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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star
theSTAR
stories behind the news



'INCREDIBLE DOORS OPENED'

Hollywood producer Nicholas Simon speaks to Star as he shoots in Bangladesh

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NEW KING FOR 'NEW SPAIN'

King Felipe VI proclaimed head of state in a ceremony in parliament

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Unopposed MPs unquestionable

HC verdict says no legal scope to question Jan 5 polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

In the wake of the controversy over the unopposed election of 153 MPs in the January 5 polls, the High Court yesterday ruled that there was no scope to question their election under the existing legal framework.

A two-member HC bench came up with the ruling by rejecting a petition that challenged the RPO provision allowing the Election Commission to declare the MPs elected unopposed without a single vote being cast.

According to Article 19 of the RPO, if there is only one candidate in a parliamentary constituency, the EC can declare him/her elected.

The High Court in its judgement defended the article and said it was not contrary to the country's constitution.

Any law cannot be declared unconstitutional unless it is conflicting with any provision of the constitution and its spirit and scheme, observed the HC bench consisting of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar.

The unopposed election triggered huge uproar as it denied more than half of an altogether 9.19 crore voters the right to choose their representatives.

Article 122 (1) of the constitution upholds their voting right by emphatically stating that elections to parliament shall be on the basis of adult franchise.

Also, Article 65 (2) of the charter asserts the pre-eminence of voters when it notes that parliament shall consist of three hundred members to be elected by direct election.

Thus, voters' right has been given pre-eminent position in the constitution where it declares the country as a Republic and democracy as one of the four fundamental state principles.

Bilal Philips sent back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has deported the controversial Canadian Islamic scholar Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips a day after he landed in Dhaka to deliver a series of lectures here, immigration sources have said.

Philips had arrived on Tuesday and was sent back on Wednesday afternoon, said a Special Branch (SB)

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'TERROR LINK' Bangladesh-born US citizen held

AP, Texas

Two Texas men, including a Bangladesh-born US citizen, have been arrested on charges of supporting terrorism.

Rahatul Ashikim Khan of Round Rock and Michael Todd Wolfe of Austin, both 23, face up to 15 years in federal prison if convicted of conspiring to provide material support to terrorists, according to the federal Justice Department and the Central Texas Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Both men were arrested Tuesday and have a hearing scheduled Friday.



Rahatul

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Uruguay's talismanic forward Luis Suarez celebrates his opening goal against England during their World Cup Group D match at the Corinthians Arena in Sao Paulo yesterday. Suarez later scored another one as Uruguay won 2-1.

PHOTO: AFP

Superb Suarez sinks England

AFP, Sao Paulo

A brilliant double strike by Luis Suarez put England on the brink of a humiliating World Cup exit as Uruguay won 2-1 in a tense Group D match Thursday.

Suarez, back in action just four weeks after knee surgery, put Uruguay ahead with a 39th-minute header before Wayne Rooney equalised with his first ever World Cup finals goal.

But Liverpool hitman Suarez had

**URUGUAY 2 (Suarez 39, 85)
ENGLAND 1 (Rooney 75)**

the final say when he latched on to a long ball and smashed home the winner five minutes from time, leaving England staring at their first group stage exit since 1958.

England, who also lost their first game 2-1 to Italy, are now left relying on the Azzurri beating Costa Rica on Friday to keep them in the competition.

Despite familiar temperatures of 12 degrees C (54 F), England started nervily and after conceding an early corner, goalkeeper Joe Hart had to beat away Suarez's place-kick at his near post.

But England's pacey forwards were soon causing problems and when Daniel Sturridge drew a foul for handball near the penalty area, Rooney's free-kick curled agonisingly wide.

England, with Rooney playing centrally behind Sturridge, looked the

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A mobile court confiscates bottles of chemicals claimed to be containing formalin at Chankharpool in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Stop anti-formalin drive

Demand fruit vendors on strike; chemicals seized in capital

STAR REPORT

Mango traders and growers of Chapainawabganj have extended their support to retail fruit traders of the capital protesting the ongoing drive against chemical-laced fruits, which has stirred a controversy surrounding the device being used to detect adulteration.

As fruit vendors yesterday observed the first day of an indefinite strike in Dhaka, mango growers threatened to enforce a hartal in Chapainawabganj district on Sunday if law enforcers do not stop the drive launched on June 11.

The traders demanded the prime minister's attention to the matter, claiming that they had never treated fruits with formalin but law enforcers were destroying their goods on test with faulty devices.

Meanwhile, a team of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday conducted a drive against unauthorised sales of formalin. During the drive, they seized a huge amount of the chemical in the capital's Chankharpool.

Fruit traders, mango growers and distributors said the drive against adulterated fruits was intended to

harass them.

Most of the fruit outlets in the capital remained closed on the first day of the strike called by Dhaka Metropolitan Fruit Traders Association.

All the big fruit markets in Hatirpool, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Gulshan, Banani and Uttara were closed, said Sana Ullah, president of the association.

The strike will continue until the government stops harassing fruit traders in the name of the drive, he added.

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"I AM FORMALIN FREE"

FORMALIN FREE FRUIT AT

All Shwapno outlets are now equipped with state of the art formalin detection meter. BCSIR's formalin detection kit is also used to detect formalin at various points in supply chain. Now buy formalin free fish, fruit and vegetables from Shwapno.

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