



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RABIUS SANI 21, 1439 HIRI

20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 12.00

A collective failure

Meaningful, effective separation of judiciary was not possible in 45 years

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Forty-five years ago, our constitution announced emphatically that the state shall ensure the separation of the judiciary from the executive "as soon as practicable".

But even now, an effective separation of the judiciary remains a distant cry, giving the term "as soon as practicable" a new meaning.

In 1999, then Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal in the separation of the judiciary case verdict said neither the parliament nor the government nor the president took any notice of this constitutional provision that speaks of the separation of the judiciary "as soon as practicable".

Over 19 years passed after that judgment.

Framers of our constitution gave utmost priority to having an independent judiciary. Therefore, separation of the judiciary was announced as one of the fundamental principles of the state policy in article 22 of the new constitution of the independent Bangladesh.

In addition, the constitution says that the principles of the state policy shall be fundamental to the governance of the country and shall be applied in the law making.

The present state of the judiciary, however, shows things did not go according to the directions given in the constitution.

Successive governments made efforts to retain control over the judiciary. This exposes their lack of sincerity to uphold the fundamental principles of the state policy in governance and in making laws.

As there was no move to separate the judiciary, the Supreme Court finally came up with a landmark verdict in response to a writ petition filed by 441 judicial officers. This opened a new chapter of legal battle for the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Wrapping a blanket around them, three men huddle together for warmth in biting cold at Teesta Char Gobordhan in Lalmonirhat. Cold wave continues to sweep across the country, causing great hardship for the poor, especially the labourers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

BIG-PROJECT GRAFT ACC offered to help govt, yet to get response

Says anti-graft body chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has offered the government help in checking corruption in large projects, but it is yet to get any response, said ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday.

Talking to journalists, he said, "We've asked the government if it needs our help to prevent corruption in big projects. The cabinet division also asked different ministries to seek our help."

"But to date, actually, we have not received any response... We're now doing it on our own," said Iqbal before leaving his office to meet Masud Ahmed, comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of Bangladesh, at the latter's office.

Asked whether the government not responding

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Police must be held accountable for every action

Says PM, asks them to be pro-people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the policemen to build themselves as members of a pro-people force as their duty towards people is enormous.

"You must always remember that you are the members of the police force of independent Bangladesh.... Your duty towards people is enormous. That's why you will have to build yourselves as pro-people individuals," she said.

Hasina was addressing a programme marking the inauguration of the Police Week-2018 at Dhaka Metropolitan Police Lines in Rajarbagh.

Describing the Bangladesh Police as a symbol of peace, security and discipline, she hoped each and every police member would carry out his duties properly, and come forward in aid of the helpless and distressed people.

She said the policemen have to ensure accountability in every work. "The IGP Complaint Cell has already been set up at the Police Headquarters. I hope this will play an effective role in ensuring professional accountability of the police personnel."

The PM asked the policemen to achieve greater efficiency in technology to hunt down transnational criminals and those involved in money laundering and cybercrime.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



CUSTODIAL TORTURE, DEATH Cops want bail provision for the accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take measures for amending the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act so that accused policemen can get bail.

They also want inclusion of a provision in the law for taking action against anyone who files false cases or gives false deposition against law enforcers over any custodial torture and death.

A police official raised the issue at the Police Welfare Parade during the Police Week-2018 in the capital's Rajarbagh Police Lines.

In response, Hasina assured police of "looking into" the matter through further discussions with the ministries concerned, said a number of officials, who participated in the parade.

At the parade, BM Farman Ali, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, said the amendment would alleviate sufferings of the victims.

Last year, police sought the prime minister's intervention in repealing the law.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

PRESIDENT ASKS POLICE TO SERVE, NOT TO HARASS -- PAGE 4

Mercury dips to lowest in 50 yrs

2.6 degrees Celsius recorded at Tentulia; six die, dozens of children admitted to hospitals



- Previous lowest temperature was 2.8 degrees Celsius in Sreemangal on February 4, 1968
- Cold wave may continue for the next two days
- Dhaka's temperature may fall by two to three degrees in the next two days

STAR REPORT

The country yesterday registered the lowest temperature in five decades as mercury dipped to 2.6 degrees Celsius in Tentulia of Panchagarh, causing immense sufferings to people.

At least six people, including four infants, died and dozens of children with cold-related illness were admitted to hospitals at different places as cold wave has continued to sweep the country since Thursday.

Elderly people in some villages of

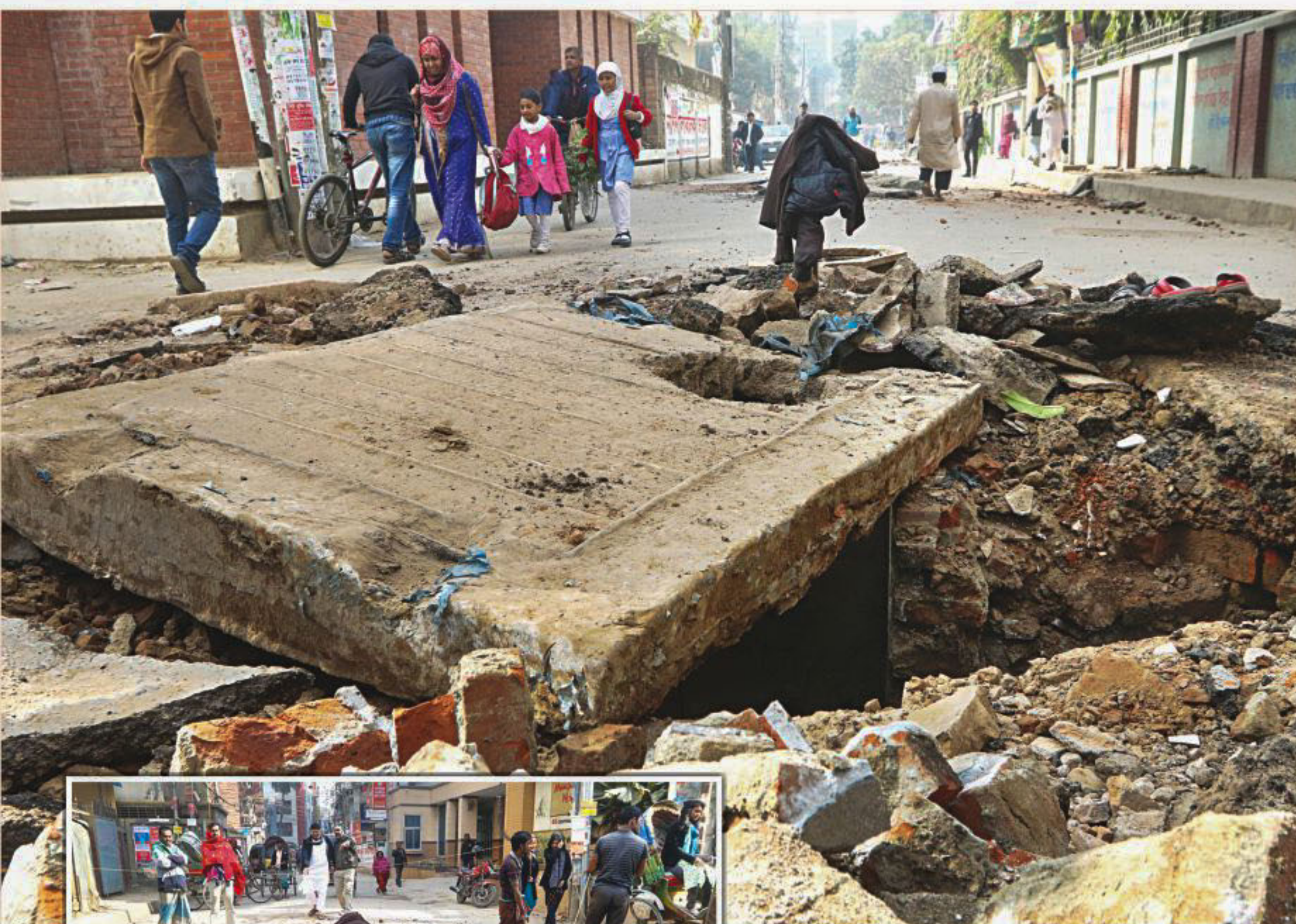
Tentulia said they have not experienced such a cold spell in their lifetime.

"I cannot remember experiencing such biting cold in my life," said 70-year-old Afaz Uddin of Baroghoria.

The man said he could not keep himself warm at night even after putting on extra clothes and using a blanket.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the previous lowest temperature was 2.8 degrees Celsius in Sreemangal on February 4, 1968.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A badly damaged part of the Central Road in the capital following an explosion in the sewer line around 4:00am yesterday. Four other parts of the road were also damaged in the blast but no one was hurt. Officials concerned said the explosion was caused by accumulated gas leaked from the line. Inset, workers trying to repair the sewer line.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS