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Bangabandhu murder case may resume soon

Appointment of 2 judges at Appellate Division paves the way, legal experts say

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Initiatives are going to be taken soon for disposal of the long-pending Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case following appointment of two new judges to the Appellate Division.

Legal experts say the appointments have paved the way for forming the required three-member bench of the apex court to hear appeals of five condemned prisoners against their conviction handed down by the High Court.

President Zillur Rahman on Wednesday appointed the most senior judges of the HC Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Md Abdul Aziz as judges to the Appellate Division. A gazette notification on the appointments was published yesterday.

The judges will take oath of their new office to Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin Sunday morning, sources say.

The chief state counsel for this case, advocate Anisul Huq yesterday told The Daily Star he will convey the present status of Bangabandhu murder case to the Supreme Court (SC) through submitting a "concise statement" next week, as there is no bar to constituting a bench for hearing this case now.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said yesterday his office is fully prepared for hearing of the case.

"A possibility has been created for constituting a bench of the Appellate Division for hearing the case. The chief justice will now constitute the bench and then we will move to the court to proceed with it," he said.

Of the five sitting judges of the Appellate Division, Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin and Justice MA Matin had earlier felt embarrassed to hear the case in the HC. Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim had heard the case and delivered judgment at the HC, Anisul Huq added.

The appeals against death sentence handed down by the HC have remained pending in the SC for about 16 months due to shortage of judges.

Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col



Oishee, daughter of Maj Kazi Ashraf Hossain who was killed in the BDR Headquarters, laments as her father was being laid to rest at the Army Graveyard in Banani in the capital yesterday. Story on page 3

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Fake TINs must be legalised by April 30

NBR warns of punitive action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday announced an offer to legalise fake tax identification numbers (TIN) in circulation by April 30, failing which such TIN holders would face different punitive actions

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Cabinet okays amended law on speedy trial

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved an updated speedy trial law aiming to improve the country's law-and-order situation.

A meeting of the cabinet with Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Prime Minister's Office gave the approval to the Law and Order Disruption Offences (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act 2009.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
March 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Ensure power for smooth irrigation

Lawmakers ask govt; state minister pledges necessary steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Irrigation across the country is being hampered due to acute shortage of power, treasury bench lawmakers said in parliament yesterday.

Demanding uninterrupted supply of electricity to farmers, they said despite government moves to ensure power supply to farmers, they are not getting adequate electricity to run pumps for irrigation.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Govt, rebels urged to allow civilians to flee Lankan war zone

AP, Colombo

Human Rights Watch called on the Sri Lankan government and ethnic Tamil rebels Thursday to allow thousands of families to flee the northern war zone. A local doctor said scores of civilians were killed and hundreds wounded in two days of shelling.

A Red Cross staff member reportedly helping evacuate wounded patients from the area was among those killed.

International aid groups have expressed growing concerns for the safety of the civilians in recent weeks as government forces pushed the rebels out of much of their de facto state in the north and cornered them in a tiny strip of land along the north-east coast.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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Changes in high military officials' posts

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday brought changes to several posts of senior army officials including the military secretary to the president and director general (DG) of Bangladesh Ansar-VDP.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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