



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



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PAGE 9

NO FIRST LADY FOR FRANCE!

Almost 200,000 people signed petition against the wife of Emmanuel Macron

PAGE 8

GOVT CRITICAL

Senior ministers disagree with SC on restoration of Supreme Judicial Council

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Some senior ministers yesterday expressed strong disagreement with the Supreme Court over the restoration of Supreme Judicial Council for removal of SC judges on grounds of gross misconduct or incapacity.

The SC in the full verdict in 16th constitutional amendment case said the provision of SJC has been reinstated following the cancellation of that amendment, which had empowered parliament to remove SC judges.

More than a dozen ministers, speaking at the weekly cabinet meeting, said the SJC cannot be restored automatically in any circumstances. They said parliament has to amend the constitution if the SJC is needed to be brought back, meeting sources said.

The Jatiya Sangsad in September 2014 passed 16th amendment abolishing the decades-old chief justice-led SJC.

The amendment was challenged with the High Court in November 2014. In May last year, the HC declared the amendment unconstitutional and void as it found the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A felled tree and a pile of branches lie near the office building of Rajabarihat Dairy and Cattle Development Farm in Rajshahi's Godagari on August 3. The state-run farm auctioned 731 dead and fallen trees in April. However, labourers hired by a local Sramik League leader, the "bid winner", have illegally chopped down around 1,800 trees, including babla, eucalyptus, sisu and Koro, that belonged to the farm.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

Dead trees on auction LIVE TREES PLUNDERED

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A Krishak League leader is felling hundreds of trees in Rajabarihat Dairy and Cattle Development Farm in Rajshahi taking advantage of the sale of dead and fallen trees at the state-run farm.

The pro-ruling party farmers' leader, allegedly with help of the farm manager, secured his bid for 731 dead and fallen trees for Tk 9 lakh. He had paid other bidders to back off to "win" the auction.

Instead of taking the marked dead and fallen trees from the 94-acre farm, he has been chopping down other trees in their hundreds.

So much so that on July 31, a person filed a complaint with Godagari upazila nirbahi officer that the state had lost Tk 50 lakh due to the illegal felling of over 500 live trees in the last three months.

Some of the 92 staffers of the farm claimed that the number of illegally felled trees was around 1,800 and of babla (thorn mimosa), eucalyptus, sisu, koro (frywood), and pakur (Indian tulip tree) varieties.

All of them requesting not to be named

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

POWER TO REMOVE SC JUDGES Govt arguments fallacious: SC

SHAKHAWAT LITON

If the parliament can impeach and remove the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker then why can't it remove Supreme Court judges? This is one of the main arguments the government and MPs have been making since 2014 to justify the 16th constitutional amendment. But the argument is based on false notion and premises, according to the SC verdict on the 16th amendment case.

The SC found no legal basis in support of the above argument and rejected the argument by terming it as "absolutely fallacious", "populistic and easy consumptive arguments."

The apex court said the President, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are elected by MPs. And the person who enjoys the support of the majority in parliament is appointed as the prime minister. That's why it is very natural that they remain answerable or accountable to the parliament. The constitution provides for their impeachment or removal by MPs.

But the SC judges are not elected by MPs and they are not even appointed by the parliament. In the present constitutional scheme, MPs have no say in any manner in the appointments of SC judges. They are appointed by the president, said the verdict.

It also said there are also fundamental differences between the duties of the office of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and those of the SC judges.

The president and the prime minister are the executives and they do not adjudicate any dispute between the government and the citizens, between the citizens and the citizens

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Recognition for hilsa



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Jamdani sari, hilsa gets recognition of geographical indication (GI) product of Bangladesh.

With this recognition, hilsa, national fish of Bangladesh, would be registered internationally as a fish of Bangladesh.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

Sanowar Hossain, registrar of Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT), said they completed all procedures to register hilsa as a GI product of Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Tear gas shell fired directly at Siddiquir

Finds a DMP probe, says a constable mainly responsible, blames other policemen for neglect of duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A constable fired a tear gas shell at Titumir College student Siddiquir Rahman damaging his eyes, a committee probing the police action has found.

Several other policemen, including officers concerned of Shahbagh Police Station, were also negligent in their duties, found the probe report submitted by the committee yesterday.

The constable from Public Order Management of police fired the shell "intentionally or unintentionally" pointing at the crowd instead of pointing 45 degrees upwards as per the rule, said a police officer close to the investigation team.

Police officers, including the ones from Shahbagh Police Station, were held responsible for not briefing the subordinates properly, the officer added.

Police earlier said Siddiquir might have got the eye injuries by being hit by a flower vase or brickbats.

The claim sparked a huge outcry on social media as a video footage showed a policeman shooting a teargas canister directly at agitating students, leaving Siddiquir on the ground.

Mir Rezaul Alam, joint commissioner (Operations) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, who headed the three-member probe committee, submitted the report to the office of DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia yesterday.

Asked about the findings, he said he was not entitled to talk about it and added that the commissioner may talk to the media.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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