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HC very concerned

Counts 11 extrajudicial killings since suo moto rule; warns govt against any such action till Jan 9 hearing

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday expressed grave concern over persistence of extrajudicial killings as 11 people were killed in custody since issuance of a suo moto rule upon the government on November 17 for an explanation on the matter.

During hearing on the rule yesterday afternoon, the court asked the attorney general to convey its concern to the director general of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). The HC also asked him to take initiatives so that no such killings take place till the next hearing on the matter

scheduled for January 9.

The HC also asked the state's top law officer to place the names of Rab officials of Madaripur involved in detaining two brothers -- Lutfur Rahman Khalasi and Khairul Haque Khalasi -- who were killed on November 16.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam assured the court he would personally ask the Rab DG to take measures so that any such killings don't take place in custody of the elite force.

Meanwhile, rights organisations Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

yesterday submitted separate statements to the court saying over 1,000 people have been killed in custody in "so-called" crossfire, encounter or gunfire in violation of human rights since formation of Rab in 2004.

However, the HC came up with the suo moto rule against extrajudicial killings after five years of its beginning in 2004.

The ASK statement said the organisation found 1,057 people fell victim to extrajudicial killings since formation of Rab. The BLAST, on the other hand, placed records of Odhikar, another rights

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Hasina off to Copenhagen

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left here last night for Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, to attend the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Hasina is leading a high-profile Bangladesh delegation to the conference.

During her five-day stay in Copenhagen, the PM will attend the Joint High-Level Segment of COP and CMP at Bella Centre in the Danish capital. The same day, she will attend a community reception in the evening.

She will also join the second

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Nursing job upgraded

Govt to raise age-limit to 36, appoint 2,649; 1,700 police personnel to be recruited

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to upgrade the status of nurses to second from class-III employees and appoint 2,649 nurses against vacant positions to provide better services in the health sector.

The age limit for applying for the post of a nurse has also been raised by a year to 36.

The decisions came at a regular cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the conference room of the cabinet division of Bangladesh Secretariat.

The cabinet also decided in principle to change the name of Zia International Airport and other major establishments, named after former president and BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, said sources.

Zia International Airport would be renamed after Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA), the sources added.

Besides, the government has decided to recruit 17,000 police personnel next year to improve law and order in the country.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad earlier handed over a proposal for recruitment to Secretary of Home Affairs Abdus Sobhan Sikder.

Prime Minister's Adviser HT Imam and other senior officials finalised the proposal and sent it to the establishment ministry for recruitment.

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JS session begins Jan 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth session of the ninth parliament begins on January 4 amid uncertainty about the participation of the main opposition BNP.

President Zillur Rahman yesterday convened the parliament session at 3:00pm at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, said a press release of the parliament secretariat.

The president will address at the commencement of the session, which will be the first of the next year.

The presidential address, approved by the cabinet, is likely to focus on the present government's efforts and achievements in the last one year.

BNP lawmakers, who continued boycotting parliament from the first day of the budget session in last June, still remain unsure whether the party high command will decide to return to the House.

BNP standing committee member Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday that the party formed an expanded

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Start war trial fast

Seek people as nation mourns for martyred intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid increasing demand for immediate trial of war criminals, the nation observed Martyred Intellectuals' Day yesterday to commemorate the illustrious citizens killed brutally two days before the victory in Liberation War, 1971.

Thousands of people gathered at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the capital to pay their tributes. Many wore black ribbons, while many people and a number of organisations carried banners

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Members of the organisation -- December 14 -- gather at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the capital yesterday demanding trial of war criminals.

Climate talks resume

Developing countries return for informal consultations on procedural issues

BBC ONLINE

Talks at the UN climate summit resumed yesterday afternoon after protests from developing nations forced a suspension.

But talks have been limited to informal consultations on procedural issues, notably developing countries' demands for more time on the Kyoto Protocol.

The G77-China bloc, speaking for developing countries, said the Danish hosts had violated democratic process.

Some delegates talked forlornly of the vast amount of negotiating left to be done before the summit concludes.

The G77-China bloc, made up of 130 nations, suspended their co-operation as they accused organisers of trying to formulate a deal behind closed doors.

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শত উদ্বোধন

'গ্রোৱাল ভিলোজ' এর মুগে এখন সময় শুধুই এগিয়ে যাওয়ার, নতুন করে সিঙ্গাপুর নেওয়ার, কেনেনা অত্যুক্ত সূচনায় থাকে আরেকটি নতুন সম্ভাবনার হাতজানি।

নিরাপদ ব্যাধকিং সেবার

প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক আজ থেকে ঢাকার কলাবাগানে

মিরপুর জোড় শাখা

২. মিরপুর রোড, মুন্সুরাম চাঁকের (২য় তলা) ক্রমাবাস, ঢাকা।

ফোন: ০২৪৯৬৮০২৫০১, ০১৭১৫১৬৫০২৫, ০১৭৩০০০২৭৫।

এবং আগামী ২০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৯ কোলাবাড়ীতে

কোলাবাড়ী শাখা

প্রট নং ৬-১১৬ (২য় তলা), বিএসসিআইলি বাবিলিওক এলাকা কোলাবাড়ী।

ফোন: ০১৫০৬৬১৬৭২, ০১৭৩০০০২৬০।

বিপ্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক

সে বাই প্রথম



৪৭ তম শাখার

প্রগতি সরণি, ঢাকা

১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৯, মঙ্গলবার

আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবার অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে রাজধানী ঢাকা মার্কেটেইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর আরো একটি শাখার উত্তোলন।

অভিজ্ঞত আবাসিক এলাকা বনুজ্জ্বল এবং ডিপ্লোমেটিক জোন বাবিধারা সঙ্গে ৪২/৮, প্রগতি সরণি মার্কেটেইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর ৪৭ তম শাখা আজ থেকে কার্যক্রম শুরু করেছে।

প্রগতি সরণি শাখা

বীণ অরলালো, ৪২/৮ প্রগতি সরণি, বাবিধারা, ঢাকা

বাংলা ব্যাংক

মার্কেটেইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Mercantile Bank Limited

দক্ষতাই আমাদের শক্তি

ঘরানা কার্যালয় ৬১ নিলকুণ্ডা বাএ, ঢাকা-১০০০। ফোন: ০১৫০৯০৩০, ফ্লাই: ১৮০০-২-৯৫৬১১৩, www.mblbd.com

Inauguration of 38th branch

Another branch starts operation today at
Progoti Saroni, Madhya Badda, Dhaka

Bank Asia



Frontline