

**Lawyers against using contempt law to suppress criticism**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To establish the rule of law, the contempt law should be applied against the government for defaming court, and not to suppress movement and criticism, said leaders of the Sammita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad yesterday.

Loyalty to a particular party is now considered eligibility for becoming a Supreme Court judge that tarnishes its image, the leaders told a press conference at Supreme Court yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Tk 7.45 lakh looted from Agrani Bank**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars have looted cash and prize bonds worth Tk 7.45 lakh from the Agrani Bank's Uttara branch in the capital.

The thieves broke open the bank vault on the first floor of a three-storey building on Road No. 7 in Sector-9 sometime between Thursday night and yesterday morning.

They took away Tk 7.35 lakh in cash and Tk 10,000 in prize bond.

Police quoting an FIR (first information report) filed by Kamruzzaman, manager of the branch, said the bank staff came to know about the heist when they turned up for duty yesterday morning.

The office staff closed the bank after office hours on Thursday afternoon.

**Recruitment of 4 DU teachers postponed amid protest**

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday postponed the selection committee meeting scheduled for today to recruit four lecturers at the Department of Political Science following serious protest by around 40 teachers.

The DU Vice chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz told The Daily Star that the recruitment process will be postponed until after the end of the current session.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Qatar rolls out plan for recruitment**

*Decides to import medicine, cement*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qatar yesterday reiterated its decision to recruit huge manpower of different categories, import items like cement and medicine from Bangladesh and come up with investment here as the two countries agreed to beef up bilateral relations.

"We have decided to recruit skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workforce from Bangladesh," Qatar State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud told reporters after official talks with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan.

There are many possibilities of investment in Bangladesh, the Qatar minister said, adding, "We had very fruitful discussions with Bangladesh on all fields and the outcome of the meeting is good."

The one and a half hours talks held at the foreign ministry covered

the entire range of bilateral issues, including export of manpower, operation of air flights of Qatar Airways and Biman Bangladesh Airlines, investment, energy, health and cultural exchanges, officials said.

Yesterday's meeting was a follow-up to the recent talks between Emir of Qatar Al Thani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Doha on the sidelines of the second South Summit, foreign ministry officials said.

Qatar has started hosting international events and will host a number of such events in the days to come for which they will require about four lakh people, the foreign minister said while briefing reporters later.

Presently around 50,000 to 55,000 Bangladeshis are employed in the oil-rich Gulf state, and there is

a broad indication that a similar number of workers might be recruited in next one and a half years, competent sources said.

Qatar recruited huge workforce from Bangladesh in 1988 under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was in effect for ten years, but the recruitment remained suspended since 1998 due to non-renewal of the MoU.

The recruitment process started again following the fruitful discussion between the Emir of Qatar Al Thani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Doha this month, Morshed Khan said, adding that the two sides have decided to operate seven flights a week.

Qatar Airlines will start it soon while Biman Bangladesh Airlines will reciprocate with the availability of aircraft.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**DU teacher Sitara's body arrives tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of Dr Sitara Parvin, professor of mass communication and journalism department at Dhaka University, will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight No. BG-012 is scheduled to land at Zia International Airport with her body at 3:15am.

Sitara, daughter of former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, died in a tragic car accident in the US on Friday. Her body was sent to New York from the Saint Joseph Hospital morgue yesterday.

She will be buried after her mother and brother-in-law return home from London on Thursday. Until then, her body will be kept at the mortuary of the Birdem Hospital in the capital, said a press release.

Meantime, conditions of Sitara's sister Shahana Parveen and her husband Michel Smith injured in the accident are improving, the release added.



A group of influential people has set up makeshift shops at the renovated Mohakhali inter-district bus terminal in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

**6 new police stations open tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) opens six new police stations tomorrow to deal better with the increasing population and crime in the capital, one of the fastest growing metropolises in the world.

DMP Officials said works of another 23 police stations (PS) in the DMP area will be completed by 2006.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the six stations in an official ceremony at China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar tomorrow.

Of the new ones, New Market PS will be attached to South zone, Paltan to East zone, Shah Ali and Adabar to West zone, and Turag and Khilkhet PSs to North zone of the DMP.

The DMP authorities say these will ease up the pressure on the existing 22 stations besides helping reduce crime.

"As population in Dhaka increases with expansion of the city and rise in the crimes, we're aiming to cut the criminal tendencies among the dwellers and thus improve the law and order," DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Since the coverage area for each police station will decrease with addition of these new stations, the policemen will be able to work better to meet our aim as well as the people's expectation," he added.

Infrastructure and recruitment for these are about to be completed, said another DMP source.

Offices of the New Market and Paltan PS will be housed in

Dhanmondi and Motijheel police stations.

The Dhanmondi PS will shift to a rented house on Dhanmondi road No. 6 while the Motijheel PS to a rented house in Motijheel Commercial Area.

Office of Turag PS will be in the police outpost at Diabari while Khilkhet PS at Khilkhet Police Outpost.

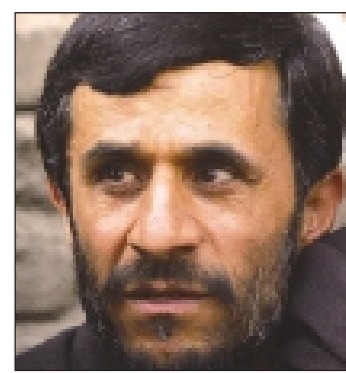
The Shah Ali and Adabar PSs, meanwhile, have been accommodated in rented houses.

Most of the manpower needed for the new police stations has already been recruited.

Each of the existing 22 police stations on average has 20 sub-inspectors (SIs) and 80 constables besides the officer-in-charge (OC) and his deputy, second officer.

For each of the new stations, 14

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



**Iran hardliner sweeps to presidency**

REUTERS, Tehran

Ultra-conservative Tehran Mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad swept to a landslide win in presidential elections yesterday, spelling a possible end to Iran's fragile social reforms and tentative rapprochement with the West.

Ahmadinejad, 48, won the backing of the religious poor to defeat

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**40 Indian crocs released**

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, back from Dulahazara Safari Park, Cox's Bazar

Forty freshwater crocodiles of an endangered species brought from India were released at Dulahazara Safari Park in Chakaria upazila, Dhaka Zoo and Khan Jahan Ali Mazar in Bagerhat yesterday.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmad formally released 29 crocodiles at a large and well-protected reservoir of the 900-hectare park, about 107 kilometres off the Chittagong port city.

The crocodiles, 24 females and five males, were among the 40 freshwater carnivorous reptiles brought from the Crocodile Bank Trust of Madras in India on Friday night.

Five of the crocs were released at the Dhaka Zoo and six at tanks in

Khan Jahan Ali Mazar in Bagerhat yesterday.

The government has launched an all-out plan to conserve the near-extinct wildlife, and the crocs were brought under that initiative, the state minister told reporters.

"We'll do everything to raise the standards of this beautiful safari park to an internationally recognised one. An extended project concept paper (PCP) has also been finalised to make the park more attractive," Salahuddin told the reporters.

The main objective of the park is breeding, rehabilitation and preservation of rare and near-extinct wildlife of the country.

The environment and forest ministry took an initiative in this regard in 2003 and sought assistance

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**KIBRIA KILLING Court orders to run circular for fugitives**

UNB, Habiganj

A court here yesterday asked the prosecution to publish a circular in the media about the two fugitive accused in former finance minister Shah ASM Kibria murder case.

The judge of the special tribunal could not proceed with the trial in absence of the two charge-sheeted accused, Mahibur Rahman and Kajal Mia.

Eight out of 10 accused were produced before the court.

SUNAMGANJ BY-POLLS

**11 submit nomination papers**

UNB, Sunamganj

A total of 11 candidates yesterday submitted nomination papers to contest the by-election in Sunamganj-3 constituency.

The BNP-led four-party alliance has nominated Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) leader Moulana Shahinur Pasha to contest the by-election as its candidate. He submitted his nomination.

Other candidates who submitted their nominations are Syed Ali Ahmed of Jatiya Party (Ershad), Saidur Rahman Rupa of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Krishak M S

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
June 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-57
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**More areas flooded in N districts**

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Flash flood triggered by heavy rains and onrush of waters from hills across the border inundated more areas in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur and Nilphamari districts yesterday.

Water level in the rivers Teesta, Brahmaputra, Dharala and Dhudhkumar continues to rise, marooning hundreds of people.

A two-year-old girl, Moushumi, drowned in the floodwater at Halokhana village in Kurigram yesterday.

The water level in the river Dharala continues to rise and is flowing near the danger mark. The floodwaters entered 405 shoals of the Brahmaputra, marooning over 10,000 families. Roads in many areas of Kurigram district have gone under floodwaters, snapping com-

munications.

In Gaibandha, over 19 villages in 17 unions have been submerged as the water level in the rivers Teesta, Korotoa, Ghaghot and Brahmaputra continues to rise.

The worst affected unions are Tarapur, Haripur, Kapsasia and Kamarji under Sadar upazila and Ghidari, Mollarchar, Kanchipara and Ukhaia under Phulchari upazila.

A number of cracks have developed in Gaibandha town protection and Sonail embankments.

Sources said the situation over the last few days deteriorated mainly because India has opened all the sluice gates of Gozaldoba Barrage in the upstream of the Teesta.

Meanwhile, the Surma in Syhet may cross danger level by next 24 hours, according to Flood

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Maoists storm Nepal army check post**

*3 killed in fighting, Americans urged to avoid Nepal trip*

AFP, Kathmandu

Hundreds of Maoist rebels stormed an army check post in Nepal's far southwest, sparking fierce clashes which left at least three people dead, the army said yesterday.

The army launched an air and land counter-attack after the raid late Friday and intense fighting continued until dawn Saturday, army spokesman Gopal Thapa

said.

"At least two Maoists and a soldier were killed when the terrorists attacked the army checkpost at Rambhapur" at the Royal Bardiya National Park, Thapa said.

Troops found the bodies of two guerrillas and Thapa said there were reports from the remote area that "at least 60 terrorists may have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Spin tames Tigers**

AFP, Old Trafford

Andrew Symonds completed a memorable seven days for both himself and Australia as the world champions thrashed Bangladesh by 10 wickets in Saturday's NatWest Series one-day international here at

Old Trafford.

The 30-year-old Queensland all-rounder took a career-best five wickets for 18 runs after missing last Saturday's shock five-wicket defeat against the Tigers in Cardiff after receiving a two-game ban banned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3