



TIES WITH N KOREA

Moon vows to address the issue as he is sworn in as S Korea president

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BOOST FOR SAFETY NET

Expenditure under the schemes to rise next fiscal year to benefit the ultra-poor

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- Constitutional amendment for curbing PM's powers
- Jury system in lower judiciary
- Judicial commission for reforming the justice system
- Independent commission for local govt bodies

"People's recent experience made them realise that the prime minister's monolithic executive authority has created an authoritarian government with a parliamentary facade."

Difficult, but not impossible

Khaleda on implementation of BNP's 'Vision 2030' focusing on future course of action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday unveiled "Vision 2030", a set of proposals she said her party would implement if voted to power in the next national polls, for transforming Bangladesh into a "democratic and high middle-income" country.

If "Vision 2030", made up of 256 proposals, is implemented, the country's per capita income will rise to \$5,000 from current \$1,466, and it will achieve a double-digit annual growth rate by 2030, according to the BNP.

Addressing a press conference in the capital, Khaleda said, "The BNP will implement it [Vision 2030] by forming the gov-

ernment through a victory in the next parliamentary polls to be held under a neutral administration."

The next general election is expected to be held in January 2019. The BNP has to win the parliamentary elections for three consecutive times to execute the vision.

Besides, the constitution has to be amended for implementing many of the proposals. Two-thirds majority in the House is needed for amending the constitution.

The BNP's proposals include the ones for curbing the prime minister's "monolithic" powers, examining a plan to introduce upper chamber of parliament, restoring the referendum system and reviewing

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A couple make their selection from the festive breads on sale at Ananda Bakery in Old Dhaka yesterday ahead of holy Shab-e-Barat. Assorted breads and halwas are traditionally made at home on the night of Shab-e-Barat and shared with friends, families and neighbours. A growing number of people are also shopping at the bakeries and confectioners of Chawk Bazar and Lalbagh specialising in different types of decorative breads. Shab-e-Barat, a night in mid-shaban, is considered the night when Allah writes the fates of the people.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Vision 2030 is nothing but a joke

Says AL

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The "Vision 2030" unveiled by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was nothing but "a joke and an attempt to deceive the nation", Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the AL president's Dhanmondi office, he alleged that the BNP stole the idea from the AL's "Vision 2021".

AL President Sheikh Hasina had presented "Vision 2021" to the nation before the 2008 national election.

"The Vision 2030 is a colourful balloon which would burst soon," said Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister.

"Violation of other's copyright is a moral crime. It's a kind of political dishonesty. The BNP can

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VAT rate may be cut to flat 12pc

Govt likely to amend new VAT law amid demands from businesses

REJAUAR KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

The government is likely to set a flat 12 percent VAT rate by amending the new VAT law in the face of demands from various quarters, according to finance ministry officials.

Businesses have been reasoning that the proposal of a uniform 15 percent VAT would be too high for consumers.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith is likely to unveil the rate when he proposes the budget for the fiscal 2017-18.

"You can say [it is a] revision in the law. Because I have already said that attempts will be made to give some relief," he told journalists yesterday after inaugurating the VAT Online Mobile Help Desk in front of the National Board of Revenue headquarters.

However, the finance minister did not specify what the new VAT rate would be.

Muhith softened his stance on the new VAT rate after a heated debate between him and members of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) over the issue at a meeting last month.

Following the development, steps were taken to cut the 15 percent VAT rate. A proposal for amending the VAT law might be placed in the cabinet soon, said insiders.

At a discussion on May 2, Muhith said, "We will give you a more comfortable rate."



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BANANI RAPE

Victim hands cops 'piece of evidence'

RAFIUL ISLAM

She neither wore nor washed the dress since she was allegedly raped on March 28.

"Thinking that the gown she was wearing that night could be evidence helping her get justice, she handed it over to Banani Police Station after filing a case on May 6, over a month after the incident.

The dress belongs to one of the two private university students who were allegedly raped at an upscale hotel in the capital's Banani.

"Wearing the gown would have been impossible because it could bring back the horrors of that night. This might now be important evidence in the case," one of the girls told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court is scheduled to hear today a police appeal seeking permission for conducting forensic tests on the dress.

Forensic experts say it is difficult to get evidence of rape from the body of a victim a month after the crime but extracting evidence from a dress is easier.

"Semen or any tissue of a rapist remaining on a victim's clothes can easily be

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A simple call can save you

Nat'l help desk responds to emergency needs

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

When Valentine's Day was being celebrated across the world with romantic fervour and enthusiasm on February 14, Tasnima (not her real name) ended up being tortured by none other than her husband.

Such physical abuse was not new to her. She had frequently been through that trauma. But that day, her husband dumbfounded her by locking her and their two kids in a room.

Luckily, an idea came to her mind. She took her mobile phone, dialled 999 and sought help.

Minutes later, police arrived at the house in Uttara's Sector-7 and freed them.

"It's like help is at my fingertips. I didn't know getting help was that easy," said Tasnima.

Sabirur Rahman Shovon had a similar experience. Around midnight of February 22, he learnt that gas was leaking from a nearby house in Tikatuli.

Without wasting any time, he too called up the toll-free number. Sometime later, officials from the Titas Gas



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Shab-e-Barat tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed in the country tonight with due religious fervour.

Muslim devotees will offer special prayers, recite from the holy Quran, hold milad, zikr and perform other religious rituals throughout the night, seeking divine blessings for the wellbeing of mankind.

They will also visit the graves of their relatives and Muslim saints and distribute

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, we will continue to serve the readers through our website.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Litchis, one of the much-awaited summer fruits, are here. Although the juicy fruit starts ripening towards the end of May and early June, these litchis from Pabna's Ishwardi have arrived a bit early in the city and buyers are paying a premium price. A hundred litchis were sold for Tk 300 at Gulistan yesterday.

Professor Dr M Alimullah Miyan expired on 10 May 2017



WE DEEPLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DEDICATION AND FLAWLESS SERVICE THAT HELPED IUBAT UNIVERSITY TO ACHIEVE ITS TODAY'S STATURE

WE DEEPLY MOURN

Loss of Pioneer of Non-Government Universities of Bangladesh and Founder Vice-Chancellor of IUBAT University

Namaz-e-Janaza will take place at Dhaka University Mosque after Zuhr Prayers and at IUBAT University premises after Asr Prayers on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

The Members of the IUBAT Community will mourn the death of Prof Miyan throughout May 11, 2017.

IUBAT Community and Family Members

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