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Sangsad sees some positive changes

But effectiveness still questionable, says TIB survey on 10th JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current parliament witnessed some positive changes in terms of time spent on formulating laws, presence of MPs in the House, quorum crisis and participation of opposition MPs.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) came up with the observation while disclosing findings of its study titled "Parliamentwatch-10th Parliament: 7th-13th Session" at a media briefing at its Dhanmondi office yesterday.

The Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based corruption watchdog said effectiveness of the current parliament was still questionable as main opposition Jatiya Party (JP) played a dual role both in the House and government.

Besides, the use of unparliamentary language by the ruling party and JP lawmakers to criticise their political rivals outside parliament was notable, the TIB study said, adding that the MPs used unparliamentary language at least 2,101 times.

The seventh to 13th session of parliament was between September 2015 and December 2016 with 103 sittings.

The BNP-led 20-party alliance boycotted the January 5, 2014, national election as its demand for holding the polls under a non-partisan election-time government was not met. This is for the first time since the restoration of democracy in 1991 that the BNP is not either in treasury or in opposition bench.

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A traffic policeman helps a mother with two children cross the busy street at Bangla Motor intersection in the capital yesterday after he saw her jaywalk across the street dodging vehicles at speed to get to the middle of the road, inset. The mother could have easily taken the footbridge there and not risk hers and her children's lives at risk.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Hasina cooks steamed hilsa for Pranab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangalees are widely known to be the very good in hospitality, and the fact is proven yet again as Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina cooked steamed Hilsa, a delicacy among the Bangalee cuisines, for Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

On the second day of her state visit to India, the Bangladesh PM on Saturday took the helm of the kitchen at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi and prepared the item herself for the Indian president for dinner, reports our Kolkata correspondent quoting Indian media.

Although Hasina's entourage included six chefs who cooked most of the items for the dinner, the Bangladesh premier cooked the steamed Hilsa herself for Pranab Mukherjee, whom she "respects as an elder brother".

She prepared the dish also for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who could not taste of the Bangladesh PM's culinary skills as "it was too early for dinner".



Show of force US sends carrier-led strike group to Korean peninsula

AFP, Washington

The US Navy said Saturday it had sent a carrier-led strike group to the Korean peninsula in a show of force against North Korea's "reckless" nuclear weapons program.

The move will raise tensions in the region and comes hard on the heels of a US missile strike on Syria that was widely interpreted as putting Pyongyang on warning over its refusal to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

North Korea denounced Thursday's strike as an act of "intolerable aggression" and one that justified "a million times over" the North's push toward a credible nuclear deterrent.

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FISH, POULTRY FEED Stop factories from using tannery waste

SC upholds HC directive on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stood by its earlier order upholding a High Court verdict that asked the government to stop the operation of poultry and fish feed factories that use tannery waste from the capital's Hazaribagh.

It rejected a petition filed by Golam Saruar, proprietor of Shoeb Enterprise that produces poultry feed.

He filed the petition asking the SC to restore his earlier appeal challenging the HC verdict.

The Appellate Division in December last year dismissed the appeal, since no lawyer was present for Golam Saruar.

Yesterday, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha heard the petition seeking restoration of the appeal.

Saruar's lawyer Zahirul Islam told the court he was sorry that no lawyer had been present before it on behalf of his client the other day.

However, the court rejected the petition.

Responding to a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC in July 2011 directed the authorities to stop the operation of poultry and fish feed factories within a month and to prepare guidelines in two months to monitor and check the use of tannery waste in producing the feed.

On behalf of the rights body, lawyer Manzill Murshid told the SC yesterday that the operation of such factories had already been stopped, and so Saruar's petition was not acceptable.

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Probe journo torture in Madaripur

HC orders IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a suo moto rule yesterday directed the inspector general of police to take steps for investigating the alleged torture on a Madaripur journalist and submit a probe report to it within 30 days.

The court ordered the IGP to assign a police official, not below the rank of superintendent of police, for conducting the probe into the torture on Shahidul Islam, the Kalkini upazila correspondent of Bangla daily Jajaidin.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain within four weeks as to why legal action should not be taken against the people responsible for torturing Shahidul.

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Turkish cabin crew deliver baby mid-flight

NBCNEWS.COM

An unexpected passenger recently showed up on a Turkish Airlines flight, but nobody thought to charge the stowaway for an extra ticket.

Cabin crew on the Boeing 737 helped a woman give birth to a baby girl mid-flight, and then posed for selfies with the infant, which appeared to be wrapped in an in-flight blanket.

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Khaleda slams deals with India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said the Awami League-led government has "sold the country to India" to stay in power for another five years.

At a programme at her Gulshan office with pro-BNP Supreme Court lawyers late last night, she said, "The

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:35	12:45	4:45	6:24	7:45
JAMAAT	5:10	1:15	5:00	6:28
				8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The canal, in the photo taken recently, at Deb Dholaiakhal in Dhaka is being clogged up with waste thrown by locals. Some local influential people have also filled it up partially to set up structures.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Give utility services to tanners in Savar

SC orders govt; waives tanners' fines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the government to ensure utility services including gas, water and electricity to tanners in Savar's Tannery Industrial Estate.

The SC Appellate Division also exonerated owners of 154 Hazaribagh tanneries from having to pay Tk 30.85 crore for damaging and polluting the environment and relieved them from paying Tk 10,000 per

day as compensation.

The authorities concerned were directed to give the utility connections to Savar tanneries within 15 days after receiving the copy of the apex court order. Tanneries that already had and would move to Savar from Hazaribagh must get the services, it said.

The court also directed owners, who had not moved 142 tanneries from Hazaribagh, to pay Tk 50,000 per factory to the secretary

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TECHNO DRUGS LTD. RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD

We are happy to inform all of our well-wishers, that because of our Leadership, Quality, Innovation and Excellence, we have been selected for the international award in the Gold Category by the International Arch of Europe (IAE) which will shine in the International Pharmaceuticals arena like a bright star.

This award is because of the whole hearted efforts, commitment toward keeping international Quality and the efficiency and hardworking by all the members of Techno Drugs. This achievement will always encourage us to do better always.

On 1st July, 2017 IAE will hand over the Award in Frankfurt, Germany. Our honorable Managing Director will receive the Award.

Insha Allah our consecutive achievement and success will enrich Bangladeshi Pharmaceutical sector in the upcoming days.

ALL OFFICERS AND STAFFS OF TECHNO FAMILY