



Govt plans to appoint 100 lower court judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is planning to appoint over 100 assistant judges to the lower judiciary in addition to 207 whose appointments are now under process.

The law ministry sources said only at the entry level judicial officials are appointed to the post of assistant judges while the other tiers are filled through promotion.

According to sources, about 400 posts of the lower court judges have remained vacant for more than seven years affecting people seeking justice across the country.

Of them 320 posts are for assistant and senior assistant judges and the rest are for the higher tiers of judges -- joint, additional and district judges -- the sources said, adding that a total of 1,146 judges are now discharging judicial functions in the lower courts across the country.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Shafique Ahmed has recently told The Daily Star that new judges will be recruited through the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

The government is trying to find out the reasons behind vacancies in the lower judiciary, he said, adding that they are very sincere about ensuring it so that litigants do not face any trouble getting justice, he said.

The process of appointments of 207 new judges began in November 2008 when the number of vacant posts of assistant judges was the same, an official concerned said.

The official further said that most of the judges are functioning at the courts where the number of pending cases is more.

Sources said the judicial posts are lying vacant because of several reasons, including non-recruitment of judges during the regime of the BNP-led government, and

separation of the magistracy.

The executive magistrates earlier discharging judicial functions were absorbed in the administrative posts after the separation of the magistracy through the separation of judiciary from the executive, sources added.

Besides, some of the judges either left the jobs or were transferred to other services on deputation thus creating vacancies in the judiciary.

Meanwhile, JSC sources said the commission had already selected 926 candidates out of total 2,153 through a preliminary test. The selected candidates are now taking a written test of 1,000 marks and the recruitment process will be completed within two months.

In May last year, the government appointed 394 assistant judges to courts across the country following separation of the judiciary.

Moitree men vandalise college over admission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A group of Chhatri Moitree activists yesterday vandalised the principal's and administrative offices of New Government Degree College in Rajshahi and set fire to the principal's car.

Police and college authority said most of the attackers were unknown and hired for establishing supremacy over the admission process and ongoing development works in the college.

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ENCROACHMENT ON SHITALAKHYA Warehouses demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities knocked down portions of three warehouses and 15 makeshift structures on river Shitalakhya and continued earth removal from Turag yesterday as part of the ongoing eviction drive against encroachers.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Narayanganj district administration conducted the drive yesterday after two days' break and demolished portions of Pal and Company, Popular Jute Mills and Hafiz Jute Mills.

Meanwhile, BIWTA and Dhaka district administration continued their drive on the third day to remove massive earth from the foreshore of river Turag near Gabtali-Amin Bazar Bridge in the city.

Officials said excavation work started simultaneously at four sand trading sites on the

foreshore of Turag.

Besides, the ongoing canal recovery drive by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) extended to Hazaribagh Canal yesterday after eviction of encroachers from Katasur canal in the city.

"Excavation work is going on at night as well to expedite the pace of earth removal from Turag," said BIWTA senior deputy director Golam Kabir, adding that the drive will go on till the earth-filled foreshore is recovered.

BIWTA has deployed a tugboat and 30 day-labourers for the drive near Gabtali-Amin Bazar Bridge.

The contractor, Mantasha Dredging Company, has engaged five excavators. The company will excavate grabbed portions and take sand as compensation as per a deal with the BIWTA.

However, the officials on eviction duty said

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PHOTO: COURTESY Dhaka Wasa authorities yesterday evict illegal structures on Wasa canal in front of Hazaribagh Bazar to revive the dying canal.

PM to consider corporate tax cut for banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured the private banks of considering their demand for a cut in the corporate tax.

"I will make a decision on it after consultation with the finance minister and the central bank governor," she said at a reception by Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), a platform of private commercial bank owners.

The banks have long been calling for a decrease in the existing 45 percent corporate tax on them. They claim the rate is the highest in the world.

Referring to the tax, the prime minister said the banks should see it as their contribution to improving the fate of the people.

BAB Chairman Nazrul Islam Mazumder delivered the welcome note at the function also addressed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

Hasina thanked the bankers for their support in tackling natural disasters and emergencies.

She said her government would work to promote the private

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Coal mining issues spark fresh debate

NRB expert's views irk colleagues; NRB panel advocates mining method on cost-benefit basis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The local and non-resident Bangladeshi (NRB) participants of the four-day brain storming session on coal policy were irked by public comments of two experts against certain aspects of mining in Bangladesh.

They said that their comments at a press conference organised by Bangladeshi Paribesh Andolok (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network Friday were aimed at discrediting the four-day session in which the two themselves had participated and contributed to the recommendations on the coal policy.

Only within a day after participating in the session, NRB coal expert and a member of the Environment Network Dr Khalequzzaman Friday at a press conference on the four-day session said that open pit mining was not ecologically friendly for Bangladesh.

Another NRB environmentalist Dr Sarwat Chowdhury said coal could be exported if there is no way for it to be stored or

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Bullying led to killing of Notre Dame student Say Rab investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notre Dame College student HM Iqbal yesterday claimed bullying forced him to kill classmate Mohammad Azizul Hakim alias Babu on June 4 in the city's Motijheel area, said investigators.

Earlier in the day, he was arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion at his relatives' house at Indrapasa village in Jhalakathi.

In primary interrogation,

Iqbal, 20, a first-year student of the college, alleged his classmates Babu and Derick Rao had made his life unbearable by relentless sneers for his hailing from a village. They would often ridicule him

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50 militants killed in Pak fighting

Security agency buildings, hotels under terror threat in Lahore

AP, ANI, Chuprial Lahore

formal start of full-scale operations in South Waziristan an offensive that Washington has been pressing Pakistan to undertake officials said troops are already occupying strategic positions in the region.

Lahore Commissioner Khusro Pervaiz has warned that the militants could target some strategically important buildings in the city.

Pervaiz said that the terrorists are on the look out for the right opportunity to carry out terror strikes on the offices of law-enforcement agencies and top hotels located here.

According to The Daily Times, the Lahore CCPD, Pervaiz Rathore, in his letter to Pervaiz, has warned that militants may trigger attacks more powerful and devastating than those that

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Wrath of dowry cripples young Parvin for life

MORSHEED ALI KHAN and ANISUR RAHMAN

Parvin Khatun, 25, with both her hands amputated at wrists and almost blind, came to the capital to compete in the recently held GrameenPhone Ninth Special National Chess Tournament, from Notun Kashba of Haripur union, under Pabna police station in Rajshahi.

Her current condition was inflicted on her by a vicious bomb attack allegedly orchestrated by her husband and in-laws in October 2000, for dowry.

She talked to these correspondents in National Sports Council Chess Federation on Wednesday. ADD, a non-government organisation working for disabled persons in Rajshahi, sponsored her participation in the tournament for physically disadvantaged people.

Just three months into Parvin's marriage with Mohammad Alamgir Hossain Tipu in April 2000, in exchange for a dowry of Tk 9,000, 1,250 bhoris of gold ornaments, and nine bhoris of silver ornaments, she was approached again by her husband and in-laws for more.

Her husband, mother-in-law, and sister-in-law pressed her to return to her parents and bring at least Tk 5,000 more, or nine pieces of corrugated tin, putting Parvin, who was only sixteen back then, in a very difficult situation.

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Online Poll

Do you think the protests against construction of Tipaimukh dam are just politics?

- Yes (40.7%)
- No (58.1%)
- No Comments (1.2%)

Total votes: 661

TODAY'S POLL
The first case of swine flu infection has been detected in the country. Do you think Bangladesh is capable enough to tackle the swine flu threat?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Magrib	7-52	7-55
Esha	9-17	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



With her blown-off wrists, Parvin talks over her cellphone during Grameen Phone Special National Chess Tournament held at the National Sports Council Chess Federation yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UN probe into Benazir killing begins July 1

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The independent commission tasked with looking into the facts and circumstances surrounding the 2007 assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto will begin its work on July 1, the United Nations announced Friday.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a letter to Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan's President and Benazir's widower, informing him of the start of the commission of inquiry, Ban's spokesperson said in a statement.

The commission, headed by Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz of Chile, will have a mandate of six months and will be fact-finding in nature, as noted by the secretary-general in February, when he announced his intention to set up the probe, according to a UN report received here on Saturday.

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