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# Case backlog keeps rising

More than 4 lakh cases pending with HC as disposal delayed for shortage of judges

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Case backlogs have been building up at the High Court due to shortage of judges with no government move in sight for fresh appointment.

More than four lakh cases have been pending with the High Court which currently has only 90 judges. Of them, three are carrying out duties as judges of the International Crimes Tribunal to deal with war crimes cases.

Ten additional judges were appointed to the HC in February last year.

Following the appointment of six new judges in June 2012, the number of HC judges stood at 100 against around three lakh pending cases.

The number of judges dropped since then after some of them either retired or were promoted to the Appellate Division, insiders said.

Law Minister Anisul Huq refused to make any comment about the government's plan for any fresh appointment.

"We are looking into the matter. I won't say more than this right now," he told The Daily Star on November 4.

Seeking anonymity, a law ministry official said the ministry had no plan to appoint new judges to the HC, as it was busy with monitoring the under-trial cases filed in connection with the grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004 and those filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

An SC official said Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha more than a year ago had urged the government to take

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The muddy and pothole-riddled Bandarban-Ruma road has become virtually unusable for vehicles. The 29km road connecting Boga Lake and Rijuk waterfall, two popular tourist destinations in the hill district, has been in bad shape for long, thanks to negligence by the authorities. Inset, a bus plying the road despite risks. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SANJAY KUMAR BARUA

# 2 cops held on charge of mugging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two police constables were arrested for allegedly mugging an egg trader for Tk 44,000 near the capital's Sonargaon Hotel intersection early yesterday.

Constables Latifuzzaman and Razikuzzaman of the Traffic (North) Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police were suspended after trader Abdul Bashir Mona had filed a case against them with Shahbagh Police Station.

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## PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24
			7-30	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# UK girl wins right to freeze her body for resurrection



AGENCIES

A 14-year old girl who died of cancer has been cryogenically frozen in the hope she could be brought back to life in the future after winning a landmark court case shortly before her death, the BBC reported yesterday.

It said the girl was supported in her wish to be preserved by her mother but not by her father. The BBC said a High Court judge ruled that the girl's mother should be allowed to decide what happened to the body.

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# He was not sure what to write about

VS Naipaul tells DLF audience about his early days as a writer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"My beginning was simply to try to find out what I have to write about," said Nobel laureate Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, widely known as VS Naipaul.

One day in a dark corner of a BBC room, he suddenly discovered that he began to write something.

"It was a bit of magic," Naipaul shared his experience with a packed audience in the city's Bangla Academy last evening, while taking part in a conversation.

It was part of the 6th Dhaka Lit Fest 2016 that began on Thursday.

The 84-year-old Trinidadian-British writer is the key attraction of the festival which sheds light on works of literary talents from around the world.

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# Trump picks hardliners for security posts

Chooses CIA boss, national security adviser and attorney gen from loyalists; Romney tapped as secretary of state

AFP, Washington

President-elect Donald Trump yesterday tapped arch-conservative Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions to be attorney general and hawkish congressman Mike Pompeo, a strident opponent of the Iran nuclear deal, as his CIA director.

The incoming commander in chief also appointed retired lieutenant general Michael Flynn, a top military counsel to the Republican billionaire and one of his earliest campaign surrogates, as his national security advisor.

All three have accepted their appointments, Trump's transition team said in statement.

"I enthusiastically embrace President-elect Trump's vision for 'one America,' and his commitment to equal justice under law," said Sessions, a 20-year veteran of Congress.

"I look forward to fulfilling my duties with an unwavering dedication to fairness and impartiality," added the 69-year-old, who was also one of Trump's earliest backers.

Trump described him in the statement as a "world-class legal mind" who was "greatly admired by legal scholars and virtually everyone who knows him."

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# SHEER NEGLIGENCE

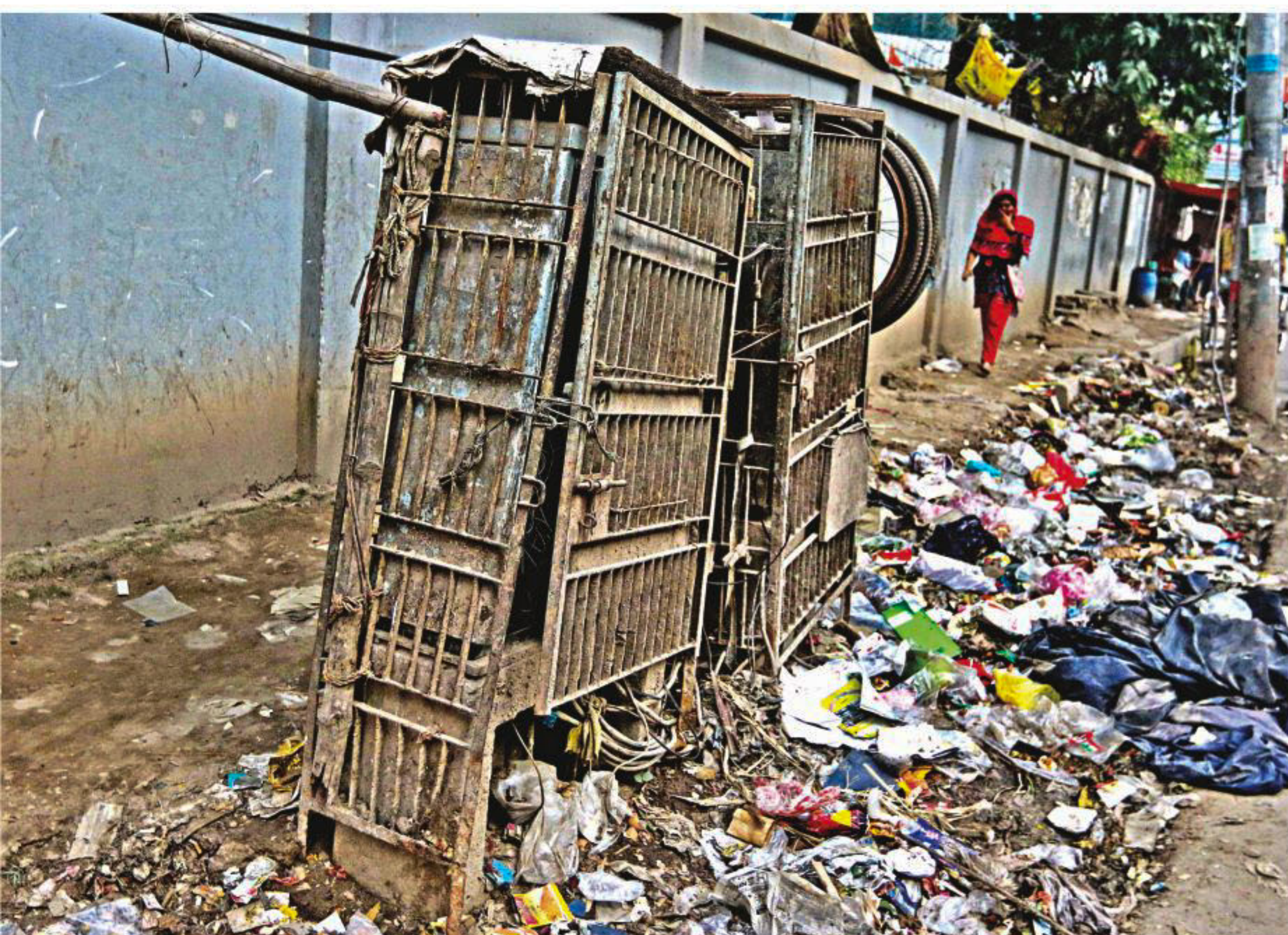


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

These telephone distribution boxes near Siddheswari mosque in the capital have been in a dilapidated condition for long. The metal frames covering the boxes have got rusted and are tied with ropes. The knots may come undone anytime. The spot has also become a dumping ground for rubbish. The photo was taken a few days ago.

# Protect lives of civilians

UN calls upon Myanmar, urges Bangladesh to keep border open

STAR REPORT

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday urged Myanmar to protect civilians in the northern part of Rakhine state. At the same time, the UN agency also called upon Bangladesh to keep its border with Myanmar open.

"We are appealing to the government of Bangladesh to keep its border with Myanmar open and allow safe passage to any civilians from Myanmar fleeing violence," UNHCR spokesperson Adrian Edwards made the appeal at a press briefing in Geneva.

"UNHCR is deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of civilians in the northern part of Rakhine state, Myanmar. We are urging the government of Myanmar to ensure the protection and dignity of all civilians on its territory in accordance

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