

At FedEx, we believe that differentiating your company from the competition is the best way to facilitate growth. With the leading range of services, worldwide delivery options, we are committed to providing you with the best shipping experience possible. From the moment we accept your call to the moment we deliver to your doorstep. To see how FedEx will work behind the scenes to help your company grow, visit [www.fedex.com](http://www.fedex.com) or call 855.51.51.51

Don't miss the rhythm of life. Bring home the theatre experience.

**FREE**

\*Buy Philips LCD TV and get Philips Home Theatre System or Split Unit Air-Con FREE!

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

**Resist 'managed' election**  
Dr Kamal urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called for resisting any 'managed election' in the country.

Criticising the practice of huge election expenditure by the black-money holders, the eminent jurist expressed doubt if a fair election can take place in these circumstances.

"One to five crore taka is spent in the national election [by the black-money holders] and if this culture continues, then how can the people become the owner of the state," Dr Kamal posed question asking the people to be careful so that any engineered election cannot take place.

The Gono Forum president said this at a view exchange meeting with lawyers at his Bailey Road residence in the city.

Dr Kamal also urged all to remain alert so that any 'godfather' or evil elements staying abroad

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**Shortage of HC judges delays case disposal**

No new judges appointed in 4 yrs

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court (HC) has been experiencing a shortage of judges, as no new judge has been appointed to that division of the Supreme Court (SC) for about four years, while during the same period 11 judges either retired or were promoted to the Appellate Division.

Legal experts said the number of pending cases in the HC has been rising exponentially due to the shortage of judges, causing undue sufferings for litigants.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) leaders however said they requested new Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin to take steps for appointing more judges to the HC for quick adjudication of

the pending cases.

Outgoing Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin retired on May 31 and Justice MM Ruhul Amin took over the office on June 1. A judge from the HC Division is expected to be promoted to the Appellate Division to fill up the vacancy created by the outgoing chief justice's retirement and Justice MM Ruhul Amin's promotion.

SCBA President Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said a good number of cases have been pending in both the Appellate and HC divisions.

"We met the new chief justice after he took over the office and requested him to take steps to appoint competent, experienced, and honest persons as judges to the Supreme Court," he said.

The chief justice also assured them of looking into the matter, he added.

Among the Appellate Division judges, Justice Md Hassan Ameen will retire on July 3, 2008, Justice MM Ruhul Amin will retire on December 23, 2009, Justice Md Joydul Abedin on January 1, 2010, Justice Md Tafazzal Islam on February 8, 2010, Justice Md Abdul Matin on February 26, 2010, and Justice Mohammad Fazul Karim will retire on September 30, 2010.

The last time, 19 additional judges were appointed to the HC, was on August 23, 2004, bringing up the number of HC judges to 72, which now has dropped to 61, while in the Appellate Division following Chief Justice Md Ruhul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**BIBERY**  
Ex-BRTC boss Taimur jailed for 14 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced detained former Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) chairman Taimur Alam Khondaker to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in two separate bribery cases.

Judge Khandaker Kamal Uz-Zaman of Special Court-9, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, awarded Taimur seven years' RI each in the two cases for taking bribe during his tenure as the BRTC chief.

The court also fined Taimur Tk 50 lakh in the two cases, in default of which he has to suffer two years more in prison.

Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Golam Mostafa filed the two cases with Paltan Police Station on August 14 last year.

According to the case statement, Taimur received Tk 25 lakh in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Bangladesh batsman Rokibul Hasan whacks one through the covers on way to scoring a well-composed 89 against India in the Kitply Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

**ARREST DRIVE**  
1,591 more picked up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces held 1,591 more people, including 115 in the capital, in the last 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday in the ongoing special drives across the country.

With the fresh arrests the number of detainees stands at 24,862 in the special drives which began on May 28. The arrestees include grassroots level leaders and activists of different political parties.

Among the arrestees, 1,048 were detained on warrants while the rest were held on different charges including possessing illegal arms, said a press release of the police headquarters yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered 11 firearms, 10 bombs and 57 rounds of bullet during the drives.

Meanwhile, cases were filed against 1,713 vehicles for violating traffic rules in the capital while 55 motorcycles were seized across the country for not having legal documents.



Private garbage collectors dump trash at a road side in North Mughdapara in the capital which emit a stench. Locals allege Dhaka City Corporation does not collect garbage in the area regularly.

**Bangladesh bow out**  
Indo-Pak final tomorrow

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Bangladesh ended their Kitply Cup campaign when they crashed to a massive seven-wicket defeat at the hands of India in the final group league match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

Rokibul Hasan struck a fine 89 as Bangladesh recovered from a poor start to post a decent 222 before being all out in the final over. But the marauding Indians chased down the target with 14.5 overs remaining, thanks to a fine unbeaten 107 by Gautam Gambhir and a robust half-century by Virender Sehwag, his aggressive opening partner.

The victory set up a predictable India-Pakistan final billed for tomorrow at the same venue.

Although Bangladesh gave

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**EC Secretariat yet to get full autonomy**

It still operates under CA's office

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Secretariat of the Election Commission (EC) is yet to gain full financial and administrative autonomy as it is still being operated under the office of the chief adviser.

Three months ago, on March 9, President Iajuddin Ahmed promulgated an ordinance that paved the way for setting up an independent secretariat for the EC with the status of a division.

However, the cabinet division of the government has yet to complete the necessary amendment of rules of business that stands in the way of separating the EC secretariat from the prime minister's office

(PMO), now the office of the chief adviser, said sources at the EC.

Senior officials in the cabinet division however claimed that a few months ago they sent a draft proposal to amend the rules of business to the law ministry for vetting, but the law ministry is yet to complete their task and send the draft back to the cabinet division.

"Once the law ministry completes vetting the proposal, it will be sent to the president with the request of issuing an executive order to amend the rules of business," said a cabinet division senior official.

Commenting on the issue, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohel Hussain told

The Daily Star recently, "Of course, inconsistency still remains as the rules of business are not amended in line with the new law."

"The rules of business should have been amended alongside promulgation of the new law," he added.

The sources said the EC is annoyed at the delay and considering asking the government to expedite the process of amending the rules of business.

A senior official at the EC secretariat said the Election Commission is going to ask the government to repeal the provision of the rules of business [promulgated by the then president in 1996]

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Taiwan, China agree to exchange offices**

AP, Beijing

Taiwan and China agreed yesterday for the first time ever to set up permanent offices in each others' territories as the two sides met for their first formal talks in more than a decade, an official with one of the delegations said.

The agreement to set up the offices, which will coordinate continuing contacts, was reached during talks Thursday morning in Beijing, a spokeswoman for Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation said, speaking on routine condition of anonymity. She said a formal announcement would be made later.

The agreement came on the first

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Nepali Maoists move to form post-royal govt**

Ousted king asked to stay out of politics

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoists moved yesterday to dissolve the country's interim authority and form a new government, the day after the Himalayan nation's ousted king quit his Kathmandu palace.

Party officials said seven Maoists who hold portfolios in the interim government had tendered their resignations to pave the way for the creation of a new cabinet led by the ultra-leftists.

The country's current interim government was formed after a 2006 peace deal, but the Maoists say it has been superseded by their win in constitutional assembly elections in April.

It was the new Maoist-dominated assembly that voted May 28 to abolish the monarchy, and the former rebels say they should now form a new government.

The Maoists and the mainstream parties, however, are still at odds over power sharing -- notably who should be the country's first republican president and head of state.

"Our ministers have submitted their resignations... to put pressure on the government to end the ongoing political deadlock," a Maoist official, Barsha Man Pun, told AFP.

Another senior Maoist,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**PEACEKEEPING**  
120-strong police team leaves for Kosovo

UNB, Dhaka

A 120-member contingent of Bangladesh police left late Wednesday night for Kosovo by a UN chartered flight to join the UN peacekeeping mission in the civil war-torn Balkan country.

Police Superintendent M Khurshid Hossain is leading the team which is first Formed Police Unit (FPU) of Bangladesh police on Kosovo mission, said a release.

Senior police officials saw the peacekeepers off at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

At present, members of Bangladesh police are performing well in peacekeeping missions in different troubled corners of the world including Kosovo, Congo, East Timor, Ivory Coast and Sudan.



Eleven-year-old Rakib pushes a heavy air-compressor on Tongi Diversion Road at Moghbazar on the World Day Against Child Labour yesterday. Rakib gets Tk 300 a month for the job he does at a Karwan Bazar garage.

**CASE AGAINST HASINA**  
Next hearing on depositions on June 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday fixed June 18 for the next hearing of witness depositions in the Barge-mounted power plant graft case against former premier Sheikh Hasina and seven others.

Judge Firoz Alam of the Special Court-1, set up on the Sangsad Bhaban premises, passed the order after the High Court (HC) asked the court to submit records of the power plant case on Wednesday for examination.

The HC asked for the records after Hasina filed a petition for quashing the proceedings against her in this case.

Advocate Sahara Khatun represented the former prime minister, who left the country for treatment yesterday morning.

Cross-examination of six witnesses has so far been completed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**Prayer Timing**

June 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation