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## Free lower judiciary

Bar chief wants SC to handle hiring, promotion of judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Keep the Supreme Court (SC) as the only authority to appoint, transfer and promote the judges of lower courts as per article 116 of 1972 constitution, SC Bar Association (SCBA) President Khandaker Mahub Hossain asked the government yesterday.

If the article is restored, the lower court will come under the control of only the SC, and lower court judges can function independently, the SCBA president said, adding the article was changed through fourth amendment of the constitution in 1975.

He made the comments at a briefing to reporters at his SCBA office.

Khandker Mahub said now the president appoints, transfers and promotes the judges in consultation with the SC, but also as per the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Bid to free Shyampur canal

HELEMUL ALAM

The Dhaka District Administration and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) demolished around 17 illegal semi-concrete and kancha structures on Shyampur canal yesterday as part of a two-day drive to recover city canals.

The drive was conducted in line with government's decision to reclaim five encroached city canals, said Mohammad Al-Amin, executive magistrate of Dhaka Deputy Commissioner's office who led the drive.

Additional District Magistrate of the administration SM Mahubur Rahman said they will tear down all illegal structures on the canal while BWDB will retrieve its navigability.

Two excavators, 40 day labourers, 45 police personnel and four members from the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) took part in the drive, which started around noon and concluded at 5:00pm. "There are 43 illegal structures including portions of six double and triple-storey building on the canals which we will demolish during our two-day drive," he said.

"Apart from that, owners of 11 structures ranging from single storey to three-storey have begun to demolish illegal portions of their buildings by themselves in presence of the drive team," said he.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

District Administration and Water Development Board jointly demolishing illegal structures on the Shyampur canal yesterday.

## Graft level far higher

Claims BNP leader Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said government got involved in massive corruption though it came to power with a pledge to curb corruption.

He said Transparency International (TI) report on corruption could not reflect the total scenario of country's corruption and the index would be higher if perception of common people is taken into consideration.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Indonesia devastated by twin disasters

Tsunami toll rises to 282, quake to 29

BBC ONLINE, AFP, Padang

Indonesian rescuers were hunting for survivors after a tsunami smashed into an island chain and a volcano erupted in twin disasters that have left scores dead and thousands homeless.

Entire villages were washed away and houses flattened when waves triggered by a 7.7-magnitude earthquake late Monday pounded an area off the west coast of Sumatra, on a major fault line in a region known as the "Pacific Ring of Fire".

Deaths caused by the tsunami that hit several remote islands in Indonesia have

reached 282, officials said yesterday.

Rescue teams on the Mentawai islands said 412 people are still missing, two days after the mighty quake triggered a tsunami.

Several hundred kilometres away on the central island of Java, less than 24 hours after the tsunami, Mount Merapi erupted on Tuesday with clouds of gas and molten lava which caused death of 29 people so far.

The 2,914-metre (9,616-foot) mountain is the most active of the 69 volcanoes with histories of eruptions in Indonesia. Officials said almost 29,000 people had

fled to temporary shelters around the nearby city of Yogyakarta, but there were fears for the fate of thousands more who had refused to budge.

Several of Indonesia's neighbours pledged help for a nation which often finds itself battling calamity, although the foreign minister said he did not yet see a need for foreign rescue assistance.

The tsunami surged as far as 600 metres inland on South Pagai island, officials said. On North Pagai, a resort and almost 200 houses were flattened.

It also struck in the Mentawai Islands,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# PM visits Japan next month

Vital agreements likely to be inked

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Seeking greater Japanese assistance in construction of the Padma Bridge and the city's elevated metro rail system and better comprehensive economic cooperation, Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina will pay an official visit to Japan end of next month.

Government of Japan has expressed intent to cooperate in human resource development, construction of multipurpose bridge over the river Padma and easing traffic congestion in Dhaka city, officials said.

Sources said, following an invitation formally extended by Japanese Prime Minister

Naoto Kan, Hasina is expected to begin the 3-day Japan visit from November 28.

Officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Japan embassy in Dhaka are working out programme details.

Hasina visited Japan during her previous regime from July 1-6 in 1997.

As part of the preparations, an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes was held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Officials from some 40 ministries, divisions, and departments attended the meeting, which discussed the bilateral relations and issues between Japan and Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

NAT'L MEDICAL COLLEGE

## Interns go on strike

Protest assault by patient's relatives, demand security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following an intern doctor's assault by a patient's relatives, the Interns of Dhaka National Medical College Hospital go on an indefinite strike protesting the assault and demanding their security in the hospital premises at Sutrapur in Old Dhaka yesterday.

The emergency service of the hospital, however, is going on, said the hospital director Azad.

Dr Maksudul Alam of the hospital's medicine department said, "The incident occurred around 2:30am on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



The elderly patient is leaving National Medical College hospital in the capital yesterday, as interns went on a strike in protest of an assault on a fellow physician.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

# PABNA ASSAULT CASES 8 more accused get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday granted bail to eight leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League in one of the two cases filed for the attack on government officials during the recruitment test for the deputy commissioner's (DC) office last month.

Senior Judicial Magistrate of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Md Parvez Shahriar granted them bail.

The court also framed charges against 33 accused in the case, and fixed November 1 for hearing of the prosecution witnesses.

On September 28, Investigation Officer of the case Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain pressed charges against these accused. They include leaders and activists of BCL, Jubo League and Awami League.

The court however turned down the bail prayers of 17 other accused.

Those who got bail include Pabna district BCL unit President Ahmed Sharif Dablu, former president Mostafizur Rahman, former president of Edward College BCL unit Piyal, Organising Secretary of district Jubo League Zahir Hossain Rubel and its activists Raihan, Mazid, Sharif and Haroon.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# Rab caught mugger after gunfight

UNB, N'ganj

An alleged mugger was caught in injured condition after a gunfight between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in BSCIC industrial area of Fatulla Police Station early yesterday.

The mugger was identified as Opu Singha, 35, ringleader of a snatching gang.

Acting on secret information, a team of Rab-11 raided the area where a gang of armed snatchers gathered to commit crime.

Sensing the presence of the elite force, the criminals opened fire on them forcing them to fire back that triggered a gunfight, Rab sources said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**OnlinePoll**

Do you think traffic situation in the capital will improve if private cars are barred from being converted to CNG-run vehicles?

Yes (43.0%)  
 No (55.5%)  
 No Comments (1.5%)

**Total votes: 417**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think Bangladesh will be able to improve its rank in the Transparency International's corruption index next year?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

# PILKHANA HEARING Witnesses take on mutiny accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bullet-proof jacket, found on the ground floor of Nayek Abdul Latif's residence after the Pilkhana BDR mutiny, was left there by Nayek Shawkat Akbar and Mizanur Rahman on February 25 last year, claimed Latif's wife before a special BDR court yesterday.

Shurovi Akhter, also a witness in a case filed for the February 25-26 mutiny, made the claim during a cross-examination before the Special Court-9 at the Darbar Hall of the Pilkhana BDR headquarters.

"Your husband might have kept it there. You are telling lies to save him. You and your husband gave contradictory statements on the matter thrice. I have documented evidence," accused Shawkat told Shurovi during the cross-examination.

"You along with Mizan came to our residence to drink water in the evening. You both were carrying firearms," she said in reply.

Bullet-proof jackets are supposed to remain at the armoury, not the house of any BDR personnel or with them. Possession of bullet-proof jackets by any border guard without official permission is tantamount to mutiny.

Shurovi, her husband and three other witnesses gave deposition to the three-member court headed by BDR Dhaka sector Record Wing of the BDR headquarters.

The 25 accused including Shawkat cross-examined the witnesses.

The court headed by BDR Dhaka sector Commander Col Habibul Karim adjourned the proceedings until 10:00am on December 12.

Another witness Hasina Begum, a nurse at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Rental power deal signed

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) yesterday signed a contract with Max Power Ltd, a local company, to purchase power for three years.

Secretary in-charge of BPDB Ishkander Ali and Ghulam M Alamgir, chairman of Max have signed the contract on behalf of their respective organisations at Bidyut Bhaban.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing		
October 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**1. Revitalises metabolism.**  
**2. Promotes blood circulation.**  
**3. Relieves muscle stiffness and aches.**  
**4. Reduces stress and fatigue.**  
**5. Improves the immune system.**  
**6. Strengthens the cardiovascular system.**  
**7. Eases Constipation.**  
**8. Burns calories and controls weight.**  
**9. Removes toxins and mineral waste.**  
**10. Deep cleanses skin.**

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