

Senior lawyers to meet President today

'Compromise formula' discussed with Chief Justice

By Special Correspondent

A delegation of five senior lawyers of the Supreme Court trying to defuse the tense situation in the court over appointment of two judges would meet President Shahabuddin Ahmed this morning.

The team led by Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed already met Chief Justice Latifur Rahman yesterday evening with a 'compromise formula' worked out at its meeting with the leaders of pro- and anti-government lawyers earlier in the morning.

However, the formula was not disclosed to newsmen.

But some sources said it includes elevation of two judges of the High Court (HC) to the Supreme Court (SC) as they were superceded by the two newly appointed SC judges, elevated from the HC.

Their appointment led to an unprecedented demonstration in the SC by anti-government lawyers and scuffle with pro-government lawyers on Thursday.

The two new SC judges-- Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice

Ruhul Amin--were appointed by the President on Wednesday and administered oath of office by the Chief Justice (CJ) at his chamber amid the demonstration.

Justice Rabbani superceded Justice Hasan and Justice Ruhul Amin superceded Justice KM Hasan and Justice Syed JR Mudasser.

Thursday's demonstration disrupted proceedings in the SC for over two hours. All the judges who attended the oath-taking ceremony could not come out of the CJ's chamber due to the demonstration and scuffle between the rival groups of lawyers.

The demonstration was called off at the intervention of senior lawyers including Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Mainul Hosein, Dr M Zahir and Barrister Nazmul Huda.

See page 11 col 6



A brick kiln at village Mashuraon in Srinagar thana of Munshiganj spewing poisonous smoke into air and children in the village have been suffering from various complications due to the air pollution. -Star photo

Another brick kiln not giving a damn about rules, protest

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Srinagar

Authorities in Munshiganj have given 'permission' for operation of a brick kiln at a village under Srinagar thana, violating provisions of the Environment Conservation Act 1995 and Rules of 1997.

Getting the 'permission', Anwar Habib of Srinagar Bricks lit its 450,000-capacity furnace on January 2 amid strong protest from men, women and children of Mashuraon village under Patarogh union. The brick kiln covers an area of about four acres of land.

People of the village com- plained that the brick kiln was causing eye irritation and respiratory problem. The air is polluted with heavy particles, they said.

Many housewives complained that their clothing, beds, furniture, utensils and even water of ponds were getting soiled with carbon from the chimneys.

"We escaped from the city to live in village where the air was so clean. But now, with this nuisance at our doorstep, we do not know where to go," said a young businessman who commutes to the capital every day

from Mashuraon.

Violating the Environment Conservation Act 1995 and Rules of 1997, the Deputy Commissioner of Munshiganj gave the 'permission' for operation of the brick kiln without an Environmental Certificate. Local people claimed that the DC had no authority to allow operation of a kiln in such a manner.

According to environmental law, a DC can issue license for operation of a brick kiln only on the basis of an Environmental Certificate issued by the Department of Environment.

See page 11 col 7

Speaker's daughter, wife dropped from AAPP delegation

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury will lead a 20-member delegation to the upcoming AAPP (Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace) conference in Phnom Penh, although the AAPP charter provides for up to four delegates from each member country.

Earlier, the large Bangladesh delegation also included the Speaker's wife Mahjabin Chowdhury and daughter Nasrin Karim. But, following press reports the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat formally informed yesterday that the two were dropped from the list of delegates.

See page 11 col 7



A relative of City Juba League leader Taleb Rahman (inset) wailing. Taleb was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the city's West Rajabazar area yesterday. -Star photo

City Juba League leader shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified assailants shot dead a Juba League leader at West Rajabazar in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as ABM Taleb Rahman, 35, a member of the convening committee of Juba League Dhaka (North) unit and resident of West Rajabazar.

Son of Mohammad Mannan Sheikh, Taleb was a probable candidate for the post of commis-

See page 11 col 1

Women entrepreneurs assured of more help for business ventures

By Staff Correspondent

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday assured women entrepreneurs all cooperation from the government.

Joint endeavours by men and women could turn villages into focal points of all economic activists, he said.

Tofail Ahmed was inaugurating a daylong workshop titled "Women entrepreneurs: Accessibility in local and international market", jointly organised by the NGO Committee on Beijing Plus Five, Bangladesh (NCBP) and the Women's Entrepreneurs Association (WEA). It was held at the YWCA auditorium in the city.

The minister listed various programmes undertaken by the government to encourage women's entrepreneurship. He mentioned BSCIC's Women

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WEDP) and various other micro-credit and self-employment programmes.

Addressing the concluding session of the workshop as chief guest, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said future of women entrepreneurs in the country is very bright and stressed shunning the concept that women can not be good business entrepreneurs.

NCBP Chairperson Salma Khan stressed the need for elimination of gender discrimination and empowerment of women to make them self-reliant.

Micro credit provided by NGOs and the government in rural areas has set examples in empowerment of women, she

See page 11 col 2

DSE threatens to shun CDS

Dhaka Stock Exchange threatened to shun the proposed Central Depository System (CDS) as the premier bourse still remained in the dark about modus operandi of the new method of share trading, reports UNB.

"We would like to make our position very clear in this regard that we cannot participate in a depository system that will not accommodate our needs and may be inconvenient to our members," says DSE chairman Mohammad Shahid Khan.

He conveyed the reaction in a letter to the chairman of Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL), the owner company of CDS that is being introduced to prevent manipulation of trading in securities against the backdrop of recent scams.

He expressed doubts about the success of CDS in Bangla-

desh, as CDBL did not yet respond to the requests, both verbal and written, of DSE for making a presentation to DSE councillors and members to explain the system and its method of operation.

Such a presentation could have enabled DSE members to contribute to a successful implementation of the CDS, he said.

"Once the system is finalised, it may be difficult to accommodate such changes," he said, adding that the DSE does not know the connectivity plan of CDBL with DSE, what would be the technical requirement and cost thereof and who will bear it.

Echoing the observations of the advisory committee to the CDBL in its several meetings he expressed concern over evaluation criterion of the system. Because, he pointed out, in the

See page 11 col 1

High-powered Japanese business team due today

A high-powered business delegation from Tokyo arrives in Dhaka today (Saturday) to make an assessment of prospects for future Japanese investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Official sources said the delegation would have special focus on exploring opportunities for setting up an exclusive export-processing zone (EPZ) for Japanese investors here, an idea conceived by Japanese business leaders since 1995.

The "Observation Mission on Investment Environment to Bangladesh" from the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation (JBCCEC) would visit Dhaka and Chittagong EPZs on January 15.

The high-profile private-sector delegation would bring key people from a wide range of areas, from manufacturing to energy, of the economic superpower.

See page 11 col 6

Foundation of Paksey Bridge to be laid today

PABNA, Jan 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation of 1.8-kilometre Paksey Bridge over the Padma tomorrow, reports UNB.

She will also inaugurate Tk 85 crore Iswardi Export Processing Zone.

It will be the country's second-longest bridge, which will establish direct road link between the northern and southern regions. The bridge will be built at a cost of Tk 567.68 crore Tk 496.36 crore in Japanese grants and Tk 71.32 crore from the government fund.