



PHOTO: BSS Newly appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office on Sunday.

### JCD men

JUMP PAGE 3 Five units of the fire service later doused the fire, said Masudul Haque, an inspector at the fire service headquarters. "Most leaders of the 736-member full-fledged JCD committee have been selected through nepotism, depriving the qualified ones of the posts," Rakibul Islam Royal, a vice-president of the JCD, told pressmen in the party office yesterday. He alleged that their followers, who were struggling with them for getting posts, have been deprived again.

"A pocket committee was formed in exchange for money. We will not obey any instruction of such a biased committee," Rakib added. He accused BNP's Students Affairs Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne and Assistant Student Affairs Secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku of putting men of their choice on the committee. "They told the BNP chief that they were giving posts to the deprived leaders, but they sold it to others," Rakib alleged. On Saturday night, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia approved the 736-member committee of the party's student wing comprising leaders and activists, most of whom are non-students. Contacted, Rizvi blamed the government for this incident. He said real BNP men could never damage the casing of Zia's sculpture and attack the party office. However, Akramul Hasan, general secretary of JCD, said they gave posts to real party men, adding that if someone thought he did not get posts, the committee would take this into consideration. He urged everyone not to fall for the "government's conspiracy".

### Over 58,000

FROM PAGE 16 severe drought conditions intensifying in Puntland and Somaliland, many more people risk relapsing into crisis." The UN is calling for \$885 million (792 million euros) in aid. Fighting continues between Somalia's al-Qaeda linked Shebab insurgents and government and allied forces, backed by the African Union force, which counts more than 20,000 members. The warning comes as neighbouring Ethiopia struggles to combat its worse drought for 30 years. At least 10.2 million people need food aid in Ethiopia, a figure the UN has warned could double within months, leaving a fifth of the population to go hungry. El Nino is triggered by a warming in sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. It can cause unusually heavy rains in some parts of the world and drought elsewhere.

### Robbers kill

FROM PAGE 16 director of the hospital. Mohsinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said they visited the house and collected some important evidence. Filing of a case was underway.

### Dalits deprived

FROM PAGE 5 Moreover, there is one toilet for 40 people of the community in Dhaka on an average while 85 percent of families have to share toilets across the country, it adds. Afsana Binte Amin, national programme co-ordinator, Nagorik Uddyog, read out a summary of the publications. Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Ruhin Hossain Prince of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, Nagorik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif and Nagorik Uddyog Chief Executive Zakir Hossain also spoke.

## 40,000 starving to death as S Sudan teeters on famine

AFP, Juba At least 40,000 people are being starved to death in South Sudan war zones on the brink of famine, the United Nations said yesterday, in a plea to rival forces to let aid in. The figures released in a UN report describe some of the worst conditions yet in more than two years of a civil war marked by atrocities and accusations of war crimes, including the blockading of food supplies.

## Prosecutor withdrawn

FROM PAGE 16 order that did not cite any specific reason behind the action. Three of the prosecutors, however, said Ali had "worked" in favour of an accused so that he could get bail. However, a bail petition of the accused was rejected recently by the tribunal. Ali was not directly engaged in the proceedings of the case, they said. Ali refuted the allegation. The cases against war crimes accused Shamsul Haque and Shamsul Hossain Tarafdar are among those he was working on. At least five prosecutors were contacted for their comments over the matter. None of them wanted to be named in this report. One of the senior prosecutors said, "He [Ali] worked against the interest of the prosecution and in favour of an accused. That's why he has been with-

drawn." He added that the chief prosecutor had gone to Rajshahi and that on his return to Dhaka, he would inform the matter to the law minister for further action. "What he [Ali] did was unethical and professional misconduct. The Bar Council and the government should take stern action against him," said another prosecutor. Two other prosecutors said they were aware of the order but did not know the reason. Ali told The Daily Star he received the letter yesterday and that he would take steps after talking to the chief prosecutor. About the allegation, he said a group of prosecutors had brought the allegation out of professional jealousy. In March and June 2014, prosecutor Tureen Afroz filed complaints against Ali of professional misconduct.

## Justice Manik

FROM PAGE 16 Justice Imman Ali will examine the judgments and orders and then send them to Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, the presiding judge of the bench, for scrutiny. "Then Justice Wahhab Miah will send the judgments and orders to me for my signature. Once I sign, Justice Imman Ali and then Justice Wahhab Miah will sign the judgments and orders for their release," Manik added. On Sunday, SC registrar general's office in a press release said, "The honourable chief justice of Bangladesh hopes that former Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury will return all the files of cases of unsettled judgments pending with him to the Supreme Court's registrar general's office immediately without

# Free media vital for democracy

FROM PAGE 16 30-minute speech touched upon various subjects from suppression of free press in history to the American constitution and judiciary upholding freedom of speech. "The greatness of a newspaper is not measured by the size of its readership but by its influence and credibility," she said, noting why the New York Times or the Guardian are better known and more respected than the tabloids in their respective countries with 10 times their circulation. Observing that freedom of speech "is the most complex and controversial right", she discussed how terrorist attacks led to tightening of security laws in a number of countries in ways that infringe upon freedom of speech and access to information. She also gave instances of how this particular right was strangled in history. She presented a brief picture of how freedom of speech enjoys protection in the US, Europe and Asia and Africa. "Termining the US the strongest champion of freedom of speech, a country where even burning the US flag is considered part of one's freedom of speech, Irene said even European countries could not do as well as the US in this regard. "Most European countries have laws that ban 'hate speech', speech that incites racial or religious hatred. A number of them have laws that outlaw holocaust denial, and increasingly European countries are adopting laws banning speech or writing that is an 'apology for terrorism'," she said. In Asia and Africa, blasphemy laws are used not just to silence criticism of religions but also that of political dissent to gain support from hard-line religious

parties. "If the law is not enough to chill free speech, then extremist violence acts as a veto, threatening, attacking and killing the critics, the bloggers or the zealous journalists with impunity," she stressed. Noting that freedom of expression is also the right to hear, Irene said, "If the government is allowed to decide which opinions can be expressed and which cannot, an open, vibrant and diverse society quickly breaks down." "Similarly, when our court system is used to silence those with unpopular views, we all lose the opportunity to hear all sides of an issue and come to our own conclusions," she added. About the relation between free speech and free media, Irene said when people gained access to information about development choices available to them, they were able to organise, speak out and take part in decisions affecting their lives and livelihoods. This helps them to come out of deprivation, exclusion and insecurity, she explained. Citing how the huge loss of lives during the Chinese famine in Chairman Mao's time happened because the real picture could not be known due to curbing of media freedom, she said free media "benefits government by providing information on what is really happening" so that governments could adjust policies or correct any mistakes. "Censorship can keep the government as well as citizens in the dark," she said. About people's attitude towards free media in Bangladesh, Irene said, "I fear we do not value our media freedom enough." "Indeed, most people, especially poor

people, do not care much about democracy and freedom when things are going well," she said. Citing a recent survey where Bangladeshis preferred economic growth over democracy and freedom, Irene said, "The stability that we are enjoying now is making us complacent about our freedoms, including our media freedom, but there are grey clouds on the economic horizon." She said when economy "falters and unemployment rises, people come out on the street and they begin to value free media." She, however, warned that the power of media might not be a good thing when its ownership "is mostly private and concentrated in the hands of a few." The solution to this problem is not censoring or regulating media, but letting it expand and the news consumer choose which media outlet they want to read, view or listen to, according to Irene. "Freedom of the net and the press thrives on competition and confrontation..." she said. The speech was followed by a lively question-and-answer session where Irene, replying to a question, said, "Globally, freedom of press is growing." A government cannot suppress media now in the face of strong public opinion favouring free media, she said. "The biggest thing that saddens me about Bangladesh is the lack of solidarity in the press for the press." Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, moderated the programme. He said governments in most developing countries "fail to see the role free media plays in informing the government."

## Pakistan summons Bangladesh envoy

FROM PAGE 16 missing for hours. Jahangir Hossain, personal officer of the press wing at Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad, went missing on February 1. "Dhaka had a specific reason for summoning the Pakistan envoy and handing him over a protest note as Pakistan violated diplomatic norms by picking up the Bangladesh High Commission official on February 1 and detaining him without any reason," said a senior official at the foreign ministry. Though the Pakistani plainclothes men picked up Jahangir and harassed him, they did not reveal their identities, which the diplomatic circles termed "dangerous, alarming and a matter of grave concern." The plainclothes men had also blindfolded him. Later, they dropped him off at an unknown place after midnight and returned his ID card, cell

phone, and motorbike. Earlier on the same day, detectives in Dhaka detained Pakistan High Commission staff Abrar Ahmed Khan for his "suspicious movement". However, Abrar, assistant private secretary at the press section, was released and handed over to the high commission. Dhaka and Islamabad in recent times witnessed escalation of diplomatic tension after Bangladesh asked Pakistan to take back two of its diplomats stationed in Dhaka for their direct involvement in terror financing and circulating fake Indian currency last year. On December 23 last year, Fareena Arshad, second secretary (political) at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka, was withdrawn from Dhaka for her alleged links with some militant groups and terror financing. The next day, the Pakistan foreign ministry twice summoned the

Bangladesh envoy in Islamabad to lodge protest against the "treatment meted out to its diplomat" in Dhaka. On January 5, Pakistan asked Bangladesh to withdraw its senior diplomat Moushumi Rahman from the country in 48 hours, without citing any reason. The move appeared to be a counter-action from Islamabad following the withdrawal of Fareena. In January last year, Pakistan recalled its diplomatic official Mazhar Khan for his alleged links with terror financing and currency forgery racket. Diplomatic ties between Dhaka and Islamabad have soured after Bangladesh started executing the war criminals. Following the execution of top Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Pakistan summoned the Bangladesh envoy there to lodge a formal protest on November 30.

## 24 migrants

FROM PAGE 16 migrants to Europe. The Turkish government struck a deal with the EU in November to halt the outflow of refugees, in return for three billion euros (\$3.2 billion) in financial assistance. The EU on Wednesday finally reached an agreement on how to finance the deal. But the deal and the onset of winter do not appear to have deterred the migrants, with boats still arriving on the Greek islands daily. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said the number of refugees and migrants who perished in the Mediterranean in January alone topped 360. In January, almost 62,200 migrants and refugees entered Europe through Greece, according to the IOM, most of them from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

## Our ministers

FROM PAGE 16 PM's special envoy said he did not make Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu party secretary general. "Bablu became the secretary general. For me, it was not easy to remove him. I did not have the strength." "Those who want to take my seat have grown old. Please leave the seat for the younger generation," Ershad told the meeting. About his decision on the new leadership, he said he would not change the decision as long as he is alive. Newly appointed JP Co-chairman GM Quader said the upcoming union parishad polls will be a "test exam" for the JP. The party will sit the final exam after assessing the results of the UP polls, he added. Hasan Sheraj, general secretary of Magura district JP, said although the BNP is not in parliament, it has a big vote bank. "If we want to be a real opposition party, we have to quit the cabinet immediately to sway the voters in our favour," he noted. Grassroots leaders expressed their support for Ershad's decision on party leadership and suggested that the party leaders should quit the cabinet to play the role of a real opposition party. They also urged Ershad to step down from the post of prime minister's special envoy.

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে (কর্মচারী) কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট  
পুরাতন রেলভবন, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা

**পুকুর/জলাশয় মৎস চাষের জন্য লাইসেন্স প্রদানের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে (কর্মচারী) কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট এর ব্যবস্থাপনা লাকসাম জংশন এলাকায় ১০টি, সীতাকুণ্ড-১টি ও বাডুবকুণ্ড স্টেশন এলাকায়-০১টি মোট= ১২টি পুকুর/জলাশয় মৎস চাষের জন্য আগামী ০১-০১-১৪২৩ বাংলা সন হতে ৩০-১২-১৪২৭ বাংলা সন পর্যন্ত ০৫ বৎসর মেয়াদের জন্য সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে লাইসেন্স প্রদানের জন্য সীলমহোরকৃত খামে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রতিটি পুকুর/জলাশয়ের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র দাখিল ক্রয় করতে হবে। প্রতিসেট দরপত্র দাখিল অফেরতযোগ্য ৭০০/- (সাতশত) টাকা মূল্যে ১) ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে (কর্মচারী) কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা, ২) সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, কুমিল্লা ও ৩) উপ-পরিচালক/কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট/চট্টগ্রাম (এসডাব্লিউও/পূর্ব/চট্টগ্রাম) অফিস হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে আগামী ০৯/০২/২০১৬ইং তারিখ হতে ০৯-০২-২০১৬ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে। যাত্রা ১০-০৩-২০১৬ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে (কর্মচারী) কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ঢাকা অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাঞ্ছিত ফেলতে হবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) সম্মুখে দরপত্র খোলা হবে। রেলওয়ে কর্মচারীর পোষাঘদের জন্য সংরক্ষিত পুকুরের তথ্যসহ পুকুর/জলাশয়ের লাইসেন্স প্রদানের বিস্তারিত নিম্নবর্ণিত দরপত্র দাখিলে পাওয়া যাবে। দরপত্র আবেদন অথবা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে (কর্মচারী) কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে (কর্মচারী) কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট  
পুরাতন রেলভবন, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা

ডিজি/পিআর-৭১  
জিডি-৩৮৫

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Chittagong City Corporation  
Andarkilla, Chittagong  
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Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
01	ICGP BI ChCC-14	Construction of retaining wall on both side of Mohes Khal road improvement in ward no. 26 (1. Construction of retaining wall on both side of Mohes Khal road improvement by RCC in ward 26 & 11 at R/S Ch. 00-1716m, L/S Ch. 556-1716m and R/S Ch. 00-1100m, 2. Details estimate for construction of 18.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Moheshkhale at Ch. 400m, 3. Landscaping work (Beautification work), 4. Details estimate for construction of 18.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Moheshkhale at Ch. 770m, 5. Details estimate for construction of 18.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Moheshkhale at Ch. 1100m).	47057	09-03-2016 17.00	10.03.2016 14.00

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