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HC to get 20 new judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Around 20 new judges are likely to be appointed to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court soon as some posts have been lying vacant due to retirement and elevation of judges to the Appellate Division.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star that the government would appoint the new judges to the HC after the chief justice initiates the process.

Quamrul Islam, state minister for law, said, "The new HC judges will be appointed within this month in order to reduce the number of pending cases and ensure fair justice."

Court sources said more than three lakh cases have been pending with the HC and about 17,000 cases with the Appellate Division.

There are now 10 judges for the Appellate Division and 90 for the HC.

In June last year, the number of HC judges stood at 100 following the appointments of six additional judges.

Six HC judges have retired since then.

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Bangladesh pacer Robiul Islam (R) celebrates one of his six wickets in Zimbabwe's second innings on the third day of the first Test at the Harare Sports Club yesterday. Stories on page 16.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

AHRC worried over 'torture' on Mahmudur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Human Rights Commission yesterday urged domestic and international civil society organisations and the United Nations to intervene in the alleged

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Call for unity to protect minorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blasting the recent attacks on religious minorities across the country, rights activists and political leaders yesterday called upon all to build national unity to prevent any recurrence of such incidents.

The call was made at the eighth tri-annual national convention of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Eminent jurist and Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain said the country's Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists

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FATIKCHHARI ATTACK

13 more arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Thirteen more people were arrested from three upazilas of Chittagong yesterday in connection with the April 11 attack on an Awami League procession that killed three people at Bhujpur in Fatikchhari upazila.

Police arrested them after conducting raids in Fatikchhari, Raozan and Hathazari from Thursday night to early yesterday, said Kabir Hossain,

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JOINT VENTURE POWER PLANT AT RAMPAL

Dhaka, Delhi to ink three deals today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India are likely to sign three agreements today to set up a 1,320MW coal-fired power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat district under a joint venture company.

Indian Power Secretary P Uma Shankar is arriving in Dhaka today on a two-day visit to formally settle the venture titled Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd.

During his stay here, three agreements, namely Power Purchase Agreement,

Implementation Agreement, and Supplementary Joint Venture Agreement will be signed, said a press release of Indian High Commission on Thursday.

According to officials concerned, Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and Indian National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) will implement the \$ 1.5 billion project on a 50:50 equity basis. Of the total project cost, 70 percent will be arranged through loans and the rest will be shared equally by PDB and NTPC.

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Human Rights Forum Bangladesh that extrajudicial killings and other human rights issues need to be addressed and improved by the government?

Yes (91.4%)

No (8.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 210

TODAY'S POLL

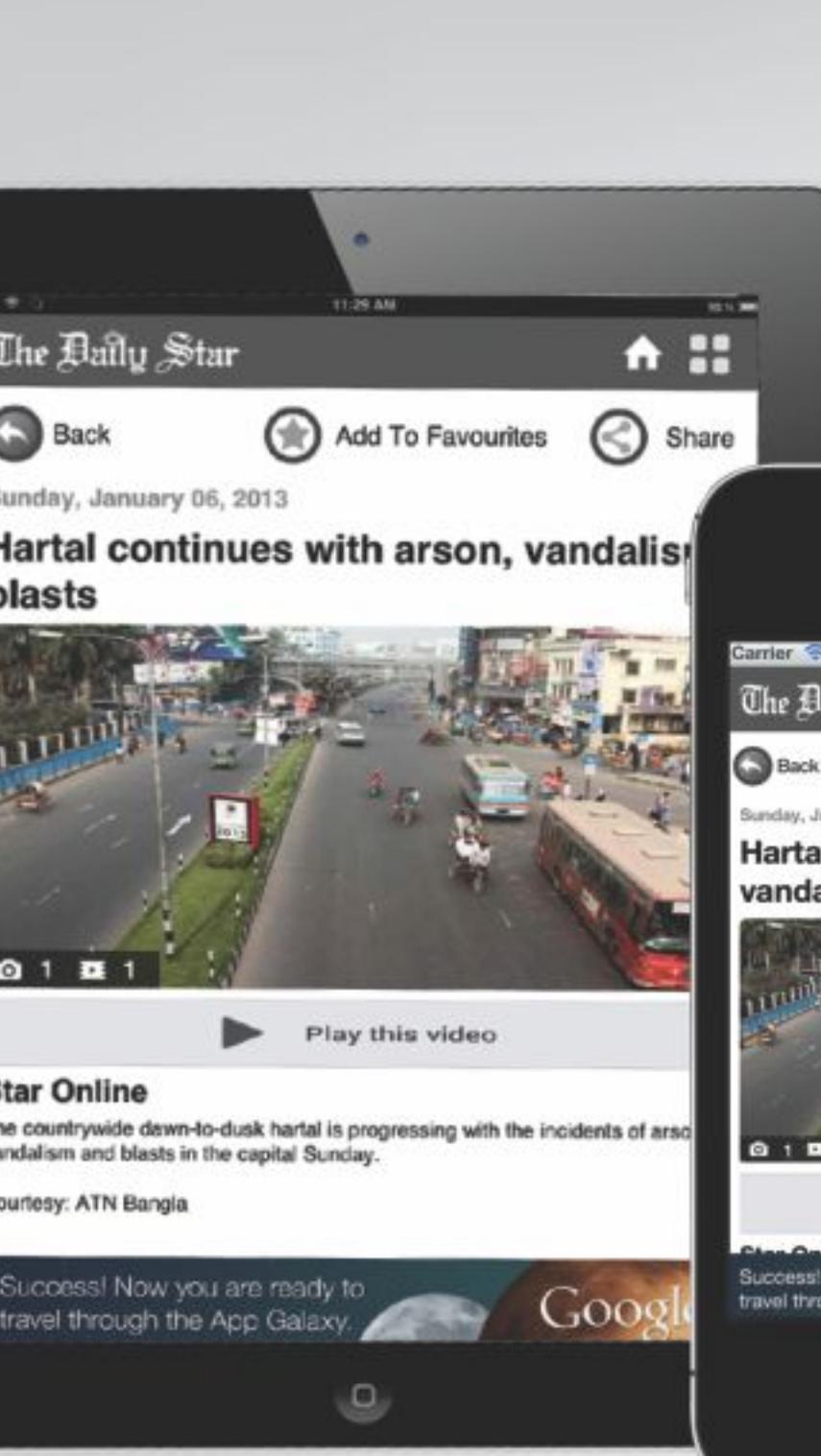
Do you think it was justified for the top BNP-led 18-party alliance leaders to ask its activists to carry out the "fiercest attacks" on anti-hartal activists?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

Police officers take position during a search for the Boston Marathon bombing suspects in Watertown, Massachusetts, yesterday.



PHOTO: REUTERS



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