



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT

STUMBLING WORLD ECONOMY

Joseph Stiglitz, Hamid Rashid write on ways to restore sustainable, inclusive economic growth

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AT IT AGAIN!

N Korea's leader Kim Jong-Un now executes his military chief for alleged corruption

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Padma bridge conspirators to be tried

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conspirators who wanted to stall the Padma Bridge project would be tried under the country's existing law, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission has already carried out investigations against those involved in conspiracy to obstruct the Padma Bridge project at that time," the prime minister said in reply to a lawmaker's query.

In the reply, Hasina, however, did not disclose the names of the conspirators and when the trial process would start.

The premier also said allegations of corruption against the Padma Bridge project were proved "baseless" in the ACC investigation.

On the gas pipeline via the bridge to the country's Southern region, she said, "The government has plans to expand gas pipelines in the Southern region in phases and on availability of gas and financing."

The government also has plans to set up a land-based LNG terminal at the Paira sea port to distribute gas in Southern and South-Western regions, Hasina added.

CHT PEACE TREATY

In reply to another query about the implementation of the



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The carcass of a leopard hung on a railing at the Shreebordi Upazila Parishad office building in Sherpur. The animal, believed to have walked into Bangladesh from India in search of food, had taken shelter in an irrigation pump house. Locals got too curious and gathered around it. As the Shreebordi municipality mayor tried to get closer to it, the leopard, already frightened by the crowd, attacked him. Locals then beat it dead. PHOTO: STAR

Villagers kill leopard after it injures 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

A leopard which entered the locality of Shreebordi municipality in Sherpur attacked the municipality mayor who was trying to get a peek at it yesterday morning.

Two others were also injured while trying to rescue the mayor from the leopard. Later, villagers beat the animal to death.

Mayor Abu Sayeed, 30, was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital with injuries on his right cheek and head.

According to the police, forest department officials and locals, the leopard entered Jalkata area from the Garo hills in India in the early hours of yesterday.

It then took shelter inside an irrigation pump house.

As the news spread, hundreds of people went there to see it. Mayor Abu Sayeed too went there around 10:30am.

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Ruling party MP criticises Star editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Fazilatun Nasa Bappy last night demanded arrest and trial of The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam for "bringing about the 1/11 political changeover in 2007".

Bappy, an MP elected to a reserved seat for women, made the demand in parliament while speaking on the thanksgiving motion on the president's speech.

She alleged that Mahfuz Anam was "behind 1/11 and he put a nail in the heart of democracy."

The lawmaker said The Daily Star editor hatched a conspiracy and created grounds for the arrest of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in false cases.

In her 12-minute speech, Bappy also lambasted BNP Chairperson

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Read before you react

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Seven lawmakers have demanded in parliament The Daily Star be closed and its editor, Mahfuz Anam, be tried for treason. With banners showing pictures of the editor, his hands tied with ropes, a rally of the ruling Awami League's student front, BCL, burnt effigies and called for his arrest. Some participants in a couple of TV shows advised him to quit as editor. The editor has already been sued for Tk 51-crore for defamation.

And what kicked up the uproar? A couple of days before the founding anniversary celebration of the newspaper on February 5, the editor appeared in a TV talk show and regretted one of his editorial decisions to publish a few reports without independent verification after the 1/11 take-over by an army-backed caretaker government in 2007.

It was indeed a significant remark that required a lot of courage to make in a journalistic culture where instances of one owning up to one's mistake are rare and saying sorry for an error, or self-criticism is non-existent. That introspective remark should have encouraged others to do the same. It should have opened up a whole new constructive debate on the weaknesses of journalism in the country and how to prevent them from recurring.

Then why are The Daily Star and its editor being flayed for a "crime" that was committed by almost all other editors and media nine years back?

A day after the interview, a news website, for reasons best known to it, ran a story with lots of twists and distortions under the headline "Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam admits to publishing DGFI-fed baseless stories".

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One of the accusations made against The Daily Star and its editor in parliament last Sunday was that we had encouraged the army's involvement in politics. We want to state categorically that we never stood in support of anything but democracy. During the emergency caretaker period, we constantly wrote in favour of election and restoration of power to the elected representatives.

Today we reproduce a commentary published on April 6th, 2007, criticising the then army chief for making a speech on the future political structure of the country and advised that the army should remain focused on holding election and return to the barracks immediately after.

This commentary should make clear our position on army's involvement in politics. In addition, throughout the two-year period we wrote 203 editorials demanding restoration of democracy and handing over power to elected representatives through free and fair elections.

- Editor

Gen Moeen goes public on politics

How can national interest be served best?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Now that Chief of Army Staff (CAS) Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed has decided to go public on political issues, he must be ready, willing and open to public debate on them including criticism of his views, if any.

To start with, should a sitting CAS speak in public and in presence of the President on the

COMMENTARY
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON APRIL 6, 2007

political future of a country? Such speech making will naturally raise questions as to whether or not the army chief or his institution plans to get involved in the country's politics? When such comments touch even the structure of the future government and the power balance between the President, the Prime Minister and the cabinet, the

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TOP QUOTE

"We would know anytime who committed the murders, why and who were behind it ... everything. I am hopeful."

HOME MINISTER
ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL
ON THE KILLING OF JOURNALIST
COUPLE SAGAR-RUNI



Sabir Hossain Sagor of Maple Leaf International School, Dhaka, receives the champion's trophy of The Daily Star Spelling Bee Season-6 from State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Summit Group Chairman Aziz Khan yesterday. Sagor has also won a trip to Washington DC with a guardian, by winning the Summit Group-sponsored spelling competition, participated by over three lakh school children. Also present on the stage are Russell T Ahmed, CEO of Champs21.com; Shykh Seraj, director & head of news of Channel i; Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor of IUB; Zakir Ibne Hai, COO of Bloop; and Farid Khan, vice chairman of Summit Group. PHOTO: STAR

Young Tigers' date with destiny

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's youngsters are just one win away from reaching the final of the ICC Under-19 World Cup. To their fans, this very statement tends to bring the jitters.

Make no mistake; anything less would leave many disappointed. This is a final that analysts expected the junior Tigers to reach even before the start of the event. Considering the number of matches they have played and the sheer amount of first-class experience that they have, this particular group of cricketers have seemed much sharper than most of their peers for a while now.

However, the jitters tend to arrive when they realise that a win here would effectively give their side the recognition of being the second best cricket team in the world at this level.

It may be just the Under-19 World Cup and there

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

PROF. A. H. M. AHSAN ULLAH
28th Feb 1937 - 11th Feb 2014

"Grief never ends ... but it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, Nor a lack of faith... It is the price of love."

Too dearly loved, to be forgotten.

Prof. Fukhrun Nisa

Kamal - Doly Abrar - Ayman
Dr. Sonia - Ishtiaque Anisha - Ayana