

FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION 'Debates over withdrawal of appeal unnecessary'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Adviser HT Imam yesterday said debates centring the government decision to withdraw the appeal against the High Court verdict on fifth amendment to the constitution are unnecessary because the government has all rights to do so.

"The High Court gave a verdict on the fifth amendment

and the government has all rights regarding whether to appeal against it or not. Unnecessary debates are being triggered centring the issue," he said at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap yesterday.

Imam also said the fifth amendment was brought to legalise the conspiracy through which Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed.

BNP Standing Committee

member and former minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrat Hossain said cancellation of the fifth amendment would create a chaotic situation in the country.

"The fifth amendment to the constitution was brought through a decision of parliament and cancelling it would mean an insult to parliament," he said.

Supreme Court lawyer barrister Tania Ameer said the

country's constitution was hijacked in 1975 and it was legalised through the fifth amendment.

Dhaka University professor of international relations M Shahiduzzaman said cancellation of the amendment might create some chaos.

HT Imam termed the demand of a few BNP leaders for intermediate elections "funny", saying nothing has occurred so that the country needs an interim election.

BNP leader Dr Mosharrat said the demand did not officially come from the party—it is a personal thought of one BNP leader expressed at a rally. He, however, said such demands may come if the government fails to deliver.

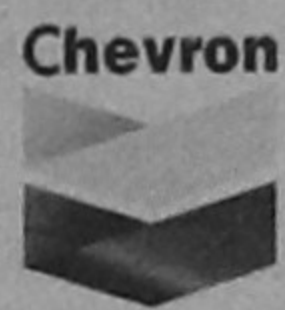
Imam also said the government wants to make the country self-sufficient in food and it would ensure that farmers get fair price to keep up the motivation for more food production.

BBC's Kamal Ahmed moderated the weekly dialogue on contemporary issues of the country organised by BBC Bangla Service.



Eminent nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Miah, husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was given a guard of honour before his burial at the family graveyard at Fathepur under Pirganj upazila in Rangpur yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

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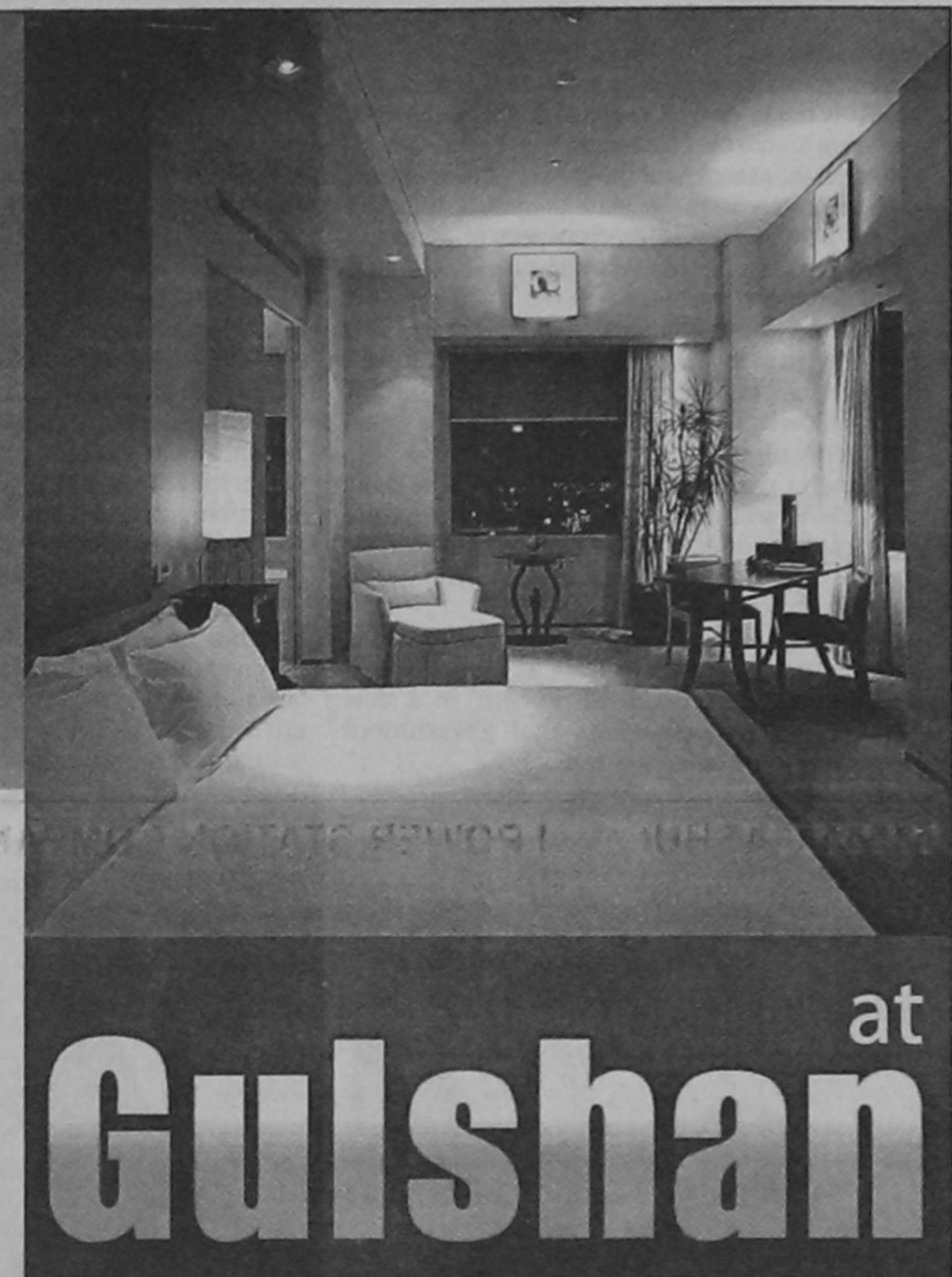
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