



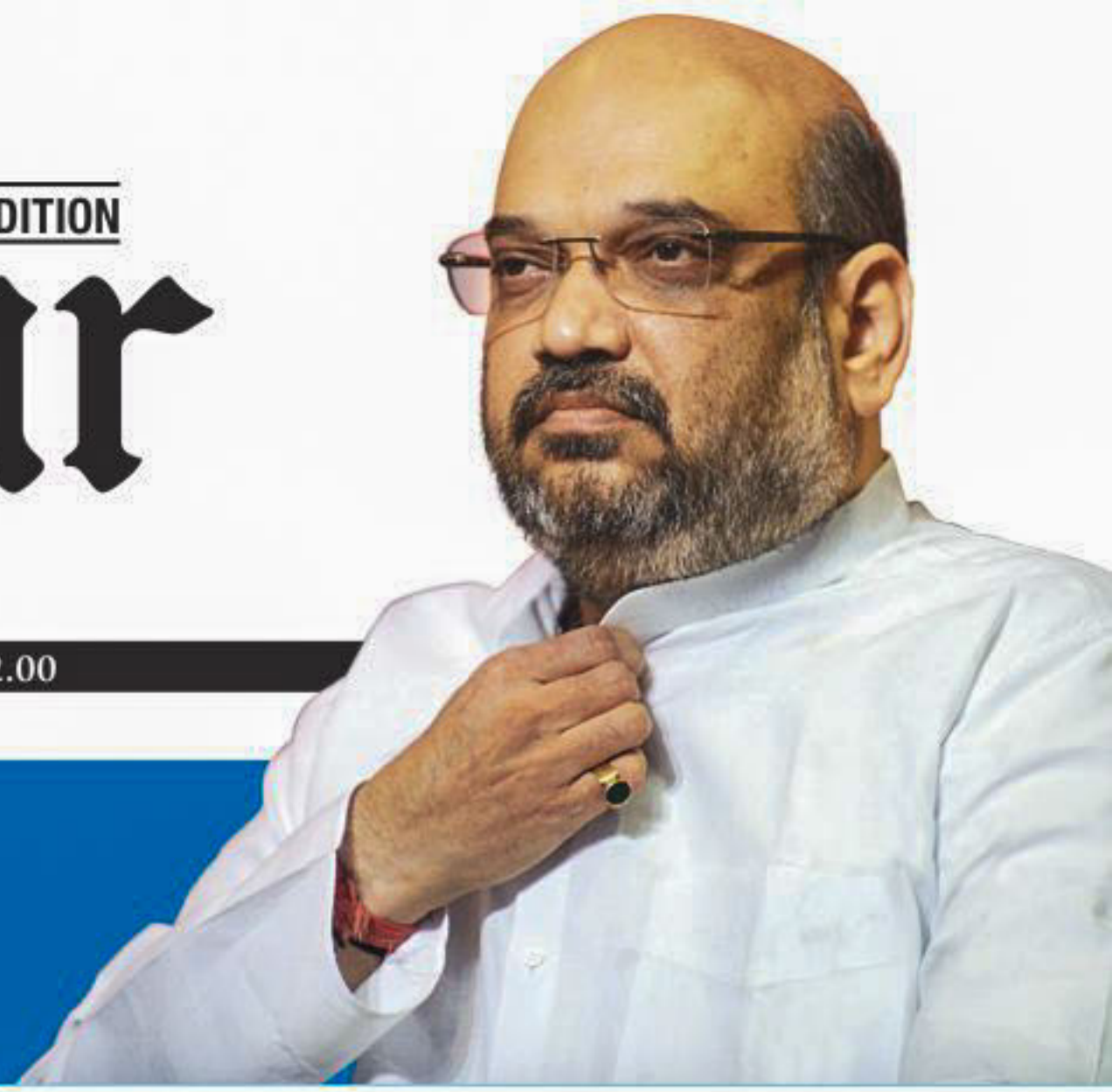
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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

POWER OF POLITICS
Where there were hills, there are now homes
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MODI TIGHTENS GRIP
His close aide, Amit Shah, takes charge as BJP president
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SEVEN-MURDER PROBE Govt wants to withdraw CID

Probe agency fails to make progress due to non-cooperation from other agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday moved the High Court for exempting the Criminal Investigation Department from probing the sensational seven-murder case.

The court is expected to decide on the matter today.

In his petition, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam cited legal restrictions on inquiries into a case by two agencies simultaneously.

"Separate probes may end up in varied findings, contradicting each other on some points. No matter how small the differences are, it may destroy the trial," he told The Daily Star.

He submitted the petition on the advice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Replying to a question, he dismissed the suggestion that the move was meant to save influential people or quarters.

The petition by the chief legal officer of the country comes at a time when investigation of the grisly killings has seen some significant progress, with two agencies -- CID and the Detective Branch of Police -- probing the seven-murder of Narayanganj.

The CID had been investigating the case as per a High Court order.

The move also comes more than two months after Narayanganj ward councilor Nazrul Islam, senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and five others were abducted and killed allegedly by Rab men for money.

Three sacked Rab officers, now in jail in connection with the case, have already confessed before a Narayanganj court that they were involved in the April 27 abduction and murder.

The government earlier transferred the case from Fatullah police in Narayanganj to the DB amid news reports that a section of law enforcers there were on good terms

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Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero made two saves in the shoot-out to take the Albiceleste to Sunday's World Cup final against Germany with a 4-2 tie-break win over the Netherlands in the second semifinal at The Corinthians Arena in Sao Paulo yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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It's Argentina vs Germany

AFF, Sao Paulo

Goalkeeper Sergio Romero saved two shoot-out penalties as Argentina beat the Netherlands to reach the World Cup final for the first time in 24 years on Wednesday.

Romero, who has hardly played for French club Monaco this season, blocked shots from Ron Vlaar and Wesley Sneijder as Argentina won the shoot-out 4-2 after the two sides finished extra time 0-0.

The win took Argentina into Sunday's final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro where they will face Germany, who they lost to in the 1990 final in Rome.

It is also a repeat of the 1986 final in Mexico City, where a Diego Maradona-inspired Argentina beat the Germans 3-2.

The match had gone to penalties after an attritional battle at the Corinthians Arena which saw neither side manage to break through disciplined defending.

A tense, cagey, contest saw barely a single goalscoring opportunity in normal time, save for a Messi free-kick which was gathered by Jasper Cillessen.

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NETHERLANDS 0
ARGENTINA 0
(after extra time)
ARGENTINA win
4-2 on penalties

MEDIA GAG PROPOSAL
Info minister rules out discussion
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said his ministry was not thinking of reviving a provision of the Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973 regarding cancellation of declaration of newspapers.

"Right now, the ministry has no headache regarding the issue," he told newsmen at the secretariat.

Asked to clarify his ministry's position on the matter, Inu said, "I have received no proposal in this regard."

The minister's remarks

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

No plan for zila parishad polls

Says Ashraf, hints at abolishing the local govt tier

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Hinting at the abolition of the zila parishad system, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said too many branches of local government yield no positive results and it is not good for a democratic country.

Right now, the government has no plan to hold elections to the zila parishads, he told journalists after attending the conference of deputy commissioners at the Cabinet Division of the secretariat.

Asked whether the government was planning to abolish the zila parishad system, he said, "We've to think first whether the zila parishad is a necessity or not... The matter requires due consultations."

The necessity of the zila parishad will have to be determined before holding the elections, mentioned Ashraf, who is also the general secretary of the ruling Awami League.

The government, he added, is now evaluating two options -- an elected zila parishad or abolition of the system. "There is no logic in making zila parishads dysfunctional after holding the elections."

Referring to the poor budgetary allocation for zila parishads, the minister said, "A budget announced by an un-elected zila parishad administrator is much smaller

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RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 9

NEWS ANALYSIS

DC's desire, Inu's reassurance

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The deputy commissioner of Dhaka did not exactly endear himself to anyone when he proposed the revival of a law that empowers bureaucrats to cancel the declarations of newspapers. He believes, or wants people in the corridors of power to believe, that there are newspapers in Bangladesh which engage in anti-state acts or which publish news that hurts the religious sentiments of people.

That has been an obnoxious way in which governments, beginning with the Ayub Khan regime in Pakistan, have sought to curb freedom of speech in the media. Any article or comment that questions the motives or decisions of the powers that be is construed as an anti-state act. As for religious sentiments, certain governments have consistently used faith as a tool to punish newspapers for crimes the newspapers did not commit. The deputy commissioner was thus stepping into dangerous ground. Bureaucrats of his kind have historically damaged democracy. They ought not to be permitted to go on engaging in such activities again.

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Fishermen offer special prayers on their boat at Char Wadel in Patuakhali yesterday following poor hilsa catch. Even though this is the peak of the season, their catch has been appalling spiraling hilsa prices in the kitchen market. Story on page 11

Fake medicine factory busted

Owner jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court backed by Rab members yesterday busted a medicine factory in the capital's Topkhana for producing spurious antibiotics, including those for children, and jailed its owner for two years.

Owner Aminul Ehsan, 40, had been running the unauthorised business on the ground floor of his four-storey building over the last three years.

The mobile court led by Executive Magistrate of the Rapid Action Battalion Anwar Pasha also fined the owner Tk 2 lakh. If he fails to pay the fine, he will have to serve a sentence of three months.

"Aminul used his experience as an employee of a pharmaceutical company and had been running the heinous business for 10 years," the magistrate said.

The court began the

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