



ANTI-COMMUNAL CALL
A conference demands ban on using religion in politics
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REFERENDUM ROW
Opposition cries foul as Egypt adopts Islamist-backed charter
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ENDLESS JOY, ENDLESS PAIN
Those songs of Mohammad Rafi still move numerous souls
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Illegal all the way

City corporation building 2 skyscrapers on Rajuk land, flouting all rules
TAWFIQUE ALI

The city corporation is constructing two commercial highrises on the land owned by Rajuk and earmarked for open car parks and other public facilities in the capital's Gulshan and Banani. It has signed property-sharing contracts with Borak Real Estate Ltd for the 30-storey Banani Super Market and United City Twin Tower Development Ltd for the 26-storey Gulshan Centre Point. The works are almost complete without approval from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the environment department and the civil aviation authority. "In one word, these are all illegal [as per Building Construction Act and Town Improvement Act]," said



These two commercial highrises are being constructed by the city corporation on Rajuk's land in Gulshan, left, and Banani, right, without any authorisation. The photos were taken in October.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Threatened, girl commits suicide
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A school girl committed suicide in the capital's Manda yesterday allegedly after a miscreant's family had threatened hers with dire consequences if an abduction case was not withdrawn. Sadia Akhter Pinky, 15, a class eight student
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BCL men, involved

Admit 3 of 6 accused, had direct role in Bishwajit murder

RASHIDUL HASAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH
Three detained students of Jagannath University yesterday confessed to the murder of 24-year-old tailor Bishwajit Das during an opposition blockade early this month. In their separate statements to a magistrate, Rafiqul Islam Shakil, Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid and Rasheduzzaman Shaon also said they are activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). On the morning of December 9, they brought out an anti-blockade procession led by Jagannath University



BCL President SM Shariful Islam and General Secretary Sirajul Islam. The students said while marching in the procession near Bahadur Shah Park, close to their university, they heard explosion. "We saw a man running; we thought he was escaping after exploding cocktail," Shakil, who was seen in news photos and videos hacking Bishwajit with a machete, said in his statement. "Shaon and I hit Bishwajit with iron rods." The investigation officer of Bishwajit murder case
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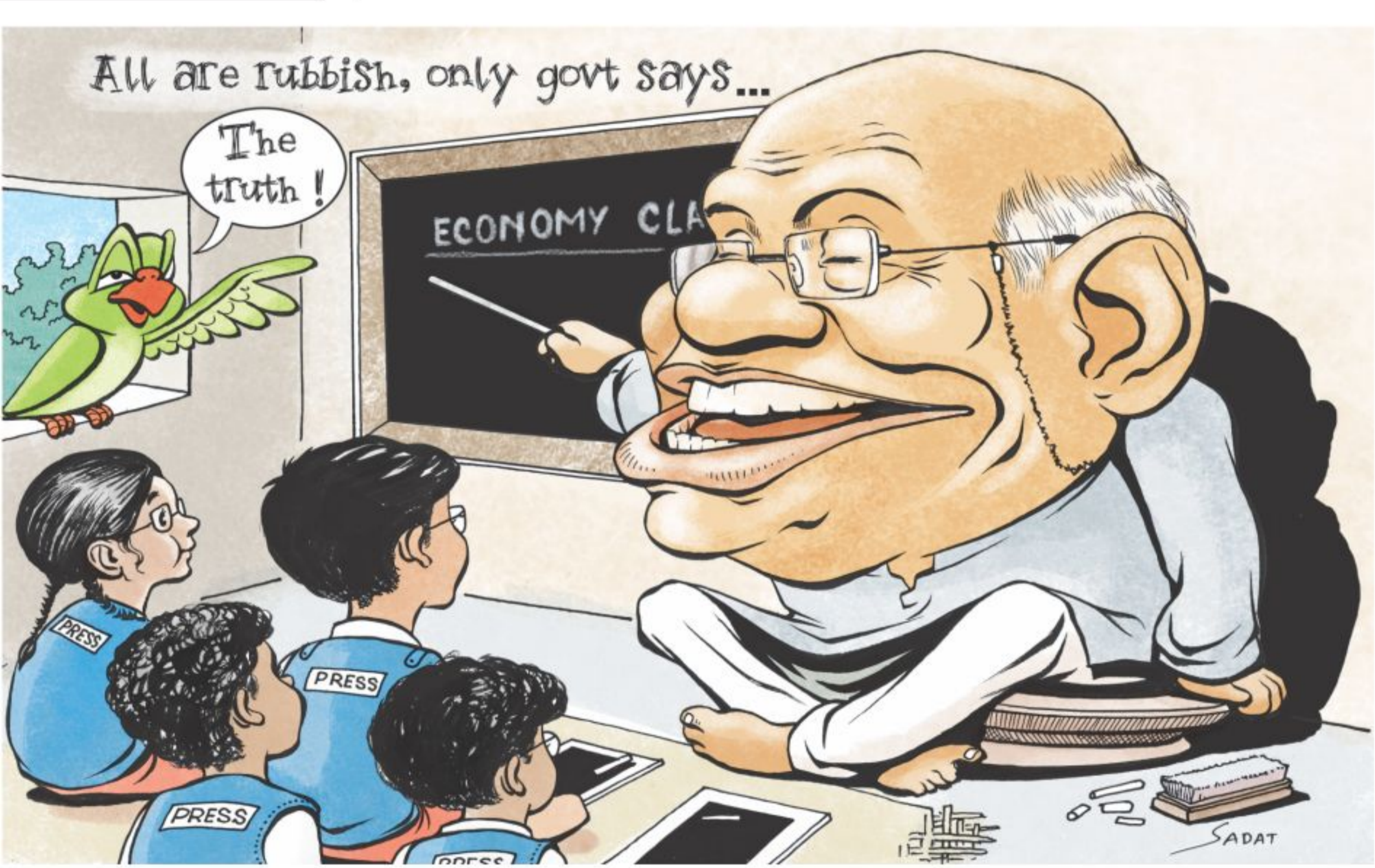


Bye, Sachin

The Little Master retires from one-day cricket
SPORTS REPORTER
The biggest and most celebrated cricket career of them all -- spanning 23 years, 463 matches, 18,246 runs, 49 centuries, 96 half-centuries and 154 wickets -- came to a close yesterday as Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar called time on his One-Day-International (ODI) career. The diminutive right-hander, dubbed 'The Little Master', will however continue to play Test cricket. He leaves ODIs as the record-holder for highest career runs, most centuries and most matches
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HALL-MARK SCAM 3 Sonali officials arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested three high officials of Sonali Bank for their alleged involvement in the Hall-Mark loan scam. The trio along with 24 high officials of Sonali Bank and Hall-Mark Group were accused in 11 cases filed by the commission for misappropriating over Tk 1,568 crore of depositors' money. An ACC team accompanied by law enforcers arrested General Manager Meer Mahidur Rahman (now an officer on special duty), suspended deputy general managers Sheikh
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Muhith not happy with economic reporting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday took a swipe at economic reporting in Bangladesh media, and said he would like to train economic reporters if he gets some free time. "I tell you, when I am relatively free, I would like to conduct a training course on economic reporting," Muhith, a former bureaucrat turned politician, told reporters at the finance ministry.
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Tk 4,811 cr stuck in irregularities

Top auditor raises 605 objections, submits reports to PM
MD FAZLUR RAHMAN
2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-11. Ahmed Ataul Hakeem, comptroller and auditor general, submitted a compilation of audit reports to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday. "We only prepare reports. It is now up to
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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Arrest of guard to solve mystery

Rab chief tells JS body
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rapid Action Battalion chief yesterday claimed that Sagar-Runi murder case would be solved after arresting the night guard of the building where the journalist couple had been residing in a flat. Mokhlesur Rahman, director general (DG) of Rab, made the comment at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Sagar Sarowar, a news editor at the private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter for ATN Bangla, were found dead in their bedroom on February 11. Meanwhile, journalists staged a six-hour mass hunger strike in the capital yesterday to press home their demands including immediate arrest of the killers of
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1 MORE ON PAGE 3



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