



Candidates of the 27th BCS examinations, who came out successful as per the final results of the exam, form a human chain at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding their immediate appointment.

## Five judges elected to UN's highest court

AFP, New York

The UN Security Council and the General Assembly on Thursday jointly elected five judges to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the world body's highest court.

Costa Rica's UN ambassador Jorge Urbina, who chairs the 15-member Security Council this month, announced that the judges would begin a nine-year term next February 6.

The five are Antonio Cancado Trindade of Brazil, Christopher Greenwood of Britain, Ronny Abraham of France, Awn Shawkat al-Khasawneh of Jordan and Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf of Somalia.

One third of the 15-member court is elected every three years. If a judge dies or resigns during his or her term of office, a special election is held as soon as possible to choose a judge to fill the remainder of the term.

Abraham and al-Khasawneh are already currently serving on the ICJ, which is based in the Dutch city of The Hague. Their term expires February 5.

The ICJ was established in June 1945 by the UN Charter to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by states and can also be asked by the General Assembly and other UN organs and agencies to give an advisory opinion on legal questions.

## Rich nations should ditch 'unsustainable' lifestyles: Wen

AFP, Beijing

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and a top UN official urged industrialised nations yesterday to alter their lifestyles and not let the global financial crisis hamper climate change efforts.

Industrialised nations should also help developing countries respond to climate change, Wen said at the opening of a two-day international meeting on global warming in Beijing.

"The developed countries have a responsibility and an obligation to respond to global climate change by altering their unsustainable way of life," the state news agency Xinhua quoted him as saying.

"As the global financial crisis spreads and worsens, and the world economy slows down, the international community must not waver in its determination to tackle climate change."

The gathering in Beijing is focused on the development and transfer of technology that can help tackle climate change ahead of next month's talks on creating a new global treaty on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Representatives from 76 nations

are attending.

China proposed last week that rich nations devote one percent of their economic output to helping poor countries fight global warming.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said Friday a lack of firm funding commitments could derail efforts to cut emissions in developing countries, especially during the financial crisis.

"The financial crisis is definitely going to affect international climate change policy," he said.

But "the financial crisis offers the world an opportunity to move away from toxic investments and make sustainable investments, for example into low emissions energy infrastructure," he said.

In the landmark Kyoto Protocol, rich nations agreed to targets for cutting greenhouse gases as well as helping to transfer clean technology to developing nations to help them reduce their emissions.

But much of the pledged transfers are not happening, said de Boer.

"Industrial countries must meet

their technology transfer obligations," he told journalists.

"Given their historical responsibility for the problem, it is essential that industrialised countries take the lead in reducing emissions and that they show real leadership (in climate change negotiations)."

Formal negotiations on a new treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012 will begin in Poznan, Poland next month, with the UN hoping that a new agreement will be ready by the end of 2009, de Boer said.

"Governments have used 2008 to gather information and clarify their positions on a number of topics. At Poznan governments need to go into full negotiation mode and make concrete results," he said.

China has long resisted calls to join rich nations in setting targets for emissions cuts, saying its relatively low per capita emissions and recent emergence as a major source of greenhouse gases should exempt it from action.

Scientists said in September that China had leapfrogged the United States as the world's biggest producer of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), one of the principal gases that cause global warming.

## Green spaces narrow health gap between rich and poor

AFP, Paris

The rich live longer than the poor but the gap narrows substantially in cities where there are plentiful parks, woods and playing fields, according to a study that appears in Saturday's issue of The Lancet.

Researchers looked at mortality records and income data for 366,000 people in England who were below retirement age in the first half of this decade, and matched these figures to location.

In the least "green" areas, the difference in the death rate between rich and poor was nearly twice that of places where recreational space was abundant.

The difference was even bigger when it came to deaths from circulatory disease.

The authors, led by Richard Mitchell of the University of Glasgow, say these findings should be borne in mind by urban planners.

"Environments that promote good health might be crucial in the fight to reduce health inequalities," they write.

## Russia to help in Vietnam civil nuclear programme

AFP, Moscow

Russia wants to take part in Vietnam's planned nuclear energy programme, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Denisov said on Thursday following talks with Vietnam's Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem in Hanoi.

"We know that such plans were made in Vietnam, very daring and far-reaching plans. We hope that Russia will be among those who will work with Vietnam in this high-tech area and continue the traditions of our cooperation," Denisov said in an interview to the ITAR-TASS news agency.

Last week, Russia and Vietnam signed oil and gas deals after trade talks in Moscow between the countries' presidents, as part of a broader effort by Russia to regain Soviet-era influence in the region.

While trade between Russia and Vietnam has grown in recent years, Russia's clout in the Southeast Asian country is still a shadow of Soviet-era levels.

Russian trade turnover with Vietnam was set to reach 1.5 billion dollars in 2007, Medvedev said, a figure dwarfed by the annual trade turnover between Vietnam and the United States of over 10 billion dollars.

## Ancient cave yields clues to Chinese history

AP, Washington

A stalagmite rising from the floor of a cave in China is providing clues to the end of several dynasties in Chinese history. Slowly built from the minerals in dripping water over 1,810 years, chemicals in the stone tell a tale of strong and weak cycles of the monsoon, the life-giving rains that water crops to feed millions of people.

Dry periods coincided with the demise of the Tang, Yuan and Ming dynasties, researchers report in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

In addition, the team led by Pingzhong Zhang of Lanzhou University in China noted a change in the cycles around 1950 which they said may indicate that greenhouse gases released by

human activities have become the dominant influence on the monsoon.

The Wanxiang Cave is in Gansu Province, a region where 80 percent of the rainfall occurs between May and September.

Chemical concentrations in the stalagmite indicate a series of fluctuations lasting from one to several centuries and roughly similar to records of the Little Ice Age, Medieval warm period and Dark Age cold period recorded in Europe.

There were decade-long fluctuations between A.D. 190 and 530, the end of the Han Dynasty and most of the Era of Disunity, the researchers said. From 530 to 850 the monsoon declined, covering the end of the Era of Disunity, the Sui Dynasty and most of the Tang

Dynasty.

The monsoon remained weak, with another sharp drop between 910 and 930, then it rose sharply over 60 and remained strong until 1020.

The researchers found that after 1020 the monsoon varied but was generally strong until a sharp drop between 1340 and 1360; the mid 14th-century monsoon weakening. It stayed weak, with substantial fluctuations, until a sharp increase between 1850 and 1880. According to the researchers, the 9th-century dry period contributed to the decline of the Tang Dynasty and the Mayans in Mesoamerica. It also may have contributed to the lack of unity during the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period, they said.



Students explain their science project to the adjudicators at the annual science fair of Bangladesh International School on the school premises at DOHS in Mohakhali in Dhaka. The two-day fair ended yesterday.

## In fond memories of Late Maqsuda Karim

We lost you on this day six years ago but your ideologies, discipline and sweet memories show us the path of a beautiful life ahead...

Dear friends and relatives, please take out a few seconds to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Manzoor Ul Karim  
Gulnaz Karim  
Naushin Farzana Amin  
Munazzir S Karim



Principal Geoffrey Fisher of Kodak International School, a multicultural school in Tamil Nadu, India, speaks at an information reception get-together of management committee members of the school and parents of Bangladeshi students at Hotel Sarina in Dhaka yesterday.

## Japanese researchers make brain tissues from stem cells

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese researchers said Thursday they had created functioning human brain tissues from stem cells, a world first that has raised new hopes for the treatment of disease.

Stem cells taken from human embryos have been used to form tissues of the cerebral cortex, the supreme control tower of the brain, according to researchers at the government-backed research institute Riken.

The tissues self-organised into four distinct zones very similar to the structure seen in human foetuses, and conducted neuro-

activity such as transmitting electrical signals, the institute said.

Research on stem cells is seen as having the potential to save lives by helping to find cures for diseases such as cancer and diabetes or to replace damaged cells, tissues and organs.

The team's previous studies showed stem cells differentiated into distinct cells but until now they had never organised into functioning tissues.

"In regenerative therapy, only a limited number of diseases can be cured with simple cell transplants. Transplanting tissues could raise hopes for greater functional recovery," the institute said in a statement.

"Cultivated tissues are still insufficient and too small to be

used to treat stroke patients. But study of in-vitro cultivation of more mature cortex tissues, such as those with six zones like in the adult human brain, will be stepped up," it said.

The tissues could also serve as "a mini organ" for use in studying the cause of the Alzheimer's disease and developing vaccines, it said.

Embryonic stem cells are harvested by destroying a viable embryo, a process that some people find unacceptable.

Riken said cortex tissues were also obtained from "induced pluripotent stem cells," which are similar to embryonic stem cells but artificially induced, typically from adult cells such as skin cells.



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প্রতি বর্ষকৃত মাত্র ২,০০০ টাকায় ফ্ল্যাট মালিক হউন। সাথ ও সাথের সময়ক কন।

মাত্র ১(এক) লক্ষ টাকায় ফ্ল্যাট কুইন।

সহস্রী মালিক কিস্তিতে দীর্ঘমেয়াদী স্বপ্ন সুবিধা।

সংসদ ভবন থেকে ২০ মিনিট সময়ের দূরত্বে প্রকল্পের অবস্থান।

খোলা আকাশ পরিবেষ্টিত সূর্যনির্ভর ও স্বাধীন উন্মোচন উপযোগী স্থাপত্যশৈলী নকশার সমৃদ্ধ।

শহরের কোলাহলমুক্ত প্রাকৃতিক মনোরম পরিবেশে নদীতীরে বসবাস।

বেলাদুলাহ সামাজিক অনুষ্ঠানটির জন্য পর্যাপ্ত খোলা জায়গা ও ব্যাপক কমিউনিটি সুবিধাসমৃদ্ধ।

প্রকল্প সংলগ্ন প্রসারিত অত্যাধুনিক শিশু কমপ্লেক্স।

এ্যাডভান্সড পুলিশ টাউনের অধীন বিসিএস পুলিশ অফিসারস্ সমিতির বাসস্থানীয় প্রকল্পে সার্বজনিক নিরাপত্তার জন্য নির্যাতন পুলিশ পোর্ট এর সুবিধা।

প্রকল্প অবস্থান ও ঢাকা-য় উভয়মুখী যোগাযোগের জন্য সার্বজনিক দীর্ঘতাপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত শাটল সার্ভিসের সুবিধা।

জরুরী বাবাকের জন্য সার্বজনিক এম্বুলেন্স বাসস্টা ও ফার্স্ট-এইড সুবিধা।

প্রকল্প সংলগ্ন হ্যাঙ্গার ট্যাণ্ড ও নিজস্ব হ্যাঙ্গার পানি সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা।