

## 96 ordinances

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observers that there is no reason for worrying about the expiration of the ordinances' effectiveness.

"The bills will be passed with retrospective effect," she added. The parliament ratified only 23 ordinances so far, by passing 16 bills, and also placed three more bills to keep the same number of ordinances enforced.

According to the constitution, the timeframe for ratifying the ordinances or for keeping their enforcement continued, by passing of bills by the parliament, expired yesterday.

According to the prime minister's announcement, fresh bills are supposed to be placed in the parliament to make them into laws with retrospective effect from the dates of the promulgations of the ordinances.

Meanwhile, BNP-led opposition coalition lawmakers staged two walkouts yesterday in protest at treasury bench's intransigence to follow the rules of procedure of Jatiya Sangsad in placing and passing the bills. They described the followed procedure as 'abnormal'.

The second walkout of the opposition lawmakers around 8:00pm prompted the prime minister to take the floor in a bid to clear the air about the fate of the automatically nullified ordinances.

The prime minister also blasted the opposition lawmakers for staging the walkouts and blamed them for the immediate past state of emergency.

"Their repression, killings, greed for power, violations of the constitution led the country to the emergency," Hasina said adding, "Their friendship has always been with the martial law, which does not have any constitutional authority."

Referring to the opposition lawmakers' contrariety to passing the money laundering prevention bill, the prime minister said they opposed the bill since they are involved in

**Shady transaction**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
transactions happened during the tenure of last four-party alliance government.

According to the notice of the central bank, Prime Bank's former chairman Salimul Haq, and managing director M Shahjahan Bhuiyan will have to submit their clarification over the mysterious transactions within seven days.

The central bank issued the notice following an investigation report, which found that corrupt politicians used to have transaction through Prime Bank bypassing the traditional banking norms.

According to the report, Prime Bank high-ups were involved in hundreds of mysterious transactions to benefit the corrupt politicians. The BB was kept in the dark about the transactions.

The BB report also said Prime Bank had been used for depositing corrupt money of the corrupt politicians.

The issue came up for discussion during the probe by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of the last caretaker government.

The ACC in a case found that the bank helped former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and seven others to deposit Tk 21 crore bribe money involved in the murder of a Bashundhara Group director.

## Ship-breaking

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Sources said Anamul was seriously injured when a heavy iron-wire, used for tugging broken parts of the ship, fell on him at Mak International Ship-breaking yard at about 9:30am.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead.

## DCC polls

**FROM PAGE 1**  
sources at the EC Secretariat said.

It might cost Tk 1 crore to send the voters' slips by post. The commission yesterday held a meeting in this regard with the authorities of postal department, the sources said.

The EC Secretariat on Monday sent to the LGRD and cooperatives ministry a letter proposing the tentative dates for DCC polls.

Meanwhile, the EC Secretariat has already started taking preparations for conducting the election.

To assist the field level election officials, the EC Secretariat has prepared a draft list of 1,970 polling stations for DCC election. The number of voters on the new voter list with photographs is 35,25 lakh.

The last election to the DCC was held in March 2002 and its tenure expired in 2007. But in the absence of a flawless voter list, and due to the state of emergency, election could not be held in time.

## Bangladesh

**FROM PAGE 16**  
directed BDR personnel to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity to obstruct illegal trespassing and maintain law and order across the border.

Termining smugglers as enemies of the country, its people and economy, Sheikh Hasina said no compromise would be made in smuggling firearms, drugs and illegal commodities.

She also emphasised the importance of preventing smuggling of fertiliser and pesticides and asked BDR to remain alert in this regard. The prime minister said our economy is dependent on agriculture so we cannot afford any adverse impact on that sector.

The prime minister marked human trafficking across the border during last few decades a very sensitive issue. She asked the border guards to take stringent measures in this regard.

She also assured them of extending any kind of support from the government to stop smuggling.

On her arrival at the BDR headquarters, Sheikh Hasina was received by Home Minister Sahara Khatun and Director General of BDR Major General Shakil Ahmed.

A smartly turned out BDR contingent gave the prime minister a guard of honour. On an open sports utility vehicle, Sheikh Hasina reviewed the guard and took salute.

She distributed gallantry awards, BDR Padak, to four members of the force and President Rifles Padak to 10 for their outstanding performance and courage.

The four awarded are Col Md Anis-Uz-Zaman, Lt Colonel Syed Kamruzzaman, Captain (ret'd) Murad Salah Uddin Ahmed and Sipahi Md Imamul Hossain.

The recipients of the President Rifles Padak are Lt Col Md Badrul Huda, Lt Col Md Abdul Mukim Sarkar, Maj Md Maksudul Haq, Maj Akramuzzaman, Subedar Md Ali Akbar, Subedar Mohammad Ali Sarkar, Nayeb Subedar Md Azir Uddin, Habilder Md Yunus Ali, Nayek Md Ishak Ali and Nayek Md Jahangir Alam.

## HC asks

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The petition said the existing laws and regulations of the country prohibit destruction of trees in the green belt regions for constructing ship-breaking yards terming the initiatives taken by the public and private sectors in this regard completely illegal.

It is mandatory to get clearance certificate on environment to construct the ship-breaking yard but this rule has not been followed while constructing the yard at Sonaichhari, it added.

Petitioner's counsel advocate Iqbal Kabir Liton yesterday told The Daily Star that owners of ship-breaking yards—Md Alauddin, Abul Kalam, Siraj Ud-doula, Shawkat Azim and ASM Al Mamun have taken initiative to construct ship-breaking yards at Sonaichhari Mouza ignoring the laws and rules concerned.

He also said the local law enforcement agencies are found negligent though the forest department has lodged cases with local police stations in this connection.

Earlier on February 10, the BELA members served legal notices to three ministries, including environment and forest, and several other government departments, and demanded immediate halt to the construction of ship-breaking yard.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud argued for SM Alauddin while Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder stood for the government.

## Bigwigs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The teams are expected to submit their reports separately to the standing committee within a few days.

Interview of thana committee leaders under a few city corporations, including Dhaka, could not be held due to some complexities, the party insiders said.

Abdullah Al Noman, BNP joint secretary general responsible for Dhaka Division, yesterday told The Daily Star that he completed interview of upazila level leaders except the thana leaders under Dhaka city.

"Decision about the thana leaders under city will be finalised in consultation with the high command," he said, adding that he will submit his report as soon as possible.

Besides, Selima Rahman who was assigned to discuss with the leaders of Khulna division hoped she would submit report before the standing committee meeting.

"We have heard opinions of thana leaders under Chittagong division. After compilation of the findings, the report will be submitted before the standing committee within a few days," Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, chief of the team that formed for Chittagong Division, told The Daily Star.

Starting on February 3, the upazila level leaders of the party have met central teams to give their opinion on the party's humiliating defeat in the parliamentary elections and its reorganising process.

## Abu Karim

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Advocate Omar Faruque filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka accusing Abu Karim and Sayeed Bari, proprietor of the Suchipatra Prorkashana while AL leader CS Alam filed another case with the same court accusing only Abu Karim.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Kanika Biswas recorded statements of both complainants and fixed March 2 for order on the cases.

In his complaint, advocate Omar mentioned that the accused had written a verse titled 'Baganey Phutey Achhey Anek Golap' in February 2006 and Suchipatra Prorkashana published the book in Ekushey Book Fair in 2008.

The Daily Amader Samoy published an excerpt from the book on February 20 this year and the complainant learnt about the publication from the daily.

The daily quoted different lines from the verse where the accused claimed that 'only 30,000 people were killed during the Liberation War in 1971 and now that figure was being altered to claim that 30 lakh people had been killed.'

The complainant said that this kind of distortion of facts can create a wrong idea among the 14 crore citizens of Bangladesh and is also a threat

## Uttara torn up

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Tuesday cabinet meeting to the beach resort of Hua Hin, where he will host a summit of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders from Friday.

Abhisit insisted that he would go to work at Government House on Wednesday as usual.

"I can walk in but protesters must be unarmoured," he said. "Protesters said they will not obstruct officials from working. Core leaders must give assurances that protesters will comply with their promise."

Police said around 10,000 flag-waving demonstrators dressed in signature crimson T-shirts had massed outside Government House after travelling on motorbikes, trucks and on foot from a downtown Bangkok parade ground.

Some tried to overturn a police truck before a group carrying hammers and wirecutters broke through the huge coils of razor wire sealing off the main road in front of the building.

Protesters using crowbars also smashed up concrete barricades behind the sprawling complex.

Authorities have deployed about 3,700 police officers and 1,680 soldiers for the protests but Abhisit insisted any crowd control would be peaceful.

"My government has no policy to resort to violence. If we need to maintain rule of law, we will use legal measures," he said.

In addition to calling for elections, the Red Shirts have demanded the sacking of Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya because of his links to the anti-Thaksin People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) movement.

The yellow-clad PAD occupied Government House for three months last year -- during which violent protests outside parliament left two people dead -- and seized control of Bangkok's two airports for a week in November-December.

They ended the sieges in December when the court

## George Harrison

**FROM PAGE 16**  
In the historic Concert for Bangladesh, he moved 40,000 people who had assembled in New York's

Madison Square Garden in August 1971. To help the new generations know about the quiet Beate's contribution to the cause of Bangladesh's independence, the Liberation War Museum yesterday unveiled a bronze plaque in his memory.

The speakers at a function unveiling the plaque received from British singer Danis Theophilus urged the government to confer state honour on Harrison and Pandit Ravi Shankar for their outstanding role in creating world opinion during the Liberation War.

The two organised the Concert for Bangladesh, the first benefit concert of its kind. The concert raised \$243,418.51 for Bangladesh relief, which was administered by UNICEF.

Ajit Roy and Shaheen Samad of the then Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra placed the plaque where the trustees of the museum Akku Chowdhury, Mofidul Haque, Dr Sarwar Ali and Tarek Ali were also present.

Born on February 25, 1943 in England, Harrison built his career as a rock guitarist. He died on November 29, 2001.

Liberation War Museum will observe the birth anniversary of George today at city's Engineers' Institute to pay tribute to the great friend of Bangladesh.

## Satellite to monitor

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Carbon dioxide is the leading greenhouse gas driving climate change.

Other than the verbal commentary during the launch there was little visual indication on NASA TV that the satellite had failed.

"Several minutes into the flight, launch managers declared a contingency when the fairing failed to separate properly," Nasa said in a brief statement, referring to the satellite's protective shield.

It was Nasa's first spacecraft dedicated to studying carbon dioxide, though not the first in orbit: on January 23 Japan launched the world's first satellite dedicated to monitoring greenhouse gas emissions.

The Japanese mission will help scientists measure the density of carbon dioxide and methane from almost the entire surface of the Earth, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

A Japanese-made H-2A rocket carrying the Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) blasted off from Tanegashima, a small island in southern Japan.

The satellite is collecting data from 56,000 locations around the world, a dramatic increase from the 282 observation points available as of last October, JAXA said.

Japan hopes the mission will provide governments with useful data as they come under pressure to meet their 2008-2012 Kyoto Protocol goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The mission of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) was to map the global distribution of carbon dioxide and study how that distribution changes over time, Nasa said in a statement.

"The liftoff was smooth," Jet Propulsion Laboratory spokesman Alan Buis told AFP. "It was pretty far along in the ascent" over the Pacific Ocean when the "contingency" was declared, Buis said, adding no further details.

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He also said he buys the Indian powdered milk from the shop of Niranjan, Bikash Mollick, Uzan Mollick and from some women at Kaliganj main bus stand.

When contacted, Jahangir Alam, manager of chilling centre of the Brac office, said, "We can't detect any fault in such milk, supplied by Prosanto as he mixes cream with the milk."

A total of 85 new titles arrived at the fair yesterday.

## Thaksin supporters

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## Minister tells

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The minister said the Private Infrastructure Secretariat Committee in its seventh meeting in principle agreed to enlist the project for setting up of subway system in Dhaka city. The proposal was sent to the Board of Investment.

Responding to another question from ruling party lawmaker Kazi Keramat Ali, the minister said, the government has a plan to build the second Padma bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia Point.

"Necessary steps will be taken to start construction work of the bridge on time subject to the arrangement of money," he said.

Answering to a question from Awami League Lawmaker ABM Golam Mostafa, the minister said the government has undertaken a plan to elevate Dhaka-Chittagong Highway (Daudkandi-Chittagong part) to four lanes.

"A pre-qualification tender for preparing a list of qualified contractors has been called in a bid to call a tender for construction of four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Highway," he said.

Due to a lack of water in the Padma, the Ganges-Kabadak Irrigation Project, which was initiated in 1959 bringing 1.16 lakh hectares of land under irrigation, is also not running well.

If the Ganges Barrage was built, the experts said, it would increase navigability of the rivers in the region decreasing salinity in the rivers, ultimately saving the Sundarbans, and the population of the region.

## Dictionaries

**FROM PAGE 16**  
sale centre to buy copies of the Arabic to Bengali dictionary.

"The academy's dictionaries are affordable and of standard quality," Ibrahim said. "Tomorrow we will be back to buy their Bengali to English dictionary," he added.

Bangla Academy has brought out 15 new titles for the fair this year. These include 'Mujibnagar Sarkar O Bangladesher Muktiyudho' by M u h a m m a d F a y e z u z z a m a n .

"Bangladesher Lokogit" by Dr Abdul Wahab, 'Gangawridhi Theke Bangladesh' by Justice Habibur Rahaman and 'Nirbachito Darshonik Rachana: Karl Paupar (2nd part)' translated by Aminul Islam Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, the presence of popular writer Humayun Ahmed added glamour to the fair yesterday as he came to the fair for the first time this year. Huge crowds seeking to talk to him and collect his autograph swarmed him.

The popular writer later told journalists that the fair venue is not large enough to accommodate all visitors.

"I don't think that the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela has to be organised on the Bangla Academy premises every year as the crowds are increasing each year. In future it would really be difficult to accommodate such large crowds only on the academy premises."

"The government could choose a larger venue to hold the fair next year," he suggested.

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WB to fund

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plants and look how to involve the private sector in such initiative, said the World Bank official.

As decided earlier, the World Bank will provide \$150 million for formation of southern region power distribution company under the development policy loan and another \$100 million for REB.

The World Bank is eager to provide financial assistance for renovation of old power plants and enhancing capacity, use of renewable energy for power production, saving energy, corporatization of southern region power distribution company and improvement of distribution system of rural power, said Xian Zhu.

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