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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 94

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 19, 2010

BAISHAKH 6, 1417 BS

JAMADIUL AWAL 3, 1431 HJRI

28 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

Rare absence of SC judges marks oath

CJ swears in 15 out of 17 as HC judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Breaking away from the tradition, no judges of the Appellate Division were present yesterday when the chief justice swore in the newly appointed 15 High Court judges.

Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim administered the oath at the Judges' Lounge of the Supreme Court in the morning, leaving out judges Ruhul Quddus Babu and Md Khasruzzaman as per his earlier decision.

Senior lawyers observed that both the incidents--the CJ's decision not to swear in the two judges and the apex court judges' absenting themselves from the

Correction

In the caption of the file photo published in our yesterday's issue, we mistakenly mentioned that Khasruzzaman kicks the door of Chief Justice's Office on November 30, 2006. In fact, it was the main entrance to the Attorney General's office building on Supreme Court premises. We regret the error.

oath-taking ceremony--are unprecedented.

However, many HC judges attended the function.

Five Appellate Division judges yesterday attended their benches for judicial function, but the reasons for their not attending the ceremony could not be learnt.

When approached, one of these judges refused to talk to the media.

Additional Registrar of the Supreme Court M Atowar Rahman told The Daily Star that he did not know the reasons why the Appellate Division judges were absent from the oath-taking ceremony.

Preferring not to be named, a former chief justice yesterday told The Daily Star that the Appellate Division judges' absence signifies a difference of their

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12 killed in road crash on way to Khulna rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twelve people were killed and 30 others seriously injured in an accident on Lata Bridge bypass road in Dumuria upazila while they were travelling by a bus to join the rally of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the city yesterday.

Eleven of the dead were identified as Sabuj, Faiz, Mofizur Rahman, Enamul, Murad, Kamrul, Zem, Nazir, Ajmol, Turan and Mosharrif. Ten of the deceased were the union level leaders and workers of BNP from Narail district.

Seventeen of the injured were undergoing treatment at

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BNP taking lesson in govt's litigation

Khaleda tells Khulna rally; asks govt to go if gas, water, power crises not solved

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, from Khulna

Coming down heavily on the government for filing false cases one after another against the opposition men, Khaleda Zia yesterday said it is a lesson for BNP.

"They are filing cases against those who talk about the corruption, misdeeds and killings of the government. But I want to inform them that we have all documents [of their own corruption]," she said while addressing a grand rally at Shibbari crossing in Khulna.



"Cases will be filed one after another against them too. They will have to stay on the court premises round the clock. But we will not file false cases," she said.

Terming the government "absolute failure", Khaleda urged all to get ready for an anti-government movement.

"We will have no alternative but to forge a movement if the prevailing situation does not change," she added.

She asked the government to solve immediately the crises of water, gas and electricity. "If

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Indian minister quits over IPL row

PTI, New Delhi

Shashi Tharoor was forced to resign as minister of state for external affairs last night in the wake of a raging controversy over IPL Kochi team, ending a weeklong political drama that threatened to sully the image of the government and the Congress.

His resignation came on a day of hectic activities when the Congress Core Group headed by Sonia Gandhi met



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EC to video Bhola campaigns

Engages 5 cops, magistrate for each of AL, BNP candidates amid claim of attacks; rivals warned against code of conduct violation

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission has taken some innovative measures including use of 12 video cameras to ensure a credible upcoming by-election in Bhola-3 parliamentary constituency, in the wake of a mounting tense situation there, sparked by some recent poll related violence.

The EC yesterday ordered local election officials to start video recording from today the two rival candidates' campaign events using two cameras, as both candidates complained that their events had been attacked by the other's supporters.

Archivals, ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP, are engaged in desperate bids to win the by-poll.

All 12 video cameras will be put in use one or two days ahead of the April 24 polling day, and will continue to be used until polling is completed, said EC officials.

The move is the EC's first for finding out individuals responsible for violence or other irregularities in a by-election, as the recent events in Bhola-3 constituency generated much heat in national politics.

The commission also directed the deputy commissioner of Bhola, and local returning officers to engage five police personnel and an executive magistrate for security of each rival candidates -- AL's Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shawn and BNP's Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed.

On the basis of a report of an electoral

inquiry committee, the commission yesterday warned both candidates against violation of the electoral code of conduct during their campaigns, the EC officials said. In separate letters sent to the two candidates, the EC warned them of stern legal actions.

The inquiry committee chief, Jewel Rana, who is also a joint district judge of Bhola, recommended that the EC asks law enforcement agencies to use force if necessary to prevent violation of the electoral code of conduct, the commission officials said.

Meanwhile, the commission yesterday asked the home ministry to withdraw Bhola Superintendent of Police Md

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57 BDR rebels convicted

5 acquitted of mutiny charge in Feni trial

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The BDR Special Court-3 in Feni yesterday sentenced 57 out of 62 mutiny accused jawans of 19 Rifles Battalion to different terms in prison. The rest five were acquitted of the allegation.

It was the third judgment given in connection with the last year's BDR mutiny. The chairman of the court, BDR Director General Maj Gen Moinul Islam delivered the verdict.

In addition to jail terms, the court also fined each convict Tk 100. They will serve the sentences in civil jails.

The judgment has been delivered following the BDR law. The court started its proceedings around 1:45pm. BDR DG Moinul Islam read out the orders of punishment to each of the convicts separately. He noted the accused were provided with all

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Tk 2.5CR JS GRAFT ACC to quiz BNP trio

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is going to question former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain regarding alleged misappropriation of Tk 2.5 crore as part of a second phase inquiry.

The four-member ACC team headed by Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan had to submit an incomplete inquiry report last week as its one-month deadline expired.

The team even could not examine all the necessary

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