**KENNEDY'S MISTAKE?**

A book claims Cold War started due to Kennedy's inexperience

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**FOR GREATER TAX REVENUE**

SME Foundation recommends more trade and creation of more jobs

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**IMF CHIEF HELD**

Dominique Strauss-Kahn arrested in New York City for sexual assault

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## Shahabuddin govt slightly exposed

JS body mulls ways to plug constitutional loopholes

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment is looking for ways to ratify the interim government led by Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed that was formed after the end of an autocratic rule in 1990.

The committee made the move as the interim regime might lose the constitutional protection for not being ratified and validated properly in 1991, some members of the committee told The Daily Star citing the Supreme Court's two recent landmark verdicts.

Military ruler HM Ershad stepped down on December 6, 1990 in the wake of a popular uprising, appointing the then chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as the vice-president, since the then vice-president had resigned earlier.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed exercised the powers and performed the functions of the president, and a parliamentary

election was held under his supervision in February 1991.

The fifth parliament, constituted through the 1991 election, passed the Eleventh Amendment Act in August the same year to ratify Justice Shahabuddin's appointment as the vice-president, the powers exercised by him, and the laws and ordinances made during his tenure.

The amendment also allowed him to resume his duties and responsibilities as the chief justice after a new president was elected under the constitution.

To ratify his interim regime, a new clause was inserted in the fourth schedule of the constitution through the passage of the Eleventh Amendment Act, using the constitution's transitional and temporary provisions.

But in recent developments, the SC in two separate verdicts on the constitution's fifth and seventh amendments announced that the necessity for a

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Khoka stays at helm of Dhaka City BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a lapse of nearly three years, main opposition BNP yesterday announced its Dhaka city committee headed by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka amid criticism in the rank and file of the party.

A number of controversial persons were included in the 21-member new committee.

A section of the party members expressed serious dissatisfaction over inclusion of those leaders in the committee who had supported party reform during the immediate past military-backed caretaker government.

The last Dhaka city committee was dissolved by the then party secretary

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Tax holiday to remain until 2013

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to extend the tax holiday for two years considering the demand of industrialists.

At a consultative committee meeting on the national budget 2011-12, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith yesterday said in the next budget the tax holiday will be extended until 2013. The meeting was organised by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at a city hotel.

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## SEC gets new chief

GAZI TOWHID AHMED



The government has appointed Prof M Khairul Hossain as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission on recommendations of the committee that probed the recent stockmarket debacle.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith on April 30 pledged to implement the recommendations of the government-formed committee after publication of the full probe report on the market crash.

The government announced the appointment in a circular yesterday as part of its move to recast the SEC following harsh criticism from the probe committee led by Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled.

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Hasina in Geneva

Joins World Met Congress today

UNB, Geneva

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Geneva yesterday on a four-day visit to Switzerland to attend two UN conferences.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Switzerland Mohammad Hannan received the PM at Geneva International Airport in the evening.

The PM will attend the 16th World Meteorological Congress (WMC) and the 64th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

She will address the high-level segment of the 16th WMC today at the

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## Ershad's military rule illegal

HC verdict upheld; SC wants JS to decide fate of his govt's actions

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court yesterday declared the military rule of HM Ershad illegal in a verdict that also said the actions taken by his regime will remain effective until their fate is decided by parliament.

A six-member SC bench, headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, upheld a High Court judgment knocking off the 7th amendment to the constitution that validated Ershad's illegal military regime.

Ershad, an army chief-turned-president, seized power in a military coup on March 24, 1982 ousting the elected government of President Justice Abdus Sattar.

His martial law regime continued until November 10, 1986 when a

parliament loyal to him legitimised his takeover of power. He became president in a controversial election and continued to be so until 1990 when a mass upsurge ousted him.

"All proclamations, Martial Law Regulations, Martial Law Orders, made/promulgated during the period between 24th March, 1982 and the date of commencement of the

Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1986 (Act 1 of 1986) are hereby declared illegal and void....," the SC said in its brief verdict.



Siddique Ahmed, who challenged the 7th amendment

The apex court, however, provisionally condoned all acts, things, deeds and transactions and proceedings during the military rule of Ershad between March 24, 1982, and November 10, 1986.

Legal experts said this means the acts, deeds, actions, transactions and proceedings during the period will remain in force until parliament takes decisions on these. The SC condoned forever the international treaties, which were

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## Lunar robot readied for Nasa contest

Brac University students make the WiFi-controlled device

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

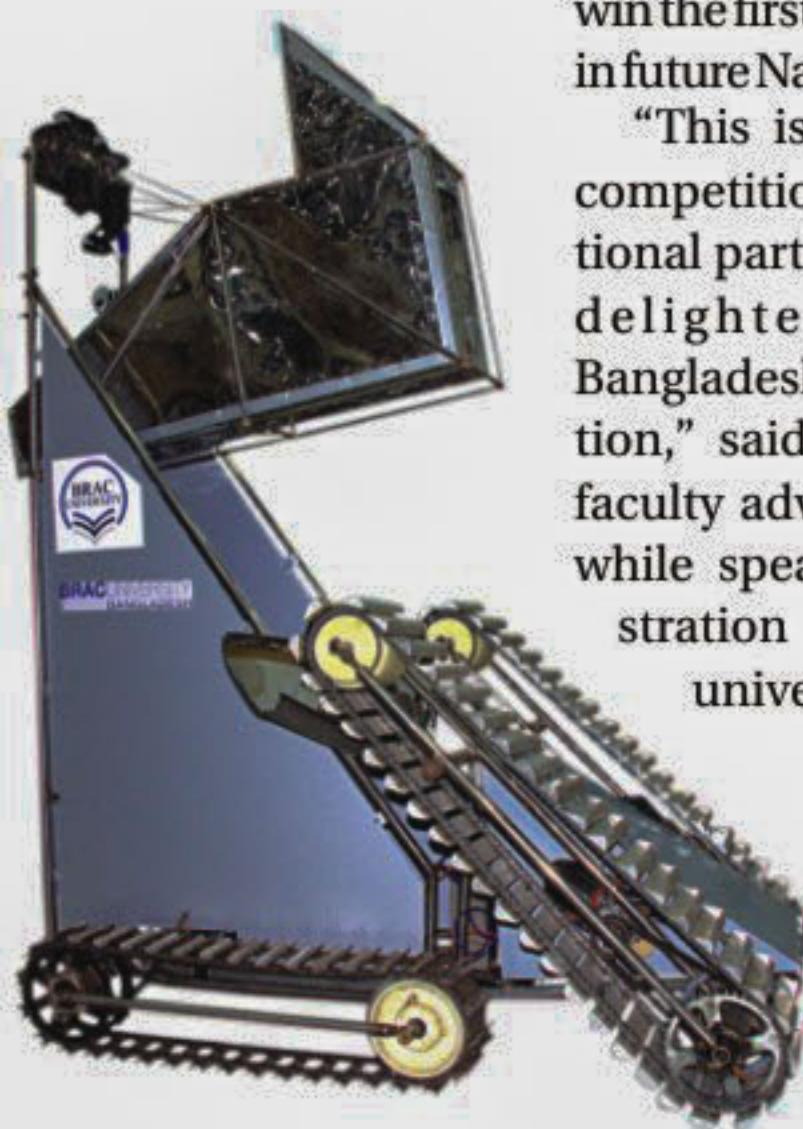
Brac University students have made the nation's first lunar robot which will compete with robots made by famous universities across the world for Nasa's Annual Lunabots Mining Competition, 2011.

The students are giving the final touches to BRACU Chondrobot, a lunar excavation robot made of recycled car parts, tin, alloy and rubber.

Nasa through this competition is looking for clever ideas and solutions which it can use later for lunar excavation. The robotics design to win the first prize would be used in future Nasa expeditions.

"This is the first time the competition invited international participants and we are delighted to represent Bangladesh in the competition," said Khalilur Rahman, faculty adviser to the project, while speaking at a demonstration programme at the university yesterday.

"But the competition will be fierce," said Khalilur, also an assistant professor at the department of



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