

## Ban slapped on 8 brands

HC orders govt to stop sale, display of milk powder till test results from abroad come

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered the government to stop the sale and display of eight brands of milk powder found tainted with melamine till receipt of lab test reports from abroad.

The bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also issued a rule on the authorities concerned to explain within four weeks why their failure to act to stop the sale already should not be declared illegal.

Besides, it wanted to know why they should not be directed to take precautions enough to safeguard



Employees of Agora department store remove eight brands of powdered milk from their shelves yesterday following a High Court order.

children as well as citizens from health hazards posed by toxic milk powder.

The brands in question are Australia's Diploma and Red Cow, Denmark's Dano Full Cream, China's Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2, and New Zealand's Nido Fortified Instant and Anlene.

Recently, tests carried out by the chemistry department of Dhaka University (DU) found that the eight contain toxic melamine.

The court order comes in response to a writ petition filed as public interest litigation by rights watchdog Human Rights and Peace for

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## Bashundhara, ex-DC caused Tk 200cr loss

Group filled up, sold 80-acre govt land without permission; Red Crescent's building built on land obtained illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the government has yet to sanction Bashundhara Housing project, its authorities have already filled up 80.29 acres of government khas land in Gulshan and handed plots to buyers, causing a loss of Tk 100 crore to the state.

In another graft incident, a former deputy commissioner (DC) of Dhaka illegally gave Red Crescent Society permanent settlement on government land in

Kakrail. The society has constructed a 20-storey building there flouting a ministry order and without Rajuk approval causing a loss of another Tk 100 crore to the state.

A team of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) formed on September 15 this year as part of drive against institutional corruption found the irregularities in a preliminary enquiry and examining documents regarding the matters.

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## Jamaat now accepts plenary power of JS

EC sees no problem in giving registration

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has made further changes in its constitution to accept the lawmaking power of parliament and conform to the criteria for registration.

It has deleted from its revised charter the phrases that undermine the legislative authority conferred on parliament by the republic's constitution, said sources at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat.

Section 2 (5) in the interim charter it submitted to the EC Monday said people must not

accept anyone except Allah as the law-making authority. They must not swear loyalty to anyone except Allah.

Besides, it added, they shall refuse to obey anything that is not ordained by Allah and based on the laws coming from Him.

The technical committee commissioned by the EC to examine the registration applications found the phrases unconstitutional.

It asked Jamaat to get rid of the words when the party's legal affairs secretary met it at the EC Secretariat Wednesday afternoon.

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## Govt 'accepts' 6 out of 7 BNP demands in talks

Delwar claims only upazila issue left to be resolved; 2 ex-PMs to get top security; AL feels reassured about polls after dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has claimed that its second round dialogue with the government yesterday was a major success as the government agreed in principle on six of the party's seven demands including lifting of the state of emergency.

"The government has almost agreed in principle on six of our seven demands," BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain told reporters at a press

briefing in the presence of the advisers who led the government at the talks last night.

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said, "We have differences only on the issue of holding of upazila elections. We have agreed to disagree on the issue of upazila election schedules but we will continue our discussion on it."

Delwar said the advisers gave them assurance that it would consider their demand for lifting of the

state of emergency before the upcoming parliamentary election slated for December 18.

Hossain Zillur said, "The government is not stubborn on the issue. The restriction on political campaign will be lifted soon phase by phase and the clauses of emergency rules will be addressed later."

In its talks with the BNP and earlier with the Awami League (AL), the government also agreed in principle to ensure highest-level

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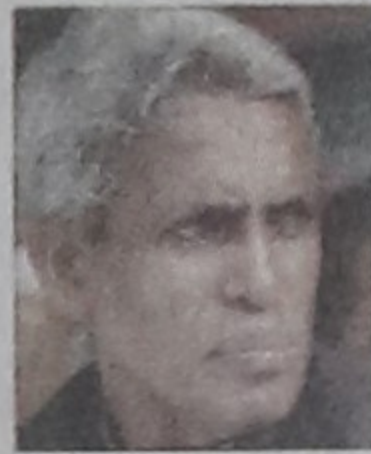
### Talking polls and beyond

## Parties should stop JS boycott culture

Says AL leader Abdur Razzak

SHARIFUL ISLAM and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Former premiers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia should hold talks regularly in the greater interest of the country and people no matter they are in the government or the opposition, Awami League (AL) Presidium member Abdur Razzak has said.



"The culture of boycotting parliament should also be stopped and all political parties need to refrain from practising such a bad culture," he said during an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

He also said any minister including the prime minister

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Find details of the interview on page 11

## Citizens voice for MPs, Sangsad of their dream

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday released a citizen charter reflecting voters' expectations of not seeing the corrupt, bankrupt, black money holders and war criminals in parliament again.

The voters express the hope in the charter that honest, educated, experienced and non-communal forces would be elected in the December 18 national polls to make parliament functional by giving up walkout and boycott culture.

The charter on peoples' expect-

**DREAM JS**

- MPs won't be corrupt, bankrupts, war criminals, black-money holders
- They must disclose all personal info while contesting polls
- Regular attendance of PM, opposition leader, MPs in JS
- No more parliament boycott, hartal, confrontation
- Deputy speaker should be selected from the opposition

tations of parliament and lawmakers was made public at a seminar in Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital. It also reveals that a parliament member (MP) should be a graduate, resident of his/her own constituency and have at least five years experience in politics.

Reading out the charter, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said people expect the lawmakers will have the capacity, insight and intellectual to represent people home and abroad. They will not be land-grabbers but patriotic who would

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