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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

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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.

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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 Mukti Joddha Sangsads 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 Mukti Joddha 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

Influential people building markets

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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

Mamta 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.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

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 yester-

day.

The dead was iden-

tified as Milon

Hossain, 20, a resident

of the upazila's Sikri

village.

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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 Ruhal Haque inaugurated at Dhaka Sonargaon Hotel Wednesday.

AKJafor 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 Netware Ltd, Abedin

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Govt takes heart from UN plan to curb accidents

18 ministries to make united efforts

MAHMUDUL ISLAM

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SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

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 of Himmel 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

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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

PHOTO:

ANISUR RAHMAN

PHOTO:

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

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PHOTO:

COURT CORRESPONDENT

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

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PHOTO:

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over the delay in investigation,