

# Environment

**FROM PAGE 16**  
abroad to send remittance easily.

The bank will also encourage them to invest in Bangladesh and will provide them with employment facilities after their return from abroad.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad on behalf of Finance Minister AMA Muhiht proposed for passage of the bill, which outlined the detail functions of the bank.

State Minister for Land Mostafizur Rahman on behalf of Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forest, proposed for passage of the two bills to increase punishment for environment pollution and set up the climate change trust.

The new legislation, which was passed repealing the existing Environment Court Act, 2000, aims to expedite trial of environment related offences and offers setting up environment court at every district headquarters with expanded jurisdiction to take stern actions against all sorts of polluters.

According to a provision of the bill, one or more special magistrate's courts at district level can be set up with the authority to hold trial of environment related offences and issue order to confiscate goods and other materials as punishment.

The Environment Court Act, 2000 allowed the government to form court only at divisional headquarters. According to that law, a person might be jailed for maximum three years or fined Tk3 lakh for polluting environment.

But the new legislation increased the jail term up to five years and the fine up to Tk 5 lakh.

Both the special magistrate's court and the environment court will enjoy authority to realise fines from the offenders. Besides, the courts may order to meet expenses for conducting cases and give the money in compensation to the affected individuals or organisations.

After passage of the Climate Change Trust bill, the government will now constitute a 17-member trustee board as soon as possible for tackling adverse impacts of climate change.

The ministers of finance, agriculture, food and disaster management, foreign, women and children affairs, water resources, shipping, health and family welfare, and LGRD, and

secretaries of the cabinet division, finance division and the central bank's governor are, among others, the members of the trustee board to be led by the minister for environment and forest.

According to the legislation, a 12-member technical committee comprised of government officials and climate change experts will be formed to assist the trustee board to perform its functions.

The board will work on climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, finance and investment and take necessary actions for conducting research.

It will have a "climate change trust fund" which will be consisted of funds received from the government, donor agencies and countries and different sources approved by the government.

The government has already taken various measures including approval of Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009, and also formed a climate change trust fund to tackle possible adverse impacts of climate change.

Before passage of the two bills on environment, Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira placed a new bill for introduction of law for proper regulation of sand extraction.

The proposed legislation will empower the government to impose restrictions on sand extraction from some specific areas.

A person might be punished with a maximum two year jail term and a maximum fine of Tk10 lakh for illegal sand extraction, according to a provision of the bill, which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on land ministry for scrutiny.

It proposed that the land ministry alone will deal with leasing the sand quarries. Meanwhile, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday placed a bill seeking to amend the union parishad law.

The bill aims to drop a provision from it for holding the due polls to union parishad without redrawing boundaries of the wards under a union parishad maintaining population disparity of more or less 10 percent from one ward to another.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the LGRD ministry for scrutiny.

# Young girl 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young girl allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a 16-storey building at capital's East Rampura yesterday afternoon.

Police said 25-year-old Shaila Sharif, an employee of a private company and also a resident of Rampura Mahanagar project, was found dead in the rooftop of a nearby seven-storey building.

Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station, told The Daily Star Shaila's aunt resides at the 11th floor of the 16-storey building. Instead of meeting her aunt, Shaila went to the rooftop and jumped off around 5:00pm.

OC Saidur said they found a note inside the bag of Shaila.

# Bosnia divided on key vote

AFP, Sarajevo

Bosnia's election results yesterday showed moderates gaining ground in central government, but hardliners stayed firmly entrenched in the Serb entity, casting a shadow over the country's European future.

Moderate Bakir Izetbegovic was set to secure the main Muslim seat in Bosnia's tripartite presidency after Sunday's vote, according to partial results.

The Serbs meanwhile re-elected headline Bosnian Serb nationalist Nebojsa Radmanovic, who has advocated secession of the Serb-run Republika Srpska.

The current Croat member of the presidency, Zeljko Komisc, won another four year term with 60 percent of the vote.

Almost 15 years since the Bosnian war ended, Muslims, Croats and Serbs remain deeply divided along ethnic lines and mistrust between the country's two semi-independent entities -- the Republika Srpska (RS) and the Muslim-Croat Federation -- has widened.

According to incomplete returns, the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD) of Milorad Dodik, who threatened secession from Bosnia during the election campaign, was far ahead of in the Serb half of the country.

Its candidate, Nebojsa Radmanovic, recaptured the Serb seat in the country's presidency. Thirteen percent of ballots were ruled void. Suvad Arnautovic, an election commission member, said a possibility of fraud would be investigated.

# Recruitment

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The government has moved to recruit 4,217 class-III and class-IV employees for 79 health complexes, medical college hospitals and civil surgeon offices in all 64 districts.

The posts include office assistant, cardiographer, junior mechanic, MLSS, cook, gardener, sweepers, cleaners and ward boy.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds, despite repeated protest by failed applicants, all newly appointed employees joined the civil surgeon's office.

The failed applicants alleged the appointment committee arranged the whole process illegally under political pressure and appointed 83 persons of its choice.

On Sunday, at least 16 protesters ransacked the civil surgeon's office. A human chain was formed on October 1 in the town. They also submitted a letter to the deputy commissioner demanding immediate action.

Additional police have been deployed in the civil surgeon's office after Sunday's attack.

# 25 power

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The cabinet reached the decision after discussing the overall power situation, said Azad, adding that a total of 27 power plants are now being installed.

The power division, in a summary on power situation, informed the cabinet that step was taken to produce additional 1000 to 1200 megawatt electricity by December 2010.

It proposed to form a six-member committee, headed by either secretary or additional secretary of the power division, to communicate with foreign firms for installing rental power plants.

The committee will visit plants of the firms and bargain with them in an effort to produce 500 to 600 megawatt electricity within four to five months.

# Don't put extra

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Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city.

The premier said nowadays mothers are seen too much busy with their children in the school and about their study. "Often they compare their children with others. They always put pressure on their children to get the highest number in the class."

She said, "Such attitude should be shunned. All children can't show their merit in the same way. Each child has his own way."

Hasina also asked the land developers to leave some space for playground while they built projects, as the children will not have proper mental and physical growth without taking part in sports.

The PM reiterated her firm determination to continue her government's efforts for proper physical and mental development of the children as per the UN Declaration on child rights.

She termed the children as the most valuable asset of the nation saying that the children will be able to involve themselves in national development activities if congenial atmosphere is ensured.

The present government is committed to formulate necessary laws and work plans to establish a welfare society where the rights of the children will be ensured, she said.

She also said the present government is working relentlessly to establish social security networks for the protection of the children by removing all impediments.

The PM declared that her government will take all necessary steps to prevent abuse of the children for political purpose.

Hasina said father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman thought a lot about the rights of children and their development well ahead of the adoption of the child rights charter by the United Nations.

"The then government formulated the Child Act in 1974 to ensure the rights of children including the distressed, destitute, orphan and underprivileged as directed by the father of the nation."

She said the present government has formulated a draft of the national child policy-2010 to ensure the rights as stated in the Constitution and will soon finalise the policy taking recommendations of all quarters.

The PM said her government is taking steps to stop child labour in all sectors in phases in accordance with her election pledge and never allows using the children for political purposes.

Referring to the government's target to free the nation from illiteracy by 2014, she called upon all including the affluent section of society

and the Unicef to come forward in aid of the government to stop dropout from schools.

She also called upon all to show friendly behaviour to children. Steps are being taken to formulate new laws to prevent torture and oppression on children, she mentioned.

About the disabled and autistic children, Hasina said they must be given equal opportunity like all others, as they are also an inseparable part of the society.

The present government has started the process to increase the maternity leave to six months from the existing four months to ensure that mothers can take proper care of their newborn babies, the premier said.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury presided over the function while Acting Secretary of the Ministry Tariq-Ul-Islam and Unicef Country Representative Carel De Rooy spoke on the occasion.

# 3 'LeT men'

FROM PAGE 16  
exotic perfume, said Deputy Commissioner (DC) Monirul Islam of DB during a press briefing at his office.

The DC said Khurram's name emerged as the coordinator of India and Bangladesh chapters when Indian nationals Mufti Obaidullah and Maulana Emadullah and Pakistani national Sufian Ajhari were arrested here and interrogated for their involvement with LeT.

DB officials claimed that Khurram had also been serving the banned militant outfits Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji).

In the face of frequent arrests in Bangladesh, the LeT operatives have adopted the method of using several names and passports for each individual, said the DC adding, that the LeT men also use Bangladeshi passports.

He said although Khurram has Bangladeshi passport, he used his Pakistani one this time. According to his seized passport, Khurram visited the country 11 times this year so far.

Asked, the DC said the immigration cannot identify a person who use different names and passports.

He said the LeT operatives use the country as a transit for counterfeit money business although they could not establish an LeT unit in the country. However, their effort to recruit operatives from here is on, added the DC.

DC Monirul Islam said that so far they have arrested three Pakistani and three Indian LeT adherents and their several Bangladeshi aides.

# ALPP meets

FROM PAGE 16  
In the wake of alleged political influence, corruption and irregularities in the process, the government has suspended the recruitment of the class-III and class-IV employees for health department in 21 districts.

The government has moved to recruit 4,217 class-III and class-IV employees for 79 health complexes, medical college hospitals and civil surgeon offices in all 64 districts.

Moreover, the premier might also give directives to her party deputies to remain vigilant to thwart any efforts that deteriorate law and order and the main opposition's street agitations in the coming days.

She is likely to speak about her government's move to amend the constitution.

Whip ASM Firoz urged all AL lawmakers to attend the meeting to be held after the parliament's sitting on that day.

The current session of the parliament is likely to be prorogued tomorrow.

# BNP trashes

FROM PAGE 16  
quickly on unsolicited negotiation basis.

While talking to the reporters at party's central office in Nayapalton, Alamgir said lack of transparency is apparent in government's initiative as it passed the bill quickly in the House.

He said BNP, the main opposition party, also want to see the end of power crisis but the party will not allow any questionable initiative.

The BNP leader said it will be an unethical attempt of the government if there occurs any ambiguity in the name of resolving electricity shortage.

Earlier, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia herself several times asked the government to follow the tender process before establishing power station.

Replying a query, Alamgir said they are always in favour of trial of war crimes but they won't allow anyone to use the issue for political purpose.

"BNP believes in the spirit of liberation war and that is why we also want trial of war crimes. But the trial quality must follow international standard."

# Secularism

FROM PAGE 1  
explain why compelling women to wear religious attires should not be declared illegal.

The bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain had issued the rule following a report published in a Bangla daily with the headline "Rani Bhabani Mohila College: Burqa Na Porle Ashte Mana" (Students of Rani Bhabani Women's College not wearing veils are barred from entering the campus).

The August 22 report said principal of the college at Natore Mozammel Haque stopped cultural activities and sports at the college, and prohibited students not come to the campus without wearing burqa.

The HC observed that the four state principles including secularism, the main spirit of the Liberation War of the republic, have been re-established since the constitution of 1972 has been restored.

Some military rulers had illegally damaged the constitution of 1972 through martial law regulations, which are not recognised now, the judgement said.

The court directed the government to probe the allegations against the principal and take action.

But he should be kept on suspension during probe, it said.

Earlier, responding to the HC rule, the government had informed the court that it had issued a circular asking the authorities concerned not to compel women students to wear religious attire, and made Mozammel an officer on special duty (OSD).

Mozammel appeared before the HC bench yesterday as per its earlier order.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, education, social welfare and women affairs, and the principal have been made respondents to the court verdict.

SC lawyers Mahbub Shafique and KM Hafiz Alam argued before the court against compulsory wearing of religious attires.

Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder represented the government.

# Diarrhoeal cases

FROM PAGE 16  
Namatola of Shampur, Badda, Mirpur and Dakkhin Khan. High population density of the areas makes the situation even worse.

Azaharul said that as the autumn begins, the weather becomes cooler but this year the sudden increase of temperature and humidity caused people to suffer from water borne diseases.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), in 24 hours from 6:00am on Sunday, 118 diarrhoea patients were admitted to Jessore Sadar Hospital while 90 to Naogaon, 69 to Thakurgaon, 65 to Bogra and 62 to Nilphamari hospitals.

The head of the unit mentioned that people suffering from diarrhoea or other water borne diseases belong to lower income groups with little or no access to safe drinking water.

People suffer from dehydration because of the scorching weather and frequent power cuts, and the city dwellers living in the densely populated areas suffer more badly.

Azaharul continued that poor people quench their thirst not by potable water but by the water easily available for them. The more they get thirsty in hot weather, the more unhygienic water they drink.

Mostly day labourers, rickshaw pullers, school going children and elderly people are affected by water borne diseases, he said. School going children fall sick as they eat ice creams, juices, pickles from roadside vendors who hardly care about hygiene.

# First ODI

FROM PAGE 16  
Tests and three one-day matches, but the teams agreed to focus on preparations for next year's World Cup and instead opted to play five one-day internationals.

Bangladesh will be without inform opener Tamim Iqbal who is out with a surgery in his left wrist and Shahriar Nafees is likely to open the innings to mark his return to the one-day fold after two and a half years.

Paceman Nazmul Hossain has been included in the Bangladesh squad at the last moment following minor injuries to quick bowlers Rubel Hossain and Shafiqul Islam.

Bangladesh have won only two ODIs, including one against England, and lost 17 this year, so they will desperately be looking for a reversal of fortune in the series.

**SQUADS**  
**BANGLADESH** (from): Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (captain), Shakib Al Hasan (vice-captain), Shahriar Nafees, Imrul Kayes, Junaed Siddique, Rokibul Hassan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, Jahirul Islam, Naeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shafiqul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Shorowordi Shuvo and Nazmul Hossain.

**NEW ZEALAND** (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Hamish Bennett, Grant Elliott, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Andy McKay, Kyle Mills, Aaron Redmond, Jesse Ryder, Tim Southee, Shanan Stewart, Ross Taylor, Daryl Tuffey, BJ Watling and Kane Williamson.

# RMG workers

FROM PAGE 16  
indefinite period.

Some labourers from a nearby factory of Nassa Group also had joined the agitation, witnesses said. After a while, some textile section workers from inside the factory lobbed brickbats towards the agitators.

The pelting continued for about an hour.

Padma Poly workers said they had been bargaining with the management over various demands for long, but to no avail. The authorities rather sacked around a hundred of their fellow workers after the Eid holidays.

Workers' leaders took the matter to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The workers had gathered yesterday to protest the sudden closure of the sewing section, they said.

Padma Poly officials said they did not terminate any labourer rather issued show cause notices. The section was closed following procedure, they said.

Police picked up seven workers in this connection.

Omar Faruk, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, told The Daily Star, eight policemen were injured when they tried to calm the situation.

Some windowpanes of both the factories have been damaged, he said.

Doctors suggest that to avoid water borne diseases, people should boil water for at least 10 minutes before drinking, keep water tanks clean, use water purifying tablets and maintain personal hygiene.

Dr Shahadat Hossain, head of Long Stay Unit of ICDDR,B, said people infected with diarrhoea should drink oral saline and seek treatment in case of severity.

The statistics of ICDDR,B, show that the number of patients receiving treatment of diarrhoea from hospitals is increasing every year since 2006. The number of patients was around 8,877 in 2006 while it was 10,177 in 2007; 10,182 in 2008 and 11,601 in 2009.

# PM unhappy

FROM PAGE 1  
She asked the ministers, who castigated some newspapers including daily Prothom Alo in the House on September 21, why they had to do it while she was abroad, said sources close to the cabinet and the premier.

Hasina, also the leader of the House and president of the ruling Awami League, noted the ministers and lawmakers did wrong by speaking against the media open in the Jatiya Sangsad, added the sources.

They said the premier became unhappy as she learnt the news in the US.

A number of Awami League-led ruling alliance lawmakers and two ministers in parliament demanded action against daily Prothom Alo and its editor for "tarnishing" the image of parliament and its members.

The daily recently ran reports on tax-free cars for MPs, tax-free remuneration and allowances and their half-hearted interest in law-making process.

# 84 BDR

FROM PAGE 16  
a half.

A total of 84 accused border guards were produced before the court prior to the beginning of its proceedings.

The court adjourned its hearing till 10:00am on November 7.

Prosecutor Major Md Taslim Uddin had brought six charges, including killing, looting arms and plotting the mutiny, against the accused.

Earlier, the accused of the sector were tried under BDR Special Court-5, which is one of the six courts formed after the bloody carnage at Pikhana that left 74 people including 57 army officials dead.

# Outages

FROM PAGE 1  
past," Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

The trickle-down effect of the power outages is hampering production in factories as well as office works. Mechanical engineering shops, laundry, motor work shops, medical clinics, computer centres and CNG refueling stations are the worst victims.

According to the Met office, Dhaka saw 35.7 degrees Celsius yesterday while the highest temperature of the country was recorded in Jessore, 37.6 degrees Celsius.

The officials say the mercury would come down within a day or two, as there is a chance of slight raining in some parts of the country.

# One killed

FROM PAGE 16  
Taltola for lunch, said his family members, when he was run over by the bus.

Shahid was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical state. The doctors declared him dead. Among the five who got injured, most of them were rickshaw pullers.

Swapan Hawlader, a roadside vendor told The Daily Star that a bus of Kanak Paribahan coming from Mirpur-12 lost control and hit a rickshaw. Later, he swerved and rammed into seven rickshaws and a parked car.

Rickshaw puller Abdur Rashid who injured both his legs said when the bus hit his rickshaw it toppled over throwing the passengers, a woman and her child, into disarray. Both of them sustained minor injuries.

Immediately after the incident, agitated bystanders thronged the spot and handed bus driver, Abdul Malek, 55, over to the police.

A case in this connection is under process, said Abu Bakr Siddique, assistant sub-inspector of Kafrul Police Station.

# An uncalled

FROM PAGE 1  
BNP are the main participants in the controversy.

A few ruling AL leaders have engaged in the debate without realising the magnitude of damage it might entail as it is centering an objective observation of country's new chief justice.

Can the BNP leaders forget that it is General Ziaur Rahman, founder of the BNP, who amended the constitution frequently by martial law proclamations and orders and destroyed some basic structures of the country's supreme charter?

And it is the BNP that got majority in the second parliament in 1979 and passed the constitution's fifth amendment act ratifying and validating all actions and orders of the martial law regime led by Ziaur Rahman, Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed and Justice Sayem.

Many BNP leaders, who are now shedding tears for parliament's authority to amend the constitution, were MPs of the second parliament.

Nothing in the observation of the newly appointed chief justice can be said undermining parliament's sole authority to amend the constitution.

Justice Khairul Haque demonstrated his clear stand against grabbing state power by unconstitutional means by upholding the supremacy of the country's constitution in his landmark judgment in 2005 declaring the constitution's fifth amendment illegal and void in the eye of the law.

The Appellate Division in February this year upheld the watershed verdict scrapping the constitution's fifth amendment that ratified and validated all actions, orders of the martial law regime in between August 15, 1975 to April 9, 1979.

The martial law regime that began following the brutal assassination of country's then president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through martial law proclamations brought some fundamental changes to the constitution destroying some of its basic features.

In the historic ruling, Justice Khairul Haque, who was a judge of the High Court division at the time, pronounced that constitution cannot be amended through martial law proclamations and regulations. It is only the authority of the parliament that can amend the constitution.

He also observed that the parliament's authority to amend the constitution is not

unlimited. It cannot change or amend the basic structures or features of the constitution.

The Appellate Division's full verdict on the fifth amendment case also upheld Justice Haque's observations on the supremacy of the constitution.

"Furthermore, Parliament by amendment of the Constitution cannot legitimize any illegitimate activity. The parliament cannot ratify and validate those unconstitutional acts of usurpers..." the Appellate Division observed.

About amendment of the constitution, former attorney general Mahmudul Islam in his book titled 'Constitutional Law of Bangladesh' said when a legislature, which is a creature of the constitution, is given power of amendment, it is a power given not to subvert the constitution, but to make it suitable to the changing situations.

The former attorney general wrote: the question, therefore, arises whether the legislature, in exercise of the power of amendment granted by a constitution, can alter any basic feature of the constitution.

The Indian Supreme Court held that parliament in exercise of the power of amendment cannot alter basic structure or feature of the constitution.

The Indian Supreme Court made the announcement in several cases in between 1973 and 1987.