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Existing law inadequate

Law minister on trying political party for war crimes

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the amended war crimes act was not enough to try and punish any political party for its alleged crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

"There is no provision in the International Crimes [Tribunals] Act, 1973, which was amended later, to try and punish any political party," Anisul Huq told reporters.

The minister came up with the observation after 15 months of the latest amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1971 that aimed to try organisations for committing war crimes.

The House in February last year passed the amendment following an immense public pressure, but the amendment, like the original Act, does not propose a provision for punishment of an organisation, if found guilty.

Prominent war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir rules out the law minister's claim terming it "ridiculous" and saying Anisul made the comment "out of ignorance about the ICT Act".

The minister's comment had hurt and frustrated the victims and families of the martyrs, said Shahriar, executive

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Like many other rivers and canals in the northern region, a water body near Rangpur-Saidpur highway is all dried up due to absence of rain for over two months and India's holding back of Teesta water upstream. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

It's alarming

Dr Kamal tells HC about 153 elected unopposed in Jan 5 polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday told the High Court that declaring 153 people elected unopposed in the January 5 parliamentary election was alarming.

According to the constitution, a representative of people must be elected through voting, he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PRAYER TIMING May 30		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr 4-05	4-40	
Juma 12-30	1-15	
Asr 5-00	5-15	
Maghrib 6-43	6-47	
Esha 8-05	8-35	

Source: Islamic Foundation

NATIONAL INTEGRITY STRATEGY

Include security forces

TIB asks govt to ensure transparency, accountability at all levels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday suggested that the government include the law enforcement agencies and armed forces in the National Integrity Strategy that is meant to ensure transparency and accountability in all spheres of governance.

It also recommended bringing under the strategy all religious and cultural organisations, the National Board of Revenue, the Information Commission and the National Human Rights Commission, as they can play a critical role in establishing a just society.

The Bangladesh chapter of the

Berlin-based global graft watchdog made the observations in a study on the progress of implementation of the integrity strategy formulated in mid-2012.

In its assessment, the TIB considered 10 state institutions. They are Executive and Public Administration, Jatiya Sangsad, Judiciary, Election Commission, Attorney General's Office, Public Service Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General's Office, Ombudsman, Anti-Corruption Commission and Local Government.

Among the non-state institutions, it assessed political parties, private sector industries and commercial ventures, NGOs and civil society, family, educa-

tional institutions and the mass media.

"In one year's plan of action, the government has made notable progress, but there is a lot left to be done," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman at a press conference at Hotel Abakash in the capital.

"There has been an action plan for only the public administration, but there is no discussion on the challenges facing the police and the armed forces," he said.

The integrity strategy's basic components -- transparency, accountability, sensibility, participation and justice -- have not been included in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

POWERFUL WOMEN

Hasina ranks 47th on Forbes list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ranked 47th in this year's Forbes list



of the world's 100 most powerful women.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel topped the list with Janet Yellen, chair of US Federal Reserve System, and Melinda Gates, philanthropist and wife of Bill Gates, coming out

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Contractor shot dead

Cops suspect dispute over business led to the murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A contractor of the Water Development Board was shot dead by two criminals in Arambagh in the city yesterday.

The shooting happened when Sultan Ahmed, 42, was entering his office at Mokbul Tower after getting down from his microbus around 11:00 am, witnesses said.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital declared Sultan, a resident of Kadamtola, dead when he was rushed there around half-an-hour after the incident.

Morgue sources said the deceased had two bullets in the chest, one in the abdomen and the other in his right arm.



Sultan Ahmed

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Jackfruits along with bananas brought by farmers are piled at Guimara Bazar of Khagrachhari. Like the previous years, the market in the hill district saw an abundant supply of jackfruits. Wholesalers buy a hundred jackfruits at Tk 2,000-3,000 and send them to different parts of the country. The photo was taken last month.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

EKRAM KILLING

2 more arrestees confess crime

AL calls hartal in Phulgazi for Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two arrestees involved in the killing of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haq confessed to their crimes in a Feni court yesterday.

The two are Kazi Shanan Mahmud and Chowdhury Md Nafiz Uddin alias Anik.

Another arrestee Helal Uddin, who sheltered the duo and several others, made a deposition before Senior Judicial Magistrate Khairul Amin in the afternoon, said Inspector Abul Kalam Azad, investigation officer of the murder case.

Meanwhile, Phulgazi unit Awami League called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the upazila for Monday demanding speedy trial of the perpetrators.

In a protest rally in Phulgazi yesterday, party men blamed Feni-2 AL lawmaker Nizam Hazari for his alleged link with the killing and chanted slogans against him, reports our Feni correspondent.

A close aide to Nizam Hazari, Jihad Chowdhury is the alleged mastermind of the gruesome killing. Jihad is the joint general secretary of Phulgazi unit AL.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

The Daily Star
Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you support the decision to limit the additional duties of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) like patrolling, setting up checkpoints, controlling traffic and guarding tender boxes?
Yes (62%)
No (38%)
TOTAL VOTES: 237
TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the government will be able to earn the expected revenue by introducing high tax rate for the super income group?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Speed up probe, hearing at courts

JS body makes 23 recommendations for reducing backlog of cases

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday made 23 recommendations, included among which were a need to increase the number of judges to 5,000 from 1,700 and speed up investigation as well as a hearing process to clear a backlog of millions of cases.

Other key recommendations include

increasing the rate of conviction, enhancing security of witnesses, monitoring businesses of public prosecutors, and ensuring judges' presence at their respective offices from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

"For the first time, we have made some historic recommendations to reduce a backlog of more than 32 lakh [3.2 million]

c a s e s

Ant groups more efficient than Google

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Ants don't just flourish because they work hard and will slavishly sacrifice themselves for the collective.

Their success is also due to their group ability to process information "far more efficiently than Google" in the daily search for food, according to scientists.

A major behavioural

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

