

# Move to bring changes to constitution delayed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is not taking any initiative at this moment to amend the constitution, since a case regarding the fifth amendment to the constitution awaits final disposal in the Supreme Court.

Last month, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said that the government would move within a very short time to bring major changes to the constitution to restore the spirit of the liberation war.

The law ministry had also drafted a letter last month asking the Law Commission to scrutinise the constitution and to determine what areas of the constitution should be amended. But the ministry has recently decided to delay sending the letter to the commission, sources said.

According to the sources, the Awami League-led grand alliance government

still considers amending the constitution to revive some major features of the 1972 constitution, but it will take necessary steps to this end after the receiving the decision of the apex court on the fifth amendment case.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star recently that the government is not taking any move right now to amend or update the constitution, as the fifth amendment case is pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

"We are now waiting for the SC verdict on the fifth amendment case. I think hearing of this case will be held after the disposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case," he added.

Earlier on September 27, the law minister told the media that if the original constitution of 1972 revives following the nullification of the fifth amendment, the four fundamental state principles -- democracy, nationalism, secularism and

socialism -- would be restored concomitantly.

He also made it clear that the repeal of the fifth amendment does not mean restoration of the fourth amendment regarding the provision of 'one-party rule', as it was revoked through referendum.

On August 29, 2005, the High Court declared 'illegal' the fifth amendment to the constitution, adopted in parliament, meaning the regimes of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadaat Mohammad Sayem and Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman since August 15, 1975 till April 9, 1979 were unlawful.

In the verdict, the High Court had observed that martial law as a whole is 'illegal and unconstitutional' and all the actions, laws, and rules made under martial law are 'illegal.'

Two appeals against the HC verdict are pending with SC for hearing.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, chairman of Grameen Healthcare Trust, and Vice President of Emory University Dr Gary Hauk, sign an MoU in the city yesterday to set up a learning centre in Bangladesh to provide the healthcare professionals with world-class training.

## Engineer shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals shot and injured an engineer in Farmgate area in the city yesterday. The victim identified as Fazle Rabbi Morshed, executive engineer of Family Planning department, sustained bullet injuries to his hips said Officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon Police Station Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman.

The injured is undergoing

treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The criminals opened fire on Rabbi around 9:30am in front of Imperial Rest House near the police station while he was getting into his private car on the way to his office at Motijheel, the OC said.

As police with the help of locals chased the criminals, they fired on police, forcing them to fire back that left one of the criminals injured.

After the gunfire, police found the criminal, identified as Rakib, 21, lying on the spot while his accomplice fled the scene.

He was admitted to Pangu Hospital, police said.

Police recovered a pistol and eight cartridges from the spot.

Rakib told police in preliminary interrogation that someone named Joy hired them for Tk 12,000 to shoot Rabbi dead, said ASM Mahtab Uddin, assistant commissioner of Tejgaon zone of DMP.

Police raided different areas in the capital to arrest Joy and the other goon, he added.



PHOTO: STAR  
Sramik Sanghati Federation takes out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding payment of salary arrears and other benefits of the workers of Dignity Garments Ltd, Dignity Apex Wear Ltd and Adonis Garments.

## Govt to step up cooperation with US: FM

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said the government stands ready to intensify Bangladesh-US cooperation in all areas, including trade and commerce, energy, and socio-economic development.

She spelt out Dhaka's position when US Assistant Trade Representative for South Asia and Central Asia Michael J Delany called on her at the foreign ministry.

During the meeting, the foreign minister said Bangladesh would like to go ahead and the main focus of the country had shifted from aid dependence to expansion of trade as the engine of growth and development.

They discussed Bangladesh-US trade volume as about 26 percent of the country's export is destined for the USA. During 2008-

2009, Bangladesh exported products worth \$4052 million, which is 12.85 percent (\$461.44 million) higher than the previous year.

Bangladesh maintains a positive trade balance with the USA. During 2008-2009, Bangladesh imported products worth \$457.82 million from USA, thus resulting in a trade surplus of \$3594.18 million.

The foreign minister thanked the US government for extending GSP facilities to Bangladesh garments and shrimps for greater access to the US markets.

She also mentioned Bangladesh's increased market access to the US as an LDC through extension of duty and quota-free access.

The Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) was also discussed at the meeting.



an axiata company

To activate your internet, dial \*140\*7# • Offer valid for only pre-paid users • The package can be subscribed more than once daily • Standard rates apply for each KB used after 20 MB • Validity of each package will be up-to next 12 am from activation • Dial \*222\*81# to know the remaining internet volume • VAT and conditions apply

For details, please call : Axtel helpline 123 (from Axtel numbers) 01819400400 (from any number) or visit www.axtel.com

## The most affordable Internet minipack

20 MB

20 at Tk only

To activate just dial \*8444\*20#

**AKTEL**  
CLEARLY AHEAD  
এক ধাপ এগিয়ে



Drive against unfit vessels on Shitalakkhya  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Inland Water Transport Safety and Navigation Mobile Court conducted a drive against unfit vessels on the river Shitalakkhya yesterday.

District administration with the assistance of BIWTA and river traffic police conducted the drive.

The court seized 20 sand-laden vessels known as 'bulkheads' without fitness during the daylong drive.

Magistrate and Nejarat Deputy Collector (NDC) Md Zahidul Islam led the drive.

He said these illegal river vessels are causing frequent accidents on the river routes.

The seized bulkheads were handed over to the river traffic police.

PHOTO: PID  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges greetings with a hajj pilgrim during her visit to the hajj camp at Ashkona in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## Looking for impressionists

Our HR has decided the requirements, but we will decide the recruitments. So feel free to drop by and challenge us if you feel you deserve the post despite the lack of credentials. However, for whatever post you are applying for, if you don't have loads of common sense, an incurable sense of humor, an insatiable hunger for adventure, movies, books and loads of love for your parents, siblings, country and the opposite sex, then we suggest that you refrain from applying or dropping by, because we are not exactly looking for logs or dead people.

### Account Director

A post-graduate degree with a minimum of 5 years experience in building teams, brands and business units in advertising or any reputed marketing firm.

### Account Manager

At least a graduate degree with a minimum of 3 years experience in supervising teams and campaigns in advertising or any reputed marketing firm.

### Operation Manager

At least a graduate degree with a minimum of 4 years experience in managing teams, processes and business units in advertising or any reputed marketing firm.

### Executive Assistant

A graduate degree with 2 years of experience in managing official and personal affairs of a top executive in co-ordination with other divisions.

### Art Director

A graduate degree with a minimum of 5 years of experience in ideating and creating original campaigns as well as nurturing talent for advertising firms.

### Senior Visualiser

A graduate degree with a minimum of 3 years of experience in developing own designs and appreciation of creative ideas for advertising firms.

### Copywriter

A graduate degree with a minimum of 2 years of experience in writing copy and generating ideas for advertising or media.

### Receptionist

A graduate degree and at least 2 years experience in managing the front desk and official communication in advertising or any reputed firm.

**GREY**  
dhaka

Interested applicants please mail updated CV with photograph to hrinfo@greybd.com by 26 November 09. You can also drop it off at our office: House 06 (5th floor), Road 137, Block SE(D) Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212

Only short listed applicants will be contacted for attending an interview.