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TRAGEDY AND CONCILIATION

Kuldip Nayar's thoughts after the Peshawar massacre

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BROADWAY TO ROCK

The stage version of 2003 film School of Rock opens next year

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DEVYANI IN TROUBLE AGAIN

Diplomat at the centre of India's bitter row with the US is stripped of duties

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Bangladesh faces democracy deficit

Study shows political parties' tendency to exert influence on govt, non-govt bodies



BRAC INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Multi-party democracy turns into 'partyarchy'
- Democratic development stalled despite economic progress
- Negative effect on state building, democratic accountability, rule of law
- Bureaucracy could not be made merit-based

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a span of three decades, Bangladesh's multi-party democracy has turned into "partyarchy", a tendency of political parties to exert overwhelming influence on state and non-state institutions.

It has resulted in a downslide in the rule of law, democratic accountability and state building -- the three tenets of political development, says a study report on governance.

The report described these developments as "deficit in democracy" and "slow development of pluralism in the practices of democracy".

The Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) launched the report

titled "State of Governance Bangladesh 2013: Democracy Party Politics" at the Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday.

"Despite economic progress, Bangladesh's democratic development has been hampered. It is a matter of serious frustration for the public," said Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman, executive director at the BIGD of Brac University.

Democratic development is in crisis globally. But it doesn't mean Bangladesh has any scope for complacency, as "such underdevelopment" poses serious risks for the future, he said.

The study analyses the factors that influenced political underdevelopment, degree

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Sand traders have filled the Shitalakkhya almost up to the middle of the river creating an artificial curve in the east of the Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj. The BIWTA seems to have turned a blind eye to traders' changing the course of the river.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Green power gets boost

Private company sets up solar plant on Secretariat roof to supply power under 20-year deal with govt

SUMAN SAHA and SHARIER KHAN

The government is introducing the first ever feed-in-tariff system, a mechanism designed to accelerate investment in power generation from renewable sources, and it is

allowing companies to commercially install solar plants on large government buildings.

Under the initiative, Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Ltd (RREL) has installed a battery-free solar power plant on the roof of

Bangladesh Secretariat building-2, on over 7,000 square feet of space.

With a 20-year contract between Rahimafrooz and Dhaka Power Distribution Company, the plant is generating 50 kilowatt electricity

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With no batteries in the system, this solar power plant on the Secretariat supplies 50kw electricity to the national grid.

PHOTO: STAR

Next target kids of Pak politicians

Taliban threaten to carry on attacks as govt forces kill dozens of militants

AGENCIES

After the gruesome killing of children in Peshawar this week, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has warned the Nawaz Sharif government that it will start eliminating children of politicians, including Sharif's family, and army officers if the Pakistan government keeps its commitment to hang militants owing allegiance to the terror outfit.

The warning came in the form of a letter, written apparently by Mohammed Kharasani, believed to be a top commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban chief Mullah Fazlullah. It was received by Pakistan authorities on Friday evening.

Top sources said they were trying to verify if the letter was genuine. The letter

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STUDY ON SUNDARBANS

Oil spill takes toll on aquatic life

Food for fish down 80pc in Shela river; two otters found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Shela river oil spill in the Sundarbans will have a long-term effect on the aquatic life, and food for fish in the water body has already went down by 80 percent, says a Khulna University study.

About 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil from a tanker that sank on December 9 has hampered the growth of planktons -- marine and freshwater organisms that are the base of food web in an aquatic environment.

"If planktons grow less, aquatic species like fish would get less food and it would have an impact on other species dependant on fish," said Dr Muhammad Abdur Rouf of fisheries and marine resource technology discipline at Khulna University.

A 15-member team led by Dr Rouf found in its study that two types of planktons -- phytoplankton and zooplankton -- have decreased in the river by around 40pc and 80pc respectively.

Phytoplankton, a plant-like community of plankton, is the food for zooplankton while fishes consume zooplankton.

Seven days after the tanker accident, the team found 600 phytoplanktons and 100 zooplanktons per litre of the river water.

In previous years, the number of phytoplankton used to be 1,000 to

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Two brothers killed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unidentified assailants beat and stabbed two brothers to death at Chandgaon in the port city when they were returning home after attending a namaz-e-janaza of a relative on Friday night.

The dead are Faridul Alam, 45, and Abu Siddique, 42, sons of Abdus Sabur in Chandgaon area. They were timber merchants by profession.

Two timber merchants Md Lokman, 30,

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CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES

Big hike likely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Pay and Service Commission is going to submit its report to the government today with recommendations of a pay hike for 13 lakh civil servants.

The commission's chairman Mohammad Farashuddin, who was a former Bangladesh Bank governor, will submit the report to Finance Minister AMA Muhith at 9:00am at the latter's secretariat office.

"The main objective of the report is to improve productivity, honesty and efficiency of those who are doing government services", Farashuddin told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

According to sources, this time the PSC may recommend a pay hike up to

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