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FUTURE OF FOOD

What is causing food inflation, what can be done about it

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"BETTER THAN BANGLADESH"

Claims West Indies paceman Kemar Roach

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Hounding of the country's intellectuals throughout history

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Tripoli at stake

Bangladeshis find it hard to leave Libya as battle intensifies around the capital

PORIMOL PALMA

The Bangladeshis trapped in the Libyan capital could face a disastrous situation, as rebels and pro-Gaddafi forces fight around Tripoli.

Around 15,000 Bangladeshi workers live in Tripoli, a stronghold of Gaddafi. Another 45,000 Bangladeshi nationals work elsewhere in the North African country.

Waiting for hours, many of them failed to get any flights with some airlines cancelling their flight schedules, said the expatriates and their relatives in Bangladesh.

They do not go out of their camps fearing looting and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Embassy not looted

Ambassador rejects report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Ambassador in Libya ABM Nuruzzaman yesterday told the media over the phone that miscreants did not attack the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli on Monday, but they looted belongings of four Bangladeshis who were going to the embassy.

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A group of Bangladeshi workers wait at the Egyptian border city of Sallum Monday. The violence in Libya has triggered a mass exodus of foreigners.

PHOTO: AFP

West closer to air strikes

US warship heading for Suez

AFP, Tripoli

The West edged closer yesterday to military action against Muammar Gaddafi as the United States said air strikes would be needed to secure a no-fly zone over Libya.

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'All my people love me'

Gaddafi says in interview

AGENCIES

Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi has told the BBC he is loved by all his people and has denied there have been any protests in Tripoli.

Col Gaddafi said that his people would die to protect him.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Yahya shut assembly; freedom's bell rang

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Pakistan was thrown into a major political crisis with the postponement of the National Assembly session the previous day. It was quickly becoming obvious that neither the Yahya Khan regime nor Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had anticipated the degree of Bangalee anger that could arise



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Govt lets Ershad off the hook

It now considers radar graft case against him politically motivated, decides to withdraw 75 more case

M RAHMAN

A government committee yesterday decided to withdraw 76 more "politically motivated" cases including the much-talked-about radar purchase graft case filed against Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad.

The High Court cleared the way for trial of the radar purchase case on August 8, 2006 after proceedings of the case had been stayed for a long time.

Different quarters expressed concern over the decision saying the case should



be settled in the court as the HC cleared the way for trial.

The decision was taken at the 26th meeting of the government committee on withdrawal of cases filed for "harrasing" political leaders during the BNP-Jamaat and immediate past caretaker government rule.

The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case against Ershad and four others with Cantonment police on May 4, 1992.

Trial of the case filed 18 years ago against former president Ershad and

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Yunus' age a legal issue

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank's assertion about Prof Muhammad Yunus working as the managing director of Grameen Bank beyond his retirement age is a legal issue and the government will look into it, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

"We have received a letter from the Bangladesh Bank (BB), where it said that Prof Yunus has been illegally holding the post of the chief executive. Now we will see what to do," he told the media at

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Sri Lanka slay Kenya

Malinga's unique hat-trick feat

AFP, Colombo

Lasith Malinga recorded his second World Cup hat-trick and a career-best 6-38 to spark Sri Lanka's crushing nine-wicket win over Kenya in the World Cup here on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old sling-action bowler, who missed Sri Lanka's opening two matches due to a back strain, trapped Tanmay Mishra (nought) lbw with the last ball of his seventh over.

At the start of his next, he bowled Peter Ongondo and Shem Ngoche in successive balls to complete his hat-trick, finishing the innings at 142 in 43.4 overs, by bowling Elijah Otieno (0) to complete a four-wicket burst off six balls.

Sri Lanka polished off the runs in just 18.4 overs with

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Kidnapped girl rescued

Abductor held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police early yesterday rescued the daughter of an Awami League MP who was allegedly abducted on February 19 from her home in Shahbagh in the capital.

Police also arrested alleged kidnapper Ridoy, 24, and his father Zakir Hossain, 55, and mother Beauty Akter, 40.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) Police Mohammad Shahidullah said they rescued the schoolgirl

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CANTONMENTS 'FACE' PILKHANA FATE BNP uneasy over Khaleda remark

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's apprehension of a tragedy in the armed forces same as Pilkhana massacre has provoked controversy within the party as many of her colleagues think she should have refrained from making such statement.

A number of BNP leaders said even if Khaleda, the leader of the opposition in the House, has information about threats against the cantonments, she should alert the authority instead of making it public.

Some of them said her statement does not reflect the party view as the issue was never discussed in any of its forum. The leaders, however, seemed guarded about criticising the party chief.

Addressing a discussion as the chief guest on February 25 at Mahanagar Natya Mancha, the former premier said,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Mutiny loss colossal

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The manifold crises stemming from the Pilkhana mutiny of 2009 are making a big dent in the government coffers.

Over the past two years, the government had to spend around Tk 200 crore on some 6,000 accused mutineers without getting any service from them.

As per the rules, the authorities must keep paying the detained accused half their monthly salary and full benefits until conviction.

According to a rough estimate, around Tk 88 crore has been spent to pay for salary of the detained border troops, Tk 81 crore on their rations and Tk 46 crore on house rent, healthcare and other allowances, sources said.

On February 25-26 in 2009, jawans took over the then Bangladesh Rifles (now



Border Guard Bangladesh) Pilkhana headquarters in the capital and killed at least 74 people including 57 army officers deputed to BDR.

Huge amounts of arms and ammunition and properties of the paramilitary force were damaged during the mutiny that spread to other border guard units across the country.

The carnage pushed the authorities to undertake massive structural and legal reforms in the force and change its name, flag and uniform.

At least 6,052 personnel of 57 former BDR units were made accused in 57 mutiny cases. So far, 994 people in 26 cases have been convicted.

To try 824 jawans accused in the carnage case, the government has built a new

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অভিনন্দন

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিজনেস স্টাডিজ অনুষদের প্রফেসর ডঃ মোঃ আফজাল হোসেনের তত্ত্বাবধানে "Facing the challenges of Readymade Garments in Bangladesh after post-MFA era" শীর্ষক গবেষণার জন্য সম্প্রতি যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের আটলান্টিক ন্যাশনাল ইউনিভার্সিটি হতে ডক্টরেট ডিগ্রী অর্জন উপলক্ষে মাইক্রো ফাইবার গ্রুপের পরিচালক (অর্থ)



জনাব মোঃ কামরুজ্জামান কায়সার

বি. এস. সি. এজি (অনার্স), এম. এস. সি. (এজি), এম. এস. (নেদারল্যান্ড), এমবিএ-কে

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