

# LOWER COURT JUDGES SC for increased retirement age

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court yesterday opined that the government should increase the retirement age of lower court judges by three years to avert a vacuum of experienced judges in the subordinate courts.

Meanwhile, the HC has scrapped two rules for keeping a senior assistant secretary to the law ministry in the selection committee to recruit lower court staff. The order came following a writ petition filed by SC lawyer Manzill Murshid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

About the retirement age, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, during hearing the Masdar Hossain case, known as the separation of judiciary case, said a number of senior district judges will retire soon which might create a vacuum of experienced judges in the judiciary.

The retirement age of lower court judges should be increased from 57 to 62 years as per the Judicial Service Pay Commission's (JSPC) recommendation made in 2009, the chief justice added.

The government in 2011 increased the retirement age of all government officials from 57 to 59.

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# Cop torture prompts man to jump to death

*Wife, minority communities allege in Khulna*

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A man in police custody died on Saturday after jumping off a first floor balcony, triggering a demonstration before the superintendent of police's office in Khulna city yesterday by Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad and Khulna City Puja Udjapon Parishad who say the man's actions were a result of torture during interrogations.

Tushar Kanti Pal, 42, son of late Kalipado Pal of Amirpur village of Khulna's Batiaghata upazila, was arrested in the city's Boyra Shahan Ghat area on Friday.

The arrest was over a case centring the kidnapping of a Dumuria woman, Mukta, wife of Azizul Islam, two months ago, said Dumuria Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) M Moshir Rahman.

Azizul had sent the kidnappers Tk 1.5 lakh against a demand for Tk 8 lakh using bKash services at Tushar's pharmacy in Khulna city, added the OC.

Tushar's wife Tanusree Pal told The Daily Star that Tushar had informed her of being tortured at Dumuria Police Station on Friday night after being arrested by OC (investigation) Kazi Kamal Hossain.

Tushar jumped for police had threatened to torture him further after taking him in remand, she added.

Additional Superintendent of Police (South) SM Shafullah said on Saturday afternoon Tushar went to the balcony of his office saying he wanted to spit and then jumped off.

OC Moshir refuted the torture allegation. OC Kamal could not be reached on his cellphone yesterday afternoon.

# ASHRAF'S VISIT TO DELHI 'Jamaat financing by Indian firm' may be discussed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Leaving for Delhi yesterday on an official invitation to attend Jawaharlal Nehru's 125th birth anniversary, ruling Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam is likely to discuss crucial issues, including militancy and financing of Jamaat-e-Islami by an Indian business group, with high-profile government and opposition figures.

Close associates who talked to Ashraful say the figures include Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

"The plot by militants to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and possible coup in Bangladesh which were recently reported in Indian newspapers will come up," said an Awami League leader preferring not to be named.

The October 2 Burdwan blast and involvement of an alleged Bangladeshi militant will also figure in discussions, added the sources. They said Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi might join Ashraf in a day or two.

Surprisingly, Modi has not been invited.



# Bhasani's 38th death anniversary today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Today is the 38th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, a legendary politician of the sub-continent and a dreamer of Bangladesh's independence.

Marking the day, political parties and social and cultural organisations have taken elaborate programmes -- doa and milad mahfils, photography exhibitions and discussions on the life and works of the spirited leader of the common people.

Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani Parishad, Bhashani Smriti Sangsad and Nayjo Party Bangladesh will place wreaths at his grave in Tangail's Santosh in the morning, said press releases.

Bhasani was a celebrated name and figure during his time across Bangladesh (then East Pakistan), West Bengal and Assam for his struggles and uncompromising stance for the agricultural workers and labourers.

The brave and devoted leader of the common people worked relentlessly and spent almost his entire life for the oppressed masses, which earned him the title "Mazlum Jana Neta", meaning the

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# Mobile money transfer to require address

**Decides home meeting STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Financial transactions through mobile banking, earlier needing only a cellphone number, will now require the client's full address and a committee headed by the home secretary will monitor transactions, storing the address and a copy of the national identity card (ID).

Moreover, subscriber identity module (SIM) cards will be activated only after verification of the ID while Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Board will formulate a rule to check trading of cellphones bearing fake International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers.

With miscreants increasingly realising ransom and extortion money through mobile banking, the decisions were taken at a home ministry meeting attended by representatives of mobile phone service operators and intelligence agencies yesterday, said sources and State Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, who chaired it.

Some 90 percent of the around 11 crore SIM cards were issued without proper verification of the subscriber's address, informed a top home official attending the meeting.

IMEI numbers help identify cellphones and fake ones pose a problem for law enforcers trying to trace people committing crimes, said Asaduzzaman.

# CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS Problem solving requires cultural understanding

*Speakers tell launching of book on region's history, culture, politics and environment*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

It is impossible to resolve Chittagong Hill Tracts' (CHT) problems without understanding the life and culture of indigenous communities, speakers yesterday told the launching ceremony of a book, "Parbatya Chittagram-Bon Paharer Sat-Satero".

The problems have to be resolved politically, they added at the programme organised by the publisher, the CHT affairs ministry, at Officers' Club Dhaka.

The ministry's initiative will spread knowledge on the CHT region's history, culture, politics and environment, helping to bridge the gap between residents of the hills and plain land, they said.

The book contains 19 Bangla and 11 English articles on



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# Govt officials to get transport services training in Korea

**CITY DESK**

Seven government officials yesterday left Bangladesh for Korea to participate in a 14-day training on transport services under a project supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The training aims to share the modern transport technology systems to develop the capabilities of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) officials.

It will also help establish a high-tech digital data centre at BRTA headquarters and an automatic vehicle inspection system at BRTA Mirpur office.

# 3 charges pressed

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the investigation officer (IO), testified in the war crimes case against fugitive Abdul Jabbar.

Helal said during investigations he came upon a list of Razakars who were active in Pirojpur's Mathbaria upazila.

"Jabbar's (name) is mentioned as chairman of Mathbaria Thana Peace Committee and chief of Razakars," he said. Helal also exhibited a list of martyrs of Angulkata, Noli and Phuljhuri villages buried at a mass grave in Surjiamoni.

The IO also showed the tribunal a list of arson victims of Tushkhal and Phuljhuri villages. Prosecution witnesses had testified on the massacre allegedly led by Jabbar and the Pakistani occupation army with the help of Razakars.

Jabbar, a former Jatiya party lawmaker, is facing five charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War. Proceedings were adjourned until today when the defence counsel is expected to cross-examine the IO.

# SC extends stay

**FROM PAGE 3**

stayed later.

Arrested on September 24, Shuvo, 26, son of former HC judge Abdus Salam Mamun, was accused under Anti-terrorism Act 2009 for "conspiring to commit terrorist and militant activities". The SC also asked the HC to dispose of the rule by December 31.

# HUNGER STRIKE FOR RETAKING DU ADMISSION TEST

# Four more fall sick on fifth day

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

Four more college graduates yesterday fell sick while 12 others continued their fast unto death for the fifth day protesting the Dhaka University authorities' decision to discontinue the opportunity to take the admission test twice from next year.

Earlier on Friday, 24 demonstrators fell sick while around hundred college gradates thronged the Central Shaheed Minar to express solidarity.

Police early yesterday sized two loudspeakers from the demonstrators over which they used to play songs. The protesters were seen using mikes to chant slogans.

# Stop encroachment

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Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority had informed the local administration of Manikganj that the river Kaliganga had been encroached upon and structures were constructed in its lands, but the administration had not taken any steps to stop such activities.

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