

GIVE FARMING A LIFT

It is time for another phase of green revolution

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CAIRO CONUNDRUM

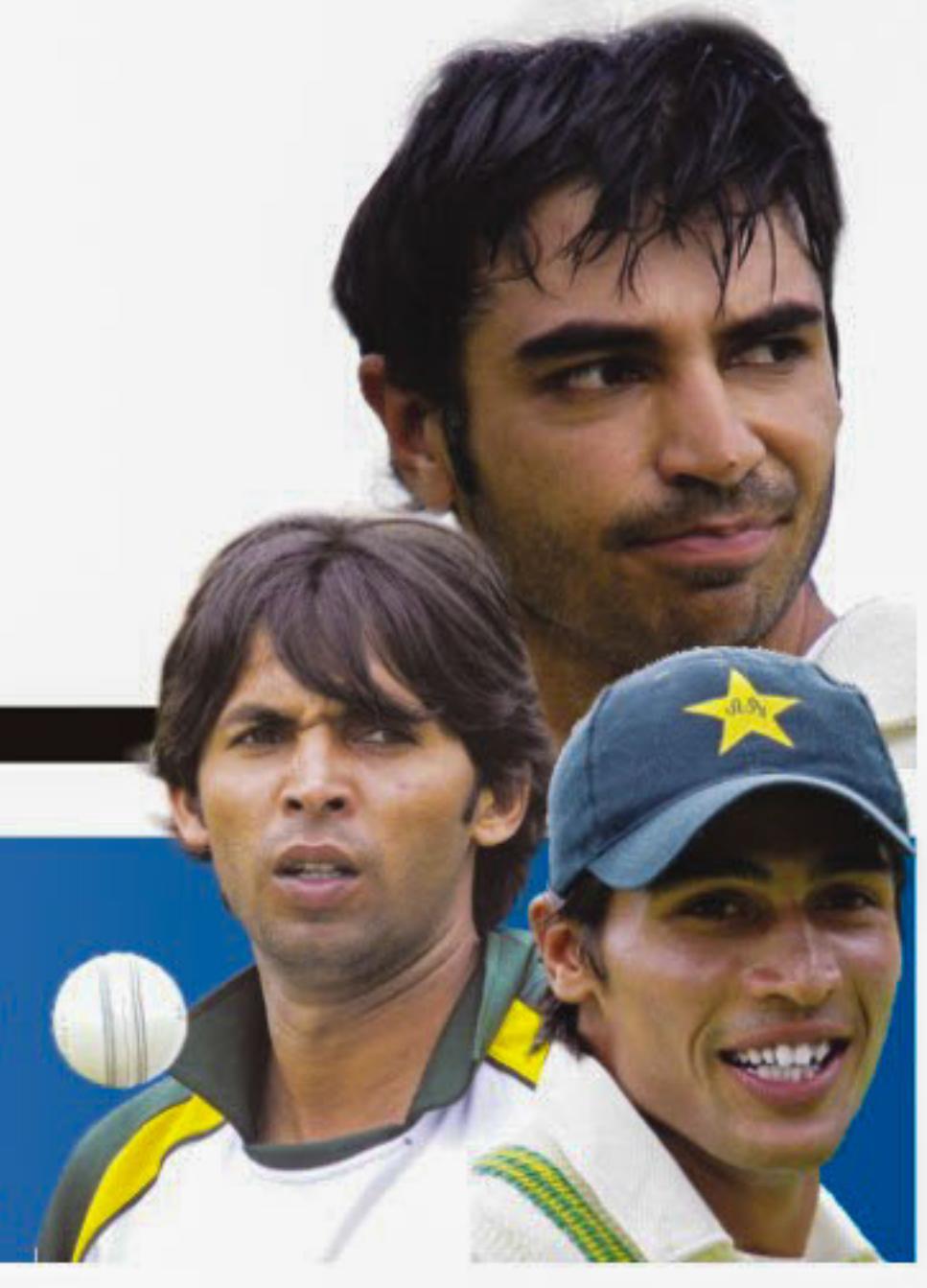
Leslie H Gelb analyses the risky options for US President Barack Obama

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VERDICT OUT

An International Cricket Council tribunal bans the Pakistan trio for spot-fixing

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'LAWFUL' owner of river

Lower court stands in the way of execution of higher court's directive to evict grabbers

PINAKI ROY

It is quite a big signboard. With an arrow pointing towards the Buriganga, it reads the Fifth Assistant Senior Judge's Court on 1 May 2005 issued a temporary injunction against any eviction from this land.

Measuring 3.54 acres, the land is clearly in the river at Shyampur in the capital. It is being filled up right in front of a local office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, the government body responsible for maintaining navigability of the rivers.

A resident of Shyampur, Shafiqur Rahman has got the injunction issued on behalf of Modern Bricks Manufacturing Company Ltd, says the signboard.

Queried why he was filling up a land that is part of the river, Shafiqur said, "My maternal great grandfather Yasin Gazi bought 2.8 acres of land here in 1917. And we have all kinds of documents for the land since the British rule."

One of the inheritors of

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Filling up of the river Buriganga near the BIWTA jetty in Shyampur, Dhaka. Inset, a signboard reading a court order against eviction. The photos were taken recently.

RIVER DHALESHWARI

People rally against illegal sand extraction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Over seven hundred villagers from Alirtek, Gognagar and Kurertek unions at Fatulla staged a demonstration yesterday protesting illegal sand extraction from the river Dhaleshwari.

Many of them joined the protest procession around 10:30am wearing white bands on forehead and carrying sticks, knives, spears and other sharp weapons.

At one stage they took boats and chased away workers who were extracting sand from the river in Baktabali and Alirtek unions.

Law enforcers had to intervene to control the situation.

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Jamaat banks on 3 British legal brains

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has engaged three British legal experts to defend its leaders from allegations of war crimes during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Sources in Jamaat said the three are: Steven Kay QC, Toby Cadman and John Cammeh.

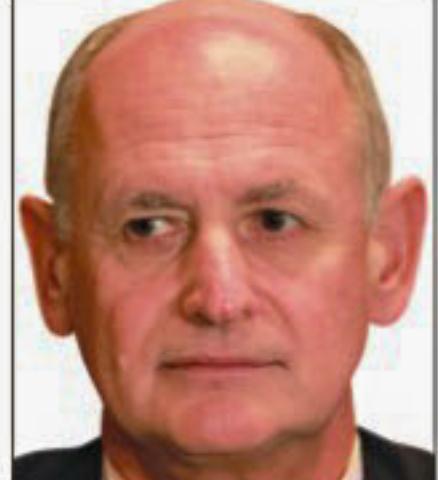
A top-level Jamaat leader told The Daily Star, "Currently they are giving us advice but we have plans to appoint them as defence counsels for our leaders against whom formal charges will be placed by the prosecution."

Steven was appointed as the court-assigned defence counsel for former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic who had faced charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the International Criminal Court in the Hague of Netherlands.

The trial against Milosevic ended without any verdict as he died in prison and the tribunal denied any responsibility for his death.

Toby was a prosecution lawyer in the Bosnia Tribunal for war crimes and John was defence counsel in the Special Court of Sierra Leone for international crimes including war crimes committed during the civil war (1991-2001) of the country, said a Jamaat leader.

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Steven Kay QC



Toby Cadman



John Cammeh

BNP blushes over Arial Beel

Leaders blame each other for picking it as reason for hartal after PM changes airport plan

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Differences of views persist among top and mid-level leaders of BNP over tomorrow's countrywide hartal called by the party, and many of them are blaming each other for failure to pick suitable issues for such a programme.

The party announced the hartal programme on February 2 for realising a lot of demands, including withdrawal of the case filed against its Chairperson Khaleda Zia over Monday's Arial Beel clash centring a proposed airport that left a police man killed.

But the prime minister's announcement later that the government won't build the proposed airport in Arial Beel has thrown BNP in an embarrassing situation, and this appears to be an indirect pressure on the major opposition party to withdraw the hartal.

Against this backdrop, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain on February 4 said they had called hartal to press for a lot of demands including

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Jinnah did not budge on Bangla

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On the evening of March 24, the very day on which Jinnah spoke at the Dhaka University convocation, Pakistan's founder met the leaders of the of the Action Committee. The meeting did not go well as Jinnah refused to see the students' point of view over the language question. He even committed the outrage of asking the young men if Bengal could point to any

instances of great literature and aesthetics in the Bangla language. Some of

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Govt looks to AL left-outs

PM may reshuffle cabinet soon

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to reshuffle her cabinet anytime soon to bring dynamism in the government.

A major shake-up might see some Awami League stalwarts, who were left out of the party helm, inducted into the cabinet and a few low-performing state ministers axed, sources said.

Hasina will rearrange her team as the government has taken a lot of flak at home and abroad for bad performance of some ministers with important portfolios, said insiders of AL and cabinet.

Abdur Razzaque, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Quader, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Maj Gen (retd) Abdus Salam, Maj (retd) Rafiqul Islam, Asaduzzaman Noor and one of the lawmakers from Jessore and Khulna could be placed in the new line-up, said sources in the government and the party.

Former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj, son of country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, who resigned from the cabinet on May 31, 2009,

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8th Death Anniversary



Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)

Death: 6th February, 2003

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-matured departure has put us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishes to pray for him from the core of heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved members of the family

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu). We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

All Employees

ABUL KHAIR GROUP