

## HINDU LAW HC seeks experts' opinions on inheritance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday decided to take opinions from some jurists and researchers on the rules of a customary law that deprives Hindu women of inheriting their deceased fathers' properties.

Supreme Court lawyers AM Amin Uddin, Prabir Neogi, Subrata Chowdhury, Md Qumrul Haque Siddique and Tapan Chakrabarty; General Secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Law Reform Council Pulack Ghatak; and a few others have been asked to place their opinions on the issue before the HC as amici curiae (friends of the court).

While hearing a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman also allowed five rights organisations to become an additional party to this case so that they too could place their opinions.

The rights organisations are Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) and Nari Pakkho.

The HC bench also sent the case to the chief justice to constitute a larger bench for hearing and disposing of the matter.

The writ petitioner's lawyer Khairul Alam Chowdhury told The Daily Star that a larger bench of the HC, which will be constituted by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, will fix a date for hearing the matter.

The larger bench will hear expert opinions from the amici curiae on the issue and that details of the HC order will be known after its written text is released, he said.

Lawyer Sharmin Akhter appeared for the rights organisations during the virtual hearing.

The HC bench on February 14 issued a rule

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



New Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, third from left, and the four election commissioners pose for photos after they were sworn in by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## JUSTICE FOR ROHINGYA ICC prosecutor for collective efforts

UNB, Dhaka

Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Karim AA Khan QC has laid emphasis on a collective responsibility which can actually help them move beyond talking about justice to delivering it for the Rohingyas.

"We have to work together to achieve justice. That is what required," Khan told reporters at a media briefing at a city hotel, noting that justice is an absolutely essential prerequisite for indicating people and rights.

Expressing satisfaction over the support he received from Bangladesh so far, the ICC prosecutor said he looks forward to working with all in Bangladesh, international community and the Rohingyas so that they can actually move forward.

The ICC Office of the prosecutor is investigating alleged crimes against the Rohingya within the Court's jurisdiction.

The ICC prosecutor, earlier, had a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and thanked her for her steadfast support for international criminal justice and her continued leadership in quest of accountability.

During his weeklong visit to Bangladesh, Khan also had a meeting with Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and met Rohingyas and other

stakeholders.

In his meeting with female survivors in Kutupalong camp of Cox Bazar, Khan heard their stories, hopes for justice and talked how they can work together with the ICC to hold accountable those who committed international

**Expressing satisfaction over the support he received from Bangladesh so far, the ICC prosecutor said he looks forward to working with all in Bangladesh, international community and the Rohingyas so that they can actually move forward.**

crimes against them.

In November 2019, ICC Judges granted a request to open a full investigation into alleged atrocities committed against the Rohingya within the jurisdiction of the Court.

This authorisation to open an investigation is seen as a "significant development" for the pursuit of justice and the establishment of the truth, in particular for the victims of alleged crimes of this situation.

## Over 12 crore now received first doses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 71 percent of the country's population aged over 12 have now got at least one dose of a Covid vaccine with around 1.12 crore people receiving their first jab on Saturday.

Thanks to the special campaign that began on Saturday across the country, over 12 crore people have now received their first shot.

The extended special campaign ends today. Originally intended for one day, the campaign was extended as hundreds of people thronged vaccination booths.

The health directorate reported 864 new cases and nine deaths from Covid-19 yesterday.



## Staring down

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier this month, the GACA informed Biman top officials that the carrier won't be able to operate any flights to the kingdom from February 7 for failing to ensure a single general sales agent from January, said Biman insiders.

Biman then turned to Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad Javed Patwary to convince the GACA to allow Biman another week, the sources added.

Patwary said he observed serious mismanagement in Biman.

In a letter to M Mahub Ali, the state minister for civil aviation in Bangladesh, Patwary said Biman management could not respond properly to GACA's repeated reminders.

"Biman is well aware of the problem of moving from one GSA [general sales agent] to another. They should have had good planning. [But] in the absence of this practice, Biman officials in the foreign country are in an embarrassing situation," the ambassador wrote.

Termining the situation "horribly", the

ambassador said, "Biman officials go to the embassy with various issues and ask for the embassy's help at the eleventh hour when little can be done."

Contacted on February 24, Patwary said, "We are working to find a way out."

Biman Managing Director and CEO Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal said the company had two general sales agents for operating flights to and from Dammam, Medina, Jeddah, and Riyadh.

"We have appointed Elaf Travel and Tourism Company as the new GSA on January 1 following the GACA instructions," said Abu Saleh.

He said they could not complete other related work, including settling arrears of the previous general sales agents and transferring iqama of Biman employees.

"We have sought time from the GACA to complete all these tasks," said the Biman MD.

The necessary work will be done very soon, he said.

Over 6,000 people, mostly migrant workers, leave Dhaka for the gulf country every week flying Biman.

## Putin puts nuke forces on alert

FROM PAGE 1

The EU yesterday announced swingeing new sanctions against Russia, closing its airspace to Russian aircraft and banning Russian state media outlets broadcasting in the bloc.

A day after Berlin said it would send anti-tank weapons and Stinger missiles to Ukraine, German Chancellor Olaf

## 'How can I leave?'

FROM PAGE 1

Soon after Russian President Vladimir Putin declared war on Ukraine on Thursday, hundreds of thousands of foreigners and Ukrainians began pouring into the border areas to flee to neighbouring Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova.

The road leading to the Ukraine-Poland border saw huge gridlock, with many facing fuel and food shortages.

"People from the surrounding communities are cooking and supplying food to those stuck on the road. These Ukrainians are so kind hearted. You cannot believe the emotional scenes unless you see for yourself."

The Ukrainian men are giving car keys to their wives and staying back to fight the Russians, said Ahmed, whose wife and son had gone to Bangladesh to visit a few weeks back and have decided to stay put for now.

"The Ukrainians are fully united now -- they

Scholz said the world was in a "new era" and warned of further sanctions.

Machine gun fire and explosions were heard in Kharkiv earlier yesterday and AFP later saw the wreckage of a Russian armoured vehicle smouldering and several others abandoned.

Moscow also claimed it was "entirely" besieging the southern Ukrainian

city of Kherson and the city of Berdyansk in the southeast.

Ukraine yesterday lodged a complaint against Russia at the International Court of Justice in The Hague to get it to halt its invasion.

Ukrainian officials also said that a gas pipeline in eastern Kharkiv and an oil depot near the capital Kyiv were targeted by Russian

Besides, 15 Bangladeshi students have arrived in Hungary and seven entered Romania. The Bangladesh embassies respectively are looking after them.

In a statement yesterday, the Bangladesh Embassy in Poland said it has already taken an initiative to repatriate the Bangladeshis who reached Poland from Ukraine.

It also asked them to send their passport numbers, mobile numbers and address via WhatsApp to embassy official Touhid Imam at +4915778676376 or e-mail at service.warsaw@mofa.gov.bd immediately.

Also, the embassy said those stranded in Ukraine should send their names, mobile numbers and full address to the same WhatsApp number. "Please stay wherever you are. Considering the situation, the ICRC will contact and rescue you and reach you to the border," the embassy said.

Two teams of the Bangladesh embassy are working at the Ukraine-

forces overnight.

In Kyiv, many residents spent another night in shelters or cellars as Ukrainian forces said they were fighting off Russian "sabotage groups", but yesterday was relatively calm compared to previous days.

Western sources said the intensity of the resistance seems to have surprised Moscow.

Bangladesh border to provide consular services.

## SI withdrawn

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star yesterday evening.

He also said the report of the previous probe body formed by Sunamganj police and headed by him will be submitted soon after receiving the autopsy.

Wazir's family claimed that three sub-inspectors, including Debashish, tortured him following his arrest in the early hours of February 10. He died of his injuries on February 21, sparking protests by locals.

The family members also claimed the custodial torture was plotted by Debashish over Wazir's feud with a local UP member, who is a relative of the SI.

A day after Wazir's death, two committees were formed to investigate the matter. Both committees are yet to submit probe reports as they seek extensions on the deadline of three working days, which ended yesterday.

## Bangladeshi ship with 29 on board stuck in Ukraine

STAR REPORT

A commercial ship of Bangladesh and its 29 crews remained stranded at the outer anchorage of a Ukrainian port because of Ukraine-Russia conflict.

The crew members, all Bangladeshis, are safe, said Captain Mujibur Rahman, general manager of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation owns the 180-metre long bulk carrier MV Banglar Samridhhi that reached the outer anchorage of Ukrainian port Olvia on February 23.

"As the situation deteriorated, we cancelled the plan of loading the cargo from the port and asked the ship master to leave the port immediately and reach international waters," said Captain Rahman.

But it took some time to get the port clearance and by then all operations at the port stopped due to Russian invasion, he added.

## Jamalpur man sent to jail over rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Jamalpur court yesterday sent a man to jail on charges of raping a minor girl in the district's Melandah upazila early yesterday.

The accused is Bilash Uddin, 20, of the same upazila, said police.

The victim's mother filed a case with Melandah Police Station Saturday night.

According to the case statement, the girl used to go to Bilash's place to take tuitions. Taking the chance, Bilash raped her multiple times promising marriage.

Later, as she became pregnant, Bilash refused to get married and avoided her family.

## Teacher arrested over rape of eight-year old

STAR REPORT

An eight-year-old girl in the capital's Kafrul area was sexually abused allegedly by a 65-year-old man yesterday.

The child, a third-grader of a local school, was admitted to the One-Stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Shawkat Hossain, the tutor, sexually abused the child when he came to teach her at her home around 10:00pm, said police.

"My child came to me crying shortly after the house tutor arrived. She was bleeding and she told me everything," mother of the victim said.

Police detained Shawkat following the incident. Filing of a case is underway, Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, said.

## Man gets life term for acid attack in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court awarded a man with life term for throwing acid on a youth in 2017.

Chattogram 4th Additional Metropolitan Session Judge Shariful Alam Bhaiyan handed down the verdict convicting Sumit Dhar, 30, of Cox's Bazar.

The court also fined Sumit Tk 50,000, in default, so suffer one year more in jail.

## Nations approve major UN report on climate impacts

AFP, Paris

Nearly 200 nations approved a major UN climate change report detailing the accelerating impacts of global warming yesterday, at the end of a sometimes fraught two-week meeting overshadowed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that debates had concluded over the report's crucial "Summary for Policymakers", a 40-page overview distilling the thousands of pages of scientific research, which has been reviewed line-by-line and will be made public on February 28.

Species extinction, ecosystem collapse, mosquito-borne disease, deadly heat, water shortages, and reduced crop yields are already measurably worse due to global heating.

Just in the last year, the world has seen a cascade of unprecedented floods, heatwaves and wildfires across four continents.

All these impacts will accelerate in the coming decades even if the carbon pollution driving climate change is rapidly brought to heel, the report is expected to warn, according to an early draft seen by AFP in 2021.

It will also underscore the urgent need for "adaptation" -- a term that refers to preparations for devastating consequences that can no longer be avoided.

## EC will take

FROM PAGE 1

He added that cooperation from the stakeholders is needed to hold an election. Awal did not comment on the BNP's refusal to accept the new commissioners.

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique administered their oaths around 4:30pm. Judges of the Appellate Division, including search committee chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan, SC officials and Election Commission officials were present at the ceremony.

On Saturday, President Md Abdul Hamid appointed former senior secretary of the defence ministry Kazi Habibul Awal as the CEC and four others as election commissioners.

The four election commissioners are: former district and sessions judge Rashida Sultana, Brig Gen (ret'd) Md Ahsan Habib Khan, former EC secretary Md Alamgir, and former energy and mineral resources division senior secretary Anisur Rahman.

## Housewife gang-raped

FROM PAGE 12

allegation of rape against his brother is a conspiracy against them, he added.

In the evening, the victim filed a case against the five with Laxmipur

Sadar Police Station. Prime accused Sumon has already been arrested and police were conducting raids to arrest the others, said Jashim Uddin, office-in-charge of the police station.