



US Ambassador Dan W Mozena addresses a discussion during his courtesy visit to The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Six police officers served show cause notices

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court issued show cause notices to six police officers yesterday, asking them to explain by August 27 why legal action will not be taken against them for pressuring a complainant to withdraw an attempted murder case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Kesab Roy Chowdhury passed the order after pro-BNP lawyer Hossain Ali Khan Hassan, also complainant of the case, submitted a petition with the court, saying the police officers, who are accused of attempting to kill him, had been threatening him since filing of the case on June 4.

The six police officers are Khurshid Alam, former deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP); Maruf Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of DMP (Lalbagh Division); Rajib-al-Masud, former assistant commissioner; Salauddin Khan, former officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station; and current OC Mahabul Alam and sub-inspector Mohammad Azad of the station.

Hassan said SI Azad, on orders from the police officers, hit him with a baton on the court premises on May 16 "with an intention to kill him."

HC asks for Dhaka land prices list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the inspector general of registration to submit the price list of lands in different areas of Dhaka before it by August 7.

The court passed the order during hearing of a rule issued earlier by it over the enforcement of house rent law.

The HC bench of Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman and Justice Md Ruhul Quddus also fixed August 7 for further hearing on the rule.

Following a writ petition, the court on May 17, 2010 issued the rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to enforce properly the law concerning house rent to prevent landlords in the capital from arbitrarily raising rent and taking advances from tenants.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, a rights body, filed the writ petition on April 25, 2010 seeking directives for strict enforcement of the House Rent Control Act 1991.

New Australian envoy takes charge

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Gregory A Wilcock has assumed office as Australia's High Commissioner to

Bangladesh.

He presented his credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban on July 19 after arriving in Dhaka on July 2.

In Canberra till 2011, Wilcock had worked for nearly three years as an adviser to Stephen Smith for two periods, when Smith was Australia's foreign minister and defence minister.

Wilcock also worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as a director on Australia's Middle East Policy.

He has served in Australia's embassies in Washington (2003-2006) and Jakarta (2001-2002) and was on the team that opened Australia's embassy in East Timor in 1999.

In 2006, Wilcock worked as a consultant on peacekeeping missions for the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Later that year, he worked as an adviser to the International Stabilisation Force commander in East Timor.

Before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1996, and subsequently, Wilcock studied politics and international relations at the Australian National University and Monash University. He speaks Indonesian.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a reporter of The Daily Star.

She was a gold medal winner student of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of Dhaka University, said a press release.

In her memory, a scholarship worth Tk 25,000 and a certificate are awarded to the highest marks securing student in BA honours exam of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the university every year.

On the occasion, prayers were offered in orphanages, madrasas and at her grave in Azimpur graveyard.

AHS Ataul Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow is the second death anniversary of AHS Ataul Karim, former diplomat and foreign secretary.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held tomorrow after Asr prayer at his residence (House-89, road-7A, Dhanmondi), said a press release yesterday.

Jamaat trying to make a farce of war crimes trial

Says Shahriar Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the submission of the names of 15,000 defence witnesses in four cases against four top Jamaat leaders, writer Shahriar Kabir yesterday said the Jamaat, through these activities, was trying to make the war crimes trial farcical and questionable.

Historically, no country has seen a case with such a huge number of witnesses and "it will delay the trial procedure and the tribunal has to realise this fact," said Shahriar.

The acting president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee was addressing a discussion, "Problems in the trial of war criminals: Duties of the government and civil society", organised by the committee at Bilia Auditorium in the capital.

The tribunal should fix the number of witnesses to take into cognisance in the same way it fixed the time allotment for cross-examination of witnesses, demanded Shahriar.

"If our prosecutors cross-examine one witness for four days and conduct the cases for 300 working days, the hearing of the four cases will take 200 years to complete," said the journalist.

The trial of 21 people and seven organisations was held in 10 months in

Nuremberg, where 350 people testified. "Our tribunal must take these things into cognisance. Otherwise the trial will be delayed," he said.

Shahriar said members of the Jamaat, Al-Badr and Al-Shams must also be brought to the dock. Otherwise it would be tough to prove Ghulam Azam's war crimes.

He alleged that the government was not paying any heed to the committee's appeals, which include increasing logistic support for the tribunals.

He added that some lawmakers, who presumed they understood everything, were enough to make the trial farcical.

Dr Nuzhat Chowdhury Shampa, daughter of Shaheed Dr Alim Chowdhury, said, "We will not accept any symbolic trial. Not only the top criminals, we want trial of all criminals and their organisations."

An adviser to the committee, Prof Ajoy Roy, said the recognised Razakars should be tried first and then the remaining ones. The trial process should continue and whenever an accused is arrested, the trial must immediately be held, he added.

Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Shaheen Reza Noor, president of Projonmo 71; and Tania Amir, member of Bangladesh Bar Council, also spoke at the discussion.

Birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 81th birth anniversary of legendary folk singer Abdul Alim.

On the occasion, different social and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes, including offering prayers and placing wreaths, said a press release.

Different TV channels will telecast special programmes marking the day.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of Mohammad Hossain Patwary, a businessman, will be held at

Baitul Hossain Jame Mosque at Horni village in Faridganj upazila of Chandpur today after Jumma prayer.

He died on June 15 after suffering from pancreas cancer, said a press release.



Bangladesh Hawkers Federation forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding that the government let hawkers sell goods on footpaths and stop their eviction.

PHOTO: STAR



From left, Dr Turin Afroz, Prof Ajoy Roy, Ferdousi Priyobhashini, Ayesha Khanam and Dr Nuzhat Chowdhury Shampa attend a discussion titled 'Problems in the trial of war criminals: Duties of the government and civil society' organised by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee in Bilia Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Discharge duties with charitable mindset

Shafique urges lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday urged lower court judges to discharge their duties with a charitable mindset considering the socioeconomic conditions of litigants so as to reduce their sufferings.

Removing the existing trend of long delays in case disposal would enhance peoples' trust on the judiciary, he said.

Shafique was addressing the inauguration of an orientation course for newly appointed assistant judges, organised by Judicial Administration Training Institute at its auditorium in the capital.

He said the government took initiatives to amend the Code of Civil Procedure by incorporating rules for disposal of cases through the alternative dispute resolution system and a bill in this regard was waiting to be passed in parliament.

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