

NEWS IN *brief*

4 new HC judges sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four High Court judges, whose appointments were regularised on October 13, were sworn in yesterday morning.

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain administered the oath to the four judges at Supreme Court auditorium.

The four HC judges are Justice Md Ruhul Quddus, Justice Md Khasruzzaman, Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Farid Ahmed.

Many judges of Appellate Division and HC Division of the Supreme Court were present at the oath taking ceremony yesterday morning.

On October 13, President Zillur Rahman confirmed their appointments as regular judges and the next day, law ministry issued a gazette notification to

Justice Bijan Kumar Das critically ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Press Council Chairman and a former justice of the Supreme Court Bijan Kumar Das is critically ill.

He is being treated under the supervision of Cardiology Specialist Shahabuddin Talukder at Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of the capital's Apollo Hospitals.

He was admitted to the hospital in a deteriorating condition on October 13, reads a press release.

He has been suffering from kidney related and other complicated diseases for long. His family members requested all to pray for the recovery of justice Bijan Kumar Das.

Newspaper hawker 'commits suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 13-year-old newspaper hawker allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his house at Nabinagar Housing in Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday.

The boy, Mohammad Salahuddin, son of Mohammad Babu Miah, used to sell newspaper on road.

Al Amin, Salahuddin's elder brother, said Salahuddin came home around 12:30pm and was alone there. Amin and his mother were at his aunt's house at Katasur.

Neighbours informed them around 2:00pm that Salahuddin's body was hanging from the ceiling.

Salahuddin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police and family members could not identify the



PHOTO: STAR

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shiro Sadoshima, far right, at a discussion with The Daily Star's senior journalists at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

BDR CARNAGE CASE

Jawans met Sheikh Selim 12 days before mutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve days before the two-day 2009 Pilkhana mutiny, some BDR jawans went to Awami League Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim's Banani residence in the capital to press home their demands.

Stating this while being cross-examined by the defence in BDR carnage case at Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in the capital's Bakshibazar yesterday, Selim said he had asked them to place the demands in written form.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans, however, did not return, he said.

Selim said he had also suggested the jawans to meet the home minister as the defunct BDR, now Border Guard Bangladesh, was under the ministry.

On why he wanted a written copy knowing that the issue was the ministry's concern, Selim said, "Yes, I knew it (BDR) was under the home ministry and therefore told them to go there."

He said the jawans, arriving around 8:00pm, introduced themselves as deputy

assistant directors (DAD) Habib and Jalil and sepoy Selim, Moyeen, Tarek and Ayub.

Later, he recognised some of them among the delegation which went to the prime minister's office at Jamuna for negotiations on February 25, the mutiny's first day, he added.

However, he said now he would not be able to identify DAD Jalil and sepoy Ayub.

Their demands included resolving problems over rationing, transport, deployment in United Nations missions and admitting children of jawans in Pilkhana's school and colleges, he said.

Replying to another question, Selim said he had not informed his senior party leaders or the local lawmaker of Dhaka-12 constituency, where Pilkhana is situated, about the visit.

"Everyday I have to listen to the demands of a number of visitors and at that time I did not realise that the BDR jawans would later revolt," he said.

A total of 73 people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the mutiny.

INT'L CRIMES TRIBUNALS

Govt harassing chief defence counsel

Allege pro-BNP lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some senior pro-BNP lawyers yesterday strongly condemned and protested "harassment" by law enforcers of Abdur Razzaq, the chief of defence counsels of Jamaat leaders being tried for war crimes.

The government is harassing Razzaq through law enforcers so that he cannot discharge his constitutional and professional duties at the tribunals, said Advocate TH Khan.

Former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed said intelligence personnel were harassing Abdur Razzaq by keeping him under watch.

Irrespective of political affiliations and opinions, every lawyer should stand up for Razzaq, he told a meeting organised in protest of the "harassment" of Razzaq by "general" lawyers at Supreme Court Bar Association.

All lawyers, including Abdur Razzaq, want a fair trial, but questions have been raised at home and abroad about the fairness and standard of the tribunals, he said.

Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Khandker Mahbub Hossain said Abdur Razzaq went to the International Crimes Tribunals to discharge his professional duties not to support any offence.

Law enforcers are harassing the defence lawyers to hinder the fairness of the trials, he said.

Former Speaker to Jatiya Sangsad Jamiruddin Sircar said that to place Razzaq under surveillance was to obstruct the administration of justice.

Mohammed Farooq new CIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Former ambassador Mohammed Farooq yesterday joined the Information

Commission as the new chief information commissioner (CIC).

He got the appointment on October 10 and submitted his appointment letter to President Zillur Rahman the next day as per Right to Information (RTI) Act -2009, said a press release.

His predecessor Muhammed Zamir had retired in September after completing 67 years as CIC in line with the RTI act.

Farooq had joined public services as a foreign affairs cadre and worked in different countries as a foreign ministry official.

He was a Bangladesh ambassador to Philippines.

DoE fines 52 businesses in September

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) penalised 52 industries and commercial set-ups across the country for polluting the environment and realised Tk 4 crore in fines, said a DoE press release.

The 52 companies included 10 dyeing factories, 27 pharmaceuticals factories, seven housing schemes, two ceramic factories, one garments washing plant, one paper mill and five well-known business conglomerates.

The DoE team conducted their drives in eight districts -- Dhaka, Gazipur, Manikganj, Comilla, Munshiganj, Norshingdi, Narayanganj and Mymensingh -- to stop the pollution of Shitalaksha, Meghna and Turag rivers, sound and air pollution, illegal housing schemes and unlawful construction of commercial high-rises.

Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director of DoE, said several mismanagements and illegal activities of the companies were found out during the drives.



Citizen's rally

Citizens Rights Movement will organise a citizen's rally demanding the removal of BGMEA Bhaban; Venue: before Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

BSC in Health Technology (Dental) Students' Association will form a human chain to realise their rights; Venue: before Directorate General of Health Services; Time: 11:00am.

Interactive theatre

ACTIVISTA will organise an interactive theatre in observance of "World Food Day"; Venue: before Teacher-Student Centre, Dhaka University; Time: 6:00pm.

Dialogue

Brac School of Business will organise a dialogue on "State of the Bangladesh Economy"; Venue: Brac University; Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain

Joljola Krishi Jomi Bonbhum Rokkha Andolon will form a human chain marking "World Food Day"; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 1:30pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Beshorkari Shikkhak Karmachari Parishad will organise a discussion on reasons to bring educational institutions under Monthly Pay Order; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Equitybd will form a human chain protesting the use of arable land for residential structures; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Campaign for Good Governance will form a human chain marking "World Food Day"; Venue: before Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

DESTINY CASES

HC asks for Harun's health report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked for a report on the health condition of Destiny Group President and former army chief Lt Gen (retd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid.

Hearing two appeals filed by Harun, the court directed the vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where Harun is being treated under police custody, to submit the medical report to it by tomorrow.

The former army chief filed the appeals on Sunday against a lower court order that cancelled his bail on October 11 in two money laundering cases and sought bail on health grounds in the cases.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the cases on July 31 against Harun and 21 other top officials of Destiny Group on charge of laundering Tk 3,285.26 crore.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Farid Ahmed adjourned the hearing on the appeals till today.

During yesterday's hearing, Harun's lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru said his client had been suffering from different serious diseases, including diabetes and heart complexities, and he was not involved in any offence.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan opposed the bail appeals, saying Harun-Ar-Rashid had laundered Tk 13.96 crore as the money was transferred to his [Harun] account from Destiny Group's account.



Kuwait Ameer Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomed President Zillur Rahman on his arrival at Kuwait International Airport yesterday. The president is to attend the 1st Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit in Kuwait.

PHOTO: PID

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

IO Monowara quizzed in case against Mollah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday recorded cross-examination of Monowara Begum, one of the two investigation officers in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, recorded the cross-examination before adjourning the case proceeding until today.

Defence counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder cross-examined Monowara, also the eleventh prosecution witness in the case.

Replying to a question, Monowara said she had recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses and also collected books and some other documents relevant to the case.

As Monowara did not bring the case dairy to the court, the tribunal adjourned the case proceeding and asked the IO to bring case dairy.

Earlier on the day, the tribunal recorded the cross-examination of thirteenth prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman behind close doors.

The court adjourned the case proceeding until November 5.

Recognise contribution of female farmers: NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday demanded social and state recognition of the contribution of females in all stages of food cultivation.

Around half of the country's population is female and they are directly and indirectly involved in farming. But they are yet to be recognised by the state and society, they said.

The first national female farmers' conference was organised by ActionAid Bangladesh in the capital's Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium marking World Food Day 2012, to be observed in over 150 countries today.

Addressing the conference, lawmaker Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry, said the relation

between females and farming has existed in the country for a long time.

He urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to recognise the contribution of females in the agriculture sector to encourage them to work with efficiency.

Kendrio Krishok Moitree Coordinator Sultana Mily, reading out a written speech, said female farmers should be recognised to uphold the constitutional rights of women.

UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternatives) Executive Director Farida Akhtar urged the government to expand representatives of female farmers in parliament to ensure their rights.

Representatives of female farmers from different parts of the country participated in the conference, chaired by ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir.



WEATHER
TODAY

Slight fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 21.2 degrees at Rajshahi.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	24.1	71	63
Chittagong	31.2	25.2	88	86
Rajshahi	32.0	21.2	91	78
Rangpur	30.8	22.4	81	72
Khulna	32.0	25.5	92	89
Barisal	32.8	23.6	79	90