



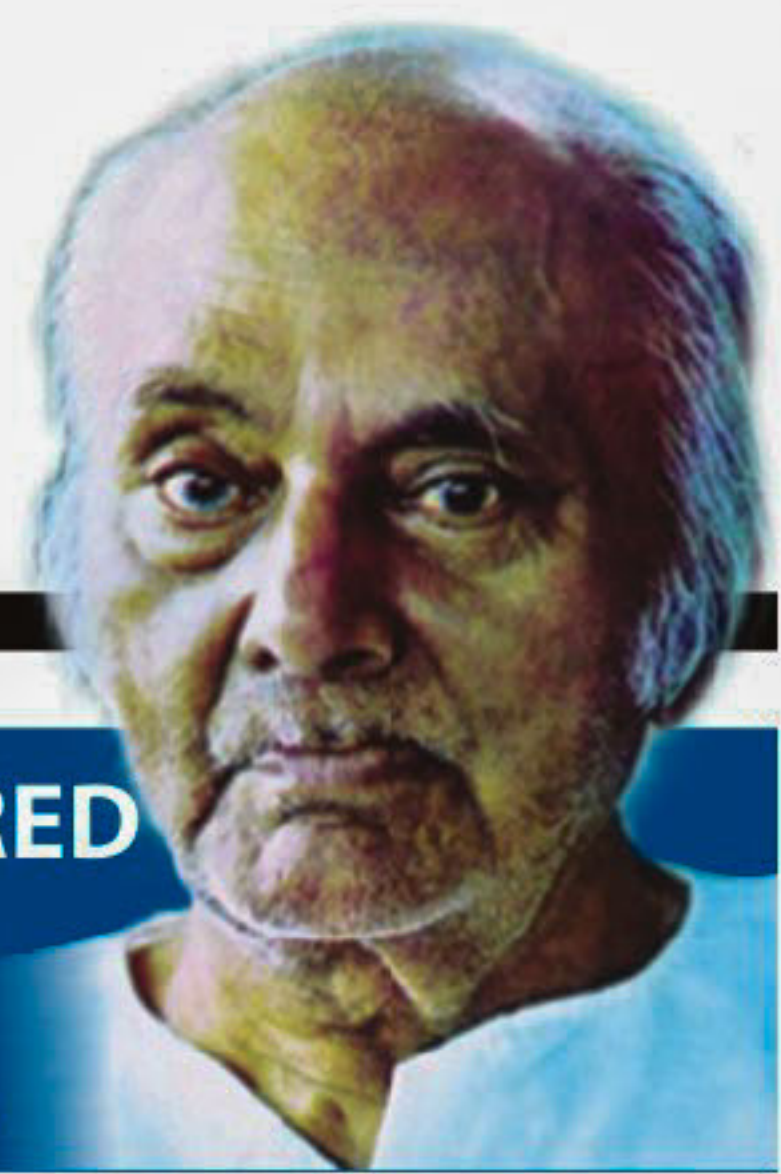
The Daily Star

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WARNE'S GURU NO MORE

Terry Jenner, the man who taught Shane Warne leg spin, dies at 66

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ANTI-AMERICANISM

WikiLeaks reveal that the sentiment is rife among Pakistani army officers

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NATIONAL POET REMEMBERED

Kazi Nazrul Islam's 112th birthday celebrated

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Asma Kibria demands revision

Says masterminds still unidentified in charge sheet

RASHIDUL HASAN

Slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria's widow Asma Kibria yesterday declined to accept a charge sheet that the investigation officer prepared for submission in connection with her husband's murder.

Asma Kibria told The Daily Star in her Gulshan residence in the capital that to the best of her knowledge Investigation Officer Rafiqul Islam prepared the charge sheet without identifying the masterminds of her husband's killing, and the IO also did not talk to her before preparing the

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KIBRIA KILLING CASE

Babar, 13 others to be charged

CID readies charge sheet, submits today

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and thirteen others have been included in the supplementary charge sheet in connection with the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, said the investigator of the case.

Md Rafiqul Islam, investigation officer of the case, is likely to submit the charge sheet to the Habiganj Judicial Magistrate's Court today after probing the case for more than four years.

The Criminal Investigation Department, and Home Secretary Abdus

Sobhan Sikder said the charge sheet was



scheduled to be submitted yesterday but due to a necessity for its further scrutiny, it finally could not be submitted.

Md Rafiqul Islam was made the investigation officer in May, 2007 after previous IO Munshi Atiqur Rahman went on retirement. During the last BNP-led alliance rule, Munshi Atique pressed charges against 10 BNP men including a top leader of Habiganj district unit, which was rejected by the victim's

family and complainant.

Fourteen people including Babar and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

EC for state funding for parties in JS polls

Formulates draft law; CAG to audit party accounts, poll expense statements

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Only Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami are likely to get state funding for their election campaigns in the next parliamentary polls as a new law is being drafted.

Registered political parties securing five percent or more of the total votes cast in the constituencies they had candidates in the previous election will be entitled to funds for the next polls, says the legislation proposed by the Election Commission.

Only these four parties, out of 38 registered parties, meet the criteria.

The EC drafted the law titled Electoral Campaign Expenditure (public fund) Act, 2011, to introduce state funding system and "stop the influence of black money" in the

HIGHLIGHTS

- Candidate's result cancellation for concealing info
- Introduction of electronic voting machine
- Cancellation of party registration for violating laws
- Increasing campaign expenditure limit to Tk 25 lakh
- Lowering punishment for poll offences

national polls.

The proposal says the amount of money a party will get will be fixed based on its last poll performance. This means a political party may get a maximum of Tk 25 lakh for each constitu-

ency it won in the previous elections.

Independent candidates who won in the last elections will also get state funding in the next polls, according to the draft law.

In defence of the law, the EC said it is necessary to create opportunity for all, poor or rich, to contest the polls and to stop use of black money in the elections.

The EC said it would have opinions of political parties from June 7 on the draft and some other crucial proposals to bring changes to the electoral law, Representation of the People Order (RPO).

Other proposed changes include increasing election expenditure of a candidate to Tk 25 lakh maximum from Tk 15 lakh and empowering

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

No new tax on BO account holders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No new tax will be imposed on beneficiary owners' account holders and tax identification numbers will also not be made mandatory for them in the next fiscal year.

The decision was taken yesterday at a top level meeting in the finance ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair. Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, Finance Secretary Mohammad Tareque, National Board of Revenue Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed, and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Prof M Khairul Hossain were present at the meeting among others.

The meeting also

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

BNP wants good ties with India

Says Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, now in USA, has said that her party BNP wants good relations with India on the basis of mutual benefits.

She made the remarks replying to a question on how BNP considers Bangladesh's relation with neighbouring India at the Atlantic Council of USA in Pennsylvania on Tuesday afternoon.

BNP Vice-chairman

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

Shrimp farming deals major blow to South

Coastal land in Aila-hit areas turns barren due to salinity



Shrimp production resumes in the Aila-hit area of Shyamnagar in Satkhira. Many farmers are against the return of shrimp cultivation as it has already affected the fertility of the land. Inset, even grass does not grow on the saline-affected land of Gabura union in Satkhira.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN

EMRAN HOSSAIN, back from southwestern districts

Ahammad Ali Gazi sighed as he surveyed his salt-covered land that once produced rice.

"This is the land where my family grew rice for years," said Gazi, a 60-year-old farmer at Gabura in Satkhira district close to Bay of Bengal. "Today, there is nothing but salt. Nothing else grows here," murmured Gazi, wiping sweat from his sun-burnt face.

The farmer has only himself to blame.

Nearly three decades ago, Gazi, like many farmers in his area, quit

rice farming to opt for shrimp cultivation that earned them more money.

Money Gazi has earned. His earning from the business continued until cyclone Aila hit the southwestern part of the country on May 25, 2009.

The entire region was washed away. All the shrimp enclosures were gone.

For about one and a half years, the area remained under saline water until the breaches Aila had created were repaired towards the end of last year.

The saline water has receded after the repair but Gazi is thun-

derstruck to find that years of shrimp cultivation has brought saline water and salt to his three acres of land making it unfit for any crop. He wonders how many years it might take for the land to recover from the damage, and regain the soil fertility to grow crops like rice.

Lured by short-term gains, farmers like Gazi, who mulls beginning with shrimp business once again, overlooked the long-term losses from shrimp farming: damage to land fertility, drinking water, and environment.

But Gazi and others like him

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Yunus worried about GB future

Tells The Daily Star it's not wise to amend law to ensure govt control

ARUN DEVNATH and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has warned that Grameen Bank could run into deep trouble if the government amends the law to take control of the microfinance bank founded by him.

"If those amendments [proposed by the review committee] come and the government penetrates the bank, it will not survive very long," Prof Yunus said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, the first after his resignation from Grameen Bank as managing director this month.

"I'm anxious about its safety," he said.

Yunus said there should not be any attempt to amend the 1983 ordinance that governs the microfinance bank unless it is recommended by the board.

A government-appointed review committee has recently suggested amendments to the Grameen Bank ordinance, even though it found no financial irregularities in the operation of the bank.

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FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW ON PAGE 15



Muhammad Yunus

Rajuk to clamp down on building law breakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartipakhya (Rajuk) is going to penalise the building law offenders with imprisonment in addition to monetary fine through its mobile courts from next month.

The capital development authority already launched drives early this month to rectify building construction deviations in the city.

Md Nurul Huda, chairman of Rajuk, told The Daily Star, "We did not mean to frighten people with imprisonment at the very outset but the situation is such that we have to go for stern action like this."

Four Rajuk mobile courts have so far slapped only financial penalty on

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Unused foreign aid set to stand at \$12b

Project implementation slow

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

2011-12

BUDGET

Unused foreign aid in pipeline may cross \$12 billion mark at the beginning of the next fiscal year mainly due to failure of ministries to implement foreign-funded projects.

The amount was \$9.4b on July 1 last year, according to Economic Relations Division (ERD) statistics.

To make up the budget deficit, the government accepts low cost foreign funds. Of this, a sizeable amount is left unutilised every year, a high official of the finance ministry told The Daily Star.

The unused amount goes back to the pipeline as it is not consumed as per schedules of different projects, he added.

Though the foreign aid has increased much, the government is not being able to utilise it properly, admitted Finance Minister AMA Muhith during a pre-budget view exchange meeting with the members of Economic Reporters' Forum last month.

Several ministries in the current fiscal year have already surrendered allocations of foreign funds worth 12 to 100 percent in

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Micro Investment

LIBERTY SELF RELIANCE ESTD-1973

MTDR @ 12.50% (3 Months)
MTDR @ 13.00% (6 Months)
MTDR @ 13.50% (1 Year)
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