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# APPELLATE DIVISION Judges to be appointed in a month

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government may take an initiative to promote some High Court judges to the Appellate Division in a month, as the apex court has been going through a shortage of judges for more than two years.

"Certainly, the government has a plan to appoint some judges to the Appellate Division from among the High Court judges. The appointment might be made in a month," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier, he said the president, the prime minister and the chief justice would take the final decision about appointing judges to the apex court and it's they who know when the judges would be appointed.

The law minister, however, did not say why the vacant posts of Appellate Division judges were not filled.

Five out of 11 judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court have retired since 2013 but no new appointments have yet been made.

An SC source said Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha had asked the government to take a move to appoint some judges to the Appellate Division through promoting HC judges.

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## FABULOUS IN FLIGHT

A flock of seagulls take off over the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong last week. The birds are adaptable feeders. They eat fish and marine and freshwater invertebrates both dead and alive.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## 'Khaleda to seek votes thru' ads'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will ask for votes in favour of her party's mayoral candidates by placing advertisements in the newspapers and on television, party insiders said.

The advertisements will come out on December 28, two days before the 234 municipalities go to polls, a BNP leader close to the BNP chief told The Daily Star last night.

In the ads, Khaleda will

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## POLLS CODE BREACH BY MINISTERS, MPs EC dragging its feet on probe?

PANKAG KARMAKAR and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The Election Commission has not yet ordered inquiry into the allegations of electoral code violation by around 20 ministers and lawmakers.

Though the commission was all set to issue necessary directives yesterday, it didn't do so, which has surprised even its own officials.

Meanwhile, an Awami League lawmaker



in Chapainawganj along with two other local leaders was suspended from the party by the district committee. They allegedly were working against the AL-backed mayor candidate in Shibganj municipality.

On Wednesday, sources in the EC hinted that it might ask the returning officers concerned yesterday to probe the complaints and take actions accordingly.

The EC secretariat had even prepared a

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## Anup Chetia freed on bail in Assam

Says he'll participate in peace talks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Ulfa leader Anup Chetia, whom Bangladesh handed over to India last month, was released yesterday in Guwahati of Indian state Assam after he had been granted bail in all four cases against him.

Out from jail, Chetia, general secretary of Assam's separatist group United

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## Modi mistake in Moscow

PTI, Moscow

In an unusual incident, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was pulled back by a Russian official as he walked past the guard of honour accorded to him while India's national anthem was being played soon after his arrival here on Wednesday.

As the Prime Minister was moving when 'Jana Gana Mana' was being played at the guard of honour by a contingent of the Russian military, a

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## 'Join us or be kidnapped'

IS threatens first Miss Iraq since 1972

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The first Miss Iraq since 1972 has reportedly received a threatening phone call from IS - demanding she join their ranks or be kidnapped.

Shaymaa Qasim Abdelrahman, 20, became the first winner of the national beauty pageant in more than 40 years.

But according to the Jerusalem Post, which cited Kuwaiti Daily al-Watan, she received a phone call following her win saying she would be kidnapped if she refused to become a member of the militant group.

The pageant's organisers said Miss Abdelrahman was



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PHOTO: STAR

A printer in Birampur upazila town of Dinajpur holds up an election campaign poster of a municipal councillor hopeful on Tuesday. With the polls only five days away, printers in the upazila are busy printing posters and flyers for the candidates.

## GUNFIGHT IN TEKNAF 'Myanmarese yaba trader' killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An alleged Myanmarese yaba smuggler was killed when a gang of Myanmarese yaba smugglers and BGB exchanged fire in the Naf river in Teknaf upazila early yesterday.

The dead is Darbesh Miah, 35.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members also arrested Mohammad Salimullah, 20, a member of the gang, along with 30,000 yaba tablets, a bullet and two sharp weapons.

Acting on a tip-off, the BGB men challenged a boat near sluice gate-3 area in the Naf river around 3:30am. Instead of halting the boat, the yaba

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## Saudi hospital fire kills at least 24

AFP, Dubai

A fire tore through the intensive care unit and the maternity ward of a Saudi hospital before dawn yesterday, killing at least 24 people and injuring 123, officials said.

The fire broke out at the general hospital in the southwestern port city of Jazan, the capital of the Jizan region, one of Saudi Arabia's poorest areas.

The civil defence agency said 25 people died but a later statement by Health Minister Khalid al-Falih put the death toll at 24. Two of the dead were security guards and one was a child, officials said.

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## 3 'outlaws' killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three alleged members of a faction of banned Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed in a "gunfight" with Rab in Tangail Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Omar Miah, 28, alleged chief of the district unit's PBCP (ML-Lal Pataka), Abul Kashem, 25, and Saddam Hossain, 30, two other local top leaders of the outfit, claimed the elite force.

The three are from different villages in Baghil union of the upazila.

However, Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Tangail Model Police Station, said the deceased were listed criminals and they committed various crimes, using the name of the PBCP.

They stood accused of about a dozen criminal cases, including murder, robbery and kidnapping, with the police station, he said.

On information that a secret meeting of the PBCP was being held in Omarpur village, a Rab team raided the village around 3:50am, said

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**SIBL** Social Islami Bank Limited

**PRAYER TIMING**

DECEMBER 25  
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	5-20	12-30	3-45	5-22	7-00
JAMAAT	5-55	1-15	4-00	5-25	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**The Daily Star**  
17th O & A Level Award Presentation Ceremony 2014-2015

**SALUTING THE NATION BUILDERS OF TOMORROW**

## Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

**Private Candidates:** Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

**Criteria for 'O' Level:** Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2014 to May/June 2015

**Criteria for 'A' Level:** Minimum 3(three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2014 to May/June 2015)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Shahir Hasan Khan at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, with their original Result Certificates and a photocopy, and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 25, 26 or 27 January, 2016, between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm.

**Schools:** Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Shahir Hasan Khan at The Daily Star office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at [g.alevel.tds@gmail.com](mailto:g.alevel.tds@gmail.com) by 28th January, 2016, with:

- The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

No registration will be allowed or accepted after 5:00 pm of 28th January, 2016.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

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