

# 'Vacant posts of judges to be filled within 6 months'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

State Minister for Law Advocate Quamrul Islam said here yesterday the government would fill the vacant posts of judges in the country's judicial administration within the next six months.

He said when the judiciary was separated from the executive branch, over 600 executive magistrates were given the additional charges of judges.

After assuming power, the Awami League government returned the magistrates to their previous positions, ultimately creating a shortage of judges, he said.

"For filling these vacancies of judges, the present government already has appointed over 200 assistant judges and recruitment of 100 more will be made soon".

Quamrul was addressing a daylong training workshop entitled "Addressing violence against women", at the District Bar Association, Chittagong.

Judicial officers, magistrates, judges and public prosecutors of Chittagong took part in the programme, jointly hosted by Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Chittagong District and Session Judge Md Abdul Kuddus Miah chaired the programme, while Solicitor Md Aminul Islam, Joint Secretary Sheikh Md Zahirul Haque, Metropolitan Session Judge SM Mujibur Rahman, Chittagong District Bar Association President Delwar Hossain Chowdhury, and Public Prosecutor Kamal Uddin also spoke on the occasion.



The journalists and staff of Maasranga Television form a human chain before its office in the capital yesterday, demanding trial of the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

PHOTO: STAR

## Body to probe Sylhet road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A six-member committee was formed to probe the Friday's road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway that killed eight people including Sylhet district AL vice-president Iftekhar Hossain Shamim.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md Shahab Uddin Khan was made the chief of the probe body that was formed by the city district administration, said Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Khan Mohammad Bilal.

Meanwhile, the police department formed another three-member committee, headed by Additional Superintendent of Police of Sylhet Md Ibrahim Khan, to probe the same, said Sylhet SP Md Shakhawat Hossain yesterday.

Meanwhile, Assistant Sub-Inspector Ataur Rahman of Tamabil Highway Police filed a case with Osanagar Police Station accusing the driver of the truck for causing the Friday's road crash.

A Sylhet-bound Volvo bus of Greenline Paribahan from Dhaka collided head on with a stone-laden truck at Brahmanshahshon on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at 5:30am on Friday, killing eight people and injuring 30 others.

Driver and helper of both the vehicles remained absconding after the incident, said police.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Prof Farid Ahmed, former examination controller of Chittagong Education Board and registrar of the BGC Trust University, passed away on Friday following a cardiac arrest at the age of 63.

He left behind his wife, one daughter, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death, said a press release.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on the university campus at 10:00am while the second at Parade Maidan of Chwakh Bazar in the port city at 11:00am yesterday.

He was buried in Garibullah Shah Mazar graveyard.

# Major quake risk deepens: Experts

BSS, Dhaka

Risk of occurring major earthquake in the country was deepening as tremors hit adjacent regions frequently, experts told the news agency yesterday.

Prof Dr Mehedi Ahmed Ansary of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said a major earthquake might hit the country at any time as no strong tremor occurred in the region since 1950.

Historically the region is quake-prone one of the world and it experienced major tremors in the past, he added.

"We have only 150-year history of earthquake. But we do not have any information of quakes, which occurred before 200 or 300 years ago." Prof Mehedi feared that the longtime silence of not occurring earthquake in the region was deepening the possibility of major earthquake.

He said the country was shaken by seven major earthquakes Cachar earthquake of 7.5 magnitude in 1869, Bengal earthquake of 7 magnitude in 1885, great Indian earthquake of 8.7 magnitude, Srimangal earthquake of 7.6 in 1918, Dhubri earthquake of 7.1 in 1930, Bihar-Nepal earthquake of 8.3 magnitude in 1934 and Assam earthquake of 8.5 magnitude in 1950.

Meteorologist Md Mominul Islam of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) said the country witnessed the shaking of eight earthquakes till yesterday this year while 29 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 22 in

2009 and 26 in 2008.

Mentioning different major quakes that hit the country in the past, he said Bangladesh might experience a major jolt at any time as it lies in the quake-prone zone.

Mominul said the Indian state Assam experienced a shallow category earthquake of 5.3 magnitude on the Richter scale yesterday.

The two quakes, one hit Sikkim and Bhutan in the last year and another hit Assam yesterday, had increased quake risk as epicentre of the tremor was very close to Bangladesh, he added.

The most dangerous side of quake was shallow category, Mominul said adding that intensity of the shallow category quake was so high that could damage long distance areas.

Both of the experts agreed that the country would face a catastrophic situation, if major earthquake with shallow depth hit its nearby areas.

Prof Mehedi said a strong earthquake within 300 to 500 kilometres of Dhaka city would damage almost 50 percent buildings claiming huge number of lives and destroying vast property.

"We should intensify our preparation to cut quake risk. Otherwise, any major tremor will create a terrible situation for the country," he added.

Most of the city dwellers were still not following building code, which was a big threat to minimising earthquake risk, Prof Mehedi said Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) was not aware enough of enforcing building code in the capital city.

Citing the example of America and India, he suggested Rajuk could appoint private consultation firms to monitor the construction works, which would ensure quake resistant buildings.

National Project Director of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) Mohammad Abdul Qayyum recently said: "Under the CDMP, we are taking various steps to cut earthquake risk in three major cities of the country Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet."

He said equipment of Tk 70 crore had already been handed over to the Armed Forces Division and Fire Service and Civil Defense to conduct rescue operation during the quake and equipment of Tk 100 crore was in the pipeline for handing over to the departments concerned.

The government had a plan to train 62,000 volunteers for carrying out rescue operation during the earthquake in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, Qayyum said adding nearly 10,000 people had already been given training and the rest would be trained in phases.

Under the CDMP, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was strengthening its capacity to set up temporary medical centres in the capital for the earthquake victims, he added.

"We have recommended to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works to enforce building code strictly for constructing quake resistant buildings in Dhaka city and areas of the country for minimising losses of lives and property," Qayyum added.

## Access to info helps efficient use of funds Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Access to information can curb corruption and pave the way for better and efficient utilisation of development funds, a workshop was told yesterday.

Civil society organisations which closely monitor government services can play a major role in ensuring access to information by raising awareness on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, it was told.

The workshop, "Right to Information (RTI): A tool of social accountability", was organised at Brac Centre Inn in the capital where chief executives of 35 non-government organisations shared their experiences on the act.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the workshop in collaboration with USAID PROGATI.

Speaking as chief guest, Information Commissioner MA Taher emphasised the proactive role of civil society organisations in making the act more effective.

This, in turn, would prompt greater transparency and accountability in public offices along with less abuse of power and misuse of public resources, he added.

MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman said it is possible to reduce corruption and utilise development funds in a more efficient way if access to information can be ensured.

He called upon civil society organisations working with marginalised people to come forward in this matter.

Stressing on the role of media, Associated Press Bureau Chief Farid Hossain said effective linkage between civil society organisations and the media at the local level could play a vital role in promoting the act.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Conference**  
Nagar Gabeshona Kendra will organise a conference; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 9:30am.

**Sit-in**  
Bangladesh Graduate Prathomik Shikkhak Samity will stage a sit-in and token hunger strike; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 9:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Muktijoddha Projanmo will hold a discussion; Venue: Yan Tun Chinese Restaurant, Farmgate; Time: 10:30am.

**Rally**  
Ganatantrik Bam Morcha will arrange a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.



PHOTO: BNP

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan speaks at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

## INTERNATIONAL NURSING DAY Improve quality of nursing to develop health sector Speakers tell Ctg meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The country's health sector will not improve without the development of nursing profession, speakers said at a meeting here yesterday.

Marking International Nursing Day 2012, the programme was organised by Diploma Nurses Association (DNA) and Chittagong Nursing College at the college auditorium.

Director of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Brig Gen Dr Md Fashir Rahman, who was present as chief guest, urged the students and nurses to satisfy the society through their service.

Recalling the example of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of nursing, Fashir urged the nurses to follow her footsteps. Nightingale came from an aristocratic family, yet she sacrificed her life nursing ill people, he said.

For a nurse, nothing is more important than taking care of a patient, the CMCH director said, asking nurses to increase their knowledge and broaden their minds for the improvement of their service.

Describing nursing as a noble profession, CMCH deputy director Dr Shafiqur Rahman,

said, "If we train nurses highly and create opportunity of researches for them, people will get better service".

Dr Mozaffar Ahmed, an assistant director of CMCH, said meritorious students were now taking nursing education, enhancing the dignity of this profession.

There was a time when nursing was not treated well as a profession, but the situation has now changed as everybody has realised a hospital cannot run without nurses, he added.

Dipali Rani Mallick, nursing instructor at Chittagong Nursing College, elaborated the slogan of this year's International Nursing Day, "Closing the gap: From evidence to action".

Hosne Ara Begum, principal of Chittagong Nursing College; nursing instructors Mili Chowdhury, Maksuda Begum; and Masud Parvez, general secretary of DNA Chittagong unit; also spoke on the occasion with DNA Chittagong unit president Romena Akter in the chair.

The meeting was preceded by a colourful procession brought out by the diploma nurses and students and teachers of Chittagong Nursing College on the college campus.

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