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CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Nation exposed to confrontation

Noted citizens say as caretaker system scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday questioned the government motive for scrapping the provision of caretaker government through a hasty amendment to the constitution.

They also said the abolition of 15-year-old system has once again exposed the nation to political confrontation.

"I believe nowhere in the world constitution was amended at such a pace," said former caretaker government adviser M

Hafizuddin Khan. "It makes us suspicious, indicating an ill-motive on the part of the government."

"We are very much anxious that it [conflict following removal of CG system] would cause public sufferings and in turn hamper economic development," he added.

Hafizuddin Khan observed the situation, which led to the introduction of the system, has not improved yet; rather it has deteriorated.

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A housing company occupies the Balu river in Ichhapura of Narayanganj for an illegal project. A team of the Department of Environment yesterday fined the company Tk 18 lakh for causing damage to the environment.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Developer fined for filling up Balu river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a housing company Tk 18 lakh for filling up the Balu river with sand and to initiate a housing project illegally at Ichhapura area under Rugganj upazila in Narayanganj.

The DoE officials in a drive also seized 3 lakh cubic feet of sand and 6 metric tonnes of corrugated tin sheets, iron,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Azim: the lone opposer in JS

RASHIDUL HASAN

Against the "yes" votes of 291 ruling alliance lawmakers favouring a new bill yesterday, only independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim voiced a loud "no".

After Law Minister

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Indigenous groups reject amendment

Say their identity lost, basic rights denied

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday rejected the Constitution (15th Amendment) Bill, 2011 and said the government should be responsible for any unpleasant situation due to the undemocratic, communal and oppressive steps towards the indigenous people.

In a press release, PCJSS said that through the passage of the bill different indigenous groups are identified as Bangalee in the constitution. Besides, their ethnic identity

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RELIGION IN POLITICS Restriction eased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday eased constitutional restrictions on the use of religion in politics to make way for Islamist parties to continue functioning.

After cancellation of the 5th amendment last year, the stringent restrictions imposed by the 1972 constitution on the use of religion for political purpose were restored.

Adopting the 15th

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

TEESTA WATER SHARING Manmohan for practical solution

Says 25pc Bangladeshis anti-Indian, in ISI grip

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said his country is looking for a solution to the issue of Teesta water share.

During an interaction with editors of five newspapers on Wednesday, he mentioned his plan to visit Dhaka, without announcing any timeframe.

When his attention was drawn to India's neighbours, the Congress veteran said, "Well, neighbourhood worries

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

JEWELLERY ROBBERY 9 arrested, looted gold seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers arrested nine alleged robbers from different parts of the country yesterday and recovered 341 tolas of gold looted from New Heera Jewellers in the city's Banani area on June 24.

They also seized a pistol, two machetes and two CNG-run auto-rickshaws used in the robbery.

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PRAYER TIMING July 1

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05 4-40
Juma	12-30 1-15
Asr	5-00 5-15
Maghrib	6-54 6-57
Esha	8-17 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you support legalising of undisclosed money through investment in the stockmarket with a 10 per cent tax?

Yes (29.8%)
No (68.3%)
No Comments (1.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 429

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the 15th amendment to the constitution has shut all doors for free and fair elections and peaceful transfer of power?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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