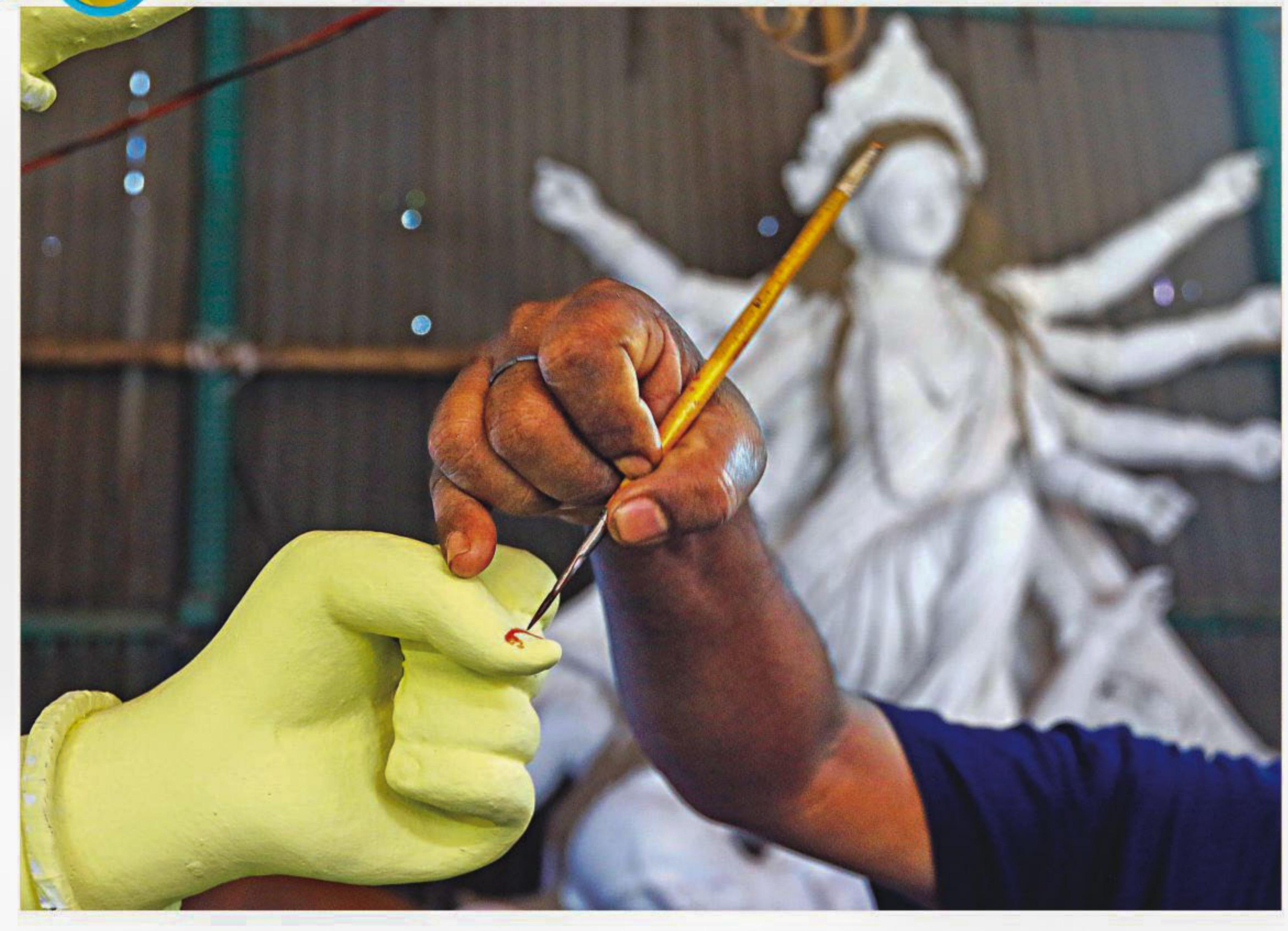




PHOTO OF THE DAY



INTRICATE ARTISTRY... Artisan painting an idol of Goddess Durga at a workshop in Bangla Bazar yesterday. With Durga Puja only a few weeks away, artisans around the country are busy giving finishing touches to the idols. Related story on page 5.

ABUSE OF BANGLADESHI DOMESTIC WORKERS

Saudi vice minister assures of prompt action

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has assured of prompt actions against the employers who abuse Bangladeshi female domestic workers.

The assurance came from KSA's Labour and Social Development Vice Minister Dr Abdullah bin Nasser Abu Thunian when Bangladesh's Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad held a meeting with him in the kingdom yesterday.

When Imran Ahmad raised the issue of safety and rights of Bangladeshi female domestic workers in KSA, the Saudi vice minister said prompt actions will be taken if there are complaints of any "negative incident", according to a press statement of Bangladesh's expatriates' welfare ministry.

Imran Ahmad is leading a Bangladesh delegation to KSA and holding meeting with Saudi authorities. He reached there on September 16 and is scheduled to return tomorrow.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'No more hide-and-seek in Biman'

New CEO promises transparency in nat'l carrier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Biman Bangladesh Airlines will ensure transparency in all its activities from now on, and there will be no "hide and seek" in the national carrier, newly-appointed managing director and chief executive officer Mokabbir Hossain said yesterday. Mokabbir, additional secretary to civil aviation and tourism ministry, was appointed the MD and CEO of Biman on September 12.

Speaking at a press conference at Biman's Balaka Bhaban headquarter, Mokabbir also said his first challenge will be to take the national airliner forward fulfilling its objectives.

"I have no personal agenda in Biman. I will try my best so that Biman can make profits, ensuring safety of passengers, maintaining schedule and improving service quality," the new Biman

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Set up ETPs in three months or face action

HC directs owners of 7 factories, in bid to save Buriganga from pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed owners of seven textile and dyeing factories to establish separate effluent treatment plants (ETPs) in next three months in order to stop dumping of waste into the Buriganga and save the river from pollution.

If the companies -- situated in Kadamtali and Shyampur areas on the bank of the river -- do not set up ETPs in three months, authorities concerned will be ordered to stop their activities, the HC said while hearing separate writ petitions filed by the owners.

The factories are Mita Textiles, M/S Ovijat Dyeing, Chandpur Textiles and Dyeing, Shahjoli Dyeing, M/S Vorasha Dyeing, Lamia Textile and Dyeing and Shamim Textile and Dyeing.

The court, however, asked the government to immediately restore electricity connections of the factories so that they can run their activities.

The connections were snapped following September 11 notices sent to the factories by the ministry of forest and environment, asking them to stop their operations as they have not set up ETPs and were dumping waste into the river.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Khairul Alam gave the order after hearing arguments on the petitions, filed challenging legality of the government notices.

The court also issued separate rules asking authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why the notices should not be declared illegal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Surrounded by wood apples, the vendor takes a nap during the slow hours of the day at Karwan Bazar wholesale market. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

PALASH KHAN

» DSCC planning 5yr anti-mosquito project

Had primary discussion with Singapore authority for cooperation, says Sayeed Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday said they have already taken initiatives for a five-year long project proposal to control Aedes mosquito.

"With the project, we are going to bring Aedes mosquito population in DSCC area under control, and as part of the project we want to form a department called Communicable Disease Control and Research," said the mayor while sharing his experiences of a visit to Singapore last week, to gather knowledge on keeping Aedes mosquitoes in check.

"Our five-year project and working plan will be implemented through this department," the mayor said.

For implementation, they contacted the Singapore government and visited the country recently, he said.

"We have already had primary discussion with Environmental Health Institute of Singapore to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the visit to exchange information on dengue, using technology, technical support and training," he added.

A permanent relationship will be formed between the two countries on dengue issues through signing the MoU, he said.

The mayor, at the press conference, also blamed Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) for not providing necessary information to DSCC.

He said though they repeatedly asked DGHS to provide them area-based information of dengue patients, they are not receiving it.

Khokon said they would be able to take necessary steps at the particular places if they get the list from DGHS.

Chief Health Officer of DSCC Brig Gen Sharif Ahmed said to keep dengue in check, the Singapore government takes steps throughout the year.

Their measures include field-level data collection and research; updating information on website and mobile apps; national-level taskforce for dengue control; private, public sectors and people working together; community engagement; regular vector control; personal responsibility and protection; and strict legal action.

He said in Singapore, 11,000 dengue patients were identified this year, of whom 15 died of the disease.

Main causes of high number of dengue cases this year in Singapore are: huge number of Aedes mosquitoes, high temperature, presence of high quantity of larvae in houses and weak resistance among population, Sharif said.

He said the Singapore authorities visit door to door and destroy the breeding sources of larvae, alert people and engage volunteers.

They also encourage and enhance people's engagement and involve taskforce at field-level to keep the Aedes mosquito

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DHAKA TODAY

Venue: ICCB
Time: 10am

ACADEMIC SESSION

On Statement of Purpose and Letter of Recommendation
Organiser: Education USA
Bangladesh

Venue: American Center, Baridhara
Time: 9am

CONFERENCE

Sustainable Development Goals and Bangladesh

Organiser: Foreign Affairs

Ministry and The United Nations, Bangladesh

Venue: BICC, Agargaon

Time: 9am

EXPOSITION

Bangladesh International Maritime and Offshore Expo

Organiser: Savor International Limited (Bangladesh) and

Fireworks Trade Media Pte Ltd

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Rabindra Ecstasy
Venue: Satori Mediations, Banani
Time: 8:30pm

It is edited by noted economist Prof Abul Barkat. Speaking about the book, Prof Barkat said lands of ethnic minority communities are being forcibly grabbed by powerful and influential people across the country. They also occupy government khas lands or take lease using their power.

"It has to be stopped if we want to ensure land rights for all," he added.

Ainoon Naher, a professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University, said there are several gaps in the existing land laws and policies which have to be amended as soon as possible to protect the rights of the disadvantaged.

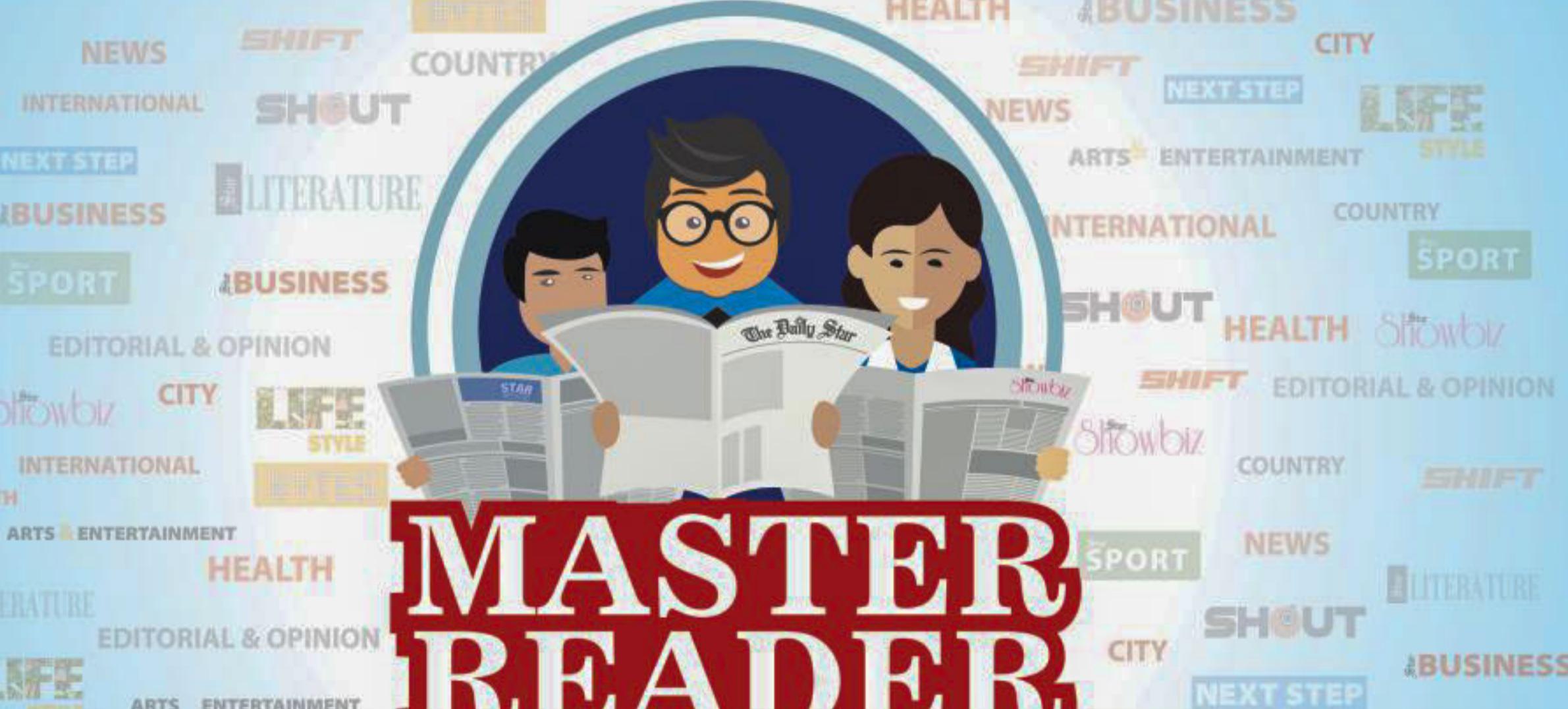
"People are owners of land, not the state. The government is only taking care of these, which is its responsibility," she added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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