

# Fulfil pledge to ensure citizens' rights

CJ urges lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday called upon the lawyers to be more dedicated to fulfil their commitments to ensure citizens' rights.

"Lawyers have a vital role to play in securing the rule of law. The lawyers have a strong commitment to the people of the country to protect their legal and fundamental rights," he said.

The chief justice (CJ) made the remarks at a certificate distribution ceremony organised by Bangladesh Bar Council at Officers' Club in the capital.

As the chief guest of the programme, the CJ distributed certificates among advocates, allowing them to practise in the lower courts.

He also administered the oath among the advocates.

"We have to face all challenges in order to provide inexpensive and speedy justice to the people. We have to respond to the hopes and aspiration of the citizens," he said, urging the fresh lawyers not to be oblivious of the oath.

Speaking at the programme, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the draft law for appointing judges in the higher court has been prepared and will be placed before cabinet soon for an approval.

Along with practising law, the lawyers have to be more careful about mannerism, as success in this profession depends on good behaviour, said the minister.

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Saudi citizen shoots Bangladeshi man dead

UNB, Narsingdi

A Bangladeshi man was shot to death by a Saudi citizen in the south-western city of Khamis Mushayt on Friday noon.

The deceased is Azizul Talukder, 40, of Charandhura village of Narsingdi's Raipura upazila.

Another Saudi expatriate, Lutfar Rahman, who hails from Hasnabab village in the upazila, told the news agency, "Azizul used to run a vegetable shop at Sara Tabida in Abha,

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# 6,000 hajj aspirants fail to register

Religious affairs ministry to float third list today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Religious Affairs will float a third list of pre-registered aspirants today as around 6,000 people failed to complete their final registration for hajj within the deadline of April 5.

This year, around 1,21,000 aspirants have so far completed their final regis-

tration for hajj likely to be held on August 21 subject to moon sighting, ministry sources said.

The initiative has been taken to fill up the quota of 1,27,198 hajis, Anisur Rahman, secretary in charge of the ministry, told The Daily Star.

The list of 6,000 aspirants will be considered on the basis of their serial

numbers.

Anisur Rahman also said the hajj aspirants from the new list will have to complete their registration by April 10.

This year, a total of 1,27,198 Bangladeshis will be able to perform hajj as per the agreement with Saudi Arabia.

Of them, 7,198 will do so under the

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PHOTO: STAR

A view of the BNP rally at Hemayet Uddin Eidgah Maidan in Barisal City yesterday. BNP city unit organised the divisional rally, demanding release of the party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Inset, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressing the gathering.

## Free her first

BNP will consider talks with govt only after Khaleda is released, says Fakhrul at Barisal rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a programme in Barisal yesterday demanded the unconditional release of the party's Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Mirza Fakhrul alleged that the country is being run by an autocratic ruler.

The government has imprisoned Khaleda by staging a mock trial, claimed Fakhrul, adding that the former prime minister had not been given any division facilities in the jail.

He called the young activists of the party to take an oath to restore the people's right to vote through the movement.

They will consider talks with the government only after Khaleda is freed, he said, adding that they would continue their peaceful movement.

The movement of BNP is not for going to power, but for restoring democracy, safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty, he also added.

Senior BNP leaders Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Begum Selima Rahman, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, and Bilkis Jahan Shirin, among others, spoke.

Barisal city BNP President and central Organising Secretary Mojibor Rahman Sarwar presided over the divisional rally.

Earlier, BNP threatened to hold the event at any cost. On Friday night, police permitted the party to hold the

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