

OF BAULS AND ZEALOTS

Syed Badrul Ahsan reflects on a tragic attack on bauls in the name of religion
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BANKS' NEXT FRONTIER

Mobile phone banking to bring in a sea change to financial sector
PAGE B8

IT'S ONLY A STAMP!

"Unusual" royal wedding stamps raise eyebrows around the world
PAGE 7



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

JS body to open national dialogue

Khaleda, other politicians, experts to be invited

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment will hold a dialogue with political parties and legal experts on prospective changes to the republic's charter.

The decision came at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban last night.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting, a member of the committee said, "We will soon decide on the mode of the talks and prepare a list of those to be invited."

Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, senior leaders of other political parties and constitution experts will be among the invitees.

The decision to hold the national dialogue was taken in response to demands from different corners for consensus on constitutional amendments, added the

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PM gives nod to several proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has consented to some vital proposals of the parliamentary special committee, including the one for restoration of the House's authority to remove judges of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Production and sale of kerosene lanterns shoot up, as the country suffers acute power crisis. Of the 750 megawatts load shedding across the country yesterday, the capital alone had a shortage of 300MW. The photo was taken at a factory in Keraniganj.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Property tax on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens will have to pay taxes if their property prices go beyond Tk 50 lakh, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said yesterday.

NBR will consider market prices of the properties while fixing the tax. A special unit will be formed to fix the market prices.

The proposed tax provision, due to be passed through the finance bill during the upcoming budget session, will come into effect from July 2012.

The proposed property tax policy evoked mixed reactions.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said he is confused whether the property tax should be imposed apparently to rein in current property bubble.

DETAILS ON B1

Beximco's rejoinder, our reply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Beximco, one of the largest business conglomerates of the country, yesterday rejected media comments and observations about its top management following submission of the stockmarket probe report.

Following is the full text

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Strong cartel behind stockmarket scam

Probe report says nexus targeted primary market for manipulation by inflating prices

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

A strong cartel has used the primary market as a tool to fleece people by inflating share prices, says a probe committee report.

"The 1996 crash was in the secondary market. But this time it was created in the

primary market from behind the scene by a nexus of the issuer, issue manager, valuer, chartered accountant and placement holder with the SEC's support," the report said.

"The huge price inflation due to misuse of premium, book building and

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DU students on rampage

Vandalise vehicles after cop stops bus for violating signal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were injured in clashes between a group of students of Dhaka University and police over ignoring of a traffic signal at Russell Square in the capital

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Down and out in Paris and Rome

INAM AHMED

Munir surely showed his grit, all over.

The quick burst of Noakhali accent drew my attention. He was standing there talking excitedly with a fellow Bangladeshi just outside a beautiful chapel in Paris. In front of him was laid a cloth on which miniature Eiffel Towers were on display. Silver, violet, bronze

and black. Key rings with the towers tugged at the end also lay in pools.

Munir's skin had cracked in the cold. His eyes red from the wind that blew with a force on this mountain top at Pigalle, the place famous for Salvador Dali's museum. His clothes were dirty. They had not been washed in who knows how many days.

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LIBYA REPATRIATION

WB to give \$30m for airfare

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank will provide an emergency loan assistance of \$30 million for the payment of airfare of repatriating Bangladeshis from Libya and for their rehabilitation.

Jahed Hossain Khan, senior economist of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Turag set to lose foreshore land

Minister puts up pillars to 'protect' river from grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shipping minister formally inaugurated installation of boundary pillars of the river Turag yesterday as part of an ongoing move to save the rivers of Dhaka.

But the pillars were put along the waterline of dry-season lean flow following a faulty demarcation excluding the

foreshores. The demarcation is also in deviation from a High Court direction which defined a river as a totality of its bed, foreshores, and banks.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) organised the ceremony by the lean-season waterline of the Turag, to the south of Tongi Kamarpara

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