

# SCHOOLBOY MURDER

## 8 of Uttara 'teenage gangs' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested eight "teenage gang members", including the heads of two gangs, over the sensational killing of ninth-grader Adnan Kabir in the capital's Uttara last month.

A Rab-1 team conducted two drives in Uttara on Tuesday night and picked up the members of "Disco Boys" and "Big Boss" groups, said Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's Legal and Media Wing, at a press briefing at its Media Centre in Karwanbazar yesterday.

Among the arrestees are Shahriar Bin Sattar Shetu alias Raihan Ahmed Shetu alias Disco Shetu, 22, chief of "Disco Boys", and Akhtaruzzaman Chhoton, 19, head of "Big Boss". The two are among the nine accused named in the Adnan murder case.

The other arrestees from the "Big Boss" group are Shahinur Rahman, 17, Ramzan Mobarak, 17, Selim Khan, 23, Ibrahim Hossain Sunny, 28, Mizanur Rahman Sumon, 22, and Jahidul Islam Juice, 21, from "Disco Boys".

The Rab also claimed to have seized sharp knives, machetes, iron rods, chains,

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# WHERE HAWKERS RULE



Hawkers have taken over the pavements near New Market and people can hardly walk or even use the footbridge to cross Mirpur Road. Instead of shoving through, many choose to walk on the street risking being run over by cars, buses, and bikes. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Govt to make list of 'genuine journalists'

Says Inu at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister yesterday told parliament that the government has taken an initiative to prepare a list of "genuine journalists".

In reply to a Jatiya Party lawmaker's query, Hasanul Haq Inu said the list of "genuine journalists" would be prepared by the newly formed Sangbadik Kalyan Trust (Journalist Welfare Trust).

In a scripted question, lawmaker Pir Fazlur Rahman asked the information minister whether the government has taken any initiative to list the names of "genuine journalists".

He asked how the list would be prepared and wanted to know how many "genuine journalists" were working at the district level and in newspapers.

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# Trump lashes at federal judges

## Calls them 'so political', defends his controversial travel ban

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump yesterday lashed out at the federal judges mulling whether to reinstate his controversial travel ban, calling them "so political" and saying even a "bad high school student" would see the law was on his side.

"I think our security is at risk today," Trump told a meeting of sheriffs from around the nation, as he defended his executive order, which was blocked nationwide by the federal courts a week after it went into effect.

Trump's executive order barred entry to all refugees for 120 days, and Syrian refugees are blocked indefinitely. Travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen are barred from entry for 90 days.

"I don't ever want to call a court biased, so I won't call it biased and we haven't had a decision yet," Trump said.

"But courts seem to be so political, and it would be so great for our justice system if they would be able to read a statement and do what's right."

The Republican president, now in his third week in office, said even "a bad high school student" would think he was right about his reading of the law -- which he read out loud -- with comments interspersed.

"If these judges wanted to, in my opinion, help the court in terms of respect for the court, they'd do what they should be doing. It's so sad," said



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# EC worked impartially

## Says outgoing CEC, claims he faced no pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has discharged its duties impartially without facing any pressure from any quarter during its five-year tenure, outgoing Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad claimed yesterday.

"Just after taking oath five years ago, I announced that I would work impartially. We have proved it to the nation through our activities," he told reporters at the EC's media centre at the capital's Agargaon.

"I did not receive any calls from any quarter [trying to influence me] and did not face any pressure from anyone. No one dictated what to do. I discharged my duties neutrally," he said on the last day of his stint.

The Rakibuddin-led EC, which began its journey on February 9, 2012, drew a lot of flak over how it conducted polls to various national and local bodies in the last five years.

For example, it held the January 5, 2014, parliamentary election, boycotted by

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# JAMUNA RIVER

## Japanese firm to design 2nd railway bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee has given the go-ahead to the railways ministry to appoint a Japanese firm as supervision consultant and for preparing a detailed design of a separate railway bridge on the Jamuna river.

The government targets to build the 4.8 kilometre-long-bridge 300 metres upstream of the existing Bangabandhu Jamuna bridge at a cost of around Tk 9,734 crore by 2023. Of the total cost, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) would finance Tk 7,724 crore.

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved awarding the job of detailed design and assisting in preparing tender documents and consultancy for supervision work to a joint venture company led by Oriental Consultants Global Co Ltd, Japan at a cost of around Tk 795 crore.

Two other companies in the joint venture are Development Design Consultant Ltd, Bangladesh and Sub-Consultant ACE Consultants Ltd, Bangladesh.

An agreement was signed between Bangladesh and Jica

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# Boy killed for ransom

## Body recovered in Narayanganj

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police recovered the body of a seven-year-old schoolboy allegedly abducted for Tk 50,000 from a waterbody in Rugganj upazila of Narayanganj in the early hours yesterday.

The law enforcers recovered the mutilated body of Tajul Islam, student of Class I at Bhulta Govt Primary

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 9  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-52 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-56 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Job of eight HC judges regularised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid has regularised the jobs of eight additional judges of the High Court and left out one additional judge.

Their services were regularised on Tuesday, according to a gazette notification of the law ministry.

The eight are: Justice SM Mozibur Rahman, Justice Amir Hossain, Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury, Justice Razik-Al-Jalil, Justice Bhishmadedv Chakraborty, Justice Md Iqbal Kabir, Justice Md Salim and Justice Md Shohrwardi.

They along with two others were appointed as additional HC judges on February 12, 2015, for two years. Of the 10 additional judges, services of eight judges had been confirmed by the president. Justice JN Deb Chowdhury died and the job of Farid Ahmed Shibli had not been regularised, a law ministry official told The Daily Star, wishing not to be named.

The official, however,

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Layer of dust covers the leaves of a tree on the central reservation of the Arakan Street in Bahadderhat of Chittagong City. Dust on a damaged part of the road covers everything in the surrounding area. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# HC VERDICT ON 16TH AMENDMENT

## SC seeks 12 top jurists' opinions on govt appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday requested senior jurists to give their opinions on March 7 on an appeal against a High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment empowering the parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misbehavior.

The 12 legal experts requested to place their arguments as amici curiae (friends of the court) are advocate TH Khan, Dr Kamal Hossain, barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, barrister Rafique-ul Huq, barrister Shafique Ahmed, advocate AF Hasan Ariff, barrister MI Farooqui, barrister Ajmalul Hossain, advocate Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, advocate AJ Mohammad Ali and barrister Fida M Kamal.

An eight-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha also fixed March 7 for hearing the appeal after Attorney General Mahbubey Alam sought time to prepare arguments in favour of the appeal.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the writ petitioners.

The amendment to the constitution was passed in September 2014.

Following a writ petition, the HC in May last year declared the constitutional amendment illegal. It, however, allowed the government to appeal against it before the SC.

The government filed the appeal on January 4 this year.

During the hearing on the plea the following day, the SC said it would not welcome the proposed law that seeks to

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