

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

Plus 48-page Star Weekend Magazine

**Justice Joynul takes oath amid protests**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice M Joynul Abedin yesterday took oath as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) amid protests of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) lawyers.

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain administered the oath at the Judges' Lounge in the presence of judges of both the divisions of the Supreme Court.

The SCBA lawyers refrained from arranging their traditional felicitation to the newly appointed appellate division judge protesting the 'politicisation' in appointing judges of the highest judiciary.

On the same ground, the lawyers protested the confirmation of 17 judges in the High Court (HC) on Wednesday.

The president made the appointment of Justice Abedin

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**Shibir's death threat to Prof Hasan Azizul for talking secularism**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir activists of Rajshahi University yesterday threatened Prof Hasan Azizul Haque with death for his speech on education and secularism at a seminar on August 21.

Shibir bigots said Prof Hasan would have to die like Prof Humayun Azad or leave the country like Taslima Nasrin.

The Shibir leaders made the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**None but Ershad freed from two corruption charges**

Verdict in another graft case Sunday

SHAKHAWAT LITON and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

A Dhaka Court yesterday discharged Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad from two graft cases filed over 15 years ago but decided to frame charges in the cases next month against five co-accused, including Anwar Hossain Manju.

The order came at a time when the ruling BNP is negotiating to have the former president on its side in the upcoming elections in return for gradually withdrawing the cases pending against him, even if by annoying its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

The Special Court for Dhaka



Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad waves to supporters while leaving the court premises after he was discharged in two graft cases yesterday.

Division discharged the overthrown ruler from the cases for illegally awarding a contract to Scimitar Oils for drilling and exploring at Haripur oil field in 1987, and for purchasing two ships from Pakistan during 1988-1991. The charges of the cases were pressed in 2003.

The same court acquitted Ershad seven days ago in another graft case for withdrawing income tax money.

The court also fixed September 18 and 20 for framing charges in the cases against former energy and mineral resources minister Anwar Hossain Manju and former education minister Sheikh Shahidul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**Indo-Bangla team to visit enclaves in a month**

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh-India Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWC) will visit enclaves and territories in adverse possession in next one month and submit report to their respective governments, Indian Home Secretary VK Duggal said in Dhaka yesterday.

The JBWC met in Dhaka on July 16-17 and discussed the outstanding border issues that cause frequent skirmishes between BDR and BSE.

"India and Bangladesh were friends, are friends and must remain friends. We must work towards making the relationship more solid, more concrete so that the coming

generation should not fault us on anything," Duggal told reporters after courtesy calls on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin.

The Indian home secretary arrived in the capital yesterday to lead his country's 18-member delegation to the 7th home secretary level meeting.

On Dhaka-Delhi relations, he said: "Probably we are in the transition, probably we are moving towards this. Objective is there, goal is there and the desire to achieve is there. (But) some perceptions have to be cleared and perhaps the transition has to be managed well."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**Home secys start talks to ease border tension**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Indian officials led by their home secretaries began a four-day talks in Dhaka yesterday on the longstanding issues that frequently cause unpleasant situation along the border between the two neighbouring countries and to work out a peaceful border management.

Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain is leading an 18-member team while his Indian counterpart VK Duggal the 16-member Indian delegation at the seventh home secretary level talks that began at State Guesthouse Meghna in the afternoon.

"Peaceful border management will be the key issue on the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

**BNP discusses election strategy tomorrow**

Decides about Ershad after meeting; grassroots leaders discouraged not to talk govt failures, party feud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP will decide on including Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) in their alliance after receiving opinions from grassroots level leaders and activists in its National Executive Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

The leaders and activists will not

be allowed to speak against any party leader or on internal feuds at any level of the party in the executive committee meeting, sources close to BNP high-ups said. Even senior leaders have decided not to discuss Oli Ahmed in the meeting, they added.

Sources said BNP high command would discourage grassroots

level leaders to raise issues like price hike of essentials in the meeting. Directives in this regard will be conveyed to the grassroots leaders before the meeting, the sources added.

Central leaders including Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman were embarrassed when

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**Recommendation to upgrade status of Fazil, Kamil finalised**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee yesterday finalised the recommendation for making Fazil and Kamil degrees equivalent to graduation (pass) and master degrees of general education under the National University.

The committee will formally sign the recommendation report on Sunday as committee members Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and Commerce and Water Resources

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

**Foreign investors should up equity**

BB governor on outflow of profit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has asked the foreign investors to increase their equity and offload primary shares in the local stock market, with a view to contain higher outflow of profit from the country, the central bank governor said yesterday.

"The FDI (foreign direct investment) in our country depends

heavily on bank-borrowing. With only 30 per cent of their own capital, the foreign investors manage the rest of the amount by borrowing from banks," said BB Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed.

It's quite natural that profit repatriation would take place. The rationale behind the bank's move is to make sure that the profit outflow from our country remains

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3

**Law and order main challenge during polls**

Says EC secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary to the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat Abdur Rashid Sarkar yesterday said maintaining law and order would be a major challenge in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

"The law and order situation is now good. But we don't know how it will be during the parliamentary elections. So, the matter should not be taken lightly," the secretary told

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

**No medal for Bangladesh**

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

The 10th South Asian Games saw its first day without rain in Colombo yesterday but the sun was not at all shiny for the Bangladeshi contingent.

Bangladesh failed to win a single medal having participated in three

athletics events, two in shooting and two in karate where medals were decided.

Earlier, late on Wednesday, the female team earned a bronze in the kata event to take the tally to one gold, 10 silver and 21 bronze medals.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**21 to die for killing Jubo Dal man Gama**

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 21 people to death in connection with the killing of Jubo Dal activist Sabbir Ahmed Talukder Gama of Naldanga in Natore in February 2004.

This is the second highest number of people receiving capital punishments for a single criminal case in Bangladesh.

However, the defence lawyers said a deputy minister influenced the judgement.

A group of leaders and activists of Naldanga upazila unit of Awami League (AL) on February 7, 2004 killed Gama, 26, also nephew of Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, following a

political feud in the locality.

A Dhaka court on April 16 last year awarded death sentence to 22 people for assassinating AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master in Tongi in Gazipur district in May 2004, the highest number of capital punishment awarded in a single criminal case in Bangladesh.

Judge Mohammad Firoz Alam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 delivered the verdict in presence of five out of the 21 convicts at a packed courtroom.

The convicts are -- Anisur Rahman, SM Firoz, Faruque Shah, Fazlul Haq Shah and SM Fakruddin Futu Master (the first five are brothers) and Zahirul Member, Faisal, Jahidul, Sentu, Sohag, Sajjad,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**Trafficked abroad, she finds father 26yrs later**

PORIMOL PALMA

The axiom -- truth is stranger than fiction -- so happily became a reality for Matiuir Rahman who lost his daughter Rina in 1980 and dramatically found her, along with her Dutch husband, when they came to Bangladesh for a visit recently.

Taking advantage of poverty and vulnerability of Matiuir's family, a gang of child lifters posing as social workers sold Rina to a Dutch couple when she was only six-month old.

Rina, educated in the Netherlands and now a lawyer there, came to Bangladesh and saw her father for the first time at the initiative of an NGO -- Hotline Bangladesh -- at its Malibagh office in the capital. Overwhelmed

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

The smile on Rina's face tells how happy she is now as she returned from the Netherlands and found her father 26 years after she was sold to human traffickers posing as NGO workers.

**AKTEL POWER** opens up the avenue for 12 lac customers!

1st in Bangladesh

T&T incoming and outgoing is now open for 24 hours - day & night. From now on, you will enjoy this privilege in all AKTEL Prepaid Regular (Mobile Plus & Mobile Link). And, with all these brilliant benefits, your AKTEL Prepaid Regular is now AKTEL POWER. Try it right now!

AKTEL has moved a long way with you. There are new possibilities ahead. In this promising time, here we present **AKTEL POWER** to keep you clearly ahead.

AKTEL POWER

• NWD & ISD call facilities • Maximum 3 Fnf numbers • 10 sec. pulse from the very first minute • Friday 24 hours: Tk. 2.00/min. (Aktek to Aktekl)  
 • Saturday to Thursday: 1 pm - 3 pm & 1 am - 3 am: Tk. 1.50/min. (Aktek to Aktekl) • The current tariff will remain unchanged in all other cases • Conditions apply