

Study reveals  
Legal systems  
among the  
most corrupt  
institutions

STAR REPORT

An independent study on institutional corruption has revealed that legal systems are among the most corrupt institutions in the country, a finding similar to the one by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Dr Kaniz Siddique, a researcher who conducted a field survey with the support of the Programme for Research on Poverty Alleviation (PRPA) of the Grameen Trust, found that Land Administration offices are the most corrupt ones followed by legal systems, healthcare offices, police, state-owned banks, Union Parishad offices and educational offices. At the end of trail are TNO offices, agricultural offices, electricity supply authorities, trade licence offices, taxation offices and public health ones.

While carrying out the study at  
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Prof Yunus  
awarded  
Rathindra  
Puraskar

PTI, Santiniketan

Professor Mohammed Yunus an international celebrity in the field of rural development has been awarded 'Rathindra Puraskar,' instituted after the name of Rabindranath Tagore's son by Visva Bharati in recognition of his achievements.

Yunus, the mainstay behind the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, whose micro-credit experiment proved to be the most effective means of poverty alleviation in a Third World country, thanked the university authorities for the honour.

He spoke on his experience in setting up the rural bank system in Bangladesh.

Yunus was awarded on Saturday.

2 alleged dacoits  
beaten up  
in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged dacoits were beaten up by a mob near Elysium building at Tikatuli in the city yesterday.

Local people said the gang was preparing to commit a dacoity in the area. They caught hold of two of the gang and beat them up mercilessly.

The alleged dacoits, Mohammad Ali and Badal, were handed over to police who sent them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers *munajat* after opening the Second Buriganga Bridge at Babu Bazar in the city yesterday.

Second Buriganga Bridge opens to traffic

Vote for 'Boat' to resist corrupt, communal forces: Hasina

UNB, Keraniganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to vote for Awami League in the upcoming election to prevent the return of corrupt, vote-thief and anti-liberation forces to power.

"You vote for Boat in the coming election, we'll give economic freedom as we gave independence after winning the 1970 election and food autarky winning 1996 election," she told a public meeting at Aganagar in Keraniganj after inaugurating the 2nd Buriganga Bridge.

Earlier, the prime minister formally opened the bridge over the river Buriganga to traffic.

Seen as a milestone in road communications, the bridge connected Babu Bazar in Old City with Ginjira in Keraniganj. Through link road it will also connect Keraniganj and Dohar Road on the west with Dhaka-Mawa-Khulna highway on the east.

Taka 148.61 crore bridge, named "Muktijoddha

Smriti Bridge, will ease communication hurdles between the capital and four upazilas of southern Dhaka.

"It is a happy day for the people in Keraniganj and old part of Dhaka as their long cherished expectation was fulfilled," said the prime minister while unveiling the plaque of the bridge at Nayabazar end of the bridge.

The 1479-meter-long and 17.60-meter wide bridge with four lanes will allow heavy vehicles after two months.

The Engineers Limited, a local construction firm, has built the bridge that includes flyovers at both ends.

Hasina said the opposition leader failed to run the country while in power and again failed in movement while in the opposition as people did not respond to her call.

"People no longer want to see a failed and corrupt leadership in power," she told the cheering crowd shout  
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Haris fell prey to police,  
failed to say his prayers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen-year old Haris Khan was learning how to say his prayers in mosque. Just before the Fazr (early morning) prayers on Wednesday, Haris took his bicycle from his sister's house near Champakali cinema hall adjacent to Tongi bazaar and set out for a local mosque to say the Fazr prayers.

As soon as the frail looking boy arrived near the Anarkali cinema hall, only a hundred yards from the Tongi police station, ASI Shah Alam and SI Abdus Sattar along with some constables pounced on Haris.

They beat him up badly on the charge that he had committed an act of mugging. Then they boarded him and the bicycle onto the police van and took him to the Tongi police station. There they bashed the boy mercilessly.



Haris Khan

Before Haris succumbed to his injuries on Thursday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), he narrated to his mother how he was tortured. According to Haris' father Zahiruddin Khan, a timber trader in the area, Haris told his mother Arzina Begum that the policemen tied his arms together and used bamboo over his hands  
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One killed, 50  
hurt  
as nor'wester  
hits Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

One person was killed and 50 others were injured as nor'wester lashed eight upazilas of Sirajganj district yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Abdur Rahman, 48, of village Gala in Shahjadpur upazila, was struck by lightning while harvesting paddy. He died on the spot.

The affected upazilas are Shahjadpur, Ullapara, Chowhali, Belkuchi, Tarash, Kamarkhand and Sirajganj Sadar upazilas.

The storm caused damages to about 800 kutcha houses, educational institutions, standing crops and green mangoes. Many trees and electric poles were uprooted.

Of the injured, ten were admitted to Shahjadpur and Chowhali health complexes.

EC to look into complaints  
against voter list

Meeting with field-level officials tomorrow

NAZRUL ISLAM

Against the backdrop of complaints from different quarters about "abnormal rise" of voters in the fresh list, the Election Commission (EC) is likely to sit with its field level officials tomorrow to re-examine the list and investigate some of the complaints.

The Commission will also focus on the crucial issue of setting up of new polling stations to accommodate some 1.5 crore new voters.

EC officials from division and district and thana levels will attend the meeting at the National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium to discuss the two issues and their preparatory work for the coming parliamentary polls.

Different political parties, particularly those in the opposition, have termed the increase "abnormal" at difference places. They alleged that the recently completed voter list was "flooded with non-existing voters".

The EC has received a number of complaints from political parties in this regard.

But, the EC claims the increase is "logical".

According to the latest list, the number of voters in the country is 7.48 crore now, which was 5.70 crore in 1995 and 6.19 crore in 1990.

"This time the voter list has been prepared with much care than in the past," said an official dealing with voter enrolment.

The EC had once again extended the time limit for voter list printing to May 20 as lists of two or three districts were yet to be completed. District election officials have already displayed the lists at district headquarters. The lists are open for members of public.

In a recent meeting, the EC directed its officials to keep good stock of forms to expedite correction of the  
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Ershad's JS seat  
Hight Court starts  
delivering  
judgement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Division Bench of the High Court yesterday started delivering its judgement on cancellation of membership of Parliament of Jatiya Party chief and former President HM Ershad.

Ershad challenged the Parliament Secretariat decision cancelling his membership following his conviction in the Janata Tower Case last year.

The Division Bench comprising Justice Zainal Abedin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq started delivering the verdict yesterday morning. But it remained incomplete when the court rose. Delivery of the verdict will continue today.

BNP to back EC move  
for 'flawless' election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will extend all-out support to the Election Commission (EC) if it moves to make the upcoming general election flawless and free from rigging, manipulation and violence.

Sources said BNP has already made a series of recommendations to the EC for holding the polls in a free, fair and neutral manner. It also decided to continue putting pressure on the EC to bring about necessary reforms, particularly those related to the Representatives of People's Order.

They said BNP will accept the polls result provided the election was held in a free and fair atmosphere and all voters were able to cast their votes. "We will accept it if Awami  
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Jayalalitha takes  
charge of  
anti-corruption  
portfolio

AFP, Madras

India's southern Tamil Nadu chief minister, Jayaram Jayalalitha, who recently stormed to power despite a criminal record, took charge of the state's anti-corruption portfolio on Saturday.

Actress-turned politician Jayalalitha also took control of the home affairs and general administration of police portfolios.

She added 19 ministers to her state cabinet, taking the total number to 25, including herself.

The former actress was convicted on charges relating to her 1991-1996 tenure as Tamil Nadu chief minister.

In February 2000, she was sentenced to one year's hard labour but only served two months in jail.

The conviction had disqualified her from contesting the provincial elections held in Tamil Nadu and other states on May 10.

According to the Indian con  
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Brief shower  
brings relief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A brief shower last night was a welcome relief for the city dwellers suffering from unbearable heat compounded by frequent power disruption throughout the day.

Amidst sultry weather with temperatures reaching up to 35 degree Celsius as recorded by the meteorological office, almost all city areas experienced frequent power disruption yesterday.

The control room of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) claimed a 'very minor' loadshedding of 20 to 35 MW per day in the last few days in the capital. They said the amount of loadshedding in May  
t h i s   y e a r   i s  
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IU reels under loans,  
uses dev funds for  
teachers' salaries

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Islamic University (IU) faces acute fund crisis to run its academic, administrative and developmental sectors.

The situation has forced the IU authorities not only to take loans from the banks, but to suspend a number of development projects as well, since the funds for the projects have already been used for the salaries of teachers and employees.

The authorities have already floated tenders to lease out the land of university for producing bananas with a view to earning money. Apart from this, they are selling valuable trees of the campus for the same purpose.

According to the university officials, former IU Vice-chancellor Professor Kayes Uddin appointed 86 teachers, 32 officials and 116 employees in various departments and sections without prior approval of the University Grant  
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Banglar Shikha still  
detained at S'pore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A feeder vessel of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) is detained at Singapore port for over two weeks, causing a dislocation in feeder service in Chittagong-Singapore route, sources concerned said.

Besides, BSC is incurring business and operational losses due to detention of the national flag carrier container vessel Banglar Shikha.

The ship was detained at Singapore port on May 6 following an admiralty suit filed with a Singapore court.

A Bangladeshi consignee filed the admiralty suit demanding settlement of a claim against damage of cargo, BSC sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, Managing Director of BSC Zulfikar Haider Chowdhury, said "We have taken a hectic move for release of the detained feeder vessel from Singapore port, through a bank guarantee in a bid to avert  
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Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো

Tipu Treatment Fund

Donate generously to this Fund  
Save Tipu from Disability

Send donations to: Savings Account No. 25002111  
Dhaka Bank Ltd, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka