

## HC gets four new judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four new additional judges were appointed in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court for two years yesterday.

President Zillur Rahman made the appointments in accordance with article 98 of the constitution.

The new judges are Bhabani Prashad Singh, district judge on leave prior to retirement (LPR); M Anwarul Haque, secretary to the law and justice department of the ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs; Deputy Attorney General Akram Hossain Chowdhury; and Supreme Court lawyer Md Ashrafur Kamal.

Their appointment will take effect from the day of their taking oath. The number of the HC judges now stands at 94.

Upon forming government, the Awami League-led grand alliance has so far appointed 42 judges in the HC.

## World Human Rights Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Human Rights Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today.

On this day in 1948, the Universal Human Rights Charter was signed in Paris, and its principles and philosophy were later included in various international human rights charters for implementation in many countries.

On the eve of the 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said human rights are the foundation of freedom, peace, development and justice -- and the heart of the work of the United Nations around the world.

In a message, Ban Ki-moon called upon all states to ensure freedom of expression and freedom of assembly that make their work possible.

On the occasion, different rights groups have chalked out elaborate programmes, including discussions and rallies in Bangladesh.

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, said alongside some positive achievements in 2010, there were many examples of human rights violation in Bangladesh, said a press release.



An African grey parrot is seen in a two-day long exhibition of exotic birds at the National Press Club in the city. Bangladesh Exotic Bird Breeders' Association is organising the event that concludes today.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Less graft, less women repression

Say rights groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said anti-corruption movement cannot be a success without reducing repression on women, as the movement and women's rights are interlinked.

The discussion titled "anti-corruption and Begum Rokeya to establish women's rights" was organised at Savar Upazila Complex marking the Begum Rokeya Day and International Anti-corruption Day yesterday.

Savar Upazila Parishad, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Sacheton Nagorik Committee, NGO Somonoy Parishad (Savar) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (Savar) jointly organised also a procession preceded by the discussion.

Teachers, media professionals, lawyers, students and common people took part in the programmes.

Rokeya Haq, vice-chairman of Savar Upazila Parishad chaired the discussion moderated by Atiqur Rahman, area manager of TIB.

Commemorative Stamp Bangladesh Postal Department will introduce a new commemorative stamp on the occasion of International Anti-corruption Day observed yesterday, says a press release.

TIB has provided technical assistance to print the stamps of 32x48 mm. Each stamp will be of Tk 5.

The cartoon to be printed on the stamp was drawn by Shahdatuddin Ahmed Amil got the first position in the TIB's anti-corruption cartoon competition in 2007.

## Narsingdi train crash 'unusual incident'

Says communications minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday termed Wednesday's train accident in Narsingdi an 'unusual incident' and said it is difficult to say whether it was an accident or sabotage.

Referring to various casualty figures in the media, the minister said seven people were killed and 29 others injured in the accident.

Of the injured, 23 people were brought to Dhaka for better treatment and the rest are being treated at local hospitals in Narsingdi, he added.

"I saw and heard about many train accidents both at home and abroad. Accidents may occur.

"But it is unusual that a passenger coach will ride on another. I never saw such a train accident," said the minister in a statement at parliament.

Citing formation of a probe body, he said, "Proper steps will be taken based on the probe body's findings."

Bangladesh Railway formed a four-member committee to probe the accident. Headed by railway's Chief Engineer (East Zone) Yusuf Ali Mridha, the committee has been asked to come up with a report within the next 48 hours.

The minister, who rushed to the spot on Wednesday, said many journalists asked me whether it was an accident or sabotage.

"But I could not answer their questions since the accident was unusual. I will inform the nation in detail through parliament on receiving the probe report."

He assured of providing financial compensation to the deceased, injured and others affected, according to railway laws. Besides, he urged the prime minister to see if additional compensation can be given to the victims.

Earlier, Narsingdi-3 AL lawmaker Zahirul Haque Mohan, who rushed to the spot with the communications minister, raised the issue in parliament.

## BSMMU doctor stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A physician of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) sustained severe injury as unidentified criminals stabbed him in the abdomen at his Shyamoli residence in city's Adabor area early yesterday.

Police and victim's family members could not ascertain the motive behind the attack.

Injured doctor Mahbulul Haque Prince, 55, posted in the ultrasonogram department of the Institute of Nuclear Medicine at BSMMU, is now undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Snigdha, a relative of Prince, told The Daily

Star that a gang of around 10 criminals swooped on Prince with sharp weapons just as he opened the gate on the ground floor around 4:30am.

She, quoting victim's family members, said he bled profusely and some portions of his intestines came out through the wounds.

Family members immediately rushed him to nearby Popular Hospital but were denied admission and even first aid, she said, adding that Prince was then taken to DMCH.

She said Prince came down to the ground floor from his flat on the first floor of the two-story building on hearing the doorbell and opened the gate, as he could not find the security guard at the door.

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