



## FOR NORMALCY IN KASHMIR

Kashmiris must be made to feel that Delhi really cares about their demands

PAGE 6

## XI DECREES PROTECTIONISM

Touting Silk Route, Chinese leader positions Beijing as a champion of globalisation

PAGE 8

# Eye lenses get cheaper

### Govt fixes prices to stop hospitals from overcharging patients

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Less than a month after fixing the prices of heart stents, the drug administration has set the prices of eye lenses which need to be surgically implanted in patients with poor vision.

With the new rates, prices of most lenses would halve. In some cases, prices might decline even more than that.

The move would likely end the demand-as-you-wish prices for lenses and prevent patients from getting short changed. It would also make lenses more affordable.

The lowest price of Tk 1,225.70 has been fixed for US-made Epoch Intraocular Lens. Earlier, its lowest price was between Tk 2,000 and Tk 2,500.

The highest price for an US-made single piece AcrySof ReStor Multifocal IOL has been fixed at Tk 58,000. Those used to be sold between Tk 62,000 and 65,000.

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has fixed the prices of 15 types of lenses of four importers earlier this month.

"We have fixed the prices of lenses and sent copies of the price list to public and private hospitals directing them to strictly follow the price list and hang the list in a place so that the patients can see and choose on their own," Ruhul Amin, director of the DGDA, told The Daily Star.

Amin said the fixing of prices would remove confusion over pricing and patients would not be cheated as the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A row of eye-catching bonsai Ficus (Bot) trees planted along a 6km stretch from Zia Colony to Shahjalal International Airport intersection in the capital. Advertising firm Vinyl World Group, hired by The Roads and Highways Department, is planting 500 bonsais imported from China and Taiwan. The beautification of the road is part of a Tk 90-crore project likely to be completed by July.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## CANTONMENT AREA Lawbreakers to face stricter punishment

### Tk 20,000 fine for begging, gambling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday gave the final approval to the draft of "The Cantonments Act-2017" that proposed increasing the fines and punishments manifold for violating the law.

The draft was prepared bringing changes to the existing Cantonments Act-1924 to keep up with the times, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting at the Secretariat.

He said fines for 43 offences, including violation of traffic law, begging, continuing the construction of a building beyond the deadline, carrying arms and exploding firecrackers in the Cantonment Board areas, were increased substantially in the draft law as the amounts of the fines in the 93-year-old law were very small.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## RULES FOR JUDGES SC annoyed, gives govt 2 more weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday again expressed annoyance at the government for seeking more time to issue a gazette notification on the disciplinary and conduct rules for lower court judges.

The apex court said the attorney general had earlier submitted petitions for one

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## BANANI RAPE ACCUSED

# Shafat's bodyguard, driver arrested

### CIID summons owners of Apan Jewellers, Raintree Hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more accused in the Banani double rape case were arrested in two places of the capital yesterday evening.

They are Billal Hossain, driver of the

prime suspect Ahmed Shafat, and Rahmat Ali, bodyguard of Shafat.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Billal raiding a hotel in Wari's Nawabpur area around 6:00pm while Detective Branch of

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Anowara Begum harvesting mint leaves from a tiny garden at her home in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila recently. The mint harvest helps her meet the family's daily expenses.

PHOTO: STAR

# Mint and herbs help bring solvency

### Lalmonirhat woman ends family's poverty

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

The parcel of land required for a cottage garden may be small, but as enterprising Lalmonirhat villager Anowara Begum, 44, from Karnapur village in Sadar upazila has discovered, the reward for growing herbs and vegetables in such a plot can be large.

"I harvest at least 10 kilograms of mint weekly," she says "It sells for Tk 200 per kilogram in the field." The family has only 16 decimals at their disposal, with four taken up by their house and mint growing on a further five.

Anowara's twenty papaya trees on three decimals net annual earnings of around Tk 25,000. On another three decimals she

grows seasonal vegetables including spinach, red amaranth which in Bangladesh is called lal shak, tomatoes, brinjals and chillies. "After fulfilling my family's requirements I sell the rest," she says.

The last decimal is dedicated to herbs: air plant which is locally known as patharkuchi, pandan leaf which is alternately called pulao pata or ketaki in Bangladesh, and Italian coriander. "From the herbs I earn about Tk 3,000 per month," she says. With the profits from her small garden, Anowara covers her family's daily expenses independently of the small business her husband Ruhul Amin runs in the village.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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