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REPUBLIC DAY SPEECH Pranab warns against ruling 'by decree'

REUTERS, New Delhi

President Pranab Mukherjee gave a stern assessment of India 65 years after it declared itself a republic, criticising parliamentary dysfunction and the overuse of decrees in a message that might also resonate with his visitor, US President Barack Obama.

In a Republic Day address on the eve of the celebrations, India's largely ceremonial president was also scathing about rampant violence against women in the world's second most populous nation.

Mukherjee said the opposition should debate laws responsibly rather than disrupting the houses of parliament, and warned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government against governing by decree.

He was referring to 10 "ordinances" issued by Modi, including ones to raise the foreign investment limit in insurance, auction coal mines and ease land acquisitions.

"Enacting laws without discussion impacts the law-making role of the parliament. It breaches the trust reposed in it by the people," Mukherjee said in a televised address on Sunday.

"This is neither good for the democracy nor for the policies relating to those laws."

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Barack Obama and Indian President Pranab Mukherjee wave to spectators during India's Republic Day parade on Rajpath in New Delhi yesterday. Story on page 8.

When Modi met Obama

His name was all over his suit

REUTERS, New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave US first lady Michelle Obama stiff fashion competition at the weekend, turning out in a dark pin-stripe suit embroidered with his own name repeatedly.

The saffron stripes in the fitted wool jacket and trousers that Modi wore during bilateral talks with US President Barack Obama on Sunday were not stripes at all.

Close-up photographs revealed the words "Narendra Damodardas Modi" repeatedly embroidered into the fabric. Damodardas was Modi's father, a tea seller in Gujarat.

Many Modi fans on Twitter loved the look, but political opponents jumped at the chance to take potshots at the prime minister.

"The levels of megalomania and narcissism are unparalleled...it reveals a lot

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

New 20-year DAP amid failure of old one

Govt goes for another detailed area plan for Dhaka while existing one remains unimplemented

TAWFIQUE ALI and REZAUL KARIM BYRON

With the capital's present detailed area plan (DAP) remaining unimplemented in the face of opposition from influential realtors, the government is drawing up another 20-year plan to ensure "planned urban development."

The Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) is preparing the fresh DAP covering an area of over 1,500 square km at a cost of over Tk 33 crore for the period of 2016 to 2035. The tenure of the current DAP expires this year.

Once approved, a joint venture of Sheltech (Pvt) Limited and The Decode Limited will prepare DAP for 753 square km area while The Development Design Consultants Limited will work up for 764 square km, dividing the city with a line drawn along the New Airport Road, according to documents obtained by The Daily Star.

The plan was expected to be tabled at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase on Monday for approval. The committee, however, did not sit.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Waiting for proof to arrest accused

DMP boss on Jatrabari arson; reward for tip-off on attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will arrest anyone if evidence proves his or her involvement in the Jatrabari arson attack.

DMP Commissioner Mohammad Asaduzzaman Miah told reporters yesterday in reply to a query about the BNP chairperson whose name has appeared in two cases filed in connection with Friday's Jatrabari arson attack that left 28 people burnt.

"Social status and position does not matter to us. Whoever is accused in any criminal case will be put on trial on the basis of proper investigation," he said at a press briefing on the current law and order situation in the capital at the DMP media centre.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Unwanted

NBR offers money to journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a discussion to mark the International Customs Day. And all was going well until a Customs official started handing journalists sealed envelopes. Upon opening the envelope, this correspondent found a Tk 1,000 note in it. The money was instantly returned to the official.

Asked, the official said he was assigned to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Rajuk, district administrations, BIWTA, environment department and police stay silent as dubious "development" work fills the foreshore and floodplains of the Turag with dirt violating the DAP and narrowing down the river in Tongi near the Biswa Ijtema ground. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

3 more divisions in the making

Apart from Mymensingh, Faridpur to be divisional HQ; third one to consist of Comilla, Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday decided to create within the next few months three more administrative divisions with Mymensingh becoming the country's eighth division.

Greater Faridpur including Gopalganj, which currently falls under Dhaka division, will constitute another division while Chittagong division will be split to form a new division comprising greater Comilla and Noakhali regions.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the weekly cabinet meeting, had instructed the cabinet division to introduce the Mymensingh division first.

"National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reorganisation (Nicar) will take the final decision about the formation of new divisions, determining which districts will be included and what the population size will be," Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Ancient forest found under sea

MAIL ONLINE

A shocked diver has found an incredible 10,000-year-old pre-historic forest under the North Sea and experts believe it could have once stretched as far as Europe.

Diver Dawn Watson, 45, discovered the remarkable 'lost forest' when she was diving just 300 metres off the coast of Cleve next to the Sea, Norfolk.

She found complete oak trees with branches measuring eight metres long under the sea and

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Tender for Metro rail to be floated this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed the Metro Rail Act, 2015 that aimed at easing traffic congestion and ensuring fast, improved public transportation in the capital.

The bill was passed by a voice vote after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader placed it before the House with Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah in the chair.

Quader told parliament that the first tender for the construction of the 20km metro rail route would

be invited on January 31. Two more tenders would be floated in February and five others in 2015.

The minister said the construction work of the metro rail project would begin in January next year and was expected to end by 2019, which is two years before its schedule.

"Metro rail service would be introduced in Bangladesh for the first time. A specific law was needed for the construction of the rail and maintenance of its operation," he told parliament before the passage.

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Koko's body arrives today

Janaza at Baitul Mukarram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since the two last met in Singapore about one and a half years ago, a heartbroken mother will see her younger son's body for one last time today.

The body of Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, will arrive at Shahjalal International Airport at 11:30am.

"All the necessary formalities including

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government would respond to the call of the newspaper editors to arrange a discussion to resolve the ongoing political impasse and take initiatives in this regard?

Yes (24%) No (76%)

TOTAL VOTES: 287

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think it is possible for the government to resolve the ongoing political crisis and stop violence by using police and other law enforcement agencies?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING January 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation