

ANNUAL REPORT ON JUDICIARY 2007 LAUNCHED

# No recruitment in 8 years led to backlog of cases in lower courts

Says outgoing chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin on the last day of his office yesterday said he had to preside over a very important transition period of the judiciary.

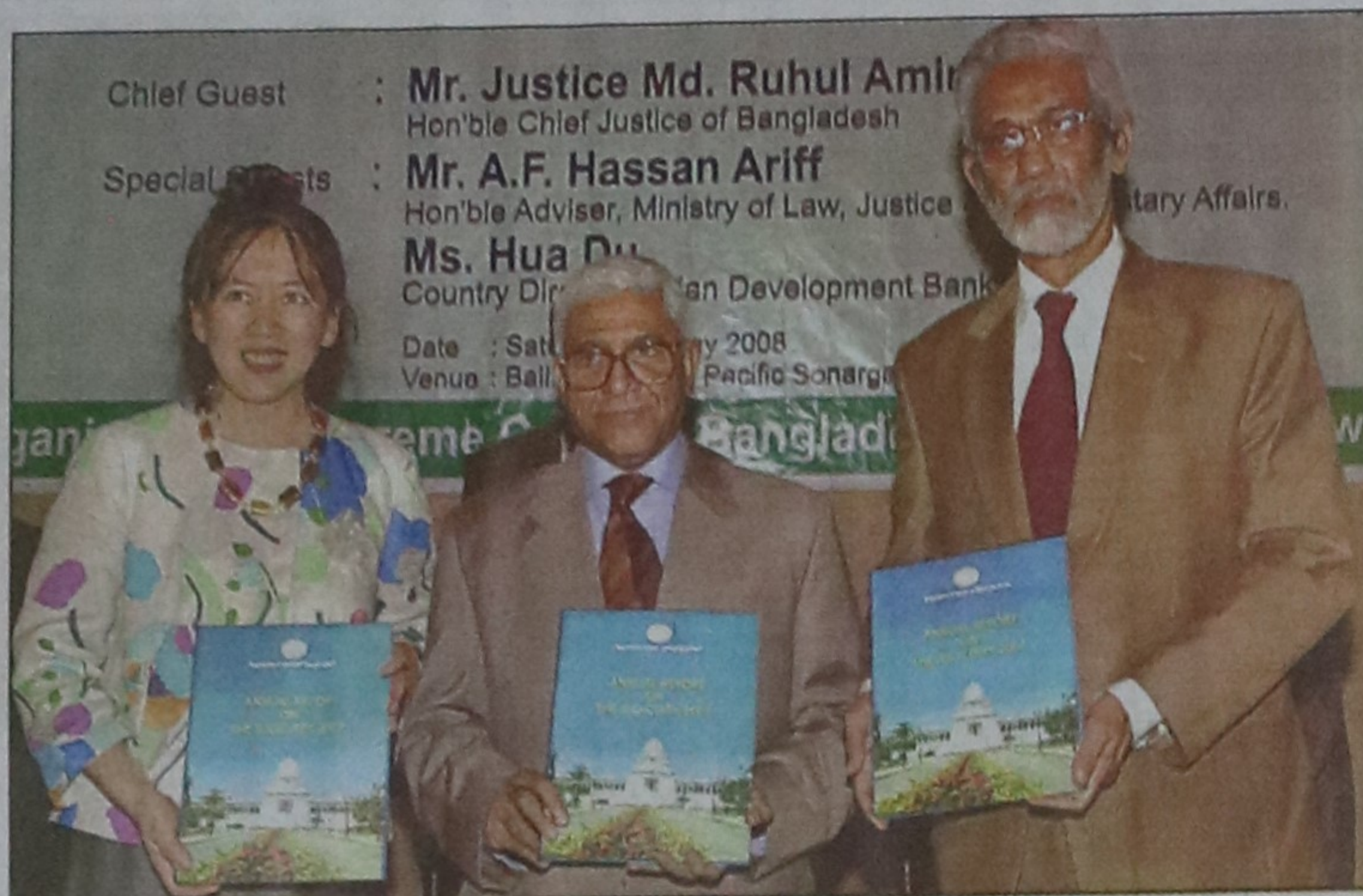
"During my tenure of 16 years three months and 13 days as a judge of the High Court Division and the Appellate Division and later as chief justice, I have tried my best to remain fully responsible to my conscience only," he said.

The chief justice was speaking as chief guest at the launching ceremony of the 'Annual Report on the Judiciary 2007' organised by the Supreme Court at Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

He said there was no recruitment in last eight years in the entry point of the subordinate judiciary which was responsible for huge backlog of cases in the lower courts.

"Very recently 390 judicial officers have been recruited at the entry point of subordinate judiciary. I hope they will be able to discharge their responsibilities properly," he added.

He said, "It is due to sincere cooperation of the government we could relocate 242 judicial officers of the lower courts to such positions as judicial magistrates, senior judicial magistrates, metropolitan



(From left) ADB Country Director Hua Du, outgoing Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin and Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff hold copies of the 'Annual Report on the Judiciary 2007' at its launching ceremony in the city yesterday.

magistrates, additional chief judicial magistrates, chief metropolitan magistrates and chief judicial magistrates.

The chief justice said, "The judiciary is one of the last listening organs of the state. A primary judicial function is to listen to the evidence given and arguments made. The judge must not only listen attentively but be observed to do so."

"It is well settled maxim that ignorance of law is no excuse but ironically, most of the people of the country don't know most of the laws and don't know how their individual rights are to be exercised. This is because language of law is cumbersome, legal system is complex and legal education has not been integrated into our common study. The Annual Report on the Judiciary will provide a resource for law students, academics and all quarters of literate people," he added.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff said that as the judiciary has been separated from the executive, people's right to get justice would have to be ensured now.

Speaking as special guest, Country Director of Asian Development Bank to Bangladesh

Hua Du said ADB is particularly pleased with the pace of unprecedented governance reforms that Bangladesh has achieved during the last 18 months.

"We are providing \$150 million to Bangladesh government over the next four years to undertake a comprehensive governance reforms programme," she added.

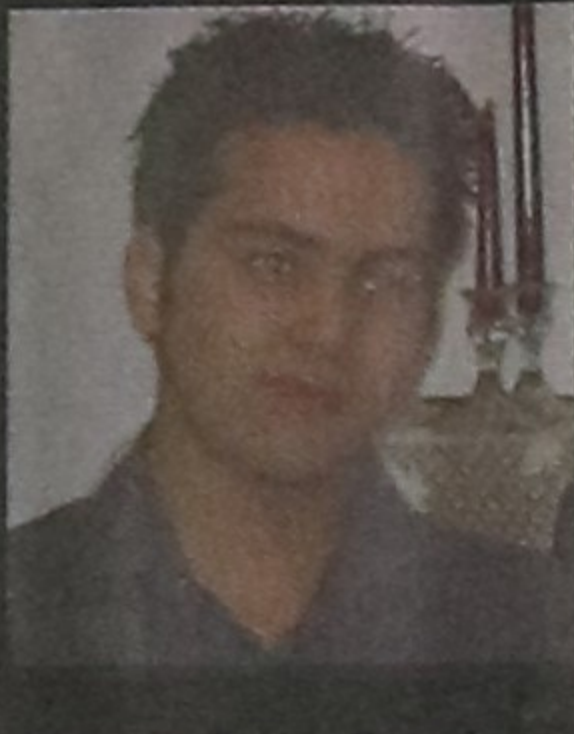
Supreme Court Registrar Ikhted Ahmed hoped that the annual report is the beginning of its kind and this effort will continue in the years to come with a report at the beginning of each year.

Former Chief Justices Latifur Rahman and KM Hassan, Judges of the Appellate Division and High Court divisions and SC officials were present on the occasion.

After the speeches, Chief Justice Ruhul Amin unveiled the cover of the Annual Report containing various information including function of the judiciary, its ongoing reforms, important judgments of the Appellate Division and profiles of judges of both Appellate and High Court divisions.

Shayaan Rahim Chowdhury, only son of Mr. Bazlur Rahim Chowdhury and Sameera Huda Chowdhury of Kattali, Chittagong met with a tragic road accident on May 15, 2008 at Tucson, Arizona, USA. He succumbed to his injury on May 22, 2008. (Innallillah...Rajjun) Shayaan was only 19 and was doing his undergraduate program in Management Information Systems at The University of Arizona, Tucson. Shayaan's body will arrive in Dhaka on June 1, Sunday 11:30 pm. He will be taken to Chittagong the next morning, Monday. His namaz-e-janaza will be held on the same day after Asr prayers, at his ancestral home Kattali, Chittagong. For further information please contact: 01713002900, 01711847912

## OBITUARY



Shayaan Rahim Chowdhury

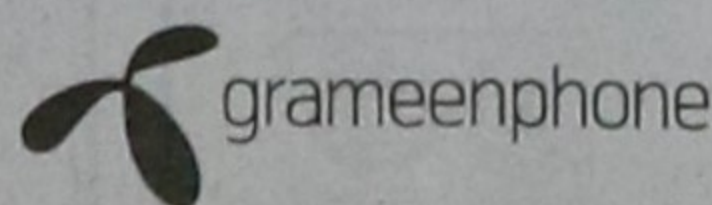
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