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**Hasina joins constitution talks today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today joins the talks on constitutional amendments and is likely to clarify her party's stance on some crucial issues including state religion and caretaker government system.

The debate on the sensitive issues is drawing much attention as components of the AL-led grand alliance were divided over those at the talks with the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendments on Monday.

A major component of the alliance -- Jatiya Party--

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FACING JS BODY

**Fakhruddin, Moeen get 2nd letter**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary sub-committee probing the DU violence in 2007 has once again asked former chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and former army chief Moeen U Ahmed to appear before it on June 5.

In separate letters

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**Drama at Ctg port over army equipment**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs authority temporarily stopped delivery of an 18-box imported container at a Chittagong Port jetty yesterday, fearing arms consignment.

Suspicion arose after officials noticed a "rifle-like objects" peeping out from a

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you support BNP's decision not to join the talks with the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment?

Yes 42.5%

No 55.9%

No Comments 1.6%

TOTAL VOTES : 633

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think action should be taken against the Mastermind school administration for giving corporal punishment to students despite government ban on such harsh action?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING** April 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## RIVER PILLAR CONTROVERSY

# Ministry to turn to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Setting up of boundary pillars will go on along all the Dhaka rivers except for the Turag in Gazipur, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan has said.

The decision came at a meeting attended by ministers, lawmakers, top government officials including deputy commissioners and environmentalists at the shipping ministry yesterday.

Relevant district administrations have reportedly not considered foreshores as part of rivers while demarcating those.

The meeting decided to postpone installing pillars along the Turag amid media outcry over the district administration's move to set up pillars excluding the foreshores.

The ministry also formed an 11-member committee led by Mostafizur Rahman, state minister for land, to seek High Court direction regarding the foreshores.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said that every necessary aspect for river conservation has been clearly outlined in the 2009 HC judgment.

The court said a river primarily includes bed, foreshores, and banks.

"The judgment is good enough to save the Dhaka

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Sand traders occupy a large portion of the Turag in Sinnirtek. Grabbing of rivers continues and the government is installing pillars to demarcate the rivers but the Turag will have to wait for its pillars.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Thwart smear campaign against women policy

*PM urges all, laying foundation of Asian University for Women campus in Ctg*

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged all to help the government implement National Women Development Policy for the welfare of women.

She said that a certain quarter "trading on religion" has been trying to mislead people by misinterpreting the women development policy, although Islam as a religion never approves inequality between man and woman.

Hasina made the remarks while formally laying the foundation of the permanent campus of Asian University for Women (AUW) in the port city yesterday afternoon.

The premier also urged the women community as well as conscious citizens of the country to thwart the evil designs of the vested quarters.

The government is fully committed to provide all-out support for women

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### MAIMING LIMON

## Case against Rab men taken finally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police have finally recorded a case against six Rapid Action Battalion personnel for shooting and maiming college student Limon.

Rajapur police registered the case lodged by Henu Ara Begum, mother of the 16-year-old, last night.

Earlier in the evening,

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## Coal holds gas hopes

*Hydrocarbon Cell forecasts crisis may ease next year*

SHARIER KHAN

The Hydrocarbon Cell of the energy ministry in a report has said gas production from the existing wells could be increased within the next year in three phases to greatly minimise the existing crisis.

In its draft report on gas augmentation measures, the cell spelled out three types of solution to minimise the crisis that is affecting household stoves to power plants of the country.

At present, Petrobangla's affiliates are supplying maximum 2,000 million cubic

feet gas per day (mmcf) against a demand of 2,500 mmcf. In light of this shortfall, the government from last year has suspended giving new domestic gas connection.

The first solution proposed by the Hydrocarbon Cell can be implemented within three months as it involves servicing, tuning or replacing various valves, chokes and other surface equipment. The main objective of this step is to change the pattern of the present gas production and distribution system. No investment is

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### BG PRESS

## Leak accused face wrath of colleagues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Bangladesh Government (BG) Press staff, who were suspended temporarily for their alleged involvement in question paper leak, incurred colleagues' wrath as they came to collect allowance yesterday.

The three, Shahidul Islam Fakir, compositor; ATM Mostafa, another compositor; Mostafa's wife Laboni Begum, binder, were confined at the main office for more than an hour by the press employees.

Witnesses said the three were assaulted by

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## Physical, mental abuses banned

*Education ministry elaborates policy on corporal punishments*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday announced a policy reiterating a ban on corporal punishments to students at public and private educational institutions.

The policy gives elaborate definitions of banned physical and mental punishments.

The banned physical punishments are defined as physically hitting someone with hands or legs or any other object including whips, throwing of chalks or dust-ers at someone, slamming someone on the ground or pinching, biting, pulling or cutting of hair, pressing of fingers with a pencil in between, pushing and shoving, pulling of ears, making someone squat and stand up in a repeated motion, putting someone's head under a chair or table or any other object, making someone stand up on one leg, making someone stand or lie under direct sunlight, and meting out any type of punishment which is banned under the labour law.

Banned mental punishments are making derogatory comments about students' parents, family histories, clans, castes, races or religions in classrooms; or making any indecent gesture which can have adverse impact on

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**CHEHLUM**

Begum Lutfunnessa, wife of Late Mr. Wahiduzzaman (former Commerce Minister of Pakistan), passed away on the 19th of March, 2011 in Dhaka. Innalillahe Wa Inna Maine Razeun. Her Chehlum will be observed on Thursday, the 28th of April, immediately following the Maghrib prayers at the Old DOHS (Banani/Kakoli DOHS) Community Center. Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join our prayers for the salvation and eternal peace of the departed soul.

**Family Members of Late Mr. Wahiduzzaman and Begum Lutfunnessa**

## ONE BANGLADESHI IN GUANTANAMO

# Detained for 5yrs for vague reasons

### Says WikiLeaks

UNB, Dhaka

The leak of some 759 "detainee assessment" dossier reveals the file on Mubarak Hussain bin Abul Hashem, the lone Bangladeshi who was incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay for his "possible ties" with Islamist extremists.

The dossiers were released on Monday by the New York Times in the US, and the Guardian, UK, who

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## Businessman shot dead at Tongi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A real estate businessman was killed and his chauffeur injured when unidentified miscreants riding on a motorcycle opened fire on his car at Tongi on the outskirts of the city yesterday.

In another incident, owner of a printing press was injured when a robber

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## Home makes U-turn

### Abandons plan to let off 7 charge-sheeted accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry has decided not to press ahead with its controversial move to see a murder case withdrawn against seven charge-sheeted accused.

Special Public Prosecutor Abu Abdullah said the ministry's law desk yesterday asked him not to file any petition with the trial court for withdrawal of the case.

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