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**GRAFT CASES
HC bail to SQ
Chy, Lotus
Kamal stayed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed three High Court (HC) orders granting bail to former BNP lawmaker SQ Chowdhury, ex-Awami League MP Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal (Lotus Kamal) and Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka's wife Ismat Ara in corruption cases.

Chamber Judge MA Matin asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), which had filed the cases and appealed against the bail orders, to register regular appeals.

He fixed August 7 for hearing of the regular appeals at the full bench of the Appellate Division.

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Govt to appoint 2,000 law officers thru' PSC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The newly established Government Attorney Department has taken initiatives to recruit about 2,000 law officers for conducting cases in the courts including the apex court on behalf of the state.

This is the first time in the country's history that law officers are going to be recruited through the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The attorney department has earlier been set up under the Government Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 for dealing with cases in courts and performing other duties on behalf of the state.

The department has recently put forward a proposal of recruiting 197 law officers (attorneys) for the Supreme Court and 1,799 others for the subordinate courts to be approved by the ministries concerned.

Sources say the department has proposed to appoint five additional attorney generals, 96 deputy attorney generals and 96 assistant attorney generals for the SC and 79 district attorneys, 280 additional district attorneys, 480 joint district attorneys and 960 assistant district attorneys for the district courts.

Most of the existing attorneys would lose their jobs once the recruitment is completed, the sources add.

Two SC lawyers yesterday jointly filed a writ with the High Court challenging legality of the Ordinance.

They stated in the petition that the president cannot promulgate such an Ordinance during the caretaker government tenure since there was no urgent circumstance.

Attorney Department Director General (DG) Md Israil Hossain on Tuesday told The Daily Star the recruitment would be done by PSC and the lawyers including the existing law officers under 57 are eligible to apply.

"Those who will not pass the

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CA wants quick housing project in city for low-income group

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday directed the authorities concerned to immediately take up a short-term housing project in the capital to address the accommodation problem of the low-income group.

The head of the caretaker government, under his personal initiative, convened a high-level meeting at his office to find ways for providing housing facilities for the low-income group people.

He asked for taking up a model project on the acquired five-acre land in the city's Mirpur area for

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Indian oppositions expel members who helped UPA win

Speaker Somnath too expelled from CPI(M)

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Coming down hard on dissidence in the party, India's opposition parties yesterday expelled eleven members of Lok Sabha who either voted for the UPA government or abstained from voting helping the ruling Congress-led alliance emerge victorious.

Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee was expelled by CPI(M) climaxed a fortnight-long defiance of the veteran parliamentarian to quit at the call of the party with which he was associated for four decades.

"The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) has unanimously decided to expel Somnath Chatterjee from the membership of the party with immediate effect," said a statement after a Polit Bureau meeting

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Indian army chief due next week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor will pay a three-day visit to Bangladesh next week to discuss military cooperation between the two countries.

"My Bangladesh visit from July 28 is primarily for increasing army-to-army cooperation and other such military issues," Gen Kapoor told reporters here yesterday on the sidelines of a function.

Gen Kapoor's visit comes close on the heels of Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon's talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Mohammad Touhid Hossain in Delhi last week on the need to for "resolute joint efforts" in tackling terrorism.

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5 kids die as boat sinks in city lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five school students, including two sisters, died when a boat capsized in a jheel (water body) at Pallabi in the capital yesterday.

The victims are Nipu, Sadia Mobasherin Shashi, 15, her sister Mafiah Mobasherin Brishti, 14, Khuki and Juthi.

Nipu was the only boy and a student of class X, while the others were students of class IX -- all from MDC Model Institute in Mirpur-12.

The boat sank with 10 students on board and five of them swam ashore or were rescued, said Amina Rahman Ajanta, who was rescued by a local youth.

"As I didn't go to school today, my friends came to visit me and we took a stroll by the jheel (water-body) now brimming with rainwater," Ajanta who was still reeling from the shock told The Daily Star around 3:00pm.

She added a boatman approached and her friends asked him if he would take them on boating.

The boatman agreed and the students got into it. When the boat reached halfway across the jheel, some students started moving in fear.

"At one stage, a panicked student stood up affecting the boat's balance. As one side of the boat went down, water filled the boat and it capsized," Ajanta continued.

"I was about to drown when

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Rescuers search for bodies of schoolchildren who drowned after their boat capsized in a lake at Pallabi in the capital yesterday.

50,000 marooned in Netrakona flash flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

About 50,000 people remain marooned in four upazilas in Netrakona due to flash floods caused by heavy rain for the last three days.

Besides, road communications in several parts of the district are also disrupted due to heavy down-pour.

The affected four upazilas are Durgapur, Kalmakanda, Mohanganj and Khaliyajuri, Netrakona Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

If it continues to rain, vast areas in Madan and Atpara upazilas might also go under water. Water levels of the districts' four major rivers Sameshwary, Mogra, Kongsha and Dhanu have registered a sharp rise.

Dhanu river was flowing above the danger mark and overflowed its bank at Naotana point of Khaliyajuri upazila, sources said.

Many areas at Birishiri, Kakoyirgona, Gaokandia, and Bakoljura unions in Durgapur upazila, Lengura, Pogla and Koilati unions in Kalmakanda upazila have gone under four to six feet water.

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People will end emergency if govt doesn't

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said people will put an end to the state of emergency if the caretaker government fails to do so.

"The caretaker government

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Prayer Timing

July 24

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 4-15 | 4-50 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-54 | 6-58 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Millennium Development Goal 3
Without the joint efforts of both men and women no nation can prosper.

All of us will take a vow to put in a little conscious effort and work for women's empowerment at 6:00 pm today at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre

You too can take this vow from wherever you are.

Empowering women benefits the country & its people

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs