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HC gets 9 additional judges

Appellate Division to get 3 soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman yesterday appointed nine additional judges to the High Court (HC) Division of the Supreme Court (SC) beefing up the strength of the HC to deal with a huge backlog of cases.

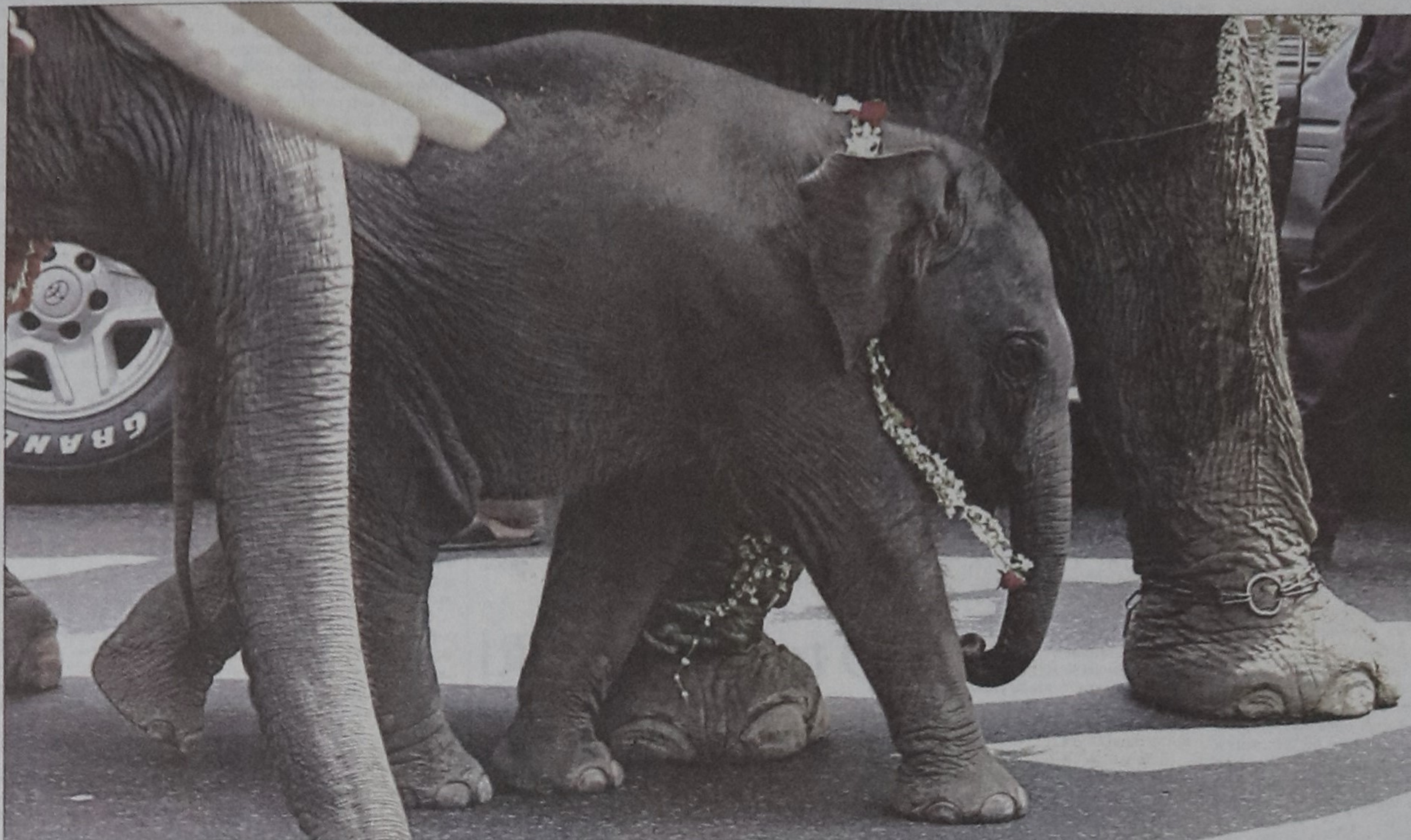
Meanwhile, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that at least three judges would be appointed to the Appellate Division of the apex court within a week or two.

The new HC judges, all appointed for a tenure of two years, are M Moazzem Hossain, Showmendra Sarker, Abu Bakar Siddiqui, M Enayetur Rahim, Naima Haider, M Nuruzzaman Nani, Obaidul Hassan Shaheen, MR Hassan and Moynul Hossain Chowdhury.

Showmendra Sarker was a Tangail sessions and district judge and Abu Bakar Siddiqui the registrar of the Supreme Court.

Enayetur Rahim served as

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Four circus elephants, including this 23-day-old calf, are made to march a city street in front of Institution of Diploma Engineers during a procession organised to mark the Awami League's 60th founding anniversary. The animals were brought to the capital from Bogra for this purpose. The procession triggered a traffic jam that lasted for hours.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

New envoys to US, India, Myanmar

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed new ambassadors and high commissioner of Bangladesh to the United States, India and Myanmar.

"Akramul Qader has been appointed next Ambassador to the USA," an official announcement said yesterday.

He had held the office of high commissioner to South Africa in 1999, concurrently accredited as high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Switzerland and Lesotho.

Qader also served as ambassador to Thailand in 1996 and concurrently served as ambassador to Cambodia.

He was the permanent representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Qader, also member of the subcommittee on International Affairs of the Awami League (AL) since 2004, served different significant posts in the Netherlands, Luxembourg, New Delhi, Myanmar and Pakistan.

The new AL-led grand

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

PRIMARY SCHOOLS Govt to appoint 25,000 teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government would appoint 25,000 primary school teachers soon to resolve the country's teacher crisis.

"We have already appointed 20,000 primary school teachers and we are taking preparation to appoint 25,000 more teachers within a short time," he told the newsmen after inauguration of the 8th International Language and Development Conference at a city hotel.

Replying to a query, he said the government would increase the salary of registered non-government primary schools teachers.

Nahid said the number of registered non-government primary school teachers is around 1 lakh and they would get

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Eyes shift to universities

Investigators to extend vigil after JMB's Buet-passed IT chief captured

JULEIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Investigators consider extending vigilance to institutions for higher education to trace whether militants have already infiltrated into those and built a strong network, say sources concerned.

The investigators would mount their watch on a number of public and private universities following arrest of Emranul Haque alias Rajib, a Buet graduate and also IT boss of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The officials of Rapid Action Battalion

(Rab) engaged in busting militant networks across the country were stunned to learn that a graduate in civil engineering from the well-reputed Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology is involved with such an infamous outfit.

The arrest came as a wake-up call for the Rab officials, who would now train their focus more on universities in addition to religion-based organisations and institutions.

Rab Additional Director General Col Rezanur Rahman Khan admitted that it's a new discovery for them that a highly

educated man is involved in an organisation like JMB.

He added they would investigate how such a highly educated person got involved with JMB.

The investigators suspect apart from Buet and Dhaka University, JMB has infiltrated to different other educational institutions since Rajib joined JMB inspired by a DU student named Mostafiz.

However, since Rab does not have enough manpower to carry out this huge task alone, it considers seeking help from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Highrise hope for Hatirjheel losers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to construct multi-storey structures adjacent to the Begunbari-Hatirjheel canal to accommodate the people affected by Hatirjheel project.

State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan made the decision public after a meeting with officials concerned at his office yesterday.

"We are going to erect high-rises and hoping that the affected people will enjoy staying there as the buildings will be north of Hatirjheel and facing south," said Mannan.

"We have made the decision as we want to implement a project for the welfare of people although it is for a small number," he said, adding that the building will be constructed on khasland.

He also hoped to complete the Tk 1480.98 crore project titled "Integrated development of Hatirjheel area including

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Stay sought on HC verdict on independence proclamation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A provisional leave-to-appeal petition was filed with the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday seeking stay on the operation of the High Court (HC) judgement declaring that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, not Ziaur Rahman, had proclaimed the republic's independence.

Hearing of the petition may be held today, court sources said.

Wing Commander (ret'd)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Robbery attempt in daylight foiled

Two caught as they try to loot jewellery shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two robbers were caught red-handed while their gang was trying to loot gold ornaments in broad daylight from the outlet of Amin Jewellers in the city's Gulshan area yesterday.

Agitating mob also gave them a good beating and damaged a microbus, which was allegedly used by the gang.

Police rushed in and rescued two bandits—Babul Sheikh, 37, and Mohammad Selim, 42—from the mob beating and admitted them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said 10 to 12 bandits stormed into the shop on the first floor of DCC Market at Gulshan-2 around 3:45pm and tried

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Home Economics College shut after students' agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Economics College was closed sine die after its students damaged the office of the principal, the library and other rooms in protest at police's "charging truncheons on them for demonstrating on the road to realise their demands."

The college authorities asked students to vacate dormitories within 7:00pm yesterday.

As of 9:00 o'clock last night,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

JCD to rely on old, irregulars again

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

Formation of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) central committee with regular students might be ignored once again as the BNP high command is planning to announce a convening committee with a number of aged leaders.

JCD is now a stagnant organisation lacking fresh blood; leadership crisis at every level is crippling it due to want of democratic practices.

JCD, one of the largest student organisations in the country, has miserably failed to develop new leadership over the last 20 years.

Party leaders said a convening committee might be announced any time as part of the initiative of BNP to pattern the party and its associated bodies in a democratic way.

"It's sure that the committee will be announced soon," BNP's Students Affairs Secretary Fazlul Haque Milon told The Daily Star yesterday.

A group of former student leaders including Aman Ullah Aman, Fazlul Haque Milon, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee were assigned to prepare a draft committee but they failed to reach a consensus, party sources said.

Insiders said the BNP chairperson is now

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Criminals kill 2 autorickshaw drivers in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Criminals stabbed two autorickshaw drivers to death before making away with an autorickshaw at Dalu Rubber Bagan area in Fatikchhari upazila on Monday night.

The victims were identified as Mohammad Emran, 35, of Sadek Nagar under Fatikchhari upazila and Mohammad Rafiq, 38, of Enayet Pur under Hathazari upazila in the district.

Police said three passengers hired the CNG-run

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Moudud's remarks go against his past views

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday trashed BNP leader Moudud Ahmed's statement against the High Court's recent judgment on the proclaimer of independence as Moudud himself in his book had mentioned Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence.

He said former law minister Moudud Ahmed told the media that the issue of proclamation of independence is a political matter and it cannot be settled through a writ petition.

Shafique made the remarks

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

A mannequin tied to an A-frame, left, shows how people are punished with canes in Malaysia. Right, the front row shows the thicker-type rotan while the back row consists of slender rotan. Inset, Abdul Matin, a victim of such torture.

'Slaves' in Malaysia

Infamous caning left Matin almost crippled

PORIMOL PALMA

Abdul Matin, 35, went to Malaysia as the prospect of employment and good fortune beckoned him but he returned stony-broke and almost crippled for no fault of his own.

Matin was meted out Malaysia's second highest form of punishment - judicial caning -- in which he was dealt out strokes with thicker rotan cane that almost damaged his spinal cord.

He was punished, as he did not have a work permit

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Poll results won't be scrapped

Declares Iran's supreme council; world alarm mounts over violent crackdown

AFP, Tehran

Iran's top election body yesterday ruled out cancelling the disputed presidential vote as the world voiced increasing alarm at the violent crackdown on opposition demonstrators posing the most serious challenge to the Islamic regime in 30 years.

"In the recent presidential election we witnessed no major fraud or breach," Guardians Council spokesman Abbasali Kadkhodai was quoted as saying by English-language state television Press TV.

"Therefore, there is no possibility of an annulment taking place."

The opposition has been staging almost daily protest rallies, alleging fraud and widespread irregularities in the June 12 election, which returned hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power for another four years.

World leaders are calling for an immediate halt to state violence against the protesters, with state media reporting that at least 17 people killed and many more wounded in the unrest that has convulsed the nation for 11 days.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

The High Court has ruled that Bangabandhu not Zia, is the proclaimer of Independence in 1971. Do you think it will end the debate on the issue?

☐ Yes (44.9%)
☐ No (52.8%)
☐ No Comments (2.3%)

Total votes: 1069

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Mashrafe will be able to deliver good performance with the heavy task of captaincy?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

June 24

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

Source: Islamic Foundation