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Lower courts to get 478 judges soon

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has taken steps to recruit 478 new judges for lower courts in phases to address the massive backlog of pending cases.

The move comes in line with recommendations from the Supreme Court and Law Commission, said law ministry sources.

Besides, a process is underway to recruit 113 assistant judges and judicial magistrates who are known as lower court judges.

As part of hiring 478 judges, the ministry has recently asked Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) to select qualified candidates for 111 judges' posts through exams.

The ministries of law and public administration have been working on creating the rest of the 367 new posts of judges. Once the posts are created, the ministries will take necessary measures to fill those.

Talking to The Daily Star, BJSC Secretary Paresh Chandra Sharma said the commission has already initiated the process of selecting competent candidates for the 111 posts.

The posts will be advertised this month. The commission will soon set the eligibility criteria for the prospective applicants and the last date for filing applications, he added.

RECRUITMENT OF 113

Sources at BJSC and law ministry said examiners have been evaluating the answer scripts of candidates who took written tests for 60 posts of judges. Successful applicants will have to face a viva test.

Once the viva test is over, the commission will send the list of successful aspirant judges to the law ministry, which

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Bangladesh players celebrate during the opening match of the ICRC International Cricket Tournament for People with Physical Disabilities against England at BKSP in Savar yesterday. The hosts won the match by 14 runs. Story on page 14.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with a report by the US Department of State that corruption still remains a serious impediment to investment and economic growth in Bangladesh?

Yes (94%) No (6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 86

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal that people don't have the slightest confidence in the country's healthcare system, as they see the VIPs fly abroad for treatment?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Adieu, Aylan

Drowned Syrian boy buried as Europe wrangles over refugees; Hungary warns of 'mass inflow'

AGENCIES

A Syrian father yesterday buried his wife and his two little boys, drowned as they tried to flee to Europe, while Hungary's leader told Europeans they risk becoming a minority on their own continent.

With desperation and anger deepening among people escaping conflict and poverty, around 300 migrants broke out of a Hungarian reception camp while about 200 others scuffled with police on a Greek island.

Austrian police also said the driver of a truck found abandoned last week with the bodies of 71 migrants in the back was among a group of people arrested in Hungary.



The Syrian family and the 71 migrants, who suffocated in the truck, were among many casualties as hundreds of thousands make their way by sea and land towards wealthy northern European countries such as Germany, hoping to find safety and a new life. Many are refugees from the four-year-old civil war in Syria.

In the Syrian town of Kobani, 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi was laid to rest alongside his mother and five-year-old brother at "Martyr's Cemetery" in the predominantly Kurdish community near the Turkish border.

Images of the tiny body of Aylan washed up on a beach near the Turkish resort of Bodrum prompted a global outpouring of sympathy this week. He drowned with his brother Galip, his mother and nine others while trying to cross in a small boat to the Greek island of Kos just a few kilometres away.

Pressure on EU leaders has intensified with the heartbreaking pictures of Aylan Kurdi's body on a Turkish beach.

His father Abdullah Kurdi -- who has told how his sons "slipped through

EU must accept 200,000 refugees

Says UN

BBC ONLINE

EU nations must accept up to 200,000 refugees as part of a "common strategy" to replace their "piecemeal" approach to the migrant crisis, the UN says.

Antonio Guterres, head of the UN refugee agency, said the EU must mobilise "full force" for the crisis, calling it a "defining moment".

EU leaders, split over sharing the refugee burden, are scrambling to agree a response in meetings yesterday.

In Hungary, hundreds of refugees are locked in a stalemate with authorities.

Migrants hoping to reach the Austrian border have refused to disembark from a train surrounded by police in the Hungarian town of Bicske, 40km (25 miles) from Budapest.

Hungarian authorities want to move the migrants to a nearby refugee camp - but the migrants fear registering there will hamper their plans to seek asylum in Germany and other countries.

Farm dust works against allergies



AFP, Miami

Researchers have long known that growing up on a farm seems to protect children against allergies and now they know the secret lies in the dust, Belgian experts said Thursday.

The findings published in the US journal Science could help lead to a vaccine against asthma one day.

"At this point, we have revealed an actual link between farm dust and protection against asthma and allergies," said Bart Lambrecht, a professor of pulmonary medicine at Ghent University.

"We did this by exposing mice to farm dust extract from Germany and Switzerland. These tests revealed that the mice were fully protected against house dust mite allergy, the most common cause for allergies in humans."

Scientists also discovered that farm dust "makes the mucous membrane inside the respiratory tracts react less severely to allergens such as house dust mite" due to a protein called A20, the study said.

Hindus to celebrate Janmashtami today

UNB, Dhaka

The country's Hindu community will celebrate Janmashtami today to mark the birth of Lord Krishna.

The day is a public holiday.

Different socio-cultural and religious organisations, including Bangladesh Puja Uddjapan Parishad and Mohanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee, have planned elaborate programmes to celebrate the day.

The programmes include puja, Geeta Jagna, Kirtan, discussions and peace processions. The traditional Janmashtami procession will be brought out from Dhakeswari Temple.

Similar programmes will be organised across the country.

President Abdul Hamid will host a reception for eminent Hindu citizens at Bangabhaban at 11:00am.

Meanwhile, the president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued messages on the occasion.

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

BAZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-20 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-25 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Food, water crisis in flood-hit areas

STAR REPORT

The flood situation in Kurigram, Bogra, Gaibandha and Jamalpur worsened and the people of these districts are now facing an acute crisis of food and drinking water.

Their houses and croplands have gone under water.

"We could not feed our children. Oftentimes, we go to dry land on boats in search of food," said Nur Jahan Begum of Gobordhan village in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

"We are eating only dry food, like bread, flattened rice, puffed rice and molasses. Sometime we get cooked food from relatives who have not been hit by the flood," said Nabirul Islam at Char Kharuya village in Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila.

Many villagers are selling off their domestic animals at lower prices as there is an acute crisis of fodder. Many grazing fields around villages were under water.

"We are selling our domestic animals at a lower price as we are unable to provide them with fodder," said Rafiqul Islam of Lalmonirhat.

The Dharla river was flowing above 28cm of the danger mark at Kulaghat point. The Brahmaputra, Jamuna, and Bangalee also were flowing above their danger marks yesterday.

Local administrations and social organisations are distributing dry foods among the flood victims.

Shibendu Khastagir, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Lalmonirhat, said the overall

PHOTO: STAR

Village households are inundated in Lalmonirhat; people wading through waist-deep water in Gaibandha for safe shelters, bottom right. The flood situation worsened yesterday in the two northern districts as the water levels of the Brahmaputra, the Dharla and the Bangalee rivers are flowing above the danger level.