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Anti-graft body to lose teeth

Graft watchdog decries govt move for amendment, says corruption to spread in admin, public services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet's approval to amend the anti-corruption law would make the anti-graft body ineffective and further spread out corruption in administration and other public services, observes Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

"The Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] will return to the previous position of defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption with majority cases clogged, if the proposals to amend its laws are incorporated into the ACC Act," said TIB Trustee Board Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan yesterday. The amendment proposals include ACC's

obligation to take permission from the government prior to initiating a case against any government official and making the anti-graft body accountable to the president.

The TIB sees possibility of political influence in this system and suggests that the ACC be made accountable to a special parliamentary committee.

The government, not ACC, will appoint the secretary to the constitutional body, and those filing false cases will face five years in prison, proposed the government-formed committee.

The cabinet approved the set of proposals on April 26.

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Buses are running in the lane designated for CNG three wheelers and taxis while three wheelers are also using a wrong lane, on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital on Thursday. Dhaka Metropolitan Police introduced the designated lane system in December last year in a bid to ease the city's nagging traffic congestion.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

POLLUTION
3 more ship breaking yards sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) here yesterday sued three more ship-breaking yards for polluting environment and not responding to its notices of clearance.

With this, seven ship-breaking yards have been sued within two weeks.

The DoE investigator Saiful Ashraf filed the cases with Sitakunda Police Station and the Environment Court.

The yards are Rahman Ship Yard and Mahin Enterprise (Ship-yard) at Modhyam Sonaichhari and Ambia Ship-breakers Private Limited at Madam Bibirhat in Sitakunda upazila.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

War probe chief under probe

He refutes Adviser Alauddin's remark on his political past; govt embarrassed

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government will investigate if the chief investigator of the agency probing war crimes had been a member of Islami Chhatra Sangha, pre-independence student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday called Chief Investigator Abdul Matin to her ministry to explain the allegation of his past affiliation with an organisation widely accused of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.



Abdul Matin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BDR MUTINY 9 jawans jailed in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

BDR Special Court-4 in Rangamati yesterday sentenced nine jawans of Rajanagar 12 Rifles Battalion to imprisonment on different terms on charges of staging mutiny in February last year.

Of the convicts, havilder Shamsul Haque was sentenced to a seven-year, sepoy Rashel Kabir to a three-year and signalman Abdur Rahman to a five-year prison term.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Ctg city polls in mid-June

EC plans to deploy army along with police

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission has moved to hold Chittagong City Corporation poll in mid-June keeping in consideration the deployment of army along with police to ensure a free and fair election.

The commission will hold a meeting on Wednesday with high-ups of the armed forces division, police, Bangladesh Rifles and intelligence agencies to review law and order ahead of the election, said a senior EC official.

The EC Secretariat yesterday sent letters to top officials of law enforcement agencies inviting them to the meeting, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Over 7,000 bullets found in Comilla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered 7,262 live bullets in bags and cartons from a culvert area on Shilmuri-Mohgbari road in Barura upazila of Comilla district yesterday.

Police Super of the district Md Shafiqul Islam told BBC radio that BDR uses such bullets and they suspect that these bullets were a part of those looted during the BDR mutiny in February. He visited the spot in the morning.

Of the bullets, 381 LMG bullets are as old as 1971

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

DC faces rare court music

HC keeps him standing for 4 hours for violating its order on lease of river terminal, accuses him of graft

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A High Court bench yesterday kept the Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner standing in the dock for nearly four hours as a punishment for repeatedly violating its orders regarding the lease of a river terminal.

The two-judge bench made DC Md Giasuddin wait in the courtroom from 11:30am to 4:00pm, with one hour's lunch break, in connection with a contempt-of-court petition arising out of the leasing dispute.

Senior Judge AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik also

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