



## CAUGHT IN CRUNCH

Cooking oil brands complain of price control by the government

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## PLAYING TO WIN

A look at the Tigers' change of mindset since the last WC

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## FACING CHARGES

Pervez Musharraf is now an accused in Benazir Bhutto killing case

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# HC picks up the pace

*Disposes of over 50,000 cases in 4 months as CJ initiates effective case management system*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has disposed more than 50,000 cases over the last four months following the chief justice's initiative to speed up the disposal of cases.

The backlog of cases has now come down to 3.03 lakh from 3.55 lakh four months ago, shows a study report of the Supreme Court.

On assumption of office in September last year, Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque took measures for quick disposal of more than one



lakh criminal cases pending with the HC, said an SC official wishing anonymity.

The court disposed 14,172 cases in January while the figure stood at 5,587 in December last year.

In recent months, more cases have been disposed than filed, says the report.

SC Registrar M Ashrafur Islam recently told The Daily Star that if the present trend continues, the backlog of cases will gradually come down.

At least 3,17,475 cases remained pending with the HC till January. Nearly 3,713 cases were filed with the court in January, the report shows.

About 540 death reference cases now remain pending with the HC. Five of them were sent to HC benches

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'No-INJURY'

Mother could not believe in govt tests

EMRAN HOSSAIN, from Shariatpur

Hena's mother Aklima could not believe that neither the police inquest nor the autopsy found any injury marks on the body of her 15-year-old daughter who was whipped to death following a fatwa.

Local civil society members and human rights activists expressed their surprise over the inquest and post-mortem reports.

Ahsan Ullah Ismaily,

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GIRL WHIPPED TO DEATH

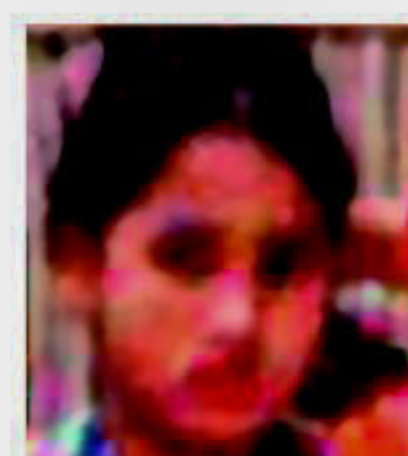
# Body exhumed for fresh post-mortem

*HC asks for a new team of experts*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Teenaged Hena Akter's body was exhumed last night for a fresh post-mortem in compliance with a High Court order, following a media report that attempts are being made to suppress the actual cause of her death.

The Shariatpur deputy commissioner ordered the exhumation which was super-



Hena Akter

vised by an executive magistrate, after Supreme Court Registrar M Ashrafur Islam informed the Shariatpur district administration about the court directive during the day.

The Daily Star published the news report on Monday raising doubts about the earlier inquest and autopsy that found no mark of injury on Hena's body.

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BNP'S HARTAL

## Dozens hurt in clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 83 persons were injured in sporadic clashes between police and pro-hartal activists across the country during a dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday.

The main opposition BNP enforced the nation

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

GHORASHAL POWER PROJECT TENDER

# Lowest bidder lost race

*Influence factor allegedly comes into play*

SHARIER KHAN

Four months ago, Power Development Board (PDB) had to cancel a tender for a 300 megawatt dual-fuel power project in Ghorashal due to opposition from Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain at cabinet level. Back then, the Hossain family-owned company Sahco was representing a Chinese company that had



failed to be the lowest bidder in that tender.

The PDB then floated a fresh tender for the project. This time, Sahco represented a Chinese consortium-- CNTIC and CMC. When the PDB opened the financial offer for the power project, another Chinese company -- Shanghai Electric-- turned out to be the lowest bidder, and not CNTIC-CMC.

But due to alleged foul play by the PDB

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# PM stymies Abul's critics

*Takes a swipe at media*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister yesterday saved the communications minister from censure of ruling alliance lawmakers over the minister's letter to the premier against Tofail Ahmed for his recent criticism of the ministry's performance.

During yesterday's parliamentary session, Prime

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## Constitution-less Pakistan chose Urdu

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

More than a year and a half into its establishment as an independent state, Pakistan continued to

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