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**Mozena new US envoy**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has nominated Dan W Mozena as next ambassador to Bangladesh, according to a White House announcement.

Earlier, Mozena was political and economic counsellor in Dhaka from 1998-2001.

He will succeed incumbent Ambassador James F Moriarty, who

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# SC reduces case backlog

## 92,000 cases disposed of by HC Division in seven and a half months

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Fair case management and close monitoring have enabled the Supreme Court to reduce a backlog of over 92,000 cases pending with the High Court Division in the last seven and a half months.

An SC study report shows 92,061 cases were settled from September 30 last year till May 12, while 30,511 new cases have meanwhile been filed with the HC.

Of the 92,061 cases, around 50,000 were disposed of through hearing, while the rest were removed from the hearing list, insiders say.

The number of cases pending with the HC stood at 291,650 on May 12, which was 353,200 on September 30 last year, SC sources say.

Though a number of legal experts emphasise institutionalising the case management system, SC officials feel the present trend of disposal will continue if the next chief justices continue with it.

An SC high official involved in the case management system recently told The Daily Star the rate of case disposal has improved due to sincere and competent

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



A photo of a rickshaw licence plate issued by the Mohakhali DOHS council. Only rickshaws with these plates are allowed to ply the Defence Officers' Housing Society streets. The council issues these one-year licences even though Dhaka City Corporation is the sole authority to issue rickshaw licences in the capital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Flour OMS starts today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government starts today selling flour at subsidised price through open market sale (OMS) along with rice.

Flour will be available at Tk 20 a kg at all the 90 trucks selling OMS rice in the city.

The price of flour at kitchen market is from Tk 26 to 34 per kilogram, according to the regular price list of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

# Health complex land grabbed in Patuakhali

## Influential people building markets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A band of politically influential people have grabbed 0.30 acres of public land belonging to the local health complex to build markets without any authorisation whatsoever.

Badiur Rahman, a former member of Kalapara upazila Awami League; Habibullah Rana, deputy commander of the upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad unit; Mahbubur Rahman

Azad, cultural secretary of the upazila AL, have occupied two separate plots within the residential quarters of the upazila health staff.

To construct two markets, the trio first oversaw the demolition of the land's boundary wall on May 7. They were planning to share the market stalls, sources said.

Badiur Rahman, also the Kalapara Muktiyoddha unit commander, said they had applied to the authorities

concerned for allocation of the land.

"We are yet to get the allocation, but it matters little in this case."

Habibullah Rana said the khas (public) land is abandoned for long.

"We are building the markets and it will not cause any loss to the government," he added.

Mahbubur Rahman Azad could not be contacted despite repeated attempts. His mobile phone was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# GRENADE ATTACK CASE

## Detained Mojaheed shown arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed was shown arrested yesterday in one of the two cases filed for the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004.

Metropolitan Magistrate Keshob Roy Chowdhury passed the order following an appeal by Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case filed under Explosive Substances Act.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



# Rid case not heard for complainant's negligence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Negligence of a government official was the reason for the sensational Rid Pharma case not being heard at a Dhaka Court yesterday.

The court had asked complainant Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, drug superintendent, to show up yesterday with the original documents related to the case. The

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**SC gets 2 more judges**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two High Court judges have been appointed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

They are Justice M Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and Justice Md Shamsul Huda. Their appointment will be effective after they are sworn in.

Now the number of judges of the Appellate Division stands at eight.

**BSF kills 1 in Satkhira**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was hacked to death by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near Boikari border in Satkhira Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Milon Hossain, 20, a resident of the upazila's Sikri village.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



BNP chief Khaleda Zia is warmly received by her son Tarique Rahman at Grosvenor House AJW Marriot Hotel in London yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BNP

# Khaleda meets Tarique in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia met with her elder son Tarique Rahman in London on Saturday night after over two and a half years.

The reunion took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in central London where Tarique's wife Zubaida Rahman and their daughter Zaima Rahman were also present.

BNP leaders who witnessed the "emotional" reunion said the mother

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

# CTG ARMS HAUL PROBE

## Time extended once again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Expressing deep concern over the delay in investigation, a Chittagong court yesterday granted 45 more days for further investigation into the sensational Chittagong arms haul case.

This is for the 13th time the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been given time extension.

The court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Shamsul Islam directed the investigation officer of the case to properly utilise the time extended until June 29.

Expressing dissatisfaction, the court said the statements from the two police sergeants who rushed to the CUFL jetty on April 1, 2004 night when the unloading of arms was going on, should have been collected much earlier.

The IO Md Munirazzaman Chowdhury, also CID's senior assistant superintendent of police, on Thursday

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

# Govt takes heart from UN plan to curb accidents

## 18 ministries to make united efforts

M RAHMAN

Eighteen ministries of the government will make coordinated efforts to drastically reduce road accident casualties within a decade.

They will build mass awareness and install road safety measures on national and regional highways.

The ministries include home, health, communication, education, information and finance.

According to the government, 5,000

people die on roads every year costing the nation Tk 3,800 crore.

The programme was taken up in line with the United Nations Decade of Action on Road Safety 2011-2022, which Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque inaugurated at Dhaka Sonargaon Hotel Wednesday.

AK Jafor Ullah, focal point of the decade of action on road safety programme in Bangladesh, said, "We identified six reasons--poorly planned rapid urbanisation

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

# 4 factories fined for polluting river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) fined four factories over Tk 43 lakh yesterday for dumping untreated wastes into the Bangshai river in Savar.

In a special drive, DoE officials found the four factories -- Anlima Yarn Dyeing Ltd, Blue Text Network Ltd, Abedin

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

# Supam killed 'for property'

## 2 hired criminals confess involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Arrested Mahmudul Islam and his brother Nazrul Islam yesterday confessed to the killing Himel Das Supam, an SSC GPA-5 achiever.

Police suspect that getting hold of Supam's properties could be the motive behind the murder.

The arrestees said six people including them strangled Supam to death with his own shirt and belt at Naga Jhiri


SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



**PRAYER TIMING** May 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:10	4:45
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:36	6:40
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think the government should reform Rab following the Amnesty and Human Rights Watch reports?

Yes (78.1%)  
No (20.2%)  
No Comments (1.7%)

TOTAL VOTES : 480

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think law minister's accusation that judges are not performing up to the mark is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)