

# The Daily Star



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## PM blasts vandalism on court premises

ISHURDI, Jan 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blasted the vandalism by BNP-supported lawyers at the Supreme Court and said it is not possible to secure appointment of judges by unleashing terrorism, reports UNB.

Referring to Thursday's incident at the Supreme Court aimed at preventing the swearing-in of two newly appointed Appellate Division judges, she said those lawyers were trying to politicise the supreme judiciary through violent means.

"It is not possible to get appointment of judges to the Supreme Court through terrorism," she said while addressing a huge public meeting at Alhaj Textile Mills High School ground here this afternoon.

The Prime Minister observed that even the Supreme Court and its Appellate Division were not free from the destructive

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## India to support feasibility study on Padma barrage

Razzak calls it "big achievement"; "landmark" decision, says Sethi

By Staff Correspondent

India has agreed to help Bangladesh conduct a feasibility study on the construction of a barrage on the Padma. Bangladesh plans to build a barrage across the Ganges to resolve water crisis downstream Farakka Barrage a big boost.

The two next-door neighbours also agreed an interim arrangement for sharing waters of the river Teesta. The 34th meeting of the Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission (JRC), which ended in Dhaka yesterday, also decided that the two countries would evolve early warning system to fight floods like the one that hit both the countries during last monsoon.

Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and his Indian counterpart Arjun Charan Sethi led their respective sides in the JRC meeting at the state guesthouse Meghna.

The two ministers also signed the agreed minutes of the two-day meeting before addressing a joint press conference at the same venue. India would provide Bangladesh with all-out cooperation and assistance in preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the feasibility of constructing the Padma barrage, Razzak said.

He termed the agreement with India on the long-felt barrage a 'big achievement', while his Indian counterpart called it a 'landmark' in the

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## Inside Today

### Article

Clinton's peace proposal

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Differences: What Next?

Column: Spotlight on Asia

By Muslehuddin Ahmad

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## Agitating lawyers decide to suspend action

By Special Correspondent

The Supreme Court will function normally from today as lawyers protesting the appointment of two judges of the court have decided to suspend their agitation for the 'time being' following a move by five senior lawyers with a 'compromise formula' to defuse the tense situation.

"The delegation of five senior

advocates will continue to carry on their efforts to resolve the situation at the earliest in the light of the agreed proposal and in the meantime all have agreed that both the Divisions of the Supreme Court will function normally", said a statement issued yesterday by Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed who leads the team.

The team met President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday morning with the formula which suggests elevation of two High Court (HC) judges -- Justice KM Hasan and Justice JR Mudasser-- to the Supreme Court (SC).

They were superseded by the two new SC judges -- Justice

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## Taleb's death result of Auranga-Aslam enmity?

By Staff Correspondent

Friday's killing of Jubo League Abm Talebur Rahman at West Razabazar was an outcome of old rivalry between Hemayetullah Auranga and Sweden Aslam, two notorious criminals of the city, police and party sources said yesterday.

Sources said both Auranga and Aslam have separate underworld gangs and are involved in various criminal activities in the city. A number of Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders are linked with both rings.

Auranga and Aslam used to be on good terms until control over some city markets, dollar business and smuggling through the Zia International Airport turned them into enemies.

Aslam's arrest and imprisonment in 1997 intensified enmity between the two. Auranga, who enjoys blessings from some ruling party top brass, engineered his arrest, sources said.

Aslam's men have been carrying on and competing with other criminal groups of the city in his absence.

The Auranga-Aslam animosity took a serious turn when one

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## Khaleda accuses govt of abusing PSA to retain power

Diplomats, donors briefed on prevailing situation

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia yesterday briefed foreign diplomats and representatives of donor agencies on the overall situation in the country, particularly 'abuse' of the Public Safety Act (PSA) against opposition leaders and activists.

Ambassadors, high commissioners, top officials of diplomatic missions and representatives of donor agencies attended the briefing held at a city hotel.

During the 90-minute briefing and question and answer session, the BNP Chairperson mainly focused on Awami League government's "failures, misdeeds, indiscriminate abuse of the black Public Safety Act and Special Powers Act" against opposition leaders and activists across the country, meeting sources said.

In a written statement read out at the briefing, Khaleda Zia said the government has

stepped up repression on the Opposition and started blatant abuse of the PSA with the motive of detaining opposition activists so that it can rig the coming polls to return to power.

She apprised the diplomats of government-backed terrorist activities, forcible occupation of public and private property by sons and relatives of AL ministers and MPs, killing of innocent people and opposition activists, filing of false cases under the PSA against BNP leaders and supporters throughout the country, the sources mentioned.

The opposition leader alleged that the government had earlier abused SPA and PSA to harass field level activists and mid-ranking leaders. But it has now started filing false cases under the PSA against her party's senior leaders and lawmakers.

In this context, she cited the instances of party leaders M

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## Biman's clarification & our reply

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman in a clarification to a Daily Star report "Biman 'under pressure' to procure 4 used Airbuses" published on January 10 yesterday said the news is "not true and does not have any basis."

"Biman is not under any pressure from any quarter for purchase of any aircraft from Max Power Aero Space or from any other source. Biman management has not encountered any lobbying from any quarter for purchase of the said aircraft. The

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## Cattle trader shot dead by BSF

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 13: One Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force personnel near Shahapur frontier area at Motihar thana in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jamal Hossain, 35, son of late Nurul Islam of Mirkamari village under Motihar thana.

Police sources said Jamal went to the frontier area to purchase cattle from Indian businessmen. The BSF men forcibly took Jamal to the Indian side intruding into Bangladesh territory. He was shot dead yesterday afternoon.

His body was handed over to the BDR during a flag meeting with BSF.

Later BDR men handed over the body to the Motihar police this afternoon.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 14		5.32 pm
Jan 15	6-44am	

## Prayer Timings

January 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-10
Zuhr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-35	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation