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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 31 | FALGUN 1, 1417 BS | RABIUL AWAL 9, 1432 HJRI | www.thedailystar.net | Your Right to Know | 32 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00



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Mirza Azizul Islam analyses the January-June Monetary Policy Statement  
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## MAKING IT BIG

Read how Robin grew into an entrepreneur from a shop employee  
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## OBAMA ON EGYPT

The US president believes the country will never be the same  
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# Govt on food alert

Piles up 38pc more subsidy as food grains get pricey in world market

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and PORIMOL PALMA

The government will increase subsidy for food grains and agri inputs by 38 percent in the current fiscal year to check price hike of food grains. Economists consider the additional subsidy necessary to cushion the impact of soaring prices of essentials on the country's poor. The subsidy is expected to go up to Tk 7,025 crore from the present outlay of Tk 5,088 crore, said officials in

the food and agriculture ministries.

The raise comes hard on the heels of hikes in rice prices in recent weeks.

Talking to The Daily Star, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, however, allayed fears of rice prices going beyond the reach of consumers.

She said the government lowered



prices of non-urea fertilisers several times to benefit farmers, and help them maintain a balance in the use of fertilisers and get a better output. Matia said the government is constantly evolving ways and means to boost farm productivity to keep pace with population growth.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

# Cairo at ease

Army commits to power transfer, all international treaties

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's new military leadership yesterday vowed to pave the way for democracy and abide by international treaties as the hopeful country celebrated victory on the day after Hosni Mubarak's overthrow.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces said the current government would remain in place for a peaceful transition to "an elected civil authority to build a free democratic state," though it set no official timetable.

The streets and squares of downtown Cairo were in the hands of the mostly young demonstrators whose determined 18-day revolt overturned 30 years of autocratic rule and triggered an outpouring of national solidarity.

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## COMMENTARY

# Egypt regains its dignity

Meaning of Mubarak's departure

MAHFUZ ANAM

We in Bangladesh feel a special affinity with the people of Egypt as we watch them celebrate Mubarak's fall. As they regain freedom, self respect and dignity, we shared their every step as we were there. Obviously our events of 1971 are (were) far deeper and bigger to be comparable. However, closer to the present events in Egypt was our victory over autocracy in 1990 that saw the end of another

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

# COME FALGUN, come colours

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The seasons circle the earth. Something of a spring is to be deciphered in their orbit, for that is one way of observing their graces, their movements, as they add substance to life on this planet, indeed to the concept of time and space. And that precisely is what you notice this morning on your doorsteps. There is a sudden profusion of colours around you, that timeless scented presence of flowers in a season redolent of



PHOTO: STAR

It's time for cuckoos to sing and herald the arrival of Falgun.

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## 8TH AMENDMENT VERDICT

# Mode of execution now under question

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A parliamentary body's decision to introduce a bill to reinstate the constitution's articles repealed or altered by the first military regime has raised questions about execution of the two-decade old Supreme Court verdict on the eighth amendment.

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment took the decision on Wednesday. In so doing, it

rejected the argument that the articles had automatically been reinstated following the SC verdict scrapping the fifth amendment, which ratified the changes made during the first military rule.

But back in 1991, article 100, which had been altered by the eighth amendment, was restored to its original form without passing any bill to that effect. All it took was a reprint of the constitution. Earlier in 1989, the Supreme Court cancelled parts

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Tremor jolts city

STAR REPORT

A mild earthquake shook the capital and other parts of the country yesterday afternoon for the third time this month causing panic among people.

Two other earthquakes jolted the capital and some other parts of the country on February 10 and February 4. The quakes were at three different faults at Bangladesh-India and Bangladesh-Myanmar borders.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

## Brac Bank comes in aid of Hena's family

Fatwa accused Idris remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Brac Bank has come forward to donate Tk 1 lakh to the family of Hena Akter, the girl whipped to death in Shariatpur last month, following a report published in The Daily Star on February 11 headlined "Double Blow for family".

Hena's father Darbesh Kha, a day labourer,

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# Lead-up picks up pace

SPORTS REPORTER

The World Cup is now all but underway, with the first batch of warm-up matches completed yesterday across the three host nations -- Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh hit the ground running in their first warm-up fixture against Canada at Chittagong's Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, brushing aside the North Americans with a commanding display on the field and with the bat.

The Tigers bowled out the Canadians for a measly 112, with captain Shakib Al Hasan picking up three wickets for five runs. Tamim Iqbal then played a scintillating innings



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## PM's name prompts power-cut

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday faced an embarrassing situation brought about by a power failure while attending the 52nd convocation of the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB).

Just as the announcer uttered the name of the prime minister to deliver her speech as chief guest, the power supply was cut off at the IEB premises.

The electricity remained off for almost 30

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(কোটা টাকা)

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২০০৩	১৭৯.৫৭	৪০.০৪	৫৪১.২২	৬০৪.৩৫	৩২.৯৭
২০০৪	২১০.২৫	৫৬.২২	৬৩০.৮৩	৭৪৪.০৪	৩৭.৮১
২০০৫ (সেপ্টেম্বর)	২৫৭.৫১	৬১.১৯	৮৫০.৬৮	৯২১.০৫	৫০.০৫

কোন এক পরিবারের ৮-১০ জন পরিচালক ও তাদের নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত আত্মীয় উচ্চ পদস্থ কর্মকর্তার বিরূপ আচরণের কারণে সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ পরিচালকগণ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০০৫-এ কোম্পানীর হাল ধরেন। তাঁদের দায়িত্ব গ্রহণের পর কোম্পানীর অগ্রগতি নিম্নরূপ :-

(কোটা টাকা)

সাল	প্রিমিয়াম আয়	বিনিয়োগ থেকে আয়	লাইফ ফান্ড	পরিসংসদ	দাবী পরিশোধ
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২০০৭	৩৪১.১৮	১১৪.৬১	১,২০৬.০৭	১,৩২৫.২৫	১৭৫.৮১
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২০০৯	৪৪০.৮৫	১৮৫.৮৭	১,৬১৯.০০	১,৭৫৫.৬১	২০৪.৮০
২০১০ (প্রতিশ্রুতি)	৪৯৮.৫০	২৯৮.৯৫	২,০৩৬.৭৪	২,১৭৯.৬৬	২২২.৩৭

অনির্দিষ্ট আর্থিক হিসাব অনুযায়ী

আশা করি, সত্তর মহামান্য উচ্চ আদালত থেকে স্থগিত এজিএম সমূহ অনুষ্ঠানের অনুমতি পাবো।

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