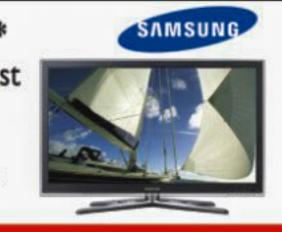
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# SC may get new judges next month

6 posts vacant in Appellate Division for long

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A few judges will be appointed to the Appellate Division of Supreme Court next month, since the division has been experiencing a severe shortage of judges for several months.

The president will make the appointments on recommendations from the chief justice. There are only 5 judges in the Appellate

Division now, as 6 out of the total of 11 retired. The five sitting judges are -- Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, Justice MA Matin, Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, and Justice SK Sinha.

December 26 this year, and Justice Shah Abu

Nayeem Mominur Rahman, who will retire on November 11 next year, is now on a leave on grounds of health complexities.

SC sources said the chief justice is consulting his Appellate Division and High Court Division colleagues about the appointments. He however is yet to decide on the number, the sources added.

The vacant posts at the apex court are filled through elevation of judges from the High Court Division.

No new judge was appointed to the Appellate Division during the last 15 months, although around 8,000 cases are now pending Justice MA Matin will go into retirement on with it, sources at the chief justice's office said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

#### Brahmanbaria, Habiganj JS by-polls Jan 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The by-elections for the Habiganj-1 and Brahmanbaria-3 constituencies will be held on January 27, next year, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda announced yesterday at a press conference at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat.

However, it has not been confirmed yet whether the main opposition BNP will join the by-elections or not.

A BNP Standing SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

#### **BDR MUTINY ACCUSED**

### 8 unclip handcuffs in prison van

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BDR special court yesterday asked the jail authorities to take necessary action against eight accused mutineers of 24 Rifle Battalion who unclipped their handcuffs on way to the courtroom from prison.

The eight of 667 accused unclipped their handcuffs by wire when they were being carried in a prison van to Darbar Hall at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters in Pilkhana. Court officials detected the mischief in CCTV camera after they entered the courtroom.

Charged, three soldiers instantly changed their names and gave false identities. Sepoy Abdur Rahim introduced him as Rahman, sepoy Mohammad Sajadul Islam as Kashedul and **SEE PAGE 19 COL 5** 



PHOTO: STAR

(1.0%)

Shanties burn as firefighters try to douse the flames in Kazipara slum at Kazir Dewari in Chittagong yesterday. Story on page 19.

#### Hijb ut-Tahrir treasurer, 5 activists held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night arrested six members of banned Islamic outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir, Bangladesh, including its treasurer from the city's Uttara and recovered two petrol bombs from their possession.

> The arrestees are Parvez SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Prayer Timing December 23		
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source:	Islamic Foun	dation

## Build capacity to utilise climate funds

Speakers call at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should concentrate on building capacity to utilise the climate-change fund as it will start to receive the money soon, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The speakers also said the money would start flowing in as soon as the necessary process to receive the fund is completed.

The roundtable was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on "COP 16: Debrief and Way Forward" on the outcome of last Cancun Climate Conference.

The speakers said it is documented in different reports and discussed in many international forums that Bangladesh is the most vulnerable

country that deserves sufficient compensation. "Climate change is a challenge and at the same time it is an opportunity for us," said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP.

"This is an opportunity for us to take a lead in this sector to show the world how to adapt to the climate change," he observed, saying Bangladesh is in a much better position than many other countries.

He suggested that the UNDP help Bangladesh build capacity of people working on climate change in government and nongovernmental sectors.

Saber underscored the need for an international political will to address the ongoing **SEE PAGE 19 COL 7** 

### OnlinePoll

Do you think Bangladesh Ansar should be given the authority to arrest anyone without warrant as recommended by the force?

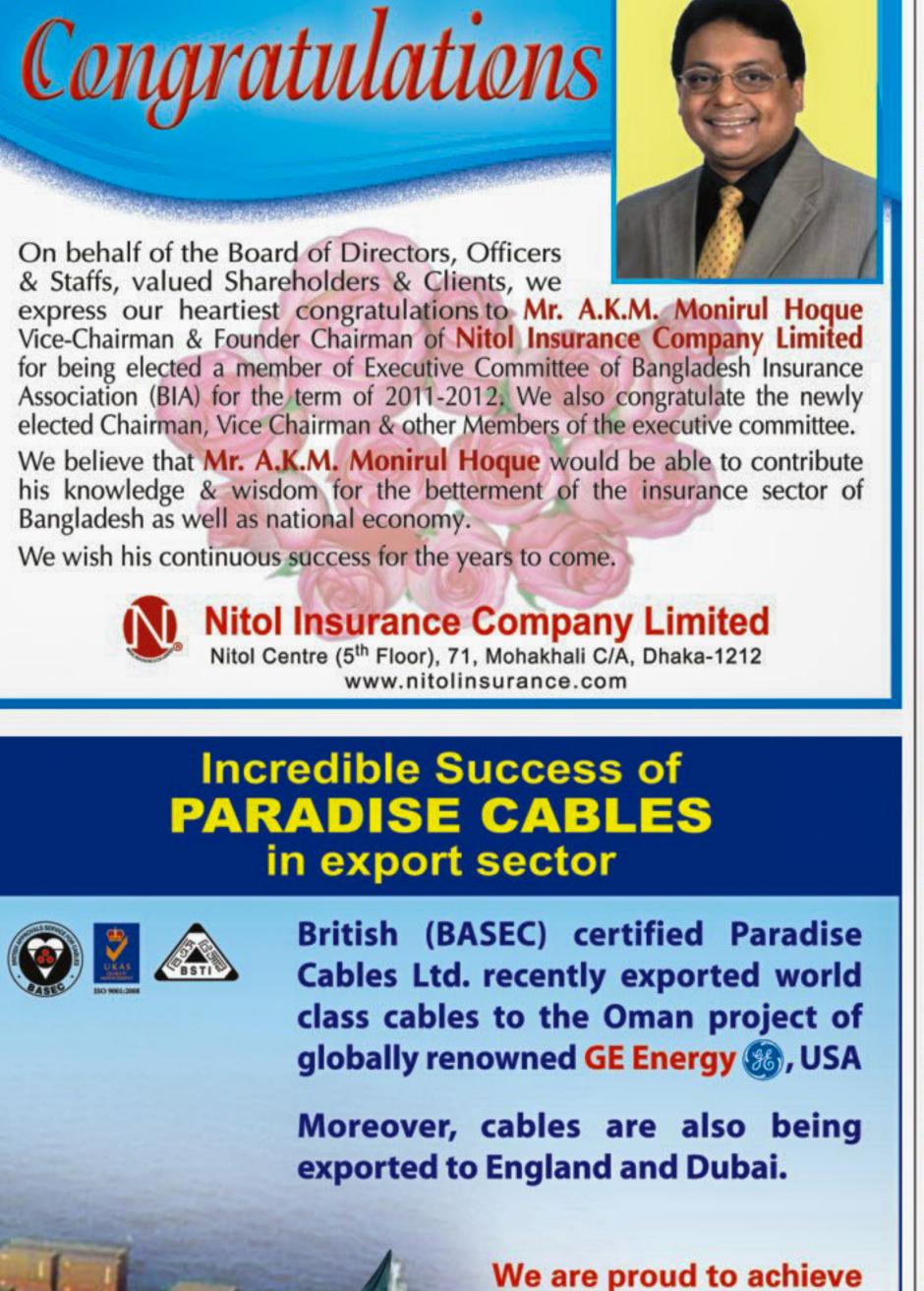
O Yes (8.1%) (90.9%) O No No Comments

Total votes: 575

#### TODAY'S POLL

Would you support if the govern-ment restricts private cars with less than four or five passengers to ply the streets in the capital to ease traffic congestion?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net



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