

No major changes required for GB

FROM PAGE 1
 Agargaon in the capital.
 The BB governor's statement came hard on the heels of strong criticism of a government-formed commission's plans to split the Nobel prize-winning organisation.
 Grameen Bank has been in a constant battle with the authorities for a couple of years, as the government has moved to increase its stake in the bank and become a majority shareholder.
 The government motive became clear when it formed a review committee in 2011, but it didn't find any foul play in the bank's activities.
 The next move it made was to form a commission led by a former government secretary, which is now working to review the activities of the bank and 48 other legally independent organi-

sations, and make recommendations on them.
 Set up in September last year, the commission added fuel to the debate after it was revealed that the commission planned to suggest splitting the bank into at least 19 zones or restructuring it in a way that gives the government at least 51 percent share.
 The government owned 3.29 percent of the bank till last week as its share plummeted from 25 percent for not paying money against the paid-up capital.
 The government, however, has paid Tk 13.20 crore against its share in the paid-up capital, but sources at Grameen Bank said the money was still not enough to give the government 25 percent stake in the bank.
 The commission's suggestions infuriated elected GB directors and the associ-

ation of the bank's employees, as well as independent experts and anti-poverty campaigners.
 In an oblique reference to the criticism about the central bank's role in the move to split GB, Atiur insisted: "I should clarify that Bangladesh Bank has nothing to do with the Grameen Bank Commission."
 Atiur, also an anti-poverty campaigner, said the microfinance institutions should have succession plans in place for smooth transfer of leadership to the next generation.
 Senior lawyer Ajmalul Hossain, a member of the three-member commission, declined to comment on the governor's statement.
 "We [the commission] have to discuss it."
 The member said the deadline for the commission to submit the report had been extended up to July 20.
 On the postponement of today's workshop, Hossain said, "Grameen Bank is a very important organisation. So, we wanted to discuss it with experts before we prepare our final report."
 The workshop was postponed after a number of invitees raised questions about its legality, and said they would not attend the event as the commission didn't have the jurisdiction to hold such a discussion.
 Meanwhile, a government-appointed two-member committee came up with a draft aimed at changing the electoral rules of Grameen Bank.
 One of the recommendations says election to the posts of borrower-directors should be held every year so that one-third of the nine elected borrower-directors

TV actress Mita Noor

FROM PAGE 16
 According to the preliminary investigation report, there were dark marks on different points of her body.
 Dr AKM Shafiuzzaman of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, who conducted the autopsy, told The Daily Star that it appeared to be a case of suicide.
 Samples from different parts of her body had been collected for viscera tests, he said, adding that the cause of her death would be known for sure after the tests.
 Morgue sources said the injury marks on her body might be two to three days old but those could not be directly linked to her death.
 After receiving a phone call from Shahanur's Niketan office on Saturday night, a police team went

there and found the couple fighting, the OC told The Daily Star.
 However, their dispute was "resolved" in presence of the law enforcers and they apologised to each other, he said.
 Asked about the fight, Shahanur said, "Mita went to my office along with our sons and accused me of not going to a programme at her parents' place."
 At one stage, she called the police and threatened to file a case against him, Shahanur claimed.
 Shahanur also said when he returned home from work for lunch on Sunday afternoon, he saw some empty packs of sleeping pills scattered on the floor near the stairs outside their flat.
 "The pills could not belong to her [Mita] because I asked our maid whether Mita had gone outside and she replied in the negative," said Shahanur.
 Asked if Mita had tried to commit suicide in the past, he said, "No".
 Mita's father Fazlur Rahman, however, told journalists that she had attempted suicide earlier.
 Shahanur last saw her alive around 12:30am on Monday when he went to bed. "When I woke up in the morning, she was not by my side," he said.
 Shahanur and Mita got married 24 years ago, said Mohsin Rajib, one of Shahanur's nephews.
 An unnatural death case was filed with Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

Amar Desh admits

FROM PAGE 1
 the pro-BNP Bangla daily on January 6 said, "A human chain led by the khatib of Holy Kaaba protests the war crimes trial in Bangladesh."
 The Amar Desh authority made the admission at a press conference organised at the Jatiya Press Club to demand the release of its acting editor Mahmudur Rahman. It, however, claimed its detained editor had nothing to do with the publication of the report.
 The photo of changing the Gilaf of Holy Kaaba, a traditional ceremony in Makkah, has been used in the social media and networking sites with misleading information.
 The widespread misuse of the photo online gave the impression that it was part of well-planned propaganda against the ongoing war crimes trial and in favour of all accused war criminals, especially Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee.
 Amar Desh never gave any correction to the report.
 Without naming Amar

Desh, The Daily Star in its investigative report published on March 17 made a mention of the news item as an example of the misuse of pictures in the social media and some newspapers.
 Since then, the issue has been widely discussed at different socio-political forums, newspapers columns, and television talk shows, but Amar Desh never officially admitted the truth.
 The Bangla daily's statement came a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina criticised Amar Desh in parliament for publishing misleading news reports.
 In reply to a question, M Abdullah, city editor of the newspaper, said, "It was an image of changing the Gilaf."
 The newspaper's Executive Editor Abdal Ahmed said, "Mahmudur Rahman had no direct involvement in publishing the feature with a photo of the Gilaf. It was published as an article of a reader in a page for expatriates."
 M Abdullah said, "A file photo, published with the feature in January, showed religious leaders changing the Gilaf of the Holy Kaaba. Had it been mentioned as a file photo, there would have been no controversy."
 He said the "article", written by Abul Kalam Azad, Middle East correspondent of private TV channel Bangla Vision, had also been published in two other newspapers in Bangladesh.
 Top news managers of the daily claimed they didn't have any "evil motive" behind the publication of the article with the misleading photo.
 Mahmudur was arrested on April 11 in connection with a case filed for publishing reports on a Skype conversation between former International Crimes Tribunal chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq and expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin last year.
 The employees of the newspaper termed the closure of the Amar Desh press a move to curb press freedom, and demanded that the government let it open immediately.

BB for action

FROM PAGE 16
 branch to have granted loans worth nearly Tk 1,500 crore in 2011 and 2012 without following the requisite procedures and adequate documentation.
 The branch gave loans to non-existent companies and approved loans right after the clients had opened accounts. The grace period for loan repayment was extended without rescheduling, which is not permitted under BB rules.
 Besides, the bank's board sanctioned loans even before the branch had sent out the proposals to the headquarters.
 "The [Gulshan] branch manager and members of the credit committee and loan disbursement committee of the headquarters have paved way for embezzlement of the bank's funds," the BB said in the letter.
 The central bank's inspection drive also found that the branch had sent letters to Monaem Khan, who was serving as the member secretary of the bank's loan disbursement committee, for approvals for credit.
 But Khan, currently the bank's deputy managing director, shrewdly avoided giving authorisations on paper, opting to give the green light over the phone instead.
 Neither Khan nor Faqurul Islam, the bank's managing director, could be reached at the time of writing.
 The BB also found the bank's management to have evaded taking any action against Shiper Ahmed, who was serving as the manager of the Gulshan branch when the irregularities took place. He is now posted at the bank's headquarters as a deputy general manager.

tion of the GSP suspension, the USA will reconsider its decision after six months.
 "We will work in such a way so that GSP facilities are reinstated" following a review of the labour situation in Bangladesh after six months, the minister said.
 In the action plans, the US government suggested increasing the number of government labour, fire and building inspectors, improving their skill and establishing clear procedures for independent and credible inspections in the garment and shrimp sectors, including the industrial units at Export Processing Zones (EPZs).
 Bangladesh should increase fines and impose strict sanctions like the cancellation of import and export licences for non-compliance with labour, fire, or building standards, the letter says.
 The US government suggested creating a publicly accessible database or matrix of all garment factories, in which all information relating to labour, fire and building inspections would be available. The information must include locations of the factories, violations identified, fines and sanctions imposed, factories closed or relocated and the names of the lead inspectors.
 Establishment of an effective mechanism, including a hotline, in consultation with civil society, is also recommended so that workers can report on violations of fire and building safety and labour rights confidentially.
 The action plans also call for passing of the proposed amendments to the Labour Law 2006 and their implementation in

Move on to persuade JP

FROM PAGE 1
 18-party alliance.
 Ajmat along with some local AL and JP leaders went to Ershad's Baridhara residence seeking his blessings and support. Talking to him, the former president said as it was a local government election, his party was not backing any mayoral aspirants.
 "But my blessings will be with you and I wish you the best," Khandaker Abdus Salam, vice-chairman of JP and its Gazipur district unit leader, quoted Ershad as saying.
 Earlier on June 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Ershad in her parliament office also sought JP's support for Ajmat as the Gazipur city election is being considered as a "prestige matter" for the government after the whitewash defeat of the AL mayoral favourites

in the June 15 polls to Barisal, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet city corporations.
 But Ershad's reply to Ajmat has made it clear that in spite of the prime minister's request, the JP centrally will maintain a "neutral stance" in the Gazipur city polls slated for July 6, a JP presidium member told The Daily Star.
LOCAL UNITS DIVIDED
 The Gazipur district and Tongi municipality units of JP are clearly divided over backing a mayoral hopeful, reports our correspondent.
 Party insiders said some Tongi JP leaders were campaigning for Ajmat, while a few leaders of its Gazipur district unit were working in favour of Mannan.
 Led by Monwar Hossain, president of Gazipur city unit of JP, some party activists were working for AL favourite Ajmat while another group of workers led by its district unit president Brig Gen (ret) Kazi Mahmudul Hassan and general secretary Nurul Islam were campaigning for BNP-backed MA Mannan.
 Yesterday, Mahmudul made a move to hold a meeting with the JP leaders of Tongi. But upon instructions from party high-ups, he refrained from holding the meeting, a JP leader told this newspaper.
 Earlier, Mahmudul withdrew his candidacy for the post of mayor.
 Talking to newsmen in Gazipur, Ajmat Ullah said the local JP would come up with its formal reaction today (yesterday) over its support to him. However, none of the two JP units committed themselves.

US suggests plan of action

FROM PAGE 1
 The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter.
 The USA urged the government to achieve the targets negotiated at the hearings at the US Trade Representative (USTR) office since 2007 on a petition asking for the withdrawal of GSP privileges for Bangladeshi products.
 Commerce Minister GM Quader said the ministry had already begun assessing the advancements in fire safety, labour rights and working conditions.
 "I will send a note on the achievements in those areas to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina very soon," Quader said he, if asked, would also submit a report to the cabinet for discussion and that the commerce ministry would send it to the USTR if it got approved by the cabinet.
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mation of the GSP suspension, the USA will reconsider its decision after six months.
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 The action plans also call for passing of the proposed amendments to the Labour Law 2006 and their implementation in

consultation with the ILO. The USA says the amendments are needed for addressing key concerns over freedom of association, collective bargaining and continuation of registration of trade unions in the garment sector.
 Besides, Bangladesh is advised to make public the status and final outcomes of union registration applications of individual garment units.
 It should allow registration of non-government labour organisations that meet administrative criteria, including the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity and Social Activities for the Environmental, according to the letter.
 "Drop or expeditiously resolve pending criminal charges against labour activists to ensure that workers and their supporters do not face harassment or intimidation," the US said in the letter.
 "Advance a transparent investigation into the murder of [labour leader] Aminul Islam and report on the findings," it added.
 The suggestions also include introducing international standard trade unions at the factories inside the EPZs and a prohibition of "blacklisting" and other forms of exclusion from the zones for labour activities.
 Regarding the shrimp sector, the US asked the government to comply with rules set by the International Labour Organisation and other worker-employer initiatives, such as the March 2013 Memorandum of Agreement, to ensure the strengthening of freedom of association and to address anti-union discrimination and unfair labour practices.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ ২০১৩-২০১৪ অর্থ বছরে বেসরকারি বিজ্ঞানসেবী সংস্থা ও বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক পেশাজীবী সংগঠন/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে অনুদানের জন্য পুনরায় আবেদন আহবান।

বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক কার্যক্রমে আর্থিক অনুদান প্রদানের উদ্দেশ্যে দেশের বিজ্ঞানসেবী সংস্থা ও বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক পেশাজীবী সংগঠন/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের কাছ থেকে ২০১৩-২০১৪ অর্থ বছরের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান সর্বোচ্চ ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকার অনুদানের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

২। বিজ্ঞানসেবী সংস্থা ও বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক পেশাজীবী সংগঠন/প্রতিষ্ঠান বলতে বাংলাদেশের ভৌগোলিক সীমানায় অবস্থিত বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক কার্যবলী পরিচালনাকারী/উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ সম্পাদনাকারী/বিজ্ঞানবিষয়ক জার্গাল প্রকাশনাকারী এবং সেমিনার/সিম্পোজিয়াম/কর্মশালা/প্রদর্শনী আয়োজনকারী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিজ্ঞানভিত্তিক পেশাজীবী সংগঠন এবং বিজ্ঞানসেবী সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান/সংগঠন-কে বুঝাবে। এ ব্যাপারে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়কে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

৩। নীতিমালাসহ আবেদনপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য, আবেদন ফরম এবং আবেদনের সাথে প্রয়োজনীয় সংযুক্তি বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের Website addresses: www.most.gov.bd হতে পাওয়া যাবে/ডাউনলোড করে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। তাছাড়া বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের শাখা-১২, কক্ষ নং-৯১৯, ভবন-৬, দশম তলা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০ এর নিকট হতে সরাসরি আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ করা যেতে পারে।

৪। যথাযথভাবে পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্র সংযুক্ত কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ১১-০৭-২০১৩ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবর প্রেরণ করতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। নীতিমালার সাথে সঙ্গতিপূর্ণ নয় এমন আবেদনপত্র অযোগ্য হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

৫। যোগ্যতা, দক্ষতা ও প্রস্তাবের মান বিবেচনা করে স্বচ্ছতা ও নিরপেক্ষতার মাধ্যমে অনুদান প্রদান করা হবে। যে কোন রকম তদবীর/ব্যক্তিগত যোগাযোগ অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল, পরিবর্তন বা পরিবর্ধনের ক্ষমতা রাখে।

নাজমা বেগম
 উপ-বৈজ্ঞানিক উপদেষ্টা
 বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়
 বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০
 ফোনঃ ৯৫৭৪৮৮৭

জিডি-২৫০৯

Limon indicted

FROM PAGE 1
 His lawyer Nasir Uddin Kabir said he would go to the higher court to challenge the indictment.
 Nina Goswami of the rights body Ain O Salish Kendra, which is providing Limon with legal support, said the Kendra would help Limon in this regard.
 Limon's mother Henoara Begum said, "The court framed charges against my innocent son without proper evidence, whereas the court sits on the case I filed against Rab."
 Police in the probe report of the case against Rab members said they found no substantive evidence to prove the allegations brought by Limon's mother.
 Limon's mother, however, rejected the probe report and filed a no-confidence petition against it in the magistrate's court. But the court rejected the petition on February 13, said Limon's lawyer Akkas Sikder.
 "We filed a revised peti-

tion in the district judge's court in Jhalakathi in March and the hearing on the petition will be held on August 13," he told The Daily Star.
 On June 23, National Human Rights Commission chief Mizanur Rahman told Limon in rather bizarre fashion: "You cannot win a fight against the state or government, but considering your financial state, I personally ask you to withdraw the case if you want to."
 Following a media outcry, in letters to the press on Sunday, Mizanur said he had also requested the home ministry to withdraw the cases against Limon in three letters on April 4 and July 11 last year and on May 30 this year.
 He wrote: "I believe that the government will immediately withdraw the Rab case against Limon and help Limon return to normal life."
 When Rab filed the arms case with Rajapur

Police Station, it produced an old revolver with a used bullet cap as evidence.
 On April 24, 2011, police submitted the charge sheet in the case.
 Limon obtained bail from the High Court on May 5, 2011.
'ILL-INTENTION'
 Expressing her frustration, rights activist Khushi Kabir said there was an ill-intention behind Limon's indictment, even after two years of public protests and a senior Rab official's admission of mistakenly shooting Limon.
 She said a Rab member mistakenly shot Limon and people make mistakes. "What is wrong then in admitting the mistake?" She wants to see what roles the NHRC plays now in this regard.
 "That will prove whether the National Human Rights Commission is actually an independent organisation and whether we can rely on it."

Unified food safety

FROM PAGE 1
 months for food adulterers, he added.
 The ordinance covered only eight food commodities, while the new draft law proposed including over 200 food commodities, said an official of the Food Planning Monitoring Unit of the food ministry.
 Razzaque, however, said entrusting an agency with fighting food adulteration would not necessarily mean that other government bodies should shrug off their responsibilities.
 "Rather the proposed agency [BFSA] will draw from the expertise of all relevant ministries and agencies and use all the lab facilities, no matter under whom those operate. Besides, there would be the BSTI [Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution]," he mentioned.
 The draft law got the government nod at the regular weekly cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
 It proposed controlling the use of various toxic chemicals, formalin, DDT, etc., in food items and formation of BFSA to ensure quality of food from

farm-to-fork, from production to packaging and distribution.
 The law would replace the existing system of food quality control that involves as many as 15 ministries and their agencies in the inspection and law enforcement, said ministry sources.
 As per the draft law, anyone found guilty of mixing life-threatening chemicals in food would be sentenced either to seven years' imprisonment or fined Tk10 lakh or both. If anyone repeats the offence, the punishment will be doubled.
 Initially, the draft had proposed the death penalty for such offences. But later the punishment was lowered on the recommendations of different stakeholders.
 The draft proposed the formation of a National Pure Food Management Advisory Council, headed by the food minister and comprising members from different ministries and government, private and academic agencies. Besides, it proposed forming the BFSA, comprised of a chairman and five members.