



BANGLADESH JUDICIARY

Playing a significant role in ensuring rule of law and democracy, says CJ

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PIRACY REIGNS

Each month 6.5 lakh pirated mobile sets enter the country

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AFRIDI WANTS TO RETURN

Recently retired Pakistan cricket captain says he will return if "situation improves"

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Poverty declines

Household survey shows no change in wealth inequality in 5 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty declined to 31.5 percent in 2010 from 40 percent in 2005 due to consistent economic and remittance growth, showed a major survey report yesterday.

However, the country did not perform well in redressing inequality during the period as wealth remained concentrated in the hands of a few people, says the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2010. Inequality (Gini) of per capita income stood at 0.458 in 2010, which was 0.467 in 2005.

The report also revealed a rapid change in consumption pattern and a shift in poverty pockets.

It was published at a workshop organised by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the World Bank at Sonargaon Hotel.

Noted economist Wahiduddin Mahmud chaired the workshop in presence of Planning Minister AK Khandker and high-ups of the government and its development partners.

The report shows a drop in poverty levels and improvement in living standards in the country in recent years despite the global economic shock and natural calamities.

Poverty at the national level decreased by 8.5 percentage points in 2010 from 40 percent in 2005, as the economy grew by six percent on an average and remittance by 23 percent during the period. Poverty was 49 percent in 2000 at the national level.

Rural poverty declined to 35.2 percent in 2010 from 43.8 percent in 2005, while urban poverty slid to 21.3 percent from

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Limon sitting on his bed in Gano Shasthya Nagar Hospital in Dhanmondi talks to Amnesty International Deputy Director for Asia-Pacific Programme Madhu Malhotra. The rights body visited Limon for the first time yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

4 pirates killed in 'shootout'

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Four pirates were killed in a 'shootout' with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in Supti under Sharankhola range of the Sundarbans yesterday morning.

Local fishermen identified the dead as Julfikar Ali alias Julfu, leader of a pirate gang Julfu Bahini, his associates Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Sarwar Hossain Sano and Zakir Hossain alias Meghna Zakir.

Four Rab members were also injured in the gunfight, said Major Sabbir, deputy director of Rab-8.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Taka goes downhill

Money-whitening in stock may rock it more

STAR REPORT

As taka keeps falling against dollar, fear looms large that the situation might deteriorate if black money is again allowed in the stock market.

Many think that a major reason for taka losing ground is that a huge chunk of the money gained through the stock market during the recent boom has been taken out of the country. The boom

was fuelled by use of black money.

Right now nobody has any exact idea of how much money had been skimmed off the market and how much of it was taken out. But those in the know think it is substantial.

For example, an owner of two textile mills had raised money through IPO and settled in Canada under business

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LIMON SHOT TO DISABILITY

Call for credible probe

Amnesty terms govt's dealing a mockery, says it exposes contradictions, lack of accountability within state system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday said the government's dealing with the Limon issue was a mockery and it exposed contradictions and lack of accountability within the state system.

Limon Hossain, a college student, lost a leg after Rab shot him on

March 23 at Chhaturia of Jhalakathi.

"It's a blatant example of mockery. You play around with the life of young people and do not establish accountability in the system. There are hundreds of families in urgent need of justice after becoming victims of this force," said Deputy Director of Asia-Pacific Programme of Amnesty International Madhu

Malhotra.

She made the comment after visiting Limon Hossain at Gano Shasthya Nagar Hospital in Dhaka. Malhotra was accompanied by Amnesty International researcher Andrew Frueti.

While talking to the Amnesty International team, Limon himself

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Cost of violence immense

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Perpetrators of violence against women suffer more than their victims in monetary terms, but the emotional and psychological damage caused to the victims are intangible, says a study carried on 483 cases of attacks.

On average the victim's family spends over Tk 1 lakh and the perpetrator's family Tk 12 lakh in case of violence on women, according to the study presented at a workshop organised by CARE Bangladesh and South Asia Partnership (SAP).

Bangladesh yesterday at CARE-B office at Karwan Bazar.

The cost was broken

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Rumana Manzur, blinded by her husband's brutal assault, grabs her daughter Anusheh's hand and rubs it with her chin as this is the only way she can feel her presence in LabAid Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

She sees daughter touching, talking

RAKIB AHAMMED

She was too tired to be visited by anyone else; she has had enough of visitors in her hospital cabin since morning. But she could not hold back her excitement sensing the presence of her daughter around her bed.

"Have you come, ma?" She stretched her arms to touch her child. "Where are you?"

Rumana Manzur moved her hands from side to side. She wished she could see. But not anymore. Rumana has gone blind in a brutal assault by her husband Hasan Sayeed Sumon, who pushed his fingers into her eyes on June 5.

An assistant professor of the International Relations Department at Dhaka University and a postgraduate student at the University of British Columbia in Canada, she is now being treated at LabAid Hospital in the capital.

Ophthalmologists in Bangladesh and India confirmed that her left eye has been completely damaged while the retina of the other one is not responding to her brain.

Rumana is blind now. All right. But the mother in her is not. She may be tired of this world. All right. But the mother in her is not.

"Which dress did you wear, ma? Are you happy to see me again?" she asked her five-year-old daughter

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UK wants next polls free, fair

Visiting minister meets Khaleda, says people, parties to find out best ways for credible polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The British government wants to see a free and fair next general election in Bangladesh, and urged the political parties to "lift democracy up to better quality" for serving the people.

"Democracy has to change its gear in Bangladesh...The battle of the past should be changed towards the opportunity of the future," UK Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan said in Dhaka yesterday.

Addressing a press conference wrap-

ping up his three-day visit, Duncan said the UK wants to see better quality of democracy in Bangladesh as establishment of strong democracy and high growth can lead the country forward.

Earlier, talking to journalists after meeting Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia, the British minister said people of Bangladesh and political parties will find out the best ways of holding free and fair elections on the basis of understanding.

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Help fight militancy

PM urges UK

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought British cooperation for curbing militancy and terrorism in Bangladesh.

She made the call when Alan Duncan, UK minister of state for international development, met her at her office yesterday morning.

Hasina said that her government will show zero tolerance against terrorism and militancy.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, PM's Deputy Press Secretary Md Nazrul Islam said Hasina informed the British minister that her government is working for a stable democracy to give it a strong footing.

Appreciating the government's efforts for women empowerment and its social safety net programmes, Duncan said that the UK would provide one billion US dollars as development assistance to Bangladesh in next

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7 days to go!

The countdown to a weekend of up to Tk. 55,000 concession has begun

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