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Poor hard-hit
by bribes
globally

Observers TI
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The poor are burdened with more bribe demands than the rich amid global financial crisis and it appears as a double punishment to the poor, says Transparency International's (TI) Global Corruption Barometer 2009.

"Across the board, low-income respondents were more likely to be met with bribe demands than the high-income respondents," said the barometer prepared on the basis of responses of 73,000 individuals drawn from 69 countries.

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Govt launches
campaign on
daylight plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power, energy and mineral resources ministry yesterday launched a campaign to end all confusion about the daylight saving time (DST) scheme and make it a success.

It organised a views-exchange meeting with

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One killed,
3 hurt in
gun attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and three others sustained injuries in separate gun attacks in city's Gulshan, Badda and Rampura last night.

The injured were Mukter Hossain, 32, owner

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Govt to offer tax relief for banks

Tax on SIM to go down, mobile sets to rise

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to cut taxes on mobile SIM card and industrial raw materials and corporate tax rates of banks and financial institutions in the budget for the next fiscal year.

But it will increase taxes on cars, vehicles, cigarettes and mobile phone sets to collect additional revenue.

The government will not bring any change to the ceiling of individual tax rate, but it will conduct special drives in a good number of places in search of new taxpayers.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR)

has set the revenue collection target for the next fiscal year at Tk 61,000 crore, which is Tk 8,000 crore more than the probable target in the revised budget for the current fiscal year. The original target was Tk 54,500 crore.

It has been learnt that the supplementary duty is being increased for motor vehicles, the sector that became the second highest revenue earner in the last fiscal year with 9.42 percent revenue.

Based on the vehicles' cylinder capacity, the current supplementary duties are 20 percent, 60 percent, 100 percent, 250 percent and 350 percent. Sources said the duty for vehicles with lower and medium

cylinder capacity would be increased more.

The highest amount of Value Added Tax (VAT) collection comes from the sales of cigarette and bidi. Revenue earning from cigarette is 27.84 percent of the total VAT collection.

The tax on cigarette is imposed on the basis of prices fixed by the NBR. At present, 32 percent supplementary duty is there on cigarette that sells at Tk 6.50 to Tk 7.50 per packet of 10 sticks. The supplementary tax on cigarette priced at Tk 38 and above is 60 percent.

Sources said the prices of cigarettes

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Liakat supervised Ctg arms offloading

He checked in Ctg hotel as Abul Hossain; 2 sergeants led 10-truck ammo haul, identify the ex-NSI director

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Detained former NSI deputy director (DD) Maj (ret'd) Liakat supervised the offloading of the consignment of 10 truckloads of illegal arms and ammunition after boarding at Hotel Golden Inn in Chittagong using a fake name two days before the arms haul, CID sources said.

The hotel's register book showed that Abul

Hossain from Lalbagh in Dhaka boarded room No-512 at the hotel on March 30, 2004.

Sources said sergeants Alauddin and Helal Uddin, who helped seize the consignment, identified Liakat as the man who boarded the hotel introducing himself as Abul Hossain.

The sergeants were summoned to the Chittagong divisional headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

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PREMIER BANK Hasty withdrawal of BB observers raises question

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Tuesday abruptly withdrew its observer from Premier Bank, a day after the latter had rescinded the controversial appointments of its two consultants.

In the last two months the central bank appointed observers for Premier Bank twice, but just to withdraw them both the times, giving rise to questions in the banking sector.

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Carjacker gang leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested the ringleader of a carjacker's gang from a slum in the city's Tejgaon.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police arrested Babul alias 'Hatkata Babul', the chief of 'Babul Bahini' active in Agargaon, Mirpur and Gabtoli, from a slum at

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People in Aila-affected areas still wait in queues for drinking water after eight days of the cyclone. The photo was taken at Kurikawnia in Assanuri upazila of Satkhira yesterday.

Obama lands in ME to bin Laden threat

AFP, Riyadh

US President Barack Obama launched a Middle East mission yesterday to reach out to Muslims but was greeted by threats from Osama bin Laden who accused him of sowing fresh seeds of hatred.

Obama arrived in Riyadh to a red-carpet welcome and a kiss on both cheeks from Saudi King Abdullah, a key regional power broker who also serves as protector of the two holiest sites in Islam.

But minutes after Air Force One touched down, Al-Jazeera television aired a combative new audiotape from the fugitive Al-Qaeda chief.

Joining a battle for the hearts and minds of the Arab world, bin Laden accused Obama of perpetuating former president George W. Bush's policies of "antagonising Muslims."

"Obama and his administration have sowed

new seeds of hatred against America," said the Saudi-born bin Laden whose network carried out the September 11 attacks in 2001.

"Let the American people prepare to harvest the crops of what the leaders of the White House plant in the next years and decades."

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said that the administration had yet to fully analyse the bin Laden tape, but said Al-Qaeda was bent on an "effort to upstage" Obama's speech.

"I don't think it's surprising that Al-Qaeda would want to shift attention away from the president's historic efforts, and continued efforts to reach out and have an open dialogue with the Muslim world."

Obama and King Abdullah held talks at the monarch's sprawling farm outside Riyadh in the president's first foray into tricky personal diplomacy in the region, after a flurry of talks with Middle East leaders in Washington.

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Convicted Omar, Zahid get HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad-interim bail to former state minister for law Shahjahan Omar, former secretary general of Doctors Association of Bangladesh AZM Zahid Hossain and former forest officer Abu Hanif Patwary in separate corruption cases.

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Prayer Timing		
June 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll

HC has directed the govt to set up food courts in all districts and appoint inspectors to prevent food adulteration. Do you think the govt should set up special cells to crack down on food adulteration?

Yes (57.19%)
No (41.77%)
No Comments (1.04%)

Total votes: 577

TODAY'S POLL

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry made recommendations for banning 'unapproved books' in madrasas, including those written by Syed Abul Ala Moududi. Do you support?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net



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