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POWER OF BLACK MONEY

News that black money will be allowed into stocks, pushes market up 1.14pc

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HOSTS PUMMEL PAKISTAN

Bangladesh thrash Pakistan 3-0 in their football WC pre-qualifier

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RAHUL GETS PM'S NOD

Manmohan indicates he is open to the idea of Rahul Gandhi succeeding him

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CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

JS set to pass bill today to scrap caretaker system

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Parliament is set to pass the 15th constitutional amendment bill today making a series of changes, including repeal of the provision for holding national elections under a non-partisan caretaker government amid stiff protests from the BNP-led opposition.

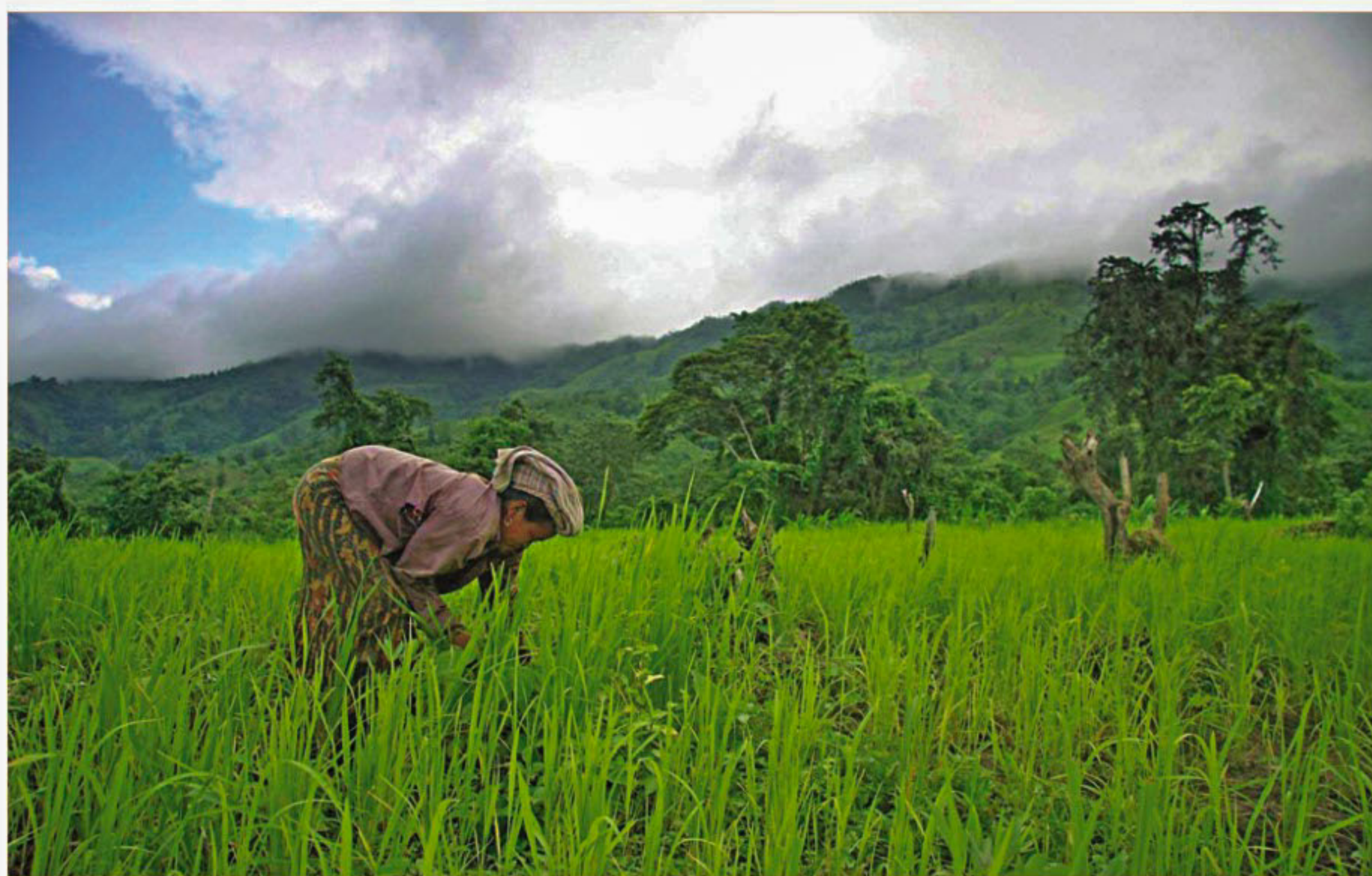
The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry yesterday recommended that the House vote in favour of the bill after incorporating its suggestions.

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General elections under elected govt

Polls to elect a new parliament during last 90 days of current JS

No change in state religion



A woman of the hills busy taking care of her crops on the slopes. Women alongside men help out in the jhum fields. The photo was taken from Balipara in Thanchi of Bandarban yesterday.

PHOTO : ANURUP KANTI DAS

Court accepts arms haul charge sheet

Warrant to arrest ex-secy Amin, Paresh Barua

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday took into cognisance supplementary charge sheets against 11 new accused in two cases in connection with the 10-truck arms haul here in 2004.

Golam Sarwar, acting judge of the Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1, also issued arrest warrants against two of the accused-- Ulfa (United Liberation Front of Asom) leader Paresh Barua and former

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STATE RELIGION, BISMILLAH AL's left allies want changes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Eleven left-leaning parties will march to the parliament today demanding removal of "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim", Islam as the state religion, and nod to religion-based political parties from the constitution.

The decision came at a meeting of the 11 parties at the office of

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BNP's agitation after bill passage

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP is likely to declare major agitation programmes after the bill on the constitution amendment is passed in parliament while party leaders and workers are already talking about hartal, apparently to keep party morale high.

The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry yesterday submitted its report on the proposed 15th amendment to the constitution that will scrap the caretaker government system. The report said the committee unanimously suggested passing the Constitution (15th Amendment) Bill-2011.

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Suranjit tells of 'some compromise'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta yesterday told the House that he had to compromise on a number of issues including keeping Islam as the state religion and the phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" in the preamble of the constitution.

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COMMENTARY

Abolition of the caretaker system

Now the proponent is the opponent, and the opposer is the supporter

MAHFUZ ANAM

Tuesday's speech by the prime minister in the parliament made it amply clear that the caretaker government system will be abolished through a constitutional

amendment most likely to be passed today.

There are three aspects from which we intend to discuss the issue today, the rationale, the method of amendment, and

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EC doesn't want more commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has placed the constitutional amendment bill in parliament proposing increasing the number of election commissioners to five although the commission recommended limiting the number to three.

At present, the commission has three commissioners including the

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Cops to get counter terrorism unit: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is going to introduce a 'Counter Terrorism Bureau of Police,' aiming to increase vigilance at all levels.

In a scripted reply to lawmakers' queries in parliament, she also said, "Bangladesh has become a role model for eliminating militancy and terrorism in the present political context of the world."

The government has approved a proposal to

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PHOTO: STAR

Six months after a driver error caused a train crash and took away Sharif's legs, he is yet to have compensation from Bangladesh Railway.

TRAIN ACCIDENT VICTIM

Long wait for compensation

MORSHED ALI KHAN, back from Narsingdi

Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Sixteen-year-old Sharif boarded the Dhaka-bound Chattala Express from Bhairab station around 4:00pm.

A cosmetics vendor, he had taken the same train almost every day since he left Asharampur Primary School under Raipura Police Station of Narsingdi four and a half years ago.

Second among four brothers and a sister, Sharif grew up with

trains. His father Abdul Awal, himself a cosmetics hawker, dragged him into the business as the family struggled with relentless poverty.

On that day, Sharif moved from compartment to compartment with his tray like all other days. He did not know it would be his last day as a vendor.

What happened next has changed his life for ever.

"I was with my friend Rajib in the foremost compartment,"

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Budget for next fiscal yr passed

GDP growth target 7pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad, with the main opposition BNP abstaining, yesterday passed the budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year with a GDP growth target of 7 percent.

The budget to be implemented from tomorrow outlines Tk 232,464 crore of gross expenditure including revenue and development and Tk 163,589 crore of net expenditure.

Among the 53 ministries and divisions, the defence ministry has received the maximum allocation of Tk 12,122 crore.

The rural development and cooperatives division received the second highest allocation of Tk 10,911 crore followed by the education ministry Tk 10,873 crore and food division Tk 10,830 crore.

Besides, the health and family welfare ministry, and

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MALAYSIA 5 lakh expat Bangladeshi workers to be fingerprinted

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Bangladesh and Malaysia will work together to fingerprint for the first time the estimated 500,000 Bangladeshis working legally and illegally here, said Hishammuddin Hussein, home minister of Malaysia, yesterday.

The government had struck a separate agreement with Bangladesh's High Commission to facilitate the registration of their workers, beginning immediately, he said.

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