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Lower courts get 124 new asst judges

127 more to be appointed soon to ease case backlog

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

President Abdul Hamid has recently appointed 124 assistant judges as per the recommendations from Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission, increasing the total number of lower court judges to 1,660.

The commission made the recommendations after selecting them through due examinations and tests, Zahirul Kabir, assistant secretary to the law ministry, told The Daily Star.

He mentioned that the recruitment of 127 more judges will be made soon and the commission has started administering the necessary exams for the posts.

The law ministry would seek approval from the Supreme Court for posting the newly appointed judges, Zahirul said, adding that their appointments would help reduce the backlog of cases and ensure justice expeditiously.

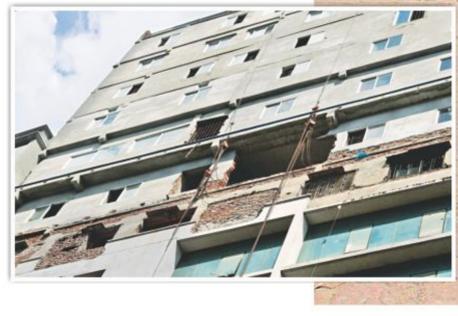
The Judicial Service Commission started the process of recruiting the 124 judges in August last year, and they were appointed last month.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SAFETY NO PRIORITY!

This heavy embroidery machine fell from the 10th floor of a building in the capital's Sadarghat yesterday, as the chains of the pulley that was bringing it down snapped. Two workers, who were standing on the machine, died from the fall. The building owners had ordered the embroidery factory to remove the machine, fearing it might cause the floors to cave in. Police said the machine was being brought down without sufficient safety measures in place.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



A record to break Indian minister lays foundation stones of 2,551 projects in 8 hrs

TNN, Jabalpur

In his blinding speed to beat the deadline before the poll code of conduct comes into force, an Indian state minister Gopal Bhargava laid the foundation of 2,551 projects in eight hours in one single day -- a record-breaking feat by

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Syria submits chemical details to watchdog

Regime may call for ceasefire amid raging violence

AFP, Damascus

Syria has begun supplying details of its chemical arsenal, the world's chemical weapons watchdog said yesterday, as rebels agreed a truce with jihadists in a key border town.

A senior official also said Damascus wanted a ceasefire in the 30-month war, which has reportedly killed more than 110,000 people and forced more than two million to flee.

Iranian President Hassan Rowhani has offered to broker talks between the Syrian opposition and the Islamic republic's key ally in Damascus.

Hours before a deadline for President

Bashar al-Assad's regime to provide details on its arsenal, the Hague-based group tasked with dismantling it said it had received an initial report.

"The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has received an initial disclosure from the Syrian government of its chemical weapons programme," an OPCW statement said.

Its Technical Secretariat is now examining the details, it said.

The organisation has postponed a meeting of its Executive Council set for Sunday that had been due to discuss how to dismantle Syria's chemical weapons programme.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE Bangladesh ready to show the way

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than two dozens of well-known and promising researchers have gathered in Dhaka for a week-long brainstorming session to understand better how to cope up with the changing climate.

Learning from Bangladesh, the researchers will make academic papers focusing on how to strengthen resilience activities and build a network among researchers, policymakers and development workers.

They will apply the knowledge in other vulnerable regions in their local context.

"We are proud to host the scholars from around the world. We call it Resilience Academy," Saleemul Huq, director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD), told The Daily Star.

He said the researcher would spread across the globe the experiences they gathered in Bangladesh about tackling climate change.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SOLVING CLIMATE ISSUES Moscow asks for 'planet hacking'

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Russia is pushing for next week's landmark UN climate science report to include support for controversial technologies to geoengineer the planet's climate, according to documents obtained by the Guardian.

As climate scientists prepare to gather for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Stockholm to present the most authoritative state of climate science to date, it has emerged the Russian government is asking for "planet hacking" to be included in the report. The IPCC has not included geoengineering in its major assessments before.

The documents seen by the Guardian

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Famous Indian singer Jatineswar Mukhopadhyay performs at a special programme at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

3 drown in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three teenaged boys, including two students, drowned in the river Buriganga in two separate incidents yesterday.

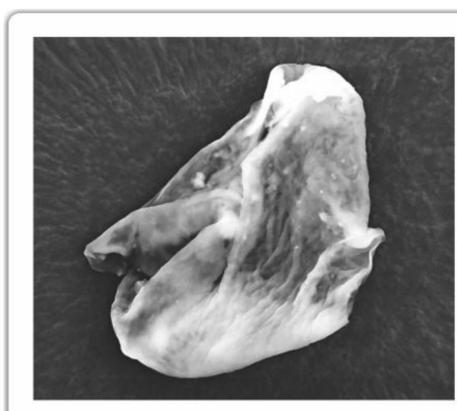
Deceased Sajal Chandra Das, 17, was a class-IX student, Subham Chandra Das, 18, a first-year college student, and Md Robin, 15, an employee of a shop.

The student duo drowned while immersing idols in the river near Jhauchar in the capital's Hazaribagh around 5:30pm, said Swapan Chandra Das, a neighbour of the victims who lives in Ganaktuli.

The two did not know how to swim, he added.

They had been pulled out of the river and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead, said sources.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Proof of alien life?

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A team of British scientists is convinced it has found proof of alien life, after it harvested strange particles from the edge of space.

The scientists sent a balloon 27km into the stratosphere, which came back carrying small biological organisms which they believe can only have originated from space.

Prof Milton Wainwright told The Independent that he was "95 per cent convinced" that the organisms did not originate from earth.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Sumon sings for Felani

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Singer-songwriter and Trinamool Congress lawmaker Kabir Suman has composed a song in memory of Felani Khatun, the Bangladeshi teenager shot dead by the BSF while she was crossing the India-Bangladesh border.

The song describes how Felani's body hung from the barbed wire at the border for hours before the border guards of the two countries brought it down.

"Keu doshi noy Felani Khatun BSF-e jaane theek; Poth bhool kore niye chhilo guli hothat tomar deek (Nobody is guilty,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government decision not to charge the reckless drivers for intentional killing is justified?

Yes (10%) No (90%)

TOTAL VOTES: 185

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that a vested quarter is hindering the country's progress through spreading religious fanaticism and propaganda?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Illegal arms: worries for CHT

KAFIL MAHMUD, Khagrachhari

The availability of illegal firearms among members of different regional organisations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) has contributed to the deterioration of law and order in the region in recent times.

The rampant smuggling of firearms had made inroads into three districts in the CHT from Myanmar through the bordering Indian states of Mizoram and Tripura, security sources told The Daily Star.

As a result, different organisations working in the region were getting very easy access to the illegal arms, they

added. These organisations are often getting engaged in gunfights, killing, abduction and extortion to establish their supremacy and meet their financial needs, detectives sources said, citing recent statistics of crimes and casualties in the CHT.

In the last six months, at least 27 people were shot dead, and 12 were injured by gunshots. Around 75 people were also abducted in Khagrachhari and Rangamati during the period.

Among those killed, seven are from the Santu Larma faction of the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), four from the United

Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF), and 16 from the MN Larma faction of the PCJSS.

Against this backdrop, people living in the region think that they are under security threat.

"We always live in fear because of frequent conflicts among these regional groups. They must stop this practice," said Shefalika Tripura, chairperson of Khagrapur Mohila Kalyan Samity in Khagrachhari.

When asked why the arms smuggling cannot be stopped, security sources said the lack of BGB posts along the 310-km India-Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

The Daily Star

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