

28 lawyers appointed dy attorney general

BSS, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday appointed 28 lawyers as deputy attorney general as per article 3(1) of Bangladesh Law Officers Order, 1972.

Of them, 23 were earlier working as assistant attorney generals while five others were appointed from the Supreme Court Bar, an official hand-out said.

The newly-appointed deputy attorney generals are FKM Ahsan Mahub, Syeda Afsar Jahan, ABM Waliur Rahman Khan, Firoz Shah, Faisal Hossain Khan, Begum Fazilatunnesa, Safiuddin M Anisur Rahim, Fahima Nasrin, Afsar Hossain, Mukhlisur Rahman Zahid, AHM Mushfiqur Rahman, Humayun Kabir Bulbul, Irene Mahub, Giasuddin Mithu, M Abdul Baset, Snigdha Haque, SM Aminul Islam Sanu, SM Amanul Haque, Zainul Abedin, Raziq Al Jalil, Kazi Waliul Islam, Jaman Akhter Bulbul, Karunamoy Chakma, M Badrudduza, ASM Ramzan Khan, Mafizur Rahman Majumdar, Omar Faruk and Khandaker Gulzar Hossain.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a huge public meeting at Bara Moheshkhali Natunbazar Primary School Ground in Chittagong yesterday morning.

Five killed as nor'wester hits Mymensingh, Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people were killed and more than 50 others injured as nor'westers lashed Mymensingh and Chittagong in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh reports: A nor'wester swept the district yesterday afternoon, killing three people and injuring 50 others.

Abdul Khaleque, 45, of Dhari Bhaba-Khali was killed when a lightning struck him while Nina Khatun, 35, died as a wall collapsed on her at her village home at Sutiakhali during the storm, sources said. The strong wind also blew an unidentified boy of a tea stall off the roof of a building in the town, killing him on the spot.

The nor'wester hit the district three times, uprooting thousands of

trees and destroying thatched houses. Telephone connection and power supply were seriously disrupted in many places.

Standing crops on vast areas were also damaged as the nor'wester was accompanied by hailstorms.

Four cows were also killed in Boran char of Sadar upazila during the storm.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: A nor'wester lashed vast areas of the city, killing two people and disrupting normal life on Tuesday night.

The storm, that continued for half an hour from 7.55pm, uprooted many trees and snapped electric lines. A fishing boat sank in river Karnaphuli near the Shah Amanat Bridge but its two fishermen managed to swim to the shore.

Police said Md Karim, 42, a labourer, died on the spot when a

wall of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong collapsed on him during the storm.

Another victim, Md Ruhul Amin, 30, was electrocuted at around 8.20pm at Zakir Hossain Road when he came into contact with an electric cable that snapped and fell on the road during the storm.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in a critical condition but succumbed to his injuries at around 11.30pm, sources said.

During the nor'wester, an electric tower was broken near the Power Development Board's Khulshi sub-station and a large tree fell down on a high-powered transformer at Jamal Khan Road, plunging vast areas into darkness. The power supply was restored at around 4.30pm yesterday.

Formulate policy to protect bio-diversity

Minister urges experts

BSS, Dhaka

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday urged the experts to formulate a time-befitting conservation strategy to protect the country's bio-diversity.

"We should formulate a sustainable development policy for appropriate use of natural resources. Otherwise environmental catastrophe can not be averted," he told a workshop.

The day-long workshop was organised by Ministry of Environment and Forest at the Cirdap Auditorium. It was intended for finalisation of draft of Environment Conservation Strategy Document, an official handout said.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafarul Islam Chowdhury, Secretary of the Ministry Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury and Resident Representative of IUCN Dr Ainnun Nishat also spoke on the occasion. International Conservation Union (IUCN) is based in Geneva.

Tariqul said because of over-population and prevailing socio-economic condition, there is heavy pressure on the natural resources in the country. He said environmental catastrophe could not be averted if appropriate technology on the use of natural resources was taken up.

He also urged experts to formulate an appropriate conservation policy to help sustain bio-diversity through preservation of nature.

"About 15,000 kinds of species of paddy, rare medicinal trees and

different kinds of fish species were found once in our country, but now they are in danger of extinction," he said.

He said we should take special care so that no species are endangered due to lack of conservation.

The experts in the workshop gave their opinion on various aspects of the proposed Conservation Strategy document.

Beside human resources, land,

forest resources, fish, agriculture, bio-diversity, livestock resources, water resources, energy and mineral resources, urbanisation, public health, industry, rural development, transport and communications, disaster and disaster management, consciousness about environment, education and the gender issues were also included in the draft of strategy document.

Teenage girl found dead in city hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of a teenage girl was found from inside a hotel room at Motihheel area while another body of an unidentified male was recovered by police from Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

On information, Mohammadpur police recovered the body of the unidentified male, 35, from inside a plastic container of a real estate project at 12.15pm yesterday from the embankment area at Rayerbazar.

The body, clad in red T-shirt and trousers, was dumped inside the container on a pushcart couple of days ago, became mutilated, police said.

Motihheel police recovered the body of a 19 years old girl hanging

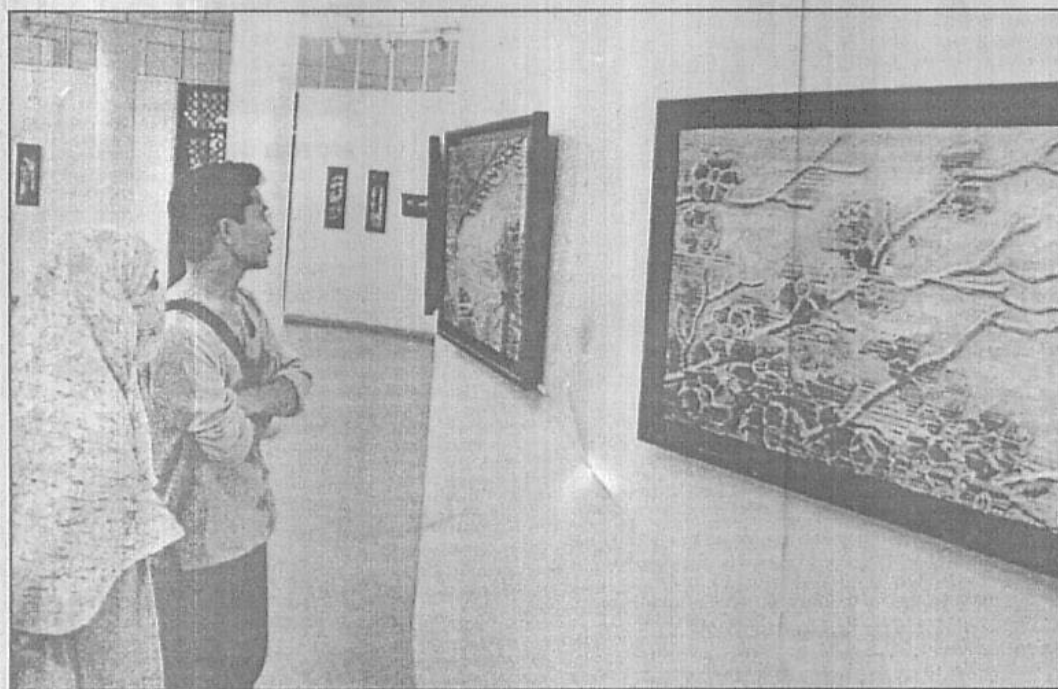
from the ceiling of a hotel room at Jasimuddin Road in Kamalapur on Tuesday evening.

The body was identified as Baran, wife of Monirul Islam of Jhalkathi, according to the hotel register.

Baran and Monir, claiming themselves as a couple, checked into Hotel Tower on May 16 but Monir went missing since Tuesday, said police quoting the hotel staffs.

Motihheel police suspects that someone had strangled her to death and tied the body with a scarf from the ceiling fan.

Police yesterday filed two UD (unnatural death) cases with the respective police stations and sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.



Visitors take a closer look at the artworks at the fifth solo painting exhibition of Shabin Shahriar at Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Art in the city yesterday. The exhibition that started on May 16 will continue till May 22.

Nasima Haider new envoy to South Africa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Nasima Haider, currently Director General (Europe) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as High Commissioner of Bangladesh to South Africa.

She replaces Amir Hussain Sikder, who has been transferred to Moscow.

A career diplomat of the 1981 batch of BCS (foreign affairs) cadre, Nasima did her BA (Hons) MA in English from the University of Dhaka.

She obtained her diploma in Mass Communication and Journalism from Dhaka University and diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the International Institute of Public Administration in Paris.

Nasima also served in the Bangladesh missions in Ottawa, Islamabad, Jakarta, Paris and Karachi on various capacities.

Nasima, who is currently discharging as DG, was in charge of the America and the Pacific Wing in the Ministry as DG from October 2002-May 2004, says a foreign ministry press release.

Wasa to install 30,000 meters in 3 months

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) will install 30,000 meters within the next three months to reduce system loss and increase its revenue income.

Besides, 40,000 water meters will be bought for Wasa by December next. It was decided at a meeting yesterday with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The overall activities of Wasa was reviewed in the meeting at the Local Government Division. Secretary of Local Government Division AHM Abul Kashem and Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhter Hossain were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the whole Wasa area has been divided into seven zones and three of them have already been leased out. The process for leasing out the remaining four zones has started, the meeting sources said.

They said the system loss of Dhaka Wasa had come down to 35.55 percent during the last 10 months from 50.57 percent in July last year after launching the meter system.

As a result, the Wasa authority has earned nearly Tk 8 crore in revenue income and raised the number of its subscribers to 2.21 lakh, they also said.

The minister directed the authorities concerned to disconnect illegal lines of the Wasa. Besides, a decision was adopted in the meeting to take action against the officials who would fail to perform their duties properly in this respect, sources said.

The meeting was informed that marketing of bottled water of Dhaka Wasa would start by next month while construction work of storm sewerage lines and box culverts, cleaning of canals and their re-excavation as well as other reform works would complete within the stipulated time.

DAILY STAR - MUTUAL BANK ENGLISH DEBATE Summerfields, Bay View move to final

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Summerfields School and College and Bay View School moved to the final of The Daily Star - Mutual Trust Bank 5th Inter School English Debate Competition.

The semi-finals of the competition were held at Lions Foundation auditorium here in the port city yesterday.

In the first semi final, Summerfields defeated Bangladesh Elementary School while Bay View School beat Oxbridge International School in the second semi-final.

Drishy, an educational and cultural organisation, is the initiator of the event.

In the semi finals, held in the form of parliamentary system, national debater and Drishy Organizing Secretary Adnan Mannan was the Speaker.

Chittagong University (CU) Debating Society former presidents Ashrafur Karim Rony, Ehsanul Haq Ripon and CU Debating Society General Secretary Faisal Quader Chowdhury were the judges.

Drishy, Chittagong President Masud Bakul and Debate Coordinator Syed Rifat Faruq spoke on the occasion.

Summerfields and Bay View will be facing each other in the final of the debate competition organised under the auspices of The Daily Star and Mutual Trust Bank Limited at Theatre Institute, Chittagong tomorrow.

STUDY ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Bangladesh ranks 39th among 58 nations

BSS, Geneva

Bangladesh ranks several rungs higher at 39, much ahead of South Asian countries like India (53) and Pakistan (56), and tops the list of Muslim countries, surpassing Malaysia at 40 in a 58-nation study titled "Women's Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap".

Conducted by the Switzerland-based World Economic Forum, the study measured the gender gap on the basis of five critical parameters set by the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

It was the first overarching attempt to quantify the gender gap by assessing the economic and political participation of women as well as their levels of education and health.

The study, released on May 16, commends Bangladesh's position of 18 in economic participation in terms of remuneration and 37 both

in educational attainment and health and also well-being although it slips a couple of positions in economic opportunity at 53 and in political empowerment at 42.

Quoting researchers, the BBC said Bangladesh's achievements have been possible largely due to enhanced decision-making capacity by women and participation in the democratic institutions at grass-roots level like the Union Parishad.

Nordic countries have been the most successful nations in the world in reducing inequality between men and women, the World Economic Forum found in its study.

The world's top five nations are Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark and Finland, according to the landmark study. Surprisingly USA ranks down the line at 17 compared with the most developed nations.

"Large populous nations such as India, Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt hold some of the lowest positions in

the ranking. Their ranking reflect large disparities between men and women on all five areas of the index," the study pointed out.

For participation in politics, Indian daily The Hindustan Times said, India ranks virtually at the bottom and only five countries -- Korea, Jordan, Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt -- rank lower than India's 53rd position.

Japan ranks 38th in overall position because of serious inequalities in political and economic sphere between men and women. China, at number 33, beat Japan as the highest-ranked Asian country.

The United States, for example, fared poorly compared to European counterparts despite high education levels for women. Western countries "notorious for their patriarchal cultures" also performed poorly, the study report said, citing Italy at number 45 and Greece at number 50 -- by far the worst performers in Europe.

Jaundice back to DU campus

UNB, Dhaka

Jaundice, which broke out in an epidemic form in the dormitories of Dhaka University a few months ago claiming one life and affecting over a thousand, has staged a comeback.

According to sources at the university medical centre, at least 14 students of different dormitories have been afflicted by the waterborne disease.

Of them, six are of Sir AF Rahman Hall, two each of Zia and Mohsin Halls, one each of Zahurul Haque, Surya Sen, Salimullah and Kuwait Moitri Halls.

The jaundice-affected students are Biplob, Shahinur Rahman, Maznu Miah, Sabuj, Zahir and

Mohammed Ali of AF Rahman Hall, Shahjahan Sheikh and Selim Reza of Zia Hall, Shahidul Islam and Golam Mustafa of Mohsin Hall, and Solaiman, M Solaiman, Sathi Biswas and Reasat Reza of Zahurul Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Kuwait Moitri Hall and SM Hall respectively.

Shahinur Rahman, a student of Arabic Department and Maznu Miah of Bengali Department, are unable to sit for their year final examinations due to jaundice, hall sources said.

The victims said jaundice affected them as they have to drink unsafe water in their dormitories, but the authorities claimed that the supplied water to the halls is safe.

"There are four jaundice victims

only on the third floor of our F Rahman Hall. I always take water supplied by the university. When I go out of the campus in the city, I always take mineral water. Then what can cause jaundice to attack me?" Biplob told the correspondent yesterday.

"There is no negligence on our part to ensure hygienic environment in the university halls. Employees wash the overhead water-tank of our hall regularly," Ferdous Hossain, Provost of Sir AF Rahman Hall, told the UNB.

Abu Bakar, a Master's degree student of Political Science Department and resident of Bangabandhu Hall, died of jaundice last year.



Lawyers took out a procession in front of the Judge Court in the city yesterday protesting the killing of city Awami League leader Khorshed Alam Bachchu.

BACHCHU MURDER Punishment to culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different professional bodies and political parties yesterday continued condemning the assassination of the slain Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Ainjibi Parishad President Shamsul Alam Dudu in a statement said the government's main target now is to harass its opposition parties.

It is continuing genocide by killing people through its cadres and the law enforcement agencies in the name of crossfire.

Dhaka Metropolitan Bar Association also condemned the killing of Bachchu and demanded immediate punishment to the culprits.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Gono Azadi League, Zia Samaj, Desh Bachao Forum, Mehendigan Unnayan Parishad, Nari Mukti Adolon, Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity and Barisal Division Awami Forum also condemned the assassination of Bachchu and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family in separate statements.

2 DCC workers killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two female sweepers of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) were killed in a road accident at Staff Road in city's Banani area.

Jharna Begum, 30, and Anwara Begum, 35, were sweeping the New Airport Road when a speeding Mymensing-bound bus ran them over at 7.30am.

Police seized the vehicle and arrested its driver Nazrul Islam.



Prof Nuruddin's anniversary of death today

The third death anniversary of Prof AQIM Nuruddin, noted communication specialist and former chairman and professor of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Rawjatur Salehin Orphanage and Madrasa adjacent to Fathullah Stadium in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers. The family members will also distribute foods among the orphans.

Relatives, admirers, colleagues and students have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Izzatunnesa

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Begum Izzatunnesa, a social worker of the model village of Pura Bausia in Mymensingh, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held and alms and foods distributed among the poor at her village home Pura Bausia.

Nikunja Lal Saha

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Nikunja Lal Saha, father of Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee Vice-President Birech Chandra Saha, says a press release.

On the occasion, religious rituals will be held at his Jagannath Saha Road residence today.

Obituary

Ferdousi Rahman, a senior teacher of Silverdale Preparatory School in the city, passed away due to cardiac arrest

early hours of Wednesday at the age of 52, says a press release.

She left behind her husband and two daughters to mourn her death.

Akhlaqur Rahman Khan

Akhlaqur Rahman Khan Babu, a businessman of Gazi Bhaban Shopping Centre, died of brain haemorrhage at the Central Hospital in the city on May 17 at the age of 76, says a press release.

He left behind his father, mother, wife and two sons.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Prof Naiyar Sultana, a former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), will be held at her PWD residence at House No-2, Road No-36, Gulshan-2 after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, admirers and friends have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for the salvation of her departed soul.