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ABBOTT NEW AUSSIE PM

His party crushes the governing Labour party of Kevin Rudd in general election

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Food production to double

BARI scientists successfully test four crops a year; crop rotation to replenish soil fertility

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladeshi agronomists have come up with a marvelous way of raising farm output in a land-strapped country.

They have successfully experimented with a "four-crop" model that shows the country's food production could be more than doubled.

This comes as a great relief for an overpopulated country that loses its scarce farmland to non-farm activities (housing, urbanisation, industrialisation and infrastructure building) by one percent a year.

The agronomists at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) have found out that if cropping intensity is increased by growing four crops a year in all cultivable lands, farm output will sharply increase.

They have also dispelled concern about over-exploitation of soil resources, saying that the crop rotation would rather replenish soil nutrients with the green manure in sequence after the harvesting of cereals and other crops.

It is evident from the BARI experiments done in 2011-12 and 2012-13 cropping seasons that by introducing the four-crop rotation, farmers can poten-

tially harvest over 34 tonnes of rice equivalent yields (REY) from each hectare of land. The output is more than twice the farmers usually harvest (14.37 tonnes) in a double-crop-a year pattern.

REY means the amount of rice one can get by selling mustard, potato, rice and whatever grains one grows in a year in a given land.

The BARI field experiments also found that in a double-crop pattern, an average farmer gets a gross return of around Tk 2 lakh by investing just a little over Tk 1 lakh. But the amount of return can be as high as Tk 5 lakh if a farmer goes for four-crop-a year by making an investment of over Tk 2 lakh. The investment is calculated without taking land price/rent into consideration.

At present four crops are grown only in 9,300 hectares of land in the country, three crops in 1.4 million hectares, two crops in 4.1 million hectares and one crop in 2.2 million hectares.

According to official statistics, the country's total cropped area stood at 14.94 million hectares in recent years as against its net cropped area of only 7.84 million hectares thanks to the 191 percent cropping intensity.

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GAINS

Pattern	Rice equivalent yield (Tonnes/hectare)	Investment (per hectare)	Return (per hectare)
Four-crop	34.10	Tk 2.36 lakh	Tk 5.03 lakh
Double-crop	14.37	Tk 1.10 lakh	Tk 1.98 lakh



Travesty of justice

Says HR chief about acquittal of BSF man in Felani murder case

STAR REPORT

Reacting sharply to the BSF soldier's acquittal in the Felani murder case by an Indian court, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday said the judgment showed disrespect for international law.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir said the verdict was "unexpected" while Law Minister Shafique Ahmed suggested that the verdict should be challenged in the upper court, if there was a provision.

The main opposition BNP, however, criticised the government for its "subversive attitude towards India" over the judgement.

In response to media reports on the Felani verdict, a spokesperson at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday clarified that the trial of the case by a BSF Court of Inquiry was the first step of a quasi-judicial process.

The due process of law, which has a provision for appeal and review by the competent

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Pilgrims on board the first hajj flight that took off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Hajj flights start with hiccups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Biman's hajj flight schedules fell apart at the very beginning of hajj flight operations yesterday, causing immense sufferings to pilgrims.

A total of 1,432 passengers were scheduled to fly to Jeddah on three Biman flights at 1:40pm, 4:30pm and 7:40pm.

The first flight was supposed to carry 582 passengers on a Boeing-747.

But the aircraft leased from Kabo Air could not fly as it did not have clearance from the Saudi Arabian civil aviation authority (GACA). As a result, Biman had to use another Boeing with a capacity of 419 passengers to manage the first flight.

The remaining 163 pilgrims boarded the

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BID TO CHANGE INFO TECH LAW

Worries abound

Govt move decried; opposition's silence criticised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should not enact the recent amendment to the Information and Communication Technology Law, 2006 and its section 57, speakers at a roundtable observed yesterday.

Present in the discussion, Shahdeen Malik said the government should eliminate section 57 from the ICT act, as the clause would push the country back to the medieval age.

On August 19, the cabinet approved the draft ICT (Amendment) Ordinance-2013 proposing to empower law enforcers to arrest without warrant anyone who breaks the law and increasing the minimum jail term for the offence to seven years and maximum punishment to 14 years.

The next day the amendment was published in a gazette notification. According to section 57 of the act, if any person deliberately publishes any material in electronic form that causes to deteriorate law and order, prejudice the image of the state or a person, or hurt religious belief, he or she will be punished. The crime is non-bailable.

In the original ICT Act, 2006, enacted by the then BNP-Jamaat government, the maximum punishment for such offences was 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of Tk 1 crore. Besides, police had to seek permission from the authorities concerned to file a case against and arrest any person involved in crimes covered under the law.

In the recent times, Amar Desh editor Mahmudur Rahman, rights organisation Odhikar's secretary Adilur Rahman, bloggers Asif Mohiuddin, Mashhur Rahman Biplob, Subrata Adhikari Shuvo and Rasel Parvez have

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GONOJAGORON MANCHA

Another activist stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another Gonojagoron Mancha activist has come under attack.

Known for his fiery slogans during the tumultuous days of the Shahbagh movement, Arif Noor was stabbed four times in the head by an unidentified gang at the capital's Paribagh around 12:30am yesterday.

Earlier on August 10, Tonmoy Ahmed Moon, a Shahbagh activist and a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was stabbed allegedly by the cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir in Gaibandha.

On February 15, blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider, also a Mancha activist, was hacked to death near his home at the capital's Mirpur.

A playwright and member of cultural organisation Udichi's central committee, Arif Noor filed a case with Shahbagh

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Engr. Ghulam Mohammed Alomgir, Chairman of MAX GROUP, receiving Best Corporate Client Golden Award 2013 from UCB Chairman Mr. M. A. Hashem



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