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**CHANGES TO CHARTER**  
Spl body sits today with intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment sits today with eminent intellectuals seeking their opinion on the prospective changes to the country's charter.

Twenty-six dignitaries from different sectors have been invited to join the consultation at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 11:30am, officials at

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**3 factories fined for pollution**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An enforcement team of Department of Environment (DoE) in separate drives in the port city yesterday fined three factories Tk 13 lakh and seized two trucks on charges of polluting environment and cutting hill illegally.

The DoE team, led by its Director (enforcement) Munir Chowdhury, conducted a drive in Lake View area under

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# Six hours of abuse

*School kids kept standing under the sun as state minister shows up for 5 mins*

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Some 130 children of Vatapara Non-government Primary School at Durgapur union of Aditmari upazila were kept standing in the scorching sun on Sunday for as long as six hours to welcome the state minister for primary and mass education.

The practice of making students wait on roads to welcome dignitaries continued though the government in December 2009 firmly instructed all educational institutions to stop this.

On Sunday, the authorities around 10:00am lined up the kids in front of the school and they were there until around 4:00pm when State Minister Motahar Hossain finally showed up and spent less than five minutes at the entrance.

Guardians, meanwhile, got angry and some of them even took their children home.

Nur Haque, a guardian, said the teachers and school managing committee told them that kids would have to wait for only half an hour, but they stood for more than five hours.

Some guardians complained that their children could not have lunch or take bath in time and some of them even fell sick because of the hot weather.

Khairun Akhter, a student of class-V, said the teachers and managing committee president asked them to stand on the road to welcome the minister.

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Kids waiting in the sun to welcome the minister for primary and mass education to their school in Lalmonirhat on Sunday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# YUNUS REMOVAL FROM GRAMEEN BANK Verdict wrong, biased

*Nobel hero's counsels tell SC; hearing resumes today*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court verdict and its observations on Prof Muhammad Yunus' removal from Grameen Bank are "wrong" and "biased", the Nobel laureate's counsels told the Supreme Court yesterday.

The HC on March 8 summarily rejected two writ petitions that challenged the legality of Bangladesh Bank order to remove Yunus from the post of Grameen Bank managing director.

The verdict delivered by the HC without any ruling on the central bank for explaining its order was "a denial of access to justice," "unprecedented" and "devoid of impartiality", Dr Kamal Hossain, one of Yunus' counsels, told the apex court.

He was placing arguments at the hearing of Yunus' petition at the Appellate Division. The Grameen Bank founder on April 5 sought withdrawal of the SC order that dismissed his leave-to-appeal petition against the HC verdict.

Advocate Mahmudul Islam and barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud also stood for Yunus.

A seven-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque adjourned the hearing till today.

Rakanuddin told the SC that they (the three counsels for Yunus) will not move the other leave-to-appeal petition of nine Grameen directors against the HC verdict, as the apex court on April 5 dismissed a

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# Prof Nizami made SEC member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Prof Helaluddin Nizami of accounting and information system department at Chittagong University as a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for three years.

While in new role, he will not be eligible to remain in any other post, said an order of the Banking Division in the finance ministry yesterday.

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# AL plans rallies to counter BNP agitation

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League has decided to hold rallies across the country focusing on the government's development activities in a bid to politically face the opposition's anti-government movement and propaganda.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the rallies in each district starting towards the end of this month or early next month.

The first such programme of the AL since the grand alliance led by it came to power is also aimed at gearing up party activities in districts that have apparently come to a standstill and bridging the existing gap among its rank and file, party insiders said.

Chairing the weekly cabinet meeting at the

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# CTG ARMS HAUL Babar involved, testify cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two police sergeants in separate statements in connection with the 10-truck arms haul case told a court yesterday that they had arrested five people from the spot but the arrestees were released as per the direction of Lutfozzaman Babar, then state minister for home.

The witnesses are Sergeant Md Alauddin, then officer-in-charge (OC) of Bandar Police Outpost, and Sergeant Helal Uddin Bhuiyan, then OC of Koilar Depot

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# DU professor passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Nasreen Khundakar, professor of economics at Dhaka University, passed away at the United Hospital in the capital at 6:18pm yesterday from complications arising out of acute renal failure.

She was 55. Nasreen is survived by her husband Ali Ahmed Ziauddin (Bir Prateek) and a daughter. She will be laid to rest at Banani graveyard this morning.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers at the Dhaka University mosque.

Prof MM Akash, a

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Two women in tears after their homes were burnt down in a fire at a slum in Kalyanpur area of the capital Saturday night. Some slum dwellers alleged a few miscreants in the area often torch shanties causing panic among the dwellers in order to evict them and grab their possessions.

PHOTO: STAR

# Lot of things need to be done

*TI chief wants success in anti-graft fight to continue*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made progress in fighting corruption but the success needs to continue, said chief of Transparency International (TI) Huguette Labelle on Sunday.

"I think there has been some progress, we recognise that. But like many other countries, Bangladesh has a lot of things that need to be done to continue this progress," she said at a press conference at the National Press Club.

Bangladesh ranked the world's most corrupt nation in TI's annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in 2005.



Huguette Labelle

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# WAR CRIMES TRIAL US envoy for protecting witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen J Rapp yesterday urged the government to ensure security of the witnesses of International Crimes Tribunal set to hold trial of crimes against humanity in 1971.

He also suggested maintaining international standard and fairness of the trial to play a role model for other countries, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told journalists after Rapp met him at his ministry.

Emphasising witnesses' protection, Rapp said the

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# Nod to farming in Africa

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave a green signal to a proposal that Bangladesh leases land in some African countries and send farmers there to grow crops like rice and cotton for its consumption as well as export.

The prime minister's endorsement came after the proposal was discussed at

the weekly cabinet meeting at the Secretariat, sources close to the meeting said.

According to the proposal, Bangladesh will lease land in those African countries where Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers were posted or are still on duty. Dhaka will send farm workers primarily to grow cotton in that land.

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# Gaddafi's son killed in air strikes

*3 grandchildren also die*

REUTERS, Tripoli

Crowds chanting support for Muammar Gaddafi gathered in Tripoli yesterday for the funeral of his

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**কালিয়াকৈরে ৩৫ বিঘা জমি বিক্রয়**

জমিটি কালিয়াকৈরের চন্দ্রা সংযোগ স্থলে বাংলাদেশ থাই এ্যালুমিনিয়াম ফ্যাক্টরী সংলগ্ন ঢাকা যমুনা সেতু মহাসড়কের দুই পাশে অবস্থিত। ইহা একত্রে বা কয়েক ভাগে বিক্রয় হবে। জমি থেকে আই.টি পার্ক ১ কিলোমিটার দূরে। বেসরকারী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, হসপিটাল, মেডিক্যাল কলেজ, শপিং সেন্টার, এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট অথবা বৃহৎ শিল্প ইত্যাদির জন্য জমিটি অত্যন্ত উপযোগী।

যোগাযোগ করুন : ৯৩৪৭৭৮০-৯৯, ০১৯১১-৩৬০০১৬, ০১৭১১-৫৪০৫৫১।