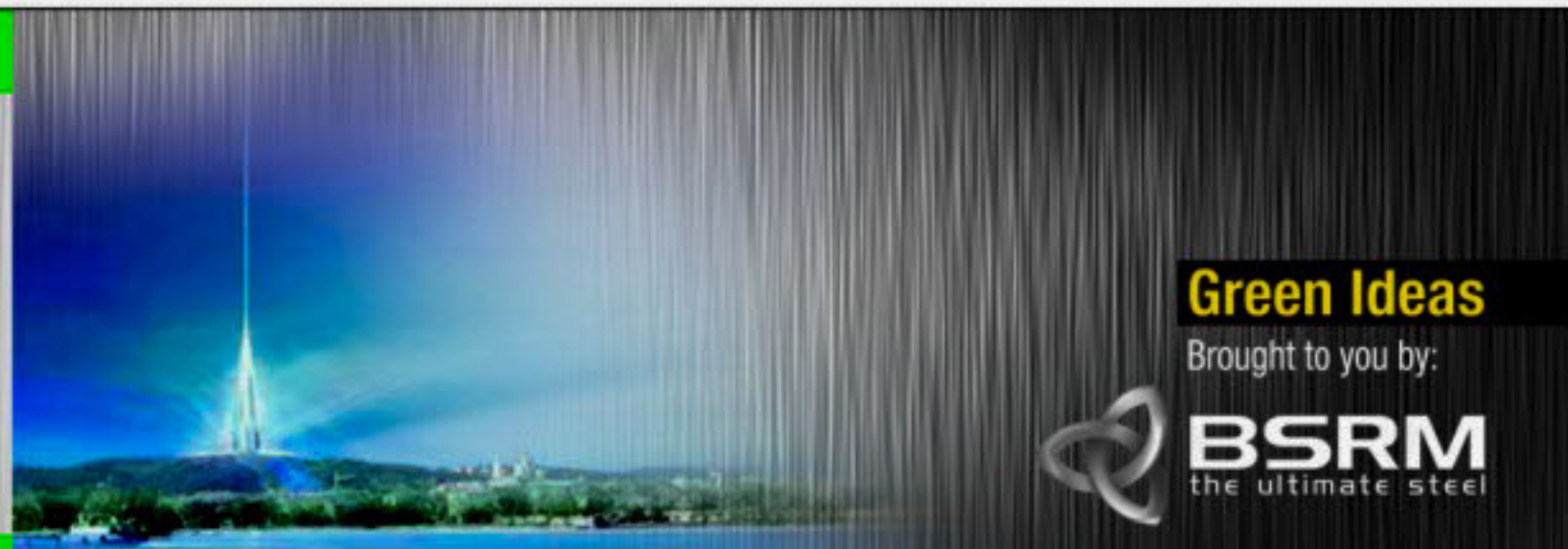


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in Short

Maternal mortality rate down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has gone down to 194 per one lakh live births in the country in the last decade, a government survey shows.

The 40 percent drop in MMR has taken Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Ship-breaking recognised as industry

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday took decision to place the ship breaking sector under the Ministry of Industries.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting on ship breaking and ship

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

Swiss to vote to cut down suicide rate

AFP, Geneva

Switzerland, which has the highest rate of suicide by firearms in Europe, votes yesterday on whether to abolish its long-standing tradition of letting citizens keep army-issued weapons at home.

The referendum,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Stock crash may hurt economy

Economists warn at CPD dialogue; Rehman Sobhan terms stockmarket a casino

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing crisis in the sharemarket might affect other areas of the economy that faces the risk of high inflation and volatility in the forex market, economists have warned.

They suggested capital market reforms and strong monitoring by Bangladesh Bank to curb excessive credit expansion.

The economists made the observations at a dialogue on challenges for Bangladesh in fiscal 2010-11 in the context of growth, inflation and the monetary policy. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the programme at the Cirdap auditorium in the capital.

They pointed to "greed" of investors as

the main reason behind the sharemarket bubble and said a subsequent plunge in share prices has put pressure on the financial sector with a portion of bank credit being diverted to stock investment from productive sectors.

The economists feared an excessive expansion of credit might result in a "financial crisis".

But BB Governor Atiur Rahman said the central bank will not allow any breach of discipline in the financial sector.

"Our main goal is to maintain macro-economic stability. We will ensure discipline in the financial sector at any cost," said Rahman, advising stock investors to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

RELATED STORY IN STAR BUSINESS



A trader washes his goods in the filthy water of the Buriganga before selling those in Shyambazar market in Old Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

EXECUTION OF COL TAHER Nurul Islam denies his role in tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurul Islam Shishu, who was the principal staff officer to the chief martial law administrator (CMLA) in 1976, has denied any role in the military tribunal that passed execution order of Col Taher the same year.

"I was not involved in the trial of Col Taher and others.

Like many in the army, I was unaware what was happening to the case. I have never seen any proceedings of the case during or after the trial," Nurul Islam said in a statement submitted to the High Court yesterday.

Retired from the army in April 1979, he has been living in the US since 1991.

He sent the statement through diplomatic channel to the attorney general's office, replying to an HC order.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



Col Taher

BNP plans agitation outside Dhaka, Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will hold protest programmes in all parts of the country except Dhaka and Chittagong demanding solution to the present gas, water and electricity crisis.

The party has excluded the two cities as they are the venues of World Cup Cricket 2011.

Besides, the party will announce programmes to mark the 'Pilkhana killing Day' on February 25. It will also observe February 28 as 'Bondi Mukti Dibosh' (prisoners'

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

Ban fatwa, make it punishable offence

Speakers at Prothom Alo roundtable urge govt; More than 500 women fell victim to fatwa despite HC ruling against it 10 years ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fatwa has not yet been banned even after the High Court declared it illegal ten years ago in 2001, speakers told a roundtable titled "No more fatwa" yesterday.

Speakers urged the government to make fatwa a punishable offence following the HC verdict soon as 503 women fell victim to fatwa in between 2000 and 2011.

"Fatwa means legal opinion. Only court can give legal opinions. The man who announces fatwa has no legal authority to do it," Justice Mohammad Gholam Rabbani said referring to the judgment he

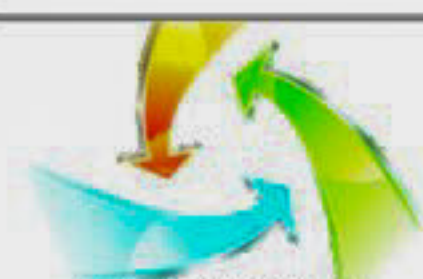
passed in 2001.

"Fatwa should be made punishable as it goes against the existing law of our country," he added.

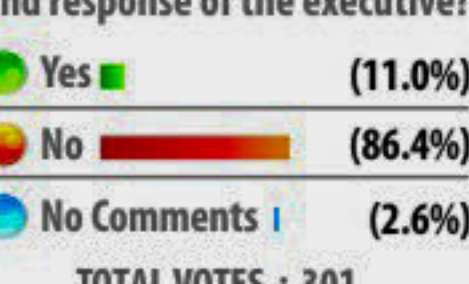
Mohammad Gholam Rabbani and Nazmun Ara Sultana in the landmark 2001 judgment declared that the "legal system of Bangladesh empowers only the courts to decide all questions relating to the legal opinions on the Muslim and other laws as in force in Bangladesh".

Unfortunately, the 2001 landmark judgment still remains stayed following a Supreme Court order, said Gholam Rabbani said referring to the judgment he

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



ONLINE POLL
Do you find coordination between the judiciary's directives on social problems and response of the executive?



TOTAL VOTES : 301

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Moudud Ahmed that BNP wants to see an effective parliament?

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PRAYER TIMING February 14		
	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

কাছে আসার তড়নায় সৃষ্টি হয় নানান রকমের মধুর গল্প। তাই ভালোবাসা দিবসকে কেন্দ্র করে শুরু হয়েছিলো 'Closeup কাছে আসার গল্প' প্রতিযোগিতা। এতে অসংখ্য গল্প পাঠিয়েছেন কাছে আসার, ভালোবাসার মানুষেরা। সেরা তিন গল্প নিয়ে নির্মিত নাট্যকত্রয়ী দেখুন

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