



## Logjam in courts

1,200 judges struggle to settle 30 lakh cases; Law Commission for hiring 200 judges every year

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

More than 30 lakh cases are pending with different courts of the country with only around 1,200 judges to take care of them, triggering concerns that the litigants' wait for justice may only get longer.

Worried over the ever-mounting backlog of cases, the Law Commission (LC) has recommended appointment of at least 200 new judges every year.

In a letter to Finance Minister AMA

Muhith on June 16, LC Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque sought allocation in the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year for appointment of new judges on permanent and contractual basis for the lower courts.

The situation might get only worse if new judges weren't recruited without delay for the sake of public interest, he said in the letter.

The Law Commission can only make

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## Shots fired by MP's son

Testifies his friend on April 14 incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bakhtiar Alam Rony, son of Awami League lawmaker Pinu Khan, fired shots in a drunken state on early April 14, leading to the deaths of two innocent persons at New Eskaton in the capital, a witness told a Dhaka court yesterday.

Bakhtiar's friend Kamal Mahmood testified in a

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## BGB man shot on Myanmar border

Another 'abducted'; exchange of fire with Myanmar border guards

STAR REPORT

Myanmar border force opened fire on a Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) patrol team near the Naf river of Cox's Bazar early yesterday. A BGB member was bullet-hit and another

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Political enmity beyond borders

SHAKHAWAT LITON

While her party men were staging demonstrations against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit in London, BNP chief Khaleida Zia in Dhaka on Monday invited Hasina to an iftar party she will host in honour of the country's political leaders.

As per announcements made earlier, leaders and supporters of BNP's UK unit staged protests wherever Hasina went during her visit to London since Friday.

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## Ramadan begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Ramadan, the lunar month of self-purification through fasting and abstinence, begins tomorrow as the new moon was not sighted anywhere in the country yesterday.

Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessings and benediction, will be observed on the night of

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The Baneshwar mango market in Rajshahi is abuzz with growers and traders. This year mangoes are in good supply due to clement weather. Growers, however, are not getting good prices. The photo was taken in late May.

# MANGO DELIGHT

Use of chemicals declines this season as awareness rises

PINAKI ROY with RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Khabir Mia went to the wholesale mango market at Baneshwar in Rajshahi with around 300kg of Ranipasand mangoes.

His mangoes were green, an appar-

ent sign that he did not apply any ripening agent on his fruits.

"This year things are different. Traders are not going to spray any ripening hormones on mangoes, even if they rot," said the farmer, when asked what sort of chemicals was being used to ripen them.

"We don't need to put any chemicals, these mangoes will ripe in a few days as these are mature," said Khabir.

"Last year, mangoes of our region were marked as chemically tainted. It was bad for our business."

Tonnes of mangoes were destroyed

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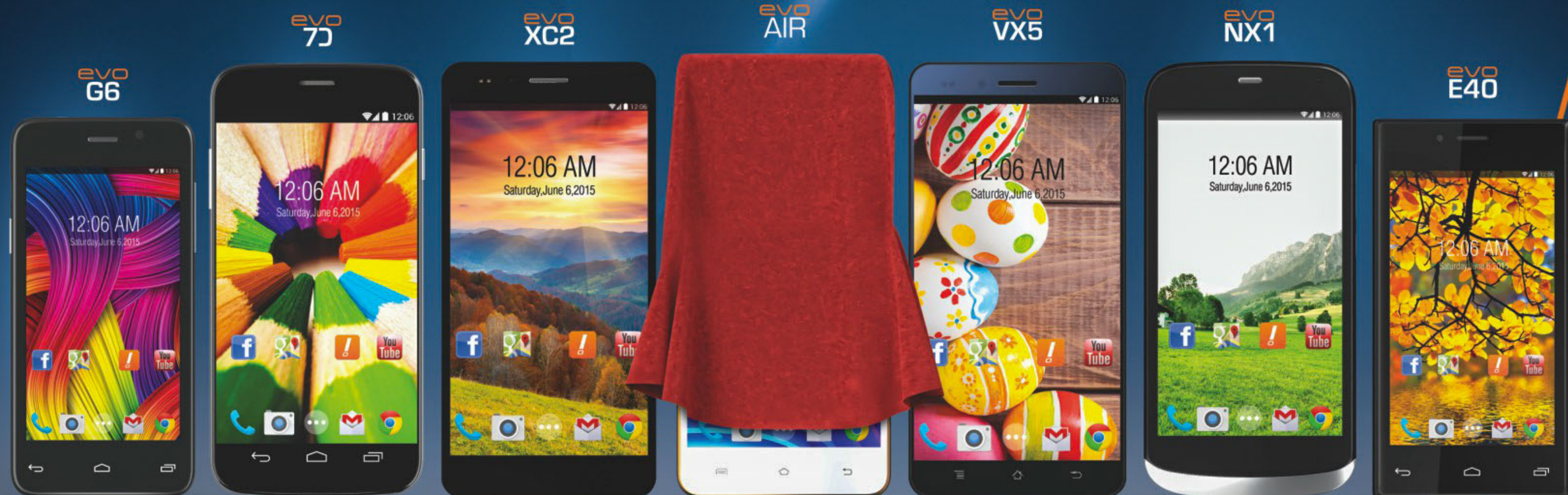
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