

LOKOBETAR ON AIR

Country's first community radio starts test transmission

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LIFE ON FIRE!

Shegufta Yasmin reiterates the dangers of smoking on this World No Tobacco Day

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DALAI LAMA RESIGNS

The Tibetan spiritual leader formally relinquishes political powers

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PM's 'no' to caretaker

JS body to ask BNP for its proposal; BNP says no parliamentary polls under AL govt

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In a major development regarding constitutional amendment, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday did not consent to the parliamentary special committee's proposal for maintaining the caretaker government system for two more general elections.

The premier expressed her position at a meeting with the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment in her Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban office, meeting sources said.

"We should uphold the Supreme Court's verdict. Why will we dishonour the verdict?" a

special committee member quoted the premier as saying at the meeting.

The Appellate Division of Supreme Court on May 10 in a verdict declared the caretaker government system unconstitutional and void.

The apex court however observed that the system may be practiced for holding two more parliamentary elections for the sake of "safety of the state and its people".

The premier said they should honour the verdict first, then the court's observation.

Talking to reporters, some committee members supported the premier's view and said the parliament is not bound to obey the court's observation.

Following the SC's verdict, the special committee was considering two proposals --- the Pakistani model of an interim government, and the existing structure of the caretaker government system -- for two more parliamentary elections.

Yesterday's meeting however decided that the special committee will urge the main opposition BNP to come up with proposals for maintaining the caretaker government system, if they want it.

If BNP comes with proposals, the special committee will discuss those, said the meeting sources.

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Priority for poor

Govt okays health policy, cancels private practice of doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved the much-awaited National Health Policy 2011 aimed to ensure "good health for all".

The approval came at the weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

According to the policy, homoeopathy, unani and herbal treatment will be introduced at all public hospitals alongside allopathic treatment which will be modernised.

To ensure round-the-clock health service, private practice by resident doctors, emergency medical officers and

non-clinical doctors of government hospitals has been banned. The government will provide them with additional allowances for that.

Health insurance will be introduced for public and private service holders and health cards will be distributed among the poor to ensure free healthcare at all government hospitals.

Budget allocations in health, population and nutrition sectors will be increased to implement the policy. A health council headed by the prime minister will oversee the implementation.

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Family members at Masimpur in Dinajpur join hands together bundling up litchis to sell in the market (left). A kid plucks litchis from a tree at his grandfather's garden. The photos were taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

It's litchi time

Traders from capital rush to Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

As if the roads cutting through the green, calm northern district are decorated on purpose. Clusters of pink-red delicate beauties with roughly-textured rind sit on green leaf covering on long patches of pitch-road. It's the month of May, season for the pink blush, litchi.

About 430 kilometres off Dinajpur, vendors on pavements and corners of different neighbourhoods in the capital, besides

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Infamous Hamid gets off the hook

Ministries, public prosecutor trade blame

M RAHMAN

The national committee for withdrawal of "politically-motivated" cases and the public prosecutor of Cox's Bazar are locked in a blame game over letting former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam's bodyguard Akhter Hamid get off scot-free from several criminal charges.

Hamid or anybody on his behalf did not propose the committee at the district level to send his name to the national committee for consideration, claimed Cox's Bazar PP Momtaj Ahmed.

"So, I didn't send Hamid's name to the national committee," he said. "Rather, I sent names of some innocents who were mistakenly implicated."

But the committee wrongly recommended for Hamid, he added.

A home ministry source said the national committee has recommended withdrawing three cases filed with Moheshkhali Police Station against Akhter Hamid along with his 88 accomplices.

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INNOCENT LIMON, RAB DRIVE

Barisal crime don escapes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested a man for giving shelter to the kingpin of a crime ring Morshed Jamaddar and unearthed a bunker used by the gang leader at Sonahar village of Banaripara upazila, said a Rab release.

A team of Rab-8 arrested Kazi Md Badsha Mia, 55, son of late Kazi Burjuk Ali of Sonahar village.

Badsha confessed to sheltering Morshed at his home for the last few days, but he (Morshed) fled the scene sensing a raid, stated the release.

Earlier on March 23, a Rab team maimed 16-year old college student Limon Hossain by shooting in his left leg at Jamaddarhat in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi, taking the lad for a member of Morshed's gang.

The maiming incident drew widespread criticism around the country as rights bodies and general people alleged violation of human rights by the elite force members.



Morshed Jamaddar

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A hideout used by crime gang leader Morshed Jamaddar in Sonahar village in Barisal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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