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Dejected, but not defeated

Law Commission shrugs off govt indifference, draws up work plan for 2 years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The reconstituted body of the law commission has prepared a 21-point work plan for next two years aiming at modernising some old laws and the judicial system of the country.

The commission has recently sent a draft work plan to the ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs for government opinion.

Sources said the commission in 13 years since its establishment has drafted as many as 88 recommendations, but except for only four or five, all of the recommendations were brushed aside as those were believably not in favour of

successive governments.

Commission Chairman Justice MA Rashid said despite some shortcomings his office had prepared the work plan with a view to modernising the legal system and updating some old laws.

Talking to The Daily Star on September 24, Rashid also said his office would finalise the work plan after receiving opinion from the government.

As per the law concerned, the government will send its opinion, if any, on the work plan to the law commission by November 30 this year. The commission will then finalise the plan and inform the government about it by December 31, he said.

The work plan includes -- the reforma-

tion of the judicial administration to make justice delivery system easily accessible, cheap, informal and speedy; review of the constitution of the republic; reformation of family laws; laws related to Chittagong Hill Tracts; labour laws; laws for protection of migrant workers; laws for maintenance and management of the government lands -- khas lands, vested and abandoned properties; reformation of the laws for pure and safe food; and reformation and consolidation of the laws of citizenship.

The plan further comprises reformation of the Police Act 1861, Prisons Act 1894, Antiques Act 1968, laws concerning

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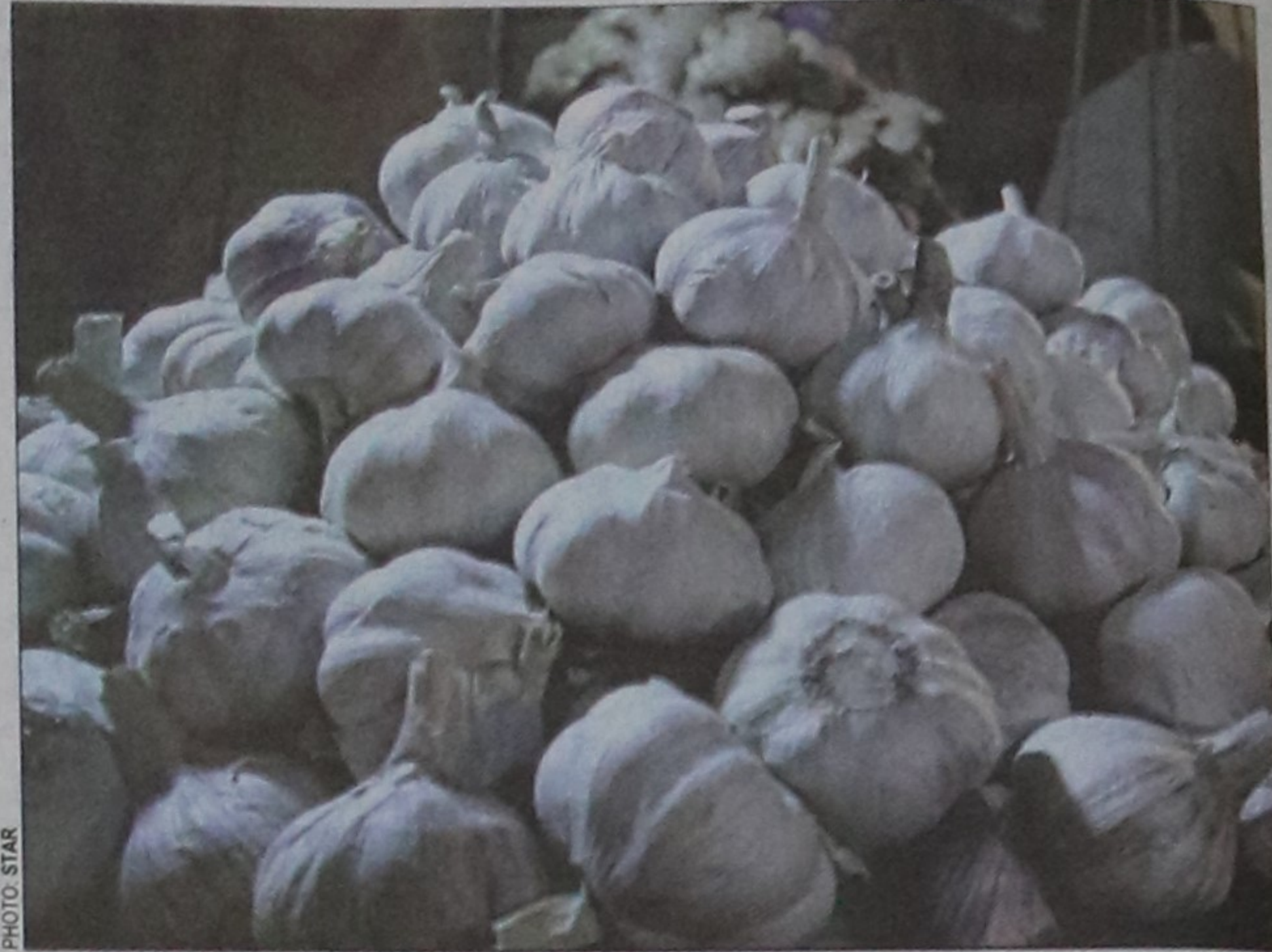
Onion and garlic prices spiraling

PORIMOL PALMA

Onion price witnessed around 50 percent hike to sell between Tk 30 and Tk 44 per kg while the price of garlic continued to show an upward trend with around eight percent increase in a month.

Importers said a fall in production of garlic in China and onion price hike in India following heavy flooding in the country's southern states recently affected the prices of these two items. Garlic price went up by around 200 percent in a year selling between Tk 70 and Tk 110 a kg.

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Another BDR man dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another member of Bangladesh Rifles died yesterday at its Thakurgaon headquarters.

He was identified as nayeb subedar Yasin Zaman, 57, from Sandvip in Chittagong. He was recently transferred from Battalion-16 to Battalion-20.

With this death, the number of BDR men dead after the mutiny on February 25-26 rises to 48.

Of the dead, autopsies of 11 bodies were conducted and two murder cases were filed with New Market Police Station for torturing two men to death.

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Feud within nature of port city politics

AL appears indifferent to factional tensions in Chittagong

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Ruling Awami League (AL) high command appears not to be concerned about serious intra-party disputes in Chittagong and dismisses the feud as the "nature of Chittagong politics".

Party insiders say Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina believes the disputes between the AL factions in the port city would "automatically disappear in due time".

Currently, the AL's Chittagong politics is divided into two major factions -- anti and pro-

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and city unit president of the party.

Besides, there are some other minor factions led by different leaders as well as lawmakers of the ruling party.

Sources say Hasina did not take any initiative to bring an end to the longstanding disputes in Chittagong even after the matter came at Saturday's meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALWC) for immediate solution.

Insiders say AL presidium member Ataur

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Division within city BNP irks Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is annoyed at the activities of the supporters of two rival city BNP leaders, Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Mirza Abbas, centring the formation of the Dhaka City committee.

Party insiders said the chairperson is trying to solve the crisis regarding the formation of the Dhaka city unit committee but she could not put an end to it since senior BNP leaders refused to take the responsibility of overseeing the process.

"She is in trouble... two top leaders of the city are lobbying against each other while other senior leaders are not interested in taking charge of the unit due to internal disputes," a senior leader of the party told The Daily Star

requesting not to be named.

Party leaders said Khaleda recently talked to BNP Vice-president MK Anwar and asked him to take the driving seat of the committee formation but Anwar refused and requested her not to give him such a "tough and complicated" job.

She also talked to some other senior leaders but could not finalise her decision regarding who would oversee the city committee formation.

Against this backdrop, a group of city leaders including a few ward councillors, who are known as loyal to DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, met the chairperson Thursday night to submit papers containing signatures of city BNP leaders and ward councillors.

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MEDICAL ENTRANCE EXAMS 7 students held for question leak bid

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested seven students of different educational institutions from Dhaka University (DU) campus early yesterday on charge of attempt to leak out questions of medical colleges' admission tests.

The arrestees were identified as Mehruz, Dinar, Fayez Mustafiz, Obaed, Mahfuzur Rahman, Shohel Rana and Alamgir Hossain.

Of them, Shohel Rana is a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, three are from

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Tired of waiting for the authorities to mend this road at Kadamtola in Keraniganj near the Second Bangladesh China Friendship Bridge, locals try to repair it with bricks yesterday.

Police arrest 7 JMB men in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A team of Special Branch (SB) of police have arrested seven members of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from four districts of Rajshahi division over the last couple of days.

All the arrestees were paraded before the media at Rajshahi Metropolitan Police headquarters yesterday morning. However, journalists were not allowed to talk to the arrested militants.

Police identified the arrestees as JMB Rajshahi division chief Ashraf alias Haider, 32, JMB ehsar (full-time) members Md Momtaz, 20, Asadul Islam, 30, Rohidul, 35, and Isarul Islam, 22 and Naogaon district chief Abdur Rahim, 30, and Natore district chief Shahabuddin, 35.

Ashraf was arrested from Malda Colony in Rajshahi city on Wednesday night and following his statement police arrested JMB ehsar members Asadul Islam and Isarul from Chapainawabganj the next day.

The SB team arrested Abdur Rahim and Momtaz from Atrai upazila.

The same day Shahabuddin and Rohidul were rounded up from Boraigram upazila of Natore.

The arrestees were handed over to Boalia Police Station.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think oil and gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal under present contract with foreign companies has become necessary to ensure our energy security?

- Yes (50.4%)
- No (46.6%)
- No Comments (3.0%)

Total votes: 1239

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the border aggression by Myanmar junta could be handled diplomatically?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

October 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-20
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-15	5-30
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

No case filed yet for Sitakunda land-grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

No case was filed with police as of yesterday in connection with Wednesday's reported land grabbing by two sons of a local Awami League lawmaker along the coast in Sitakunda upazila.

Pakija Enterprise that lodged a general diary with the Sitakunda Police Station also did not receive copy of the GD as of yesterday, said its estate manager.

Pakija had also filed a GD with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and a complaint with ASP (Sitakunda Circle) Ruhul Amin Siddique.

Sirajud Doula, proprietor of Pakija Enterprise, yesterday termed AL lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem's Thursday statement in defence of his sons false.

At a press conference the lawmaker from Chittagong-3 said the allegations of land-grabbing against his sons are false and that none of his sons was present at the spot.

Sirajud Doula yesterday claimed that the lawmaker tried to hold a meeting with them with the help of leaders of Bangladesh

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Rights envoys from Europe due tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Human rights ambassadors of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark will visit Bangladesh from October 11-15.

The three ambassadors-- Arjan Hamburger of Netherlands, Gunter Nooke of Germany and Arnold de Fine Skibsted of Denmark--will take stock of the human rights situation in Bangladesh following the December, 2008 elections, said a press release of Dutch Embassy.

They will also share and exchange experiences with various partners and relevant authorities and continue the on-going dialogue on human rights issues between the European Union (EU) and the

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2 'outlaws' killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Two outlaws were killed in separate 'shootouts' between their cohorts and law enforcers in Kushtia and Khulna districts early yesterday.

Two policemen were also injured during the gunfight in Khulna.

The dead were identified as Amirul Islam Khan, 40, a top cadre of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) and son of Shomsel Khan of Kushtia sadar upazila, and Nirapada Bairagi, 50, operations commander of New Biplobi Communist Party in Khulna.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports, Amirul was killed in a 'shoot out' between his associates and police at Bittipara village in sadar upazila early yesterday.

According to police, a joint team of Detective Branch and Islamic University police raided the Bittipara field near Bittipara bazar following a tip-off that some cadres of GMF were holding a secret meeting there at about 2:30am.

The law enforcers surrounded the area and asked the outlaws to surrender. But they defied and opened fire forcing them to fire back, police said.

The incident triggered a half-an-hour long gunfight. Amirul was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot.

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The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

