

- Executive becomes arrogant, uncontrolled
- No checks and balances
- Parliament dysfunctional
- No watchdog mechanism at work
- Human rights at stake
- Corruption rampant
- Plague like greed for power
- Politics as an institution completely destroyed
- Mismanagement in administration acute

SC critical

Full verdict on 16th amendment released

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government becomes arrogant and uncontrolled in the absence of checks and balances and effective watchdog mechanism, observes the Supreme Court in the verdict scrapping the 16th amendment to the constitution.

"Human rights are at stake, corruption is rampant, parliament is dysfunctional, crores of people are deprived of basic healthcare and mismanagement in the administration is acute," reads the verdict of the Appellate Division of the SC.

The full text of the verdict was released yesterday.

The court scrapped the amendment that had given the parliament the power to remove SC judges on the grounds of misconduct or incapacity.

With the development of technology, the dimensions of crimes are changing, the apex court says, adding that the lives and security of citizens are becoming utterly insecure.

"The law enforcing agencies are unable to tackle the situation and the combined result of all this is a crippled society, a society where a good man does not dream of good things at all; but the bad man is all the more restless to grab a few more of bounty,"

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FOURTH AMENDMENT

It 'impairs freedom of lower judiciary'

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The amendment giving the president the power to have control over lower courts violates the basic structure of the constitution as the change impairs the independence of the lower judiciary, observed the Supreme Court in the 16th amendment case verdict.

According to the SC verdict, the independence of the judiciary is one of the basic structures of the constitution and parliament cannot bring any change that goes against it.

The original article 116 of 1972 constitution empowered the SC to have control over the affairs of lower judiciary, including the posting, promotion, grant of leave and discipline of the judges and judicial magistrates.

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Supreme Judicial Council restored

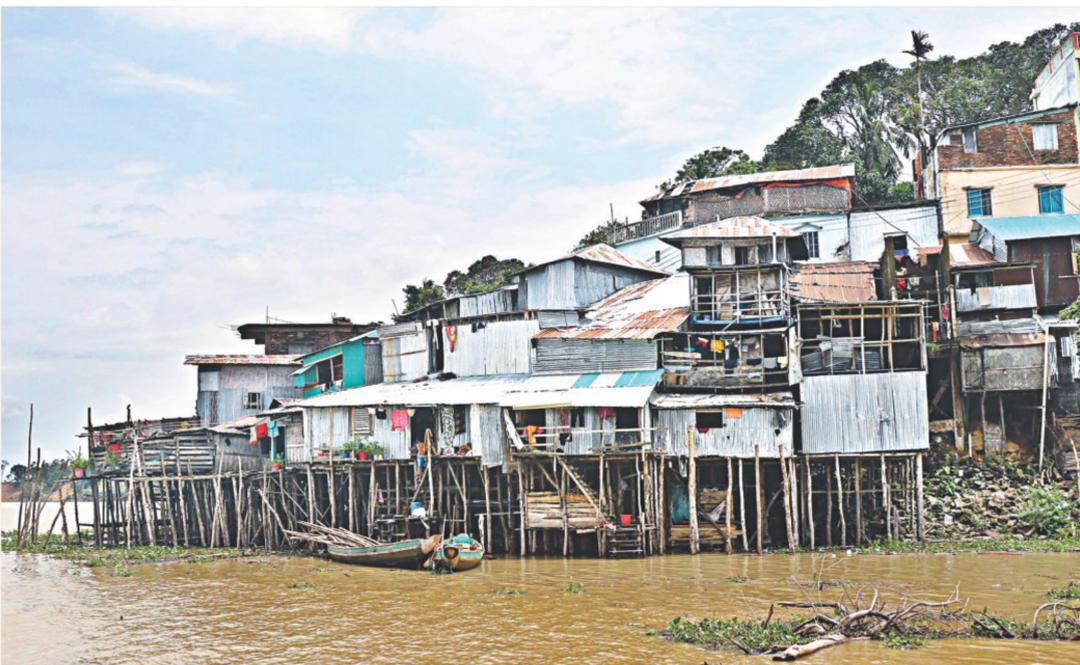
Top court unveils 39-point code of conduct for judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The provision of Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) for the removal of SC judges for misconduct or incapacity has been reinstated in the constitution, the apex court said in its full verdict on the 16th constitutional amendment.

In the verdict released yesterday, the court also came up with a 39-point code of conduct it formulated for the SC judges in exercise of powers under the article 96 of the country's charter.

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Numerous illegal structures obscuring the shore of the Kaptai Lake spoil its beauty and pollute the pristine water. The lake in Rangamati town is one of the most popular tourist spots in the country. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Uncertainty over hajj of 40,000

Frequent flight cancellations, extra fees slapped on repeat pilgrims among reasons

RASHIDUL HASAN

Around 40,000 pilgrims are facing uncertainty over performing hajj this year due to frequent cancellation of Biman flights, and imposition of additional fees on repeat pilgrims by the Saudi authorities.

The civil aviation and tourism ministry will convene an emergency meeting at the ministry today to discuss the latest situation, Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon told The Daily Star.

Top officials of the religious affairs and civil aviation ministries, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Conjoined twins separated

DMCH doctors succeed in 9-hr op

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's surgeons were tested yesterday as the separated conjoined twins.

A 24-member team of doctors, aided by several nurses and support staffers, operated on the twins at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The surgery on Tofa and Tahura, who were joined at the waist, started at 8:00am, Shahnoor Islam, associate professor of paediatrics surgery at DMCH told The Daily Star.

She added that the babies from Gaibandha were SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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