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Pak govt faces confidence vote

Embattled Gilani, Zardari lobby for support, govt aims to tackle courts

AGENCIES
President Asif Ali Zardari's ruling party lobbied coalition partners and Prime Minister appeared for backing from lawmakers yesterday for today's critical vote of confidence as the civilian government faces the most intense pressure from the powerful military since a 1999 coup.

One of Zardari's allies introduced a resolution in parliament which places "full confidence and trust" in the political leadership of the nuclear-armed South Asian state.

In a dramatic and defiant speech, Gilani urged MPs to protect the country's democracy and said he "will not beg support from anyone".

He said that anyone who had a hand in removing his government would be setting back democracy in Pakistan.

"Now we have to decide whether we should have democracy or dictatorship in this country. If we have committed any mistakes, it does not mean that democracy or parliament should be punished," the prime minister told parliamentarians.

The National Assembly will debate the confidence motion on Monday and the government hopes for a vote next week.

The vote comes amid a deepening

political crisis between the government, the military and judiciary. It will be held as a Supreme Court deadline expires for the government to reopen political corruption cases.

The deadline was set after the court quashed a government amnesty for politicians, including Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari, and is seen as a direct challenge to the government.

Analysts predict that Gilani is likely to win the vote of confidence, and that obtaining parliament's seal of approval is likely to strengthen his hand.

Meanwhile Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari returned to Pakistan yesterday after a brief visit to Dubai.

His departure on Thursday fuelled rumours of an impending military coup, in a country which has a history of army takeovers.

Pakistan has been under military dictatorships for about half its history since independence in 1947, its civilian leaders thrown out in three coups.

But despite current tensions, analysts say another coup is unlikely and early elections, possibly in the first half of this year, are a more plausible outcome.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Humayun made spl adviser at UN mission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular writer Humayun Ahmed has been appointed special adviser to the Bangladesh Mission in the United Nations, reports a private television channel. "I am surprised but happy," said the author, who is now staying in the USA for treatment of cancer, in his reaction.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

GMG to cut down flight operations

Plans to downsize workforce, close long routes as cost-cutting measure

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The country's first private airlines GMG now plans to cut down its operations and lay off a significant number of workers even though it had earlier predicted business expansion.

As part of its cost-cutting measures, the airlines already closed some of its domestic and international routes, including the Dhaka-Jeddah route since December 16.

GMG's debt of Tk 45.93 crore to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) and Tk 18 crore in travel tax to

National Board of Revenue (NBR) as of July last year are a pointers to its poor financial health.

The airlines also delayed some staff salary payments in November last year. The airlines, however, claimed that the delay was due to fund rearrangement of its sister concerns.

A top GMG official requesting anonymity said they have already decided to suspend operation on most of the long-haul routes where Boeing 767-300 Extended Range planes were operating.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

4 arrested for cutting Ctg hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A joint team of Department of Environment (DoE) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early yesterday arrested four people in connection with hill cutting in Sitakunda upazila.

The team seized two excavators, a motorcycle and two trucks used in carrying soil from the spot.

The arrestees are Shawkat Ali, 23, and Morshed Ali, both from Sitakunda upazila and truck drivers Sheikh Alam,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

2 crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two youths were crushed under a train yesterday morning at Salla in Kalihati upazila of Tangail, an area where seven more people died under trains in last four months.

One of the deceased

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING		January 14
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Criminal killed in Rab 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in the city's Tantibazar area early yesterday in a so-called 'gunfight' between his accomplices and Rab members.

Rab claimed the gang was preparing to realise toll while the deceased's family gave a reverse version on the incident. The body of Asif Ahmed Sajib, 27, of Tantibazar was taken to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Sajib, who was released from jail on bail, had six cases, including that for murder and possession of arms, against him.

According to a Rab press release, a team of Rab-10 reached near Peusri Jewellers around 2:05am acting on a tip-off that Sajib and his accomplices were heading to Tantibazar area for extorting money.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Many hills of Chittagong are levelled, mostly under the cover of night, to make way for illegal housing projects. The photo was taken from Jungle Latifpur in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

SECRET KILLINGS Asian HR body for probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over mysterious disappearances and secret killings in the country, the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has called for immediate investigation of all such incidents.

The rights watchdog in a statement on its website www.humanrights.asia has also asked the civil society to press the government to address the incidents of abduction and secret killing as a top priority.

The statement said abductions followed by killings have become a matter of serious concern for everyone in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

PROBING 'COVERT' ACTIVITIES Iran to allow UN nuke watchdog

AFP, Vienna

A high-level UN nuclear agency delegation will visit Iran late this month to try to clear up claims of covert weapons activities that have stoked tensions between Tehran and the West, diplomats said yesterday.

The announcement came a day after Ali Larijani, the influential speaker of Iran's parliament, said during a visit to Turkey that his country was ready for "serious" talks with world powers on its controversial nuclear programme.

The trip led by International Atomic Energy Agency chief inspector Herman Nackaerts and the agency's

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think World Bank's decision will be positive regarding lifting of the suspension of its fund for the Padma Bridge project?

Yes (35.5%)
No (61.2%)
No Comments (3.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 428

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the University Grants Commission's statement that some quarters are trying to destabilise the academic atmosphere in the universities?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
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www.doe-bd.org

নং-পরিবেশ/প্রচার/বিজ্ঞপ্তি/১৬৯/২০০২(২য়)/০৫ তারিখঃ ২১/০৯/১৪১৮
০৪/০১/২০১২

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সংঘবদ্ধ কিছু গোষ্ঠী পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয় এবং পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের নাম ব্যবহার করে 'জলবায়ু পরিষ্কৃতি ও উহার ঝুঁকি মোকাবেলায় তহবিল গঠনার্থে' বিভিন্ন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান/ইটভাটা বরাবর জালপত্র প্রদান করছে। আবার কোনো কোনো গোষ্ঠী জালপত্রের মাধ্যমে পরিবেশ দূষণের ক্ষতিপূরণ/পরিবেশগত ছাড়পত্র প্রদানের নামে শিল্প/প্রকল্প কর্তৃপক্ষকে প্রতারণা করছে।

- প্রকৃতপক্ষে, এ ধরণের কোনো তহবিলের অস্তিত্ব নেই এবং এ ধরণের পত্র পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয় হতে জারিকৃত নয়।
- পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর এবং পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়ের নামে অনুরূপ কোনো সন্দেহভাজন পত্র/টেলিফোনে অনৈতিক প্রস্তাবনা পেলে সংশ্লিষ্ট থানা এবং পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের প্রধান কার্যালয়/বিভাগীয়/জেলা অফিসকে অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো। একই সাথে পরিবেশ ছাড়পত্র গ্রহণের জন্য কোনো দালালের আশ্রয় না নিয়ে অধিদপ্তরের মহাপরিচালক অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট পরিচালকের সাথে সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।
- পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.doe-bd.org ঠিকানায় সকল কার্যালয়ের ঠিকানা ও টেলিফোন নম্বর পাওয়া যাবে। পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ, পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন ও পরিবেশ ব্যবস্থাপনায় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে প্রাপ্ত পরিবেশ ছাড়পত্র শিল্প কারখানার উপযুক্ত স্থানে প্রদর্শন করুন।

মনোয়ার ইসলাম
মহাপরিচালক

জিডি-২২৩

অবৈধ/ভূয়া ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স সংক্রান্ত সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, অনেক মোটরযান মালিক তাদের গাড়ি লাইসেন্সবিহীন/ভূয়া/অবৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সধারী চালক দিয়ে চালাচ্ছেন। এতে, একদিকে যেমন সড়ক দুর্ঘটনা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে, অন্যদিকে সরকার বিপুল পরিমাণ রাজস্ব আয় থেকেও বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, মোটরযান অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৩ এর ধারা-১৩৮ অনুযায়ী ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স ব্যতীত গাড়ি চালানো বা চালানোর অনুমতি দেয়া শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। এক্ষেত্রে চালক ও মালিক উভয়েই জেল জরিমানার সম্মুখীন হতে পারেন।

এমতাবস্থায়, জেল ও জরিমানার মতো অনাকাঙ্ক্ষিত পরিস্থিতি এড়াতে বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স নিয়ে গাড়ি চালাতে চালকগণকে এবং বৈধ লাইসেন্সধারী চালক দিয়ে গাড়ি চালাবার জন্য মোটরযান মালিকগণকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

জিডি-১৫২

বিআরটিএ

Memorial Meeting for Late Samson H. Chowdhury

Today, January 14, 2012
Venue: Celebrity Hall, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Agargaon, Dhaka
Time: 2:30pm

Organized by:
MCCI, DCCI, ICC-B, FBCCI, CCCI
A reminder to invited guests