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# Govt plans to appoint 50 more HC judges

3 lakh cases pending

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is planning to appoint 50 more judges to the High Court (HC) Division and a few judges to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) to deal with a huge backlog of cases.

Sources said the process of appointing new judges will start next year when a number of judges of both the divisions of the apex court will retire.

Talking to The Daily Star, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed recently said that at least 50 more judges should be appointed to the High Court Division in order to reduce the number of pending cases and to ensure fair justice.

The judges will be appointed after arranging office rooms and other logistic

supports for them, he said.

The minister said the rate of disposal of cases will be increased after appointments of new HC judges and then more judges will be needed for the Appellate Division to keep pace with the rate of disposal of cases at the HC division.

"The number of judges to the apex court is very small in proportion to about 15 crore people in Bangladesh. There are 150 judges for the West Bengal High Court although the population is much less there compared to Bangladesh," he said.

SC sources said about three lakh cases are now pending with the HC Division while about 5,000 cases with the Appellate Division. There are now 11 judges for the Appellate Division and 78 judges for the HC Division.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin will retire on December 23 this year. Four judges of the Appellate Division - Justice Md Tafazzal Islam, Justice Md Joynul Abedin, Justice MA Matin and Justice Md Abdul Aziz - will also retire by the end of the next year, sources said.

Two HC judges - Justice MA Rashid and Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury - have retired this year and six other HC judges - Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, Justice Md Abdul Aziz, Justice Bijan Kumar Das, Justice ABM Khairul Haque, Justice Muzammel Hossain and Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha - have been elevated to the Appellate Division.

The present government reappointed

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The space in front of the intellectuals' memorial in Rayerbazar has now turned into a truck park.

## Panchhari BDR camp withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The district administration finally withdrew the camp of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) from Chhoto Panchhari in Panchhari upazila yesterday.

Bangalee settlers halted the government's move to pull out the BDR camp in the last few days, saying that they would be unsafe if the camp is withdrawn.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah said around 400 Bangalee protesters removed the barricade from road at about noon yesterday after several

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## Asian University's Rajshahi campus shut after clash

35 injured; students demand documents of govt approval

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Asian University of Bangladesh (AUB) in Rajshahi was closed since die yesterday following a clash between students and police that left at least 35 people injured.

The clash ensued as students put a barricade on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway demanding that the AUB authorities produce valid documents of government approval.

AUB students said the Rajshahi campus of the varsity has no government approval and as the authorities failed to produce any valid papers, the legality of the university was questionable.

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## 2 killed in cylinder explosion

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Two motor mechanics were killed in a cylinder blast at a workshop in Muroli area of the district town Thursday night.

The deceased were identified as Aiyub Ali, 43, owner of Aiyub Workshop, and Hafizur Rahman, 45, of Mollahpara area in the town.

Locals said the air cylinder blasted around 9:30pm when they were working at the workshop. They died on the spot.

Another worker Abdus Salam, 40, was also injured in the blast. He was taken to Jessore General Hospital.

## EU extends sanctions against Myanmar

UN fails to act tough on Suu Kyi verdict

AFP, Brussels

The European Union yesterday broadened its sanctions against Myanmar after the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, as the UN Security Council failed to adopt a US text condemning her extended detention.

Brussels imposed a visa ban and asset freeze on members of the judiciary and in what it called "targeted measures," the 27 EU nations widened the bloc's existing assets freeze to cover businesses "owned and controlled by members of the regime" and their associates.

The moves were taken "in reaction to the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and given the gravity of the violation of her fundamental

rights," the European Council said in a written statement.

It was approved, via a written procedure, by all 27 EU capitals.

Under the new restrictive measures "members of the judiciary responsible for the verdict are added to the existing list of persons and entities subject to a travel ban and to an assets freeze," the statement said.

The European Union said the trial had been "unjustified" and the statement called for Suu Kyi's "unconditional release".

The court at Yangon's notorious Insein Prison on Tuesday sentenced Suu Kyi to three years' imprisonment and hard labour for

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## Robbers loot rifle, goods in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A group of robbers looted a rifle, bullets, cash and gold ornaments from a house at Madhumajhira village under the sadar upazila early morning yesterday.

Sources in the local police station said a group of robbers on three motorbikes came to the house of Haji Mokbul and knocked at his door at around 2:00am.

As Mokbul opened the door, the robbers entered the house and looted a rifle, three rounds of bullet, cash worth

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## Khaleda for movement on Tipai

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia Thursday night questioned how Bangladesh security would be ensured if it allows India to use 300-400 kms of road in the name of Asian Highway.

"India has refused on security ground to allow Bangladesh use its 15-17 kms of road to connect Bangladesh with Nepal through Bangladesh. If that country cannot, how can we do that?" she questioned.

Khaleda made the remarks while exchanging greetings with members of the Hindu community at her Gulshan office on the occasion of

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## Militants sued for anti-state activities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station of Satkhira against two militants for their anti-state activities.

Sub-inspector Abdus Sabur filed the case against detained Jama'at al-Mujahideen Bangladesh member Montaz Ali and suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba activist Mohaddes Obaidullah.

Montaz is a charge-sheeted accused in the six serial blasts case and Mohaddes is a close aide to detained Lashkar-e-Taiba leader and Indian national Mufti Obaidullah.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Banners and signboards of coaching centres aiming at the newly passed HSC examinees clutter the street near Farmgate.

## Zardari unveils plan to free tribal belt from Taliban

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari unveiled political reforms in the country's tribal belt yesterday in a bid to extricate the lawless region from the grip of Taliban and al-Qaeda militants.

Pakistan's seven federally administered tribal areas (Fata) have become a stronghold for hundreds of extremists who fled after the US-led invasion toppled the hardline Taliban regime in neighbouring Afghanistan in late 2001.

"From today political activities will be started and be allowed in Fata," Zardari told senior politicians in a speech marking the 62nd independence day since Pakistan was created out of the Indian sub-continent.

Political activities were previously banned in Fata, where politicians were subject to arrest. Zardari's announcement was seen as an effort to draw the lawless region closer into national politics.

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## Refugee from Myanmar beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

An indigenous youth beat a Myanmar refugee enlisted with the United Nation High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) to death at Madhyampara in Bandarban district town last night.

Police said the victim Swe Mong, 60, was waiting for tea at a restaurant near his house when Sa Hla Mong suddenly attacked him with a wooden stick. He kept beating Swe till he died.

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## Jamuna eco park in a shambles

Animals dying for lack of care, poor maintenance

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

Jamuna Eco Park, an initiative to bring the nature to people of the western side of the Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, is now in a sorry state due to sheer negligence and poor maintenance.

As many as 20 deer out of 35 and three porcupines out of five died in the last 17 months. The park is now left with only a pair of monkeys, two peacocks and two hares, many of which are suffering from illness and lack of treatment.

Executive Director Khan M Ibrahim of Bangladesh Bridge Authorities inaugurated the 124-acre park March last year to add to the

ecology of the area where we have the world's 11th longest bridge.

When the park was declared open for public eight deer and some other animals were released. Later, 21 more deer, 10 hares, five porcupines, two monkeys and two peacocks were brought to make the wildlife richer.

The park authorities said six deer died during transportation while a few died of cardiac arrests and some more as wild dogs and jackals feasted on them.

Although the park authorities claimed of having 15 deer, the locals contradicted saying that they have hardly seen two or three.

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## A regular Oliver Twist story

2 men arrested for running a gang with street urchins

KAILASH SARKAR and EMRAN HOSSAIN

It's a page out of Oliver Twist. Only the focus is on a Fagin character who has been arrested for running a child burglary gang in city's Gulshan area with the help of two more associates.

The Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) wing under the detective branch (DB) of police came upon the gang's operations while investigating a burglary case in Gulshan.

Raihanul Abedin filed the case with Gulshan police station after a burglary at his house in Gulshan on July 29 during which thieves stole a laptop, three digital cameras and two cell-phone sets.

As the Swat team followed the leads in the case, they came upon a scrap-metal dealer Billal, who along with his younger brother Shariful Islam and Ramzan Ali appear to be successfully running a group of young burglars whom they train to steal from households in Gulshan, Banani and Badda.

The gang leader Billal runs his scrap metal business in Gulshan Natunbazar and after the burglaries are completed, he sells the loot allegedly to shops in malls in Gulshan, Elephant Road and the Stadium market.

The gang is very well organised, Swat found during their investigation. The youngsters are very professional-like in their work. After initial training, the boys are sent out in the guise of street urchins to identify quiet households in the area where committing a burglary would be easy. This they do by observing

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Prayer Timing		
August 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-38	7-41
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation