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# Law Commission turns fruitless 13

*It fails to deliver for lack of political will*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Law Commission goes to complete 13 years today with its reconstituted body expecting to do something exceptional than its previous bodies, although it is facing some problems.

Sources said the commission had drafted as many as 86 recommendations till September last year since its establishment. But except for only three, all of its recommendations were brushed aside as those were believably not in favour of successive governments.

The commission, established on September 9 in 1996 for legal amendments, was earlier blamed for failing to modernise the laws and judicial system of the country. It happened mainly due to the lack of political will of subsequent governments, legal experts said.

Commission Chairman Justice MA Rashid, who was appointed on April 20 this year, has hoped that his office will be able to remove the

blames, since the government is sincere to make the commission active and important.

While talking to The Daily Star recently, he said despite some shortcomings, his office has been preparing a two-year work plan with a view to modernising the legal system and updating some old laws.

An official concerned said the four-month old present body of the Law Commission has already done some good jobs including updating of the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 under which the war criminals will be tried.

He said the commission has solicited opinions from different organisations on whether the laws concerning those organisations should be updated.

The commission yesterday held a meeting with the officials of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). During the meeting, Rab officials gave their opinions in favour of amending the laws

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**HELLO MAYOR ... IS THIS OUR FOOTPATH?**

People are forced to take the road instead of footpath as a mobile phone company sets up a police box in middle of the pavement.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

# Cops in traders' guise man highway crimes

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Several teams of Highway Police equipped with video cameras have started vigilance in guise of traders to curb highway crimes and spot the police personnel taking bribes from vehicles.

The Highway Police authority has launched the drive on national and regional highways across the country on August 19 targeting goods transportation across the country during the month of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The authority also directed highway police teams not to intercept any foodstuff carrying truck in the name of checking when there is no senior official (at least an officer of inspector level) in the team.

Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Shah Golam Mahmud of Highway Police said "We launched the countrywide drive on August 19 to check highway extortion from the trucks carrying foodstuffs and other goods."

"Each of the 12 teams includes at least five personnel carrying video cameras and they travel by trucks in plain clothes to monitor the activities of highway police personnel," he added.

The authority claimed that they have checked extortion and bribery on highways after they started the drive, though they failed to trace any dishonest highway police officers during the drive except several gangs of highway robbers.

AIG Mahmud said during Ramadan no

highway robbery or no incident of bribery by highway police personnel had been reported on the highways after the drive had been launched.

Highway Police sources said an additional superintendent of police (ASP) head each of the teams and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sohrab Hossain of Highway Police monitors the drives.

Under Highway Police, there are 7,641 kilometres national and 4,165km regional highways. They have total 2,042 highway police personnel in two regions--eastern and western--and seven zones. Total 48 outposts under 24 proposed Highway Police outposts are now functioning, sources said.

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# BNP deploras PM's silence at Saifur's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP leaders yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina showed her 'narrow mindedness' by not conveying any condolence message on the death of country's longest-serving finance minister Saifur Rahman.

They also alleged that the government showed its 'inferior attitude' towards Saifur Rahman by not burying him with due state honour despite his notable contribution to the country.

"There are some people of different professions who

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# 2 years on, Ctg realtor remains missing

STAR REPORT

The law enforcers have yet to trace the Chittagong realtor Mozaffar Ahmed who was allegedly abducted two years back.

On September 9, 2007, Mozaffar, owner of Overseas Enterprise, went to Vat Club near his residence in the city's Agrabad at around 8:00pm and never came back.

The victim's family filed a general diary with Double Mooring Police Station a day after he went missing. Later his wife Zahanara Ahmed filed an abduction case with the same station on September 13.

She accused six persons-- Zakaria alias Mintu, customs officer Amin, businessman Mun,



Mozaffar Ahmed

Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, Jahangir Alam alias Kalacia and Zafar--in her statement.

She mentioned that their driver dropped him at Vat Club, a club of customs officials, and he was there with Zakaria, Amin and Mun till midnight. Zakaria said on phone that they left the club for their house between 4:00am to 4:30am the next day, she claimed.

She also alleged that there had been a feud between her husband and Mamunur Rashid over a piece of land on Badsha Mian Road at Panchlaish in October 2006 and Mamunur threatened to kill him by two criminals Jahangir and Zafar. Mozaffar filed a general diary at that time.

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This photo taken at New Market in the city shows that some people prefer to take the "short-cuts" rather than the footbridge, even this practice increases road accidents and costs lives.

# Load-shedding goes in a year

Minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There will be no load-shedding in the country by the next year, State Minister for Power Mohammad Enamul Haque told parliament yesterday.

"The way we are moving forward--and if it continues--the country is expected to go into a 'no load-shedding' situation by the next year," Enamul said in reply to a supplementary question of ruling Awami League lawmaker Mohammad Shahabuddin.

But he did not explain how the government will work to get power situation to a "tolerable level" within this short span.

In a scripted reply, Enamul presented the long-term plans of the government, saying people would get rid of power crisis by 2014 on completion of installing new power plants and renovating and rehabilitating the old ones.

In reply to another question, Enamul informed the House that no agreement has been signed at the government or private level for setting up new power plants since the Awami League government came to power but a tender has been approved recently to build a 150MW plant in Sylhet. The agreement will be signed soon, he said.

Replying to another query, the state minister said the government has moved to set up coal and gas-based power plants to tackle the ongoing power crisis.

"A process is underway to set up a third power plant unit in Barapukuria coalmine area by June 2014 to produce 125MW electricity," Enamul, also a retired Brigadier General, said.

The government has also planned to set up coal based-power plants to produce 2000MW electricity, he said, adding that these power plants would be set up under independent power

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# CHT land survey rules in 15 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Commission will decide within next 15 days on the modalities for CHT land survey beginning from October 15, the commission chief said.

Khademul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of the commission, said at a meeting at Khagrachhari yesterday that the survey would be completed by March 15 next year.

Terminating the CHT Land Commission an absolutely independent body, he said they are working with full

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# Bus passengers robbed on gunpoint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers in broad daylight looted belongings from the passengers of a Chandpur-bound bus, on gunpoint at Jatrabari intersection in the capital yesterday.

Following the incident, locals beat up the driver and his helper and handed them over to law enforcers suspecting their involvement in the robbery.

Injured driver Golam Mostafa, 36, and helper Habib, 25, were sent to Dhaka

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# Taliban kill 4 Pak schoolchildren

15 extremists killed in offensive, drone strike

AFP, ANI, Peshawar

Taliban militants yesterday shot dead four schoolchildren and wounded six others in an apparent sectarian attack in a remote tribal town in northwest Pakistan, officials and residents said.

The students were going to school in Atmankhel town of Orakzai district when the militants opened fire, killing four boys and wounding six others, local administration official Asmatullah Khan told AFP.

"It appears to be a sectarian attack as the slain students belonged to the minority Shia sect of Islam," he said. "The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# Muggers shoot accountant, loot Tk 2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed muggers in broad daylight shot an accountant and snatched over Tk 2.26 lakh from his possession at Chowdhurypara in the capital's Rampura yesterday.

Mohammad Saiful, accountant of Sanwara Dairy Food, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injury in his left leg.

A DMCH source said the bullet that hit the victim's left ankle was removed after

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# British airline bomb plot reveals links to Pakistan

Court convicts 3 of plotting to blow up 7 planes

AFP, AP, London

A plot to blow up at least seven transatlantic aircraft using liquid bombs was masterminded from Pakistan, intelligence services said as more details emerged yesterday of the complex planned attacks.

British police were forced to go to extraordinary lengths to build their case against the men who prosecutors say were hoping to cause more deaths than the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The trial, which ended in the convictions of three British Muslims on Monday, was pep-

pered with evidence that members of the London-based gang were frequently in communication with figures linked to al-Qaeda in Pakistan.

A jury at a London court found Abdulla Ahmed Ali, 28, Assad Sarwar, 29, and Tanvir Hussain, 28, guilty of conspiracy to murder by detonating explosives on aircraft while they were in-flight.

Four other alleged conspirators whom the prosecution said were to have smuggled liquid explosives onboard jetliners disguised as soft drinks were acquitted of conspiring to blow up

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# OnlinePoll

Do you support the practice of keeping many senior government officials including secretaries on OSD?

- Yes (12.6%)
- No (82.7%)
- No Comments (4.8%)

Total votes: 987

# TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there should be continuous mobile court drive against noise and air pollution by vehicles instead of Once a while?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Sheri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Sept	Sheri	Iftar
18	9	7-12	7-11
19	10	5-22	7-11
20	11	5-23	7-10

Prayer Timing		
September 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-22	5-32
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-30	5-45
Maghrib	7-12	7-22
Esha	8-45	9-15

Source: Islamic Foundation