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Get law, stop JS boycott

Demands TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday called for a law to end the culture of parliament boycott by the opposition.

The absence of a party from the House should be restricted to 30 days in a five-year term with no more than seven successive working days, the anti-graft watchdog said.

At present, the constitution allows a lawmaker to remain absent from parliament for 90 consecutive sittings before his seat falls vacant, but it says nothing about collective absence.

TIB made the demands while unveiling a research work titled "Declaration on Parliamentary Openness" at Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

The programme was organised to mark International Day of Democracy. On the same day in Rome, 85 observatory groups from 60 countries, including TI, presented their findings on issues involving parliaments.

At the programme in Dhaka, TIB demanded a code of conduct for lawmakers and a law to prevent conflict

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Students attend a class at Buet yesterday. Classes at the university resumed after around two months of protests by the teachers and students demanding removal of the VC and pro-VC for their alleged irregularities. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BANGLADESHI WORKERS IN S KOREA

Frequent change of jobs blocking others' prospect

PORIMOL PALMA

Irregular status of more than 5,000 Bangladeshis in South Korea remains a serious obstacle to sending more workers to the lucrative job market of a major Asian economy.

South Korean employers are not keen to hire Bangladeshis as they are

of the view that Bangladeshi workers frequently change companies, affecting their factories, said a high official of Human Resources Development (HRD) Service of South Korea.

In 2011, Bangladesh had a quota of 4,400 workers, but only 1,768 could avail themselves of jobs in

Korea, said Choon-Bok Lee, vice-president of Global Workforce, HRD Korea, during his recent visit to Dhaka.

"We would request the Bangladesh Government to help in this regard so that those completing their term of service return home,"

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Watch city high-rises

Experts want urban plan respected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For a livable Dhaka, the government must ensure that high-rises are constructed in compliance with the capital's Detailed Area Plan (DAP) said experts at a seminar yesterday.

Authorities should

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51 'disappeared' since 2011

Meeting told of law-enforcers' link; rights boss warns govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The state should play a more pro-active role to end "enforced disappearances" in the country as it is duty-bound to shoulder the ultimate responsibility of such incidents, said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman yesterday.

Dr Mizanur Rahman said the commission in its Universal Periodic Review report -- to be submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council on October 9 -- would express its concern over "enforced disappearance" and would urge the government not to show an

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DHAKA-MAWA HIGHWAY

26 illegal speed bumps removed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented move, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has removed 26 illegal speed bumps from a 50km stretch on Dhaka-Mawa highway to cut travel time and fuel consumption.

About a similar number of bumps are still on the highway.

Munshiganj RHD officials said it took them years to convince the locals, mostly the politically influential, of the need for removing the bumps.

These speed bumps not only slow down the traffic but also cause huge economic loss. Once a vehicle is forced to slow down to negotiate a bump, its fuel consumption and travel time increase with the vehicle suffering heavy pressure on various parts. Losses caused by these bumps could be very high at national level, said an RHD official.

Md Ataur Rahman, executive engineer at RHD's Munshiganj office, told The Daily Star that the removal of illegal bumps was

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ARCTIC SEA ICE

Summer melt hits new height

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Sea ice in the Arctic has shrunk to its smallest extent ever recorded, smashing the previous record minimum and prompting warnings of accelerated climate change.

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Power price cut if voted to power

Pledges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said his party, if voted into power, will make a long-term plan to resolve crises in the power and energy sector and reduce electricity prices.

"We will emphasise sustainable development of the sector, which will help reduce power tariffs," said Fakhrul while addressing a discussion

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the seven newly appointed ministers will bring any significant changes in the government's performance?

Yes (15%)

No (82%)

No Comments (3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 468

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi that Bangladesh is getting its share of water although the Teesta water-sharing deal is yet to be signed with India?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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PRAYER TIMING September 16

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 4:35 5:10

Zohr 12:45 1:15

Asr 4:30 4:45

Maghrib 6:09 6:12

Esha 7:45 8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation