

AFRICAN 'LAND RUSH'

A rush of land deals are displacing farmers, leaving poor communities homeless: Oxfam

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NEGOTIATING WITH INDIA

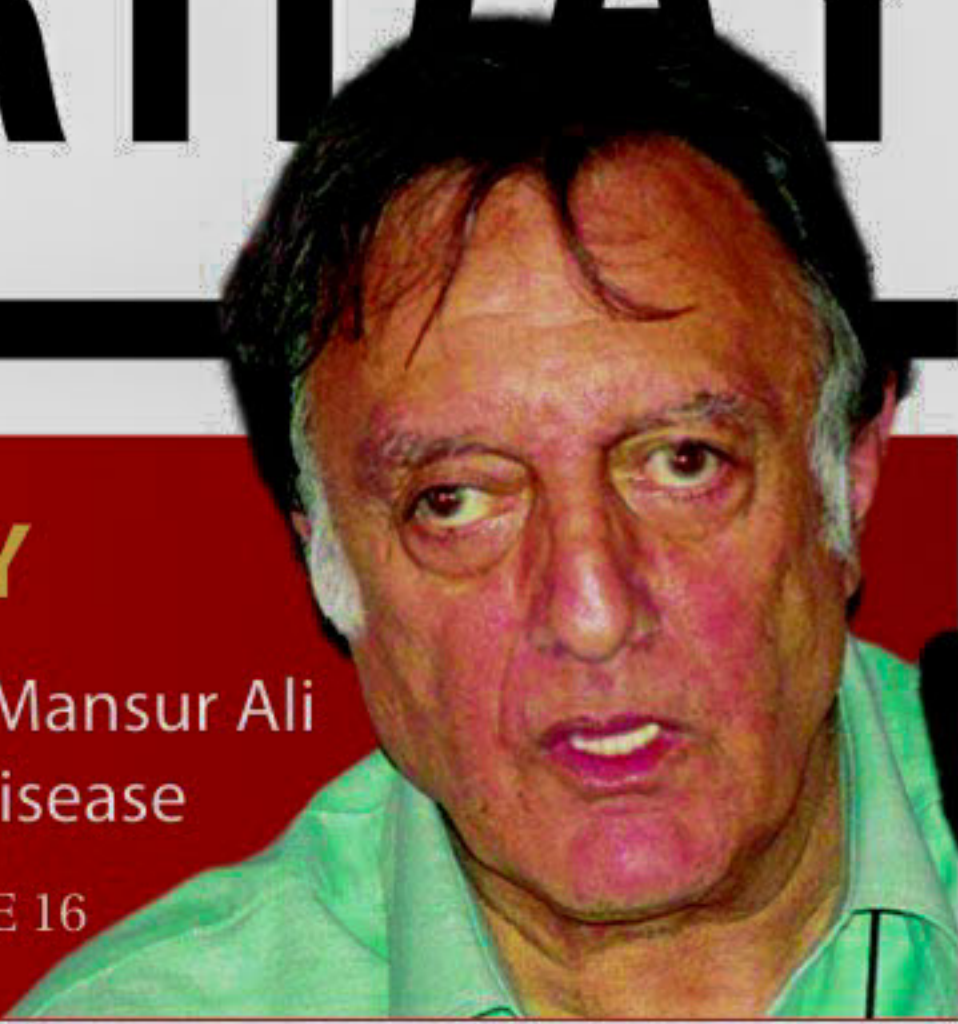
Abdul Hannan reflects on past experiences

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PATAUDI PASSES AWAY

One of India's greatest cricketers, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, succumbs to lung disease

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Fuels to turn even pricier

Proposal sent to govt on raising prices up to Tk 30 a litre in phases by this fiscal year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may increase fuel prices further in the current fiscal year to cut its huge subsidy on petroleum products.

The Finance Division last week sent a proposal to the prime minister to hike fuel prices by a minimum of Tk 14 to a maximum of Tk 30 a litre in three phases in the current fiscal year, said finance ministry officials.

Prices of petroleum products except furnace oil had been increased by Tk 5 a litre last week in line with the proposal.

If the prices are raised further according to the proposal, petrol will cost Tk 90 a litre with the minimum hike of Tk 14 and Tk 106 per litre with the maximum increase of Tk 30.

Officials of finance and energy ministries said further increase in prices of petroleum products and its extent will depend on their prices on international



market.

No decision had been made about hiking fuel prices in the future in last week's meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and high-ups of the ministries concerned.

Hasina asked the ministries to conduct a detailed study on the proposed price hike's effects on different sectors including transport, food, and agriculture.

The ministries have already started working on it, said a finance ministry official preferring anonymity.

The prime minister directed the ministries to suggest hike or decrease in fuel prices in keeping with their prices on the global market, so that the issue cannot be used for political gains.

The Finance Division presented four alternative proposals at the meeting for reducing government subsidy on

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At least 50 trucks queue up at Burimari border in Lalmonirhat loaded with goods from Bhutan, India and Nepal. They arrived at the land port, unloaded, and left with goods from Bangladesh. However, due to the opposition's hartal yesterday, imported goods could not be sent to other parts of the country.

PHOTO: STAR

Mamun sued

ACC charged him with laundering £4.18 lakh to UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun in connection with siphoned off 4,18,853 British pounds to the United Kingdom.

The First Information Report (FIR) of the case say that information obtained during enquiry and from different sources, including the United Kingdom Central Authority, revealed that the money was earned through illegal means and by extortion.

ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Ibrahim filed the

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JS body bats for press freedom

Rejects draft policy for electronic media, asks ministry for modifications in light of constitution, RTI

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday rejected the draft national broadcasting policy and asked the information ministry to modify it in conformity with the Right to Information Act and freedom of the media guaranteed by the constitution.

The parliamentary standing committee on the information ministry expressed disappointment over the draft policy and

the way the ministry has drafted it.

The House watchdog asked the information secretary to submit the redrafted policy at its next meeting. The committee normally sits once a month.

The committee members at the meeting opined that the policy, prepared by bureaucrats, has failed to ensure freedom of the press, which is guaranteed and protected in our constitution.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

A failure of politics

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party did all of us something of a favour on Thursday. It moved away, ever so slightly, from its 12-hour hartal and permitted the shutdown to come to an end after eleven hours. Now, that is not quite part of the tradition of political agitation in Bangladesh.

We have systematically been led to believe -- and indeed have been convinced over the years -- that there is either a full scale hartal of six or twelve hours, depending

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HARTAL PEACEFUL
Cops, mobile courts active
200 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday's 11-hour hartal called by BNP and its allies was relatively peaceful with no major incidents of violence.

Police virtually cordoned off the BNP central office at Naya Paltan since the morning while nobody was found in Jamaat-e-Islami central office in the capital. They also prevented opposition

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Former US president Bill Clinton, right, introduces President of Slovenia Danilo Turk, Prime Minister of Grenada Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, President of Mexico Felipe Calderon, President of South Africa Jacob Zuma, Prime Minister of Norway Jens Stoltenberg, and Prime Minister of Mali Cisse Mariam Kaidama Sidibe during the opening plenary of the Clinton Global Initiative at a New York hotel on September 21.

PHOTO: AFP

Obama wants to visit Bangladesh

UNB, New York

US President Barack Obama expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh during a brief conversation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New York yesterday.

President Obama also

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Rescue poor women from dire straits

PM urges rich nations at UN seminar

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the developed countries for their moral and ethical support to rescue the poor women of the world from their dire straits.

She made the call at a seminar titled

"Economic Empowerment of Rural Women and Food and Nutritional Security" at the Teachers Building in New York yesterday.

Bangladesh cosponsored the event with its development partner, the Royal Dutch Government. The World Food

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WikiLeaks

Move was on to empower opposition

STAR REPORT

Ahead of the December 2008 polls, a move was on to empower the opposition in the House by giving them some vital positions, including the deputy speaker's and chairs of some parliamentary committees, according to a number of leaked diplomatic dispatches.

Former adviser Major Gen (retd) MA Matin and US ambassador James F Moriarty at a meeting on November 6, 2008 discussed about the move offering BNP some power in the ninth parliament should Awami League win a majority, perhaps the position of deputy speaker, said a cable posted on WikiLeaks.

Earlier on October 27, Moriarty wrote another cable that quoted the then AL acting general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam and others as saying, AL's

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1/11 PERSPECTIVE

'Two ladies' pledged positive politics

2008 poll manifestoes of AL, BNP also assured nation of changes in political culture

SHAKHAWAT LITON and SHAMIM ASHRAF

Ahead of the December 2008 parliamentary polls, Khaleda Zia promised acting responsibly no matter what the result was, while her archrival Sheikh Hasina, confident of winning a majority, said she would involve the opposition in the political

process.

The two leaders made the statements in separate meetings with the then US ambassador James F Moriarty while discussing the need to break the culture of winner-take-all.

"Almost from the beginning, however,

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