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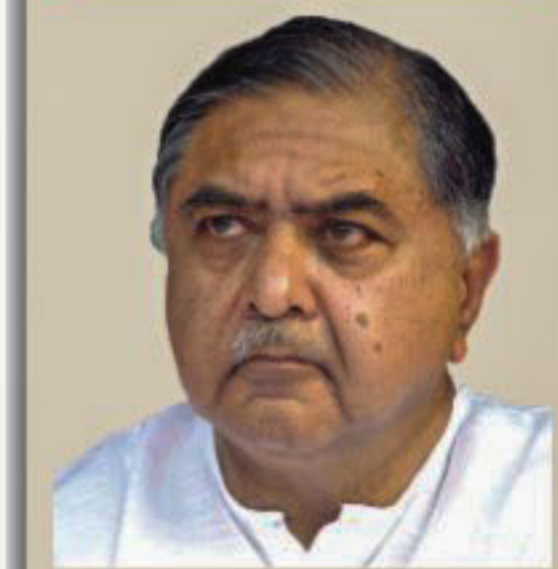
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CG repeal a barrier to free polls

Says Dr Kamal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the repeal of caretaker government system will be a major barrier to free and fair parliamentary elections. Terming the government's decision suicidal, he urged the Election Commission (EC) to take bold stance for the restoration of the caretaker government system through further amendment to the constitution. "You [EC] should clarify the commission's position regarding whether it will be able to hold a free and

AL lawmaker, wife sued for corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed separate cases against ruling Awami League lawmaker Abdul Mannan and his wife Shahad Ara Mannan on charge of possessing wealth worth about Tk 72 lakh which is disproportionate to their known sources of income.



Abdul Mannan

About two and a half years into the government's tenure, this is the first instance the anti-graft watchdog has taken action against a ruling party politician. The couple submitted their wealth statements almost two years ago after ACC in separate notices asked for it during the immediate-past caretaker rule in 2009. The commission took a long time to file the cases following submission of their wealth statements. Usually, it takes no more than a month to complete an enquiry into a corruption allegation and a case is filed immediately on completion of the enquiry. "We had to conduct enquiry twice into the wealth statements as some difficulties turned up," said ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman. "I have submitted detailed wealth statements in two phases to the commission as they did not specify any deadline for it. Now it seems the commission did not count my second statement," said Abdul Mannan. "This is conspiracy and I will fight against it in the court," added Mannan, who won from Bogra-1



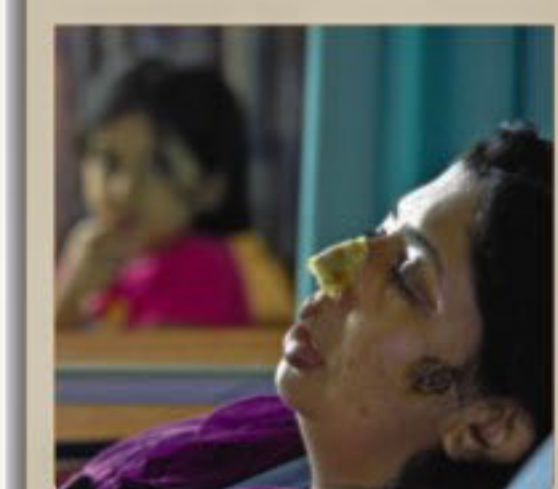
The Department of Environment collects samples of waste being discharged into the Buriganga by a factory in Keraniganj yesterday. Four factories were eventually fined Tk 31.60 lakh. A DoE official, inset, finds 1.45mg oxygen in a litre of Buriganga water; ideally it should be 4.5-8mg per litre.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

4 factories fined for Buriganga pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined four textile and washing factories in Keraniganj Tk 31.60 lakh in total for releasing untreated liquid waste into the river Buriganga. A DoE team led by Director (monitoring and enforcement) Munir Chowdhury, along with Rab-2 members raided Bilashi Textile Mill, Global Washing, Eden Trade and Minto Dyeing in Keraniganj on the west side of the Buriganga, said DoE officials. The team found that all the four factories discharge toxic waste into the river. Bilashi Textile Mill has an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) but that is not functioning properly. The three other factories have no ETPs. Also, none of the factories obtained any environmental clearance certificate.



Rumana off to Canada for surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rumana Manzur, who lost her eyesight in a brutal attack by her husband, has left for Canada early today to have surgery in her eyes. The assistant professor of Dhaka University along with

Fuel prices to push up spending on subsidies

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government spending on subsidy is likely to increase this fiscal year by 16 percent over FY 2010-11 due to a rise in global fuel price and import of additional petroleum products for quick rental power plants. Economists say the subsidy hike can be continued if it helps increase short-term power generation. But for medium and long terms the government also has to find alternatives. Over the last two and a half years, oil price has nearly tripled in international market. In December 2008, oil was trading at around \$34 a barrel that climbed to more than \$70 by August 2009. The

end of 2010 saw the price rise to nearly \$90. On Friday it was selling at \$94.62 per barrel. However, a finance ministry official insists the rise in subsidy is mainly due to import of additional fuel for quick rental and peaking power plants. Energy ministry officials said the government in the current fiscal year will have to import about 70 lakh tonnes of petroleum which was 54 lakh tonnes in the last FY and 26 lakh in 2009-10. In recent times, energy and power sectors have overtaken agriculture and food in terms of subsidy which is

mainly meant for lower-income groups, the most affected by price hike of essentials. The government has made an allocation of Tk 22,470 crore for subsidies for FY 2011-12. In the last fiscal year's original budget, it was Tk 14,263 crore which went up to Tk 19,399 crore in the revised budget, according to the finance ministry's budget documents. In FY 2010-11, according to the government estimate, subsidy in the revised budget increased by 36 percent over the original one. The allocation was Tk 9,334 crore in the revised budget for FY 2009-10,

Withdraw hartal Leaders of 73 trade bodies urge opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of 73 business organisations yesterday urged the opposition parties to withdraw their hartal programme for smooth running of businesses. Country's business community is worried about a hostile political situation emerging from some recent developments, they said in a joint statement led by AK Azad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). The country achieved 6.7 percent economic growth in the 2010-11 fiscal year, with 40 percent export growth and mild growths in industrial and agricultural sectors, according to the statement. These figures symbolise the strength of the economy and capability of the business community, noted the release. "Hartals will slow down our economic progress. Our

Rice export ban extended for a year

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government has extended ban on rice export for another year in an effort to curb the price hike of the staple food in the domestic market, said an official of the commerce ministry yesterday. The commerce ministry has restricted the

PRAYER TIMING July 5

Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Sources: Islamic Foundation

BLACK MONEY Indian SC orders special probe, slates govt role

AFP, New Delhi
India's Supreme Court yesterday ordered a special investigation into undeclared money stashed in foreign bank accounts, while accusing the government of "serious lapses" in handling the issue. Voicing concerns that such "black money" could be used for "unlawful and anti-national activities", the court said government efforts to locate and recover the funds had been half-hearted. Estimates for the amount of illicit money deposited

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ONLINE POLL
Do you think opposition's 48-hour countrywide hartal protesting the scrapping of the caretaker government system is justified?

Yes (61.9%)
No (37.0%)
No Comments (1.1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 687
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that implicating Tarique Rahim in the August 21 grenade attack case is a part of conspiracy to destroy The Zia family?