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Your Right to Know

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PM REPROACHES WOMEN'S ORGS

She criticises them for not doing enough to defend Women Development Policy

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GLOBALISATION AND R&D

Essentiality of modern technology for Bangladesh

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KARZAI SLAMS NATO

He says foreign military in Afghanistan risks becoming an "occupying force"

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It's 'no' of SC, 'Caretaker' left to JS

Clarifies PM; says BNP free to place its proposal for caretaker system in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said now there is no way to maintain the caretaker government system after the Supreme Court declared it illegal.

"It is not my personal observation or thought. It is the judgment of the highest court, which we must comply with. I personally have nothing to do in this regard," she said referring to yesterday's newspaper headlines that had said the premier is against continuing the caretaker government system for the next two general elections.

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

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Parliamentary body pins hope on BNP to play due role, feels only political consensus can resolve crisis over interim govt system

STAR REPORT

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment yesterday urged BNP to come up with proposals if they want to maintain the caretaker government system, apparently for putting pressure on the main opposition.

The committee believes only a political consensus can now solve the crisis prevailing over survival of the caretaker government system after the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional and void.

A number of committee members told The Daily Star that it might be possible to find a way for reaching a consensus by

keeping BNP under pressure as the party wants the caretaker government system to remain and has already declared to boycott the parliamentary polls under ruling Awami League.

The special committee took the stance after holding a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday, wrapping up its efforts to find a formula to maintain the caretaker system for holding two more general elections.

"The special committee will not make any proposal on the caretaker system because BNP will reject whatever we pro

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It's a blueprint for 1-party rule

Says BNP; rejects govt move against CG system; threatens tougher movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has rejected the government move to scrap the caretaker government system, terming it a ploy to destroy democracy and a blueprint to establish one-party rule.

The main opposition party warned of a tougher movement including hartal if the government goes ahead with the plan.

"No free and fair election was ever held under Awami League governments in the past and it won't happen in future also. Election under Awami League won't be acceptable; and people will resist its ill motive," said a statement issued after the BNP national standing

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Food prices to double in 20yrs

Oxfam report reveals 925 million people go hungry every day

AGENCIES

Food prices could double in the next 20 years and demand in 2050 will be 70 percent higher than now, UK charity Oxfam said yesterday, warning of worsening hunger as the global food economy stumbles close to breakdown.

"The food system is pretty well bust in the world," Oxfam Chief Executive Barbara Stocking told reporters, announcing the launch of the Grow campaign as 925 million people go hungry every day,

Reuters say.

"All the signs are that the number of people going hungry is going up," Stocking said.

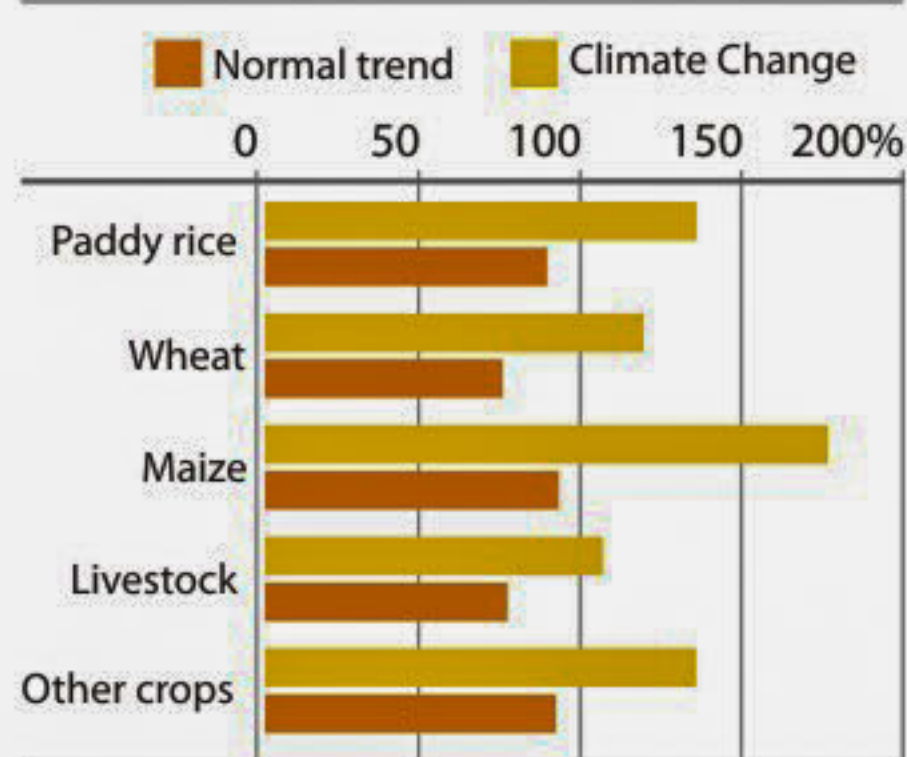
Hunger was increasing due to rising food price inflation and oil price hikes, scrambles for land and water, and creeping climate change.

By 2030, the average cost of key crops could increase by between 120 percent and 180 percent, the charity forecasts.

It is the acceleration of a trend

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FOOD PRICE CHANGES IN NEXT 20 YRS



SOURCE: OXFAM, IDS

Businesses wary of political future

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The FBCCI chief fears a return of political uncertainty in the country and said the business community do not want another 1/11-like situation.

"Many people contacted me and expressed worry that a political uncertainty may rise again," said Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President AK Azad yesterday at a discussion where Foreign Minister Dipu Moni was present.

Top businessmen, leaders of various

chambers and associations and economists attended the programme at the FBCCI on the role of Bangladesh missions abroad in accelerating exports, cooperation for farming in Africa and expansion of market access.

Azad expressed anxiety after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not consent to the parliamentary special committee's proposal to keep the caretaker government system for the next two general elections.

Hasina's reservation comes after the

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JP sees silver lining

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday hinted participating in the next election independently if BNP boycotts it.

His party went into the 2008 polls in coalition with Awami League.

"The country and its people cannot sit idle if

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LIMON ISSUE

Concern over role of govt high-ups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five eminent personalities of the country yesterday expressed concern over recent remarks by some government high-ups defending Rab shooting of college student Limon Hossain.

Such comments on a sub-judice matter go against democratic norms, they said in a joint statement.

Limon's left leg had to be amputated after a Rab team shot him in Jhalakathi on March 23.

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Oblivious to what the writings on his T-shirt and the bandanna on the head mean, a rickshaw puller puffs away in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Several anti-tobacco organisations jointly held a procession to mark the World No Tobacco Day and gave away shirts to recruit people for the event.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL



WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Sayedee's probe report placed

Formal charge by July 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators yesterday handed over to the prosecution team the final report on the allegations against detained Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee in connection with committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

During the hearing of Sayedee's bail petition yesterday, the prosecutors informed the International Crimes Tribunal about the report.

The tribunal directed the prosecutors to press charges against Sayedee through filing a petition with it by July 11 on the basis of the investigation report, provided there is any element of charge in it. The court also fixed July 11 for hearing the petition.

It also rejected Sayedee's bail petition filed by his lawyers on Monday on medical and humanitarian grounds.

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