

## 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 Tiktatul 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 some constables pounced on Haris.

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 Gajra 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's 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.

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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.

SHARIER KHAN

The Energy Ministry will place to the Cabinet Purchase Committee tomorrow a proposal of Japanese company Marubeni for setting up of the 450 MW Meghnaghat second phase power plant despite the Power Cell's observations that the proposal has "serious loopholes".

Besides, the proposal grossly violates the initial understanding Marubeni had with the government that the second phase plant would be built as per the terms and conditions and power tariff fixed for the first phase plant being built by US company AES.

Experts say this deviation will deprive the country of about 35 million US dollars worth of benefits, available from the first phase plant.

A political lobby with the help of

some government officials is pushing the Marubeni proposal, sources concerned said.

The Marubeni proposal is also getting strong support from some high officials of the Power Development Board, who argue that it is not only profitable for Bangladesh but also much better than the contract with AES.

"During negotiations with AES, we lacked experience and did not understand many loopholes in the contract we signed," said a PDB official requesting anonymity. "The contract with Marubeni will not have such loopholes."

However, the Power Cell of Energy Ministry contradicts this view.

Since losing the original bid for the Meghnaghat first phase plant in 1997 to AES, Marubeni had been

strongly lobbying for the second phase plant.

In 1998, it proposed to the government that it would develop the second phase plant as per terms and conditions for the first phase plant.

Accordingly, the Cabinet Purchase Committee gave a green signal to PDB to go for the second phase plant with Marubeni if the company sticks to its proposal.

Marubeni began unsolicited negotiations on the project in October last year. But instead of providing free electricity worth 35 million dollars during the Initial Operating Period (IOP) of the plant in line with the AES contract,

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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 this year is

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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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## Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star- অসমানো

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

## 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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**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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