



BUDGET GETS PASSAGE
Parliament passes the last budget of the present govt

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'NO SECOND REVOLUTION'
Morsi rejects call for change as Egypt protesters demand his ouster

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'SATISFACTION' AT GLASTONBURY
The Rolling Stones plays the most prestigious rock music festival of Britain for the first time

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Dhaka wants Ticfa before GSP appeal
Says GM Quader

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh prefers to sign the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (Ticfa) with the US before appealing for the reinstatement of GSP, Commerce Minister GM Quader said yesterday.

Usually, there is no system for appealing to the US for a reinstatement of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), a trade benefits facility suspended on Thursday over "serious shortcomings" in safety and labour standards.

The US itself will review the decision after six months of the suspension to evaluate the progress over commitments made at the consecutive hearings at the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in

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GSP FOR BANGLADESH

EU seeks to read new labour law

Trade commissioner hosts meeting in Geneva next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union yesterday said it wants to look into Bangladesh's amended labour law as EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht is set to host a meeting in Geneva next week to discuss trade privileges.

The Geneva meeting comes after US President Barack Obama has suspended duty waiver for Bangladesh under a scheme known as Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

"A decision to withdraw the EU GSP for Bangladesh must be avoided, as it would have far-reaching consequences for jobs and for the economy," the EU said in a statement.

European ambassadors sat at a meeting of the Local Consultative Group in Dhaka,

Exports to EU: **\$11**b, with **90**pc from garments

EU buys **60**pc of total garment exports from Bangladesh

urging the government to share the draft of the amended labour law with them so they could suggest corrective measures.

The new law -- now waiting to be passed in parliament -- hit some buzz of controversy after labour leaders questioned some

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Govt sits on setting up food courts

HC directives ignored for 2 years

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

They are on paper only. In reality, not a single food court has been set up, even four years after the High Court ordered to do so.

Following a public interest litigation, the HC in June 2009 directed the government to set up a Food Court and appoint sufficient food analysts in each district and metropolitan cities within two years.

But the government has done neither.

The court order was in line with the Pure Food Ordinance 1959, which aims to ensure better control over production and sale of food for human consumption.

But in the last 42 years since liberation, successive governments took no

Four years ago, the High Court ordered the govt to form courts to check food adulteration

So far, the govt has only published a gazette

The gazette lacks detailed guidelines

Only DCC and BSTI have inspection teams to combat food adulteration

steps to set up food courts although they are crucial to combat the menace of adulteration.

The 2009 HC order came after the rights body Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) filed a petition with the court, seeking its directive on the government, in the wake of growing concern over food adulteration across the country.

In response, some anti-adulteration drives were conducted. The mobile courts that operated the drives found some dishonest traders using toxic chemicals in local and imported fruits, fishes, vegetables, eggs, bakery items and juice.

Unhygienic cooking in many restaurants and fast food shops and expired processed food in the market also pose a serious threat.

Yet, little action has been taken to address this threat. The authorities did not even submit to the HC any

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GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

JP still divided over backing AL

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, from Gazipur

With only six days left for the Gazipur City Corporation election, local leaders and activists of the Jatiya Party (JP), a component of the ruling grand alliance, are still divided over extending support to the Awami League-backed mayoral candidate.

Activists of Gazipur city JP led by its presi-

dent Monwar Hossain are working for AL favourite Ajmat Ullah Khan, but the party's district unit members led by its president Kazi Mahmud Hassan and general secretary Nurul Islam have not changed their position against Ajmat.

"This is a non-partisan local government election. So, everyone has the right to support anyone. I have extended my support to

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No looting Muhith downplays stocks crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No one looted money from the share market; it only changed hands, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said.

The minister's remarks came as a response in parliament to the opposition's criticism over the stock market crash in early 2011.

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Workshop on restructuring GB stalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government commission on Grameen Bank yesterday postponed its much-talked-about workshop slated for tomorrow after questions were raised about the justification for the event.

An official of the Grameen Bank Inquiry Commission told The Daily Star that they had postponed the workshop that was supposed to discuss the future structure of the microcredit organisation.

The three-member commission sent a letter to Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management

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