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# Pending cases pile up in SC

Just seven judges to deal with 22,000 cases

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Each judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division is burdened with more than 3,140 cases on average as some 22,000 cases are pending with this court.

The number of apex court judges came down to seven from 11 in 2009 after appointments and retirements of some judges.

The situation is more acute in the High Court Division of SC where 92 judges are loaded with more than 5,500 cases on average. About 5.06 lakh cases are pending with this court.

Lower court judges are also burdened with huge number of cases as there are only 1,819 judges to deal with 30.53 lakh cases filed in the courts across the country, which means each of the judges will have to dispose of 1,700 cases on an average.

As of March 31 this year, a total of 35,82,347 cases were pending with the courts, including the Appellate and HC Divisions, according to the latest SC study report.

A previous SC study showed 30,07,860 cases were pending with the courts as of December 31, 2014.

The study report also said a total of 3,82,649 cases were filed with all the courts while 3,45,509 cases were disposed of since January 1 to March 31 this year.

The backlog of cases is growing every day, causing immense sufferings to justice seekers.

SC lawyer and Editor of Dhaka Law Reports Advocate Khurhsid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that shortage of judges, the growing tendency of filing cases, and improper

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Dengue infected Siam has been at the Mugda Medical College and Hospital in the capital since Thursday. The three-year-old's parents had to bring his baby sister to the hospital as there is no one at home to look after her. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Govt to work for medical science: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Putting emphasis on advancing the country's medical science further, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government will do whatever is necessary to develop the field.

"We want to do everything necessary for the development of medical science, education and higher education," she said.

The PM was addressing the medical team, comprising Bangladeshi and Hungarian doctors and other staff, who recently carried out a critical surgery on conjoined twins Rabeya and Rokeya at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka. The team called on the premier at the Gono Bhaban on Friday night.

Hasina said, "We will have to pursue all types of education so we can do more critical works like the successful operation of conjoined twins Rabeya and Rokeya in our country."

She said Bangladeshi

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## 2 'criminals' killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two suspected criminals were beaten to death by a mob near Sondah canal in Pabna's Santhia upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Shahin, 45, and Abdullah, 35, of Santhia upazila, said police.

Jillur Rahman, assistant superintendent of Pabna police (Bera circle), said the duo tried to rob a house in the middle of the night.

On information, a police team was sent to raid the area and detain them. But locals beat the criminals up badly before police could reach there, he added.

The suspected criminals sustained critical injuries before police rescued them. Police then sent them to Bera Upazila Health Complex, the ASP said, adding that the duo was later shifted to Pabna General Hospital as their conditions deteriorated.

Later, they died at Pabna General Hospital.

The bodies were sent to Pabna Medical College morgue for autopsies.

Of the duo, Shahin was accused in five cases filed with different police stations, said ASP Jillur.

Robiul Islam Liton, chairman of Nandapur Union Parishad, said locals beat up the men after they intruded into some Siddik's house.

SEIZED IRAN VESSEL OFF GIBRALTAR

## US warrant puts tanker in limbo

AFP, Gibraltar

A last-minute US warrant to seize an Iranian oil tanker preparing to leave Gibraltar after weeks of detention cast doubt over its departure yesterday, prolonging a diplomatic spat between Tehran, London and Washington.

The US Justice Department alleged the ship was part of a scheme "to unlawfully access the US financial system to support illicit shipments to Syria from Iran by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps," which Washington has designated a foreign terrorist organisation.

There was no comment from Britain or Gibraltar, its overseas territory. Any detention order would ultimately have to come from Gibraltar's Supreme Court. So far, that has not happened and the ship is still free to sail.

Richard de la Rosa, managing director of Astralship, the vessel's shipping agent, told AFP the ship was preparing for departure.

"Within the next two days, she'll be going," he said.

"They're performing crew changes. She needs some reprovisioning," he said, adding new Indian and Ukrainian crew members were due to arrive today.

Gibraltar seized the ship on July 4 on suspicion it was transporting oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions, triggering a sharp deterioration in relations between Tehran and London. Iran has repeatedly denied this.

Iran subsequently detained the British-flagged tanker Stena Impero in what was seen as a tit-for-tat move.

On Thursday, Gibraltar's Supreme Court ordered the tanker released after the British overseas territory said it had received assurances from Iran that the Grace 1 would not head to any country subject to EU sanctions.

But in a last-minute twist on Friday, the United States, which is at loggerheads with Iran, issued the warrant.

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## Bhola rape victim's condition worsens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of the sixth grader, who was gang-raped in Bhola on August 11, deteriorated yesterday.

"She bled again from her injuries. We have given her some medicines to stop the bleeding. If those do not work, she will be operated on tomorrow [today]," said Dr Bilkis Begum, coordinator at the One-Stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Family members and doctors said the 12-year-old girl showed signs of trauma on Friday night. She woke up several times during the night and said she had nightmares about being sexually abused.

Bilkis said they offered physiological counselling to the victim.

A brother of the victim yesterday said his sister

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## Robotic tail that will keep elderly upright



REUTERS, Tokyo

Millions of years after the ancestors of humans evolved to lose their tails, a research team at Japan's Keio University have built a robotic one they say could help unsteady elderly people keep their balance.

Dubbed Arque, the grey one-meter device mimics tails such as those of cheetahs and other animals used to keep their balance while running and climbing, according to the Keio team.

"The tail keeps balance like a pendulum," said Junichi Nabeshima, a graduate student and researcher at the university's Embodied Media Project, displaying the robotic tail attached to his

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## CURTAILING ASYLUM Court deals setback to Trump rule

REUTERS

A US appeals court on Friday dealt a setback to the Trump administration attempt to bar almost all asylum applications at the US-Mexico border, but stopped short of applying its decision nationwide.

While ruling against a provision of President Donald Trump's hard-line anti-immigration policy, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said the decision

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:00  
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Accident in Kolkata kills two Bangladeshis

BSS, Kolkata

Two Bangladeshis were killed in a road accident in Kolkata early yesterday.

The deceased are Farhana Islam Tania, 28, a banker from Dhaka's Mohammadpur, and Kazi Mohammed Mainul Alam, 36, a private employee from the capital's Mirpur.

Duty Officer Amit Basu of Shakespeare Police Station told BSS that the accident took place when two cars collided head-on at Shakespeare Sharani, leaving the two and several other pedestrians injured.

They were rushed to SSKM Hospital where doctors declared the two dead. Another Bangladeshi national was also wounded in the accident.

Police said the deceased went to Kolkata for treatment. The accident occurred when they were returning from the chamber of a doctor.



Kamalapur Railway Station is abuzz as thousands of people are returning to the capital after Eid holidays. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Ten killed on roads in 2 days

STAR REPORT

Ten people, including four students, were killed in six road crashes in the last two days.

In Narsingdi's Shibpur, three students were among the four people killed when a car and bus collided around 3:00am yesterday, police said.

Four others were injured in the crash on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway.

Akib Hossain, 27, Jannatul Ferdous, 25, Sadia Akter, 24, and her husband Ekram Mia, 35, died after a bus of Shyamoli Paribahan rammed into their car, police said.

All of them, except Ekram, were MBA students at Millennium University in the capital.

"They were returning from a picnic in Sylhet," said Sergeant Jakrul Kabir of Itakhola Highway Police Outpost.

The car was mangled in the crash and the bus plunged into a roadside ditch, he said.

On Benapole-Jashore highway, BBA student Sobuj Hossain, 22, of the Jashore Cantonment College was killed in Tapshidanga area early yesterday.

He was hit by a truck while going across the road, said Samir Kumer Sarker, officer-in-charge of Jashore Kotwali police station.

In Noakhali's Companiganj, four-year-old Muntaha was in Natun Bazar area when a CNG-run three-wheeler hit her around noon yesterday.

Locals said she was playing beside a road with other children when the three-wheeler hit her and fled the scene.

In Rangpur's Manthana-Gangahari area, Anis, 35, of Dinajpur was killed 30 other passengers of a bus were injured when the vehicle plunged into a roadside ditch on Friday night, said Inspector Abu Musa of Hazirhat Police Station in Rangpur.

Also on Friday night, traffic constable Robi

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