'Why magistrate won't be stripped of authority?'

HC on bail refusal to infant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered a metropolitan magistrate of Chittagong to appear before the court on April 23, and explain why he would not be stripped of his authority as a magistrate for refusing a sixmonth-old baby and his mother bail in a robbery case.

The HC division bench comprising Justices AK Badrul Hug and M Fazlur Rahman also asked former investigation officer (IO) of the case Sub-Inspector Zahidur Rahman Zahid to appear before the court in person the same day.

Besides, the court expressed resentment at Assistant Attorney SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Rokan for taking defence from president during caretaker regime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immediate past Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud yesterday said a dual administration exists during the reign of caretaker government as the president remains in charge of the armed

Rokanuddin, also vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, suggested that defence responsibilities should be taken from the president if the problem is to be overcome.

The problem can also be resolved if the former chief justice who is going to head the caretaker government, according to the existing provisions, is made president, he told a press conference organised at Bangladesh Bar Council auditorium after he handed over the charge to the new SCBA president. "The president should resign

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Thakurgaon OC closed for bribery

UNB, Thakurgaon

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Baliadangi Police Station was closed to the police Lines Friday on charges of demanding a bribe from a

A group of transport workers blocked the road of state minister for agriculture Fakhrul Islam Alamgir protesting highhandedness of the OC, compelling him to walk half a kilometer for attending a meeting of party workers. When the OC resorted to lathi charge, the angry workers chased and confined him in a house.

The transport workers told the state minister that OC Akkas Ali seized a truck and demanded Tk 20,000 from the trucker. He was given Tk 6,000 to secure release of the truck with warning of blocking the way of the state minister if the vehicle was not released.

The truck was seized after it killed a housewife at Kadashuka on March 17. Senior police officers admitted the incident and said Akkas Ali was

closed. They said allegations

against him are under investigation.

New pay scale will inflame inflation

IMF mission warns Saifur, goes back on its advice to cut interest rates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visiting IMF mission vesterday questioned the rationale of the new pay scale being designed at the moment, saying it would only aggravate and whip up the galloping

The six-member International Monetary Fund Article 4 mission led by Adviser to the Asia-Pacific Department Nissanke Weerasinghe had arrived here last week to evaluate and update information on

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Awami League members

property, was retracted.

The government yesterday with-

drew a criminal case, the second in

the last two weeks, against ruling

BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed

Pintu and a dozen others for

assaulting and injuring police and

another case against him, for rob-

bing at gunpoint bidding documents

for auction of a bankrupt company's

December 26, 2001 for auction

document snatching, the newly

installed coalition government

But, after arresting Pintu on

Only 11 days ago, on March 22,

Bangladesh economy. They met Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his Secretariat office yesterday.

"Pointing at the rising commodity prices right now, they wanted to know how we are going to deal with the more inflamed inflation that would follow the introduction of the new pay scale," Saifur told the press.

He said, "We told them we can minimise the adverse impact by implementing the pay scale in

Govt absolves Pintu of

another criminal case

party he belonged to.

COPASSAULT CASE

The mission members said the

spare any criminal, no matter which

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of

Dhaka Zahangir Alam dismissed the

case yesterday, more than one year

after a home ministry letter had

conveyed its wish to withdraw the

18 last year informed the district

magistrate of Dhaka that it had

decided to take back the charges

against Pintu and the 12 others, as

The ministry asked the district

those were 'politically motivated'.

The ministry in a letter on March

country's monetary management is on the right path, but it needs some tightening. "If there is too much monetary expansion, it will have negative impact on the inflation, Saifur quoted the IMF officials as

They suggested that the minister adopt a constrictive fiscal policy to maintain budgetary discipline. But Saifur told them the government intends to continue the present monetary policy for a while

magistrate to hand over the affair to

the district public prosecutor (PP)

who would arrange withdrawal of

the case with permission of an

then submitted a petition to the chief

metropolitan magistrate along with

a photocopy of the home ministry's

missive for revoking the charges

other accusees have been on the

run since getting bail in 1998.

Pintu has been on bail. The 12

In the case filed with Lalbagh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Police Station, Sub-Inspector (SI)

Rajuk distributes

PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan

appropriate court.

against Pintu

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Parody poster costs his life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One physically challenged Master's student was killed allegedly over pasting of a parody poster at Bandar Police Station area in the city early yesterday.

The victim Jabhed Jahangir, 25, a student of Chittagong Government Commerce College and his companions prevented some locals from pasting "parody posters" on a wall at Pashchim Goshaildanga in Banmaking at around 12.30am.

As Jabhed and others went to the guardians of the people who tried to paste the posters that mocked a local leader. Jabhed with thin legs lagged far behind.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

5 kidnapped in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Armed criminals abducted five people including three indigenous persons in Roangchhari upazila in the early hours yesterday.
Up to eight criminals abducted

the five at gunpoint from a labour shed in Bangchhari, 15km off the upazila headquarters, sources said. The people taken hostage are bulldozer driver Mohammed Helal,

his assistant Mohammed Belal and three unidentified indigenous locals the sources added. No-one has yet claimed responsibility for the abduction, but the

sources suspect a guerrilla group from Myanmar has kidnapped them They said a Myanmar-based guerrilla outfit had demanded toll

rom Advocate Kazi Mohotul Hossain, owner of a construction firm, a few days ago. High officials of army and police

have visited the spot.

country concerned can sponsor a person by showing requirements for his individual purposes and by sending a visa advice notice to the

embassy of his country in The job seeker then obtains permission for entering into the sponsor's country with clearance

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

In absence of traffic police, the busy intersection near Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at Segunbagicha in the city becomes a mess yesterday morning with vehicles and rickshaws moving in every direction.

Manpower Export

Clampdown on travel with free visa

RAFIQ HASAN

In a bid to bring discipline to the country's manpower export system, the government has imposed restrictions on individuals migrating abroad with individual free visas.

The restriction will be applicable to job seekers who migrate abroad without prior confirmation of a job. Under the provision of the indi-

from the ministry of expatriates' vidual free visa, a citizen of the

AHSANULLAH MURDER

Accused say they are victims of harassment

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Almost all the accused in the Awami League (AL) lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case vesterday said they were implicated in the incident to harass them falsely. The prime suspect Jatiyatabadi

Jubo Dal leader Nurul Islam Sarker and 11 others said this yesterday when Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 asked them to reply to the statements of 34 prosecution witnesses.

Four accused -- Mohammad Ali, Monir, Mahbub and Dulal -- submitted a list of defence witnesses for giving their statements vesterday

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Dhaka committed to strengthening Saarc

PM tells new secretary general

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said Saarc process should progress unhindered and reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to strengthening cooperation in all potential areas under the aegis of the seven-nation forum

She reiterated that poverty alleviation should be the achieving goal of the Saarc region as agreed in the last summit of the forum in Islamabad.

The prime minister was talking to the newly appointed Secretary SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Uttara plots STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Rajdhani Unnayan

Kartripakkha (Rajuk) today distributes plots among applicants under the third phase of Uttara residential area project through a computer

The Rajuk had asked for application in 12 categories and will conduct the lottery for the applicants of non-government service holders businesspersons and industrialists and others.

The Rajuk has recently allocated 100 plots in Gulshan, Banani and Uttara among ministers and lawmakers of the ruling parties and mostly to the people loval to them.

Rajuk sources said the ministry concerned has officially directed them to conduct the lottery of the third phase in presence of applicants, reporters, its representatives and high Rajuk officials.

9 Australians die in copter crash in Indonesia

AFP, Sydney

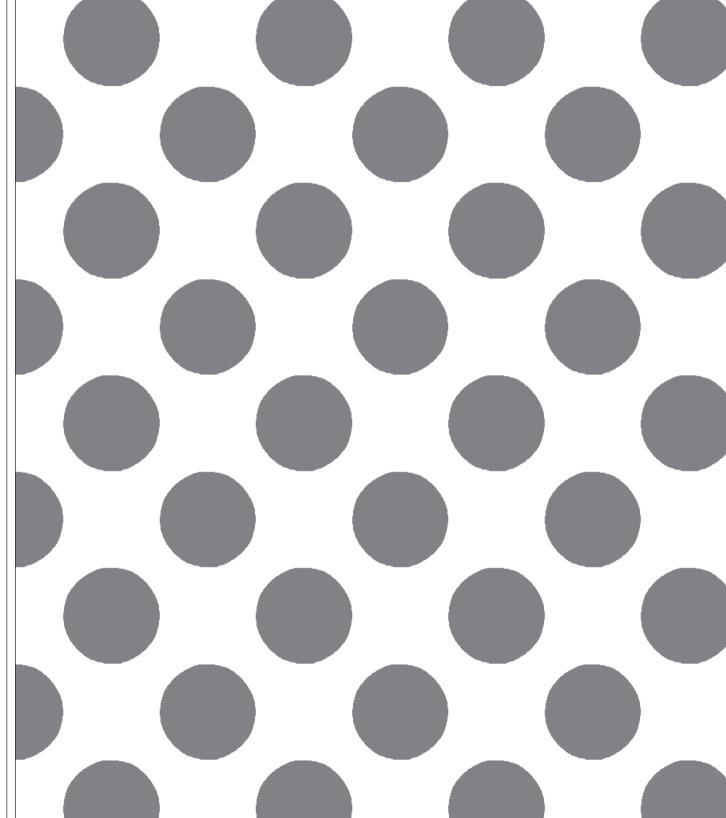
An Australian military helicopter carrying specialist medical staff to aid victims of a massive earthquake in Indonesia crashed yesterday, killing nine of the 11 people on board, the Australian national news agency reported.

Australian Associated Press quoted the captain of the Australian naval ship HMAS Kanimbla Commander George McGuire, as saving nine of the 11 people aboard the Sea King helicopter died when it crashed on approach to a village on the remote west coast of Nias island. McGuire said two on board the

helicopter survived and were airlifted back to the Kanimbla for emergency surgery by the ship's second helicopter, which landed with a medical team after seeing smoke from the crash site

> "They are in a serious condition **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

Prayer Timing April 3 Azan Jamaat 4-40 5-15 12-45 1-15 4-45 5-00 Asr Maghrib 6-21 6-24 7-45 8-15 Source: Islamic Foundation

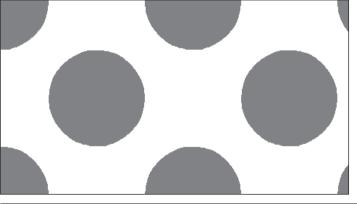


JU meet today to select more teachers than vacancies

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Syndicate of Jahangirnagar

University (JU) meets today to finalise the selection of candidates for 15 faculty positions, of which 10 are vacant regular posts, while the



rest have been added in violation of the rules

> drawn flak and triggered strong protest among teachers and different student organisations. Several selection committees have selected the 15 candidates --

seven for botany department, two

The recruitment process has

for English, four for Bangla and two for mathematics -- until March 20. The JU authorities in vacancy announcements, however, asked for five faculty members for botany and three for Bangla and English departments, while they did not make any announcement for math-

ematics at all Students of botany today besiege the administrative building, where the syndicate meet is scheduled to be held at 4:00pm, to protest selection of two 'less-qualified' candidates without any advert.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

