis.

"We have a historic opportunity to revitalise agriculture," Ban told some 50 heads of state and government, gathered for the three-day summit.

"I call on you to take bold and urgent steps to address the root causes of this global food crisis," he said at the Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in

Rome. With food prices at a 30-year high, the UN secretary general warned that while the world must "respond immediately," it must also put the long-term focus on "improving food security."

Food prices have doubled in three years, according to the World Bank, sparking riots in Egypt and Haiti and in many African nations. Brazil, Vietnam, India and Egypt have all imposed food export restrictions.

Rising use of biofuels, trade restrictions, increased demand from Asia to serve changing diets, poor harvests and increasing transport costs have all been blamed for the price rise.

World Bank President Robert

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### AL, BNP leaders oppose move on national charter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League and BNP leaders yesterday opposed any government move to formulate a national charter, saying they would not sign such a charter.

Their disapproval came at a roundtable on 'Relevance of Formulating the National Charter and National Security Council in Overcoming the Present Political Crisis', organised by Pro-People's Movement at the National Press Club.

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### Delwar calls for unity to free all political detainees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain called upon people and party leaders to be united and launch a movement to free all political detainees following the direction of party Chairperson Khalea Zia.

"A vigorous movement has to be launched to free all political detainees and protect the nation

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### Lightning kills 4 of a family

CU CORRESPONDENT

Four members of a family were killed and three others injured when lightning struck their home in Chittagong's Fatikhkhari upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Bazlu Mian, 70, of Bagan Bazar union under Bhujpur Police Station of the upazila, his son Abdul Matin, 25, grandson Jahangir Mian, 10, and granddaughter Jahanara, 6.

The injured were Bazlu's wife Razu Bibi, 55, daughter Maya, 22, and another grandson Mir Hossain, 18.

Sources said lightning hit the family's mud hut during driving rain at around 11:00am, killing the four on the spot.

Locals rushed the injured to Ramghar Hospital in Khagrachhari.



People held during the ongoing mass-arrest drive being taken to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka under police escort yesterday.

## 67.5pc land can be used for building now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday published Building Construction Rules-2008 allowing highest 67.5 percent of a plot of land for constructing buildings.

Under the new rule, which is amended Building Construction Rules-2007, owners of up to two kathas of land will be allowed to use highest 67.5 percent of their plot of land to construct a building, an official of the Department of Architecture said.

They would have to construct building leaving 0.8 metre space at the edges instead of the previous one metre, he added.

The changes were made as small landowners had been expressing dissatisfaction over the Building Construction Rules-2007, an official of Rajdhani Unnayan

Kartripakha (Rajuk) said.

According to the new rules, owners, who have two-three kathas of land, will be able to use 65 percent of the land for construction. Owners of three-five kathas will be able to use 62.5 percent of the land, owners of five-nine kathas 60 percent, owners of nine-12 kathas 57.5 percent, owners of 12-14 kathas 55 percent, owner of 14-18 kathas 52.5 percent, and owners of 18 kathas and above will be able to use 50 percent of the land for constructing their structures.

The new rules allow owners, who constructed their buildings according to the old rules, to internally modify their buildings leaving along the length, width, height and total floor space of buildings.

The new rules say that an owner constructing a building under the

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### JOURNO ASSAULT Tangail jailer cooks up new story

STAR REPORT

Tangail District Jail Superintendent Sagir Miah has come up with new stories about the assault on the district correspondent of The Daily Star, Mirza Shakil, even before the completion of investigation into the incident.

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### BASHUNDHARA CASE Hearing on charge framing deferred until June 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday deferred till June 9 the hearing on charge framing in the Tk 21 crore bribery case filed against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and six others.

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## Old gas pipelines pose risk of fatal accidents

Leakages become frequent in city

STAR REPORT

Incidence of gas pipe leakage that can lead to fatal accidents is becoming frequent as a good part of the city's gas distribution pipelines has become old through the decades and subject to careless handling by various construction works.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd that handles country's 70 percent gas supplies says that in the city alone it deals with a dozen cases of pipeline leakages daily.

As this number is alarming, the company is now taking up a pipeline survey project that will pinpoint weak pipelines needing replacement and repairs. This

project may be undertaken next winter.

Monday night's explosion at the 12-storied Hotel Orchard Plaza is one such incident that may have been triggered by gas pipeline leakage. But, how it happened is yet to be identified by professional investigation.

"Surely a good part of more than 10,000 km of gas distribution network of Titas has become very old. Some of it is 40 years old. But more importantly, the city now has more buildings that demand installing various utility systems including electrical cables over the gas pipelines," said a competent source of Titas.

In the case of Hotel Orchard Plaza, Titas was repairing a gas

pipeline leakage close to the building Monday night and found that an electrical cable was carelessly laid above the pipe. Sparks from that cable had gradually eroded the pipe and had caused the leakage.

"The explosion did not take place where the leakage was detected. It happened up in the sixth floor of the building. If we blame gas for the explosion, this may have happened if the gas had found its way to some enclosed rooms through the sewage system. But, whether this is actually the case is something the investigators will hopefully find out," the source added.

Another source in Titas said if there is five to 15 percent gas in an

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## US team to scrutinise port operations

Due on June 19; to visit Ctg Port, 2 land ports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US team would arrive on June 16 to observe security and management status of the country's main seaport and two major land ports.

Officials said yesterday the team comprising port officials and security experts would conduct a thorough scrutiny of the overall operations of Chittagong Seaport, Benapole and Sonamosjid land ports.

"We believe the purpose of the visit is finding out both prospects and lapses of the three ports," said a senior home ministry official

asking not to be identified.

He said food and many other items are being exported to the US mainly using the Chittagong port. "Possible they're coming to see the lapses through which illicit goods may be sneaked."

The official said the team would make sure the quality of the food items sent to the US is ensured.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim yesterday held a meeting with the director generals of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Coastguards and officials of the foreign and home ministries to assess the visit.

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Prayer Timing		
June 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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