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CHANGE IN THE AIR

Prafal Bidwai sees Egypt issue as transformative moment for West Asia, North Africa

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LEASERS FROWN

Ban on depreciation allowance brings paradigm shift in leasing

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ASHRAFUL HAPPY

"Being in the squad itself is an achievement," he says about World Cup team

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GIRL WHIPPED TO DEATH 'Heavy wounds' all over body

Finds fresh autopsy report to HC; main accused Mahbub held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hena's body bears "heavy wounds" all over, the High Court said yesterday quoting a fresh autopsy report submitted to it.

The death of Hena was homicidal in nature, the HC further said quoting the post-mortem report by Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

An HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain made the remarks after receiving the fresh autopsy report.

Fifteen-year-old rape victim Hena Akter from Noria upazial in Shariatpur was allegedly whipped to death recently following a fatwa given at a local arbitration.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested Mahbub Khan, the alleged rapist and main accused in the case for murder of Hena, at Savar on the outskirts of the capital.



Mahbub Khan

Case called into serious question

EMRAN HOSSAIN, back from Shariatpur

The murder case filed over Hena's death should be recorded again, as it contradicts what the victim's family members say about the incident, legal experts and human rights workers have said.

The case has some flimsy descriptions about Hena, who was whipped to death following a fatwa (religious edict), and her having an affair with her cousin Mahbub.

And though the national media reported quoting the victim's family members that the 15-year-old girl was raped allegedly by Mahbub, the case made no mention of it.

"The case must be rewritten, as it does not reflect the incident accurately," said Bangladesh

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During the tenure of the last BNP-Jamaat government, this culvert was built at a place with no road. The photo was taken at Balia Dighee of Gabtoli upazila in Bogra. Bridges and culverts like this one were built all over the upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



DU students launched movement for Bangla

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

A significant development in the gathering movement for Bangla to be adopted as the state language, or one of the state languages, of Pakistan was the move made by a dedicated band of left-leaning students of Dhaka University soon after the details of the Basic Principles Committee report came to light.

In April 1951, the students, all members of the Dhaka University State Language Committee of Action, sent off a letter to every single member of Pakistan's Constituent Assembly then meeting in the capital Karachi. The contents of the letter, as the following paragraphs will

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Wrong law chosen for Tarique trial

SC ruling on money laundering case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the proceedings of money laundering case against BNP leader Tarique Rahman cannot run under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2009, as the alleged offence took place before its enactment.

The apex court, however, said the trial can proceed under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002, as the reported incident took place after its enactment.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on October 26, 2009 with a Dhaka court

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IMPLANTATION OF 5TH AMENDMENT VERDICT JS body decides to place bill, re-fix constitution

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliament is finally about to get a bill to reinstate those articles of the constitution that were either amended or repealed during the first martial law regime.

In a major development, the 15-member parliamentary committee on constitution amendment yesterday took the decision rejecting the argument that those articles had automatically been reinstated in the constitution following the cancellation of the Fifth Amendment by the Supreme Court.

Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the committee, said they will try to place the bill in the current session of the parliament.

The parliamentary watchdog came up with the decision in a bid to uphold the pre-eminence of the House amid the recent debate over the parliament's sovereignty.

Prior to yesterday's crucial decision, the committee held a two-hour meeting with Prime Minister also Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday in her parliament office. "Those articles will not be considered as a part of the constitution until or unless the parliament passes a bill reinstating them," said Suranjit in a press briefing after a committee meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Also, the parliamentary committee decided to consider as "draft" the copies of the constitution that the law ministry is now printing incor-

porating the lost articles in their original form.

Contacted after the meeting, many of the parliamentary committee members hinted at a few major changes in the constitution including re-empowerment of the parliament to impeach constitutional post holders including a Supreme Court judge.

The first martial law regime took away the parliament's authority to do so, and introduced Supreme Judicial Council by amending article 96 of the constitution through martial law proclamations.

In the watershed verdict of the Fifth Amendment Act case, the Supreme Court declared illegal and void all the changes the martial law

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Sedan venture soon

Mitsubishi president tells The Daily Star about the motor giant's decision on new assembling project in Bangladesh

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation decided to assemble family saloon cars in Bangladesh to tap the growing potential of the local market.

The Japanese carmaker giant also has plans to locally manufacture as many components as it can.

"We [Bangladesh government and Mitsubishi] have agreed to study the possibility of a sedan car assembling project," Osamu Masuko, global president of Mitsubishi Motors, told The Daily Star in an interview yesterday.

The study will be concluded in six months, Masuko said.

After the feasibility study, state-owned Progoti Industries Ltd will start assem-



Osamu Masuko

bling the cars with 1,300cc (1.3 litre) engines.

The family saloon will be the third Mitsubishi vehicle, after the Pajero and Pajero Sport, to be assembled here. Progoti has been assembling Pajeroes since 1985. The Pajero Sport is expected to hit the local market in two to three months.

Rangs Motors is the sole distributor of all Mitsubishi vehicles in the local market.

Masuko, who is now in the city on a three-day visit to see progress of Mitsubishi's ongoing and future projects, said Bangladesh would benefit from the assembly plants in terms of technology transfer.

"Bangladesh has to localise components to save the foreign currency being

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6 MORE ON STAR BUSINESS



Cooking oil sale unstable

Prices spiral up by Tk 12 a litre in last 2 days amid supply crunch

SOHEL PARVEZ

Cooking oil market remained volatile for the past couple of days amid a shortage of supply, forcing consumers to pay between Tk 10 and Tk 12 higher for each litre of packed soybean oil.

Yesterday, many retailers were found charging between Tk 560 and Tk 570 for a 5-litre bottle of the

edible oil, while the labels on the bottles quoted the maximum retail price at Tk 510. They claimed that the prices of packed soybean oil increased by Tk 10 to Tk 12 per litre.

Prices of loose soybean oil however remained stable at Tk 103 to Tk 107 during the same period, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

The latest spike in the prices of

bottled cooking oil came after the prices of loose cooking oil had crossed the prices of packed ones by the end of last week, breaking the common trend of packed edible oil being costlier than the loose ones.

"There is a short supply of bottled oil. Refineries have cut down supply. We are collecting cooking oil packs from large stores at higher prices,"

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Govt to ensure food for all at any cost

Pledges PM at JS; warns rice market manipulators again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will ensure food for people at any cost, even by stopping all development activities if necessary, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday.

"I can at least say that no one will suffer for want of food as long as we are in power. We will ensure food for all by any means," said Hasina describing her government's measures to import more rice to increase Bangladesh's food stock.

During question hour, Hasina, also leader of the House, was talking about the price hike of essentials in domestic and international markets.

"There is no doubt that some unscrupulous traders are at play. They are manipulating the market. Otherwise, prices of rice should not have increased so much," she said.

She also cited increased price of rice on the international market as one of the reasons for price spiral in the domestic market.

She said her government has already prepared a list of businessmen, rice millers and hoarders of rice. "Now we are collecting information about them including their political affiliation and what they are doing to the market," she added.

She warned of taking stern actions against those found responsible for manipulating the market. "The anti-hoarding law will be made effective by bringing

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DIESEL SHORTAGE BPC chief attached to ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has placed Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Chairman Anwarul Karim in the establishment ministry following an anomaly leading to shortage in diesel supply to the country's northern region, energy ministry sources said.

The establishment ministry issued a gazette notification on Tuesday, attaching Karim to the ministry.

Energy adviser to the prime minister held a meeting at the ministry on the same day and asked for restoration of normal diesel supply in the region.

BPC, in a letter on Saturday, asked for rationing diesel supply during the Boro season to check smuggling, which made the government high-ups very unhappy.

BPC has to take permission from the energy ministry before going for rationing.

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