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Four HC judges promoted to Appellate Division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four High Court judges were elevated to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday.

With their appointments, the number of judges at the Appellate Division has gone up to six.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed the judges as per the constitution, according to a gazette notification by the law ministry.

The four new Appellate Division judges are Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, Justice Syed Md Ziaul Karim, Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice SM Emdadul Hoque, Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar told The Daily Star last night.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed will administer the oath of office to them at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge at 10:30am today.

The four judges were appointed as judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court during the tenure of the BNP-led four party alliance government.

Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury was appointed as an additional judge of the HC on August 27, 2003, for two years and his service was confirmed on August 27, 2005.

Justice Syed Md Ziaul Karim, Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice SM Emdadul Hoque were appointed as additional HC judges on August 23, 2004, for two years. Their services were regularised on August 23, 2006, according to information from the SC website.

On August 10 this year, six judges of the Appellate Division, including then chief justice Obaidul Hassan, resigned amid protests by students.

The other five judges are Justice MEnayetur Rahim, Justice Md Abu Zafor Siddique, Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim, Justice Md Shahnur Islam and Justice Kashefa Hussain.



Students under the banner of Anti-discrimination Student Movement march on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and an end to “politics of occupation” on the campus. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Scrap cases under CSA, DSA against journalists Demands Editors' Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday demanded that the government withdraw and scrap all the cases, including those filed against journalists under the Cyber Security Act (CSA) and the previous Digital Security Act, as well as harassment cases related to the recent movement.

In a statement, signed by the council's President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud, it also called for the repeal of all restrictive laws, including the CSA.

The statement noted that newspaper and television channel offices were attacked and property was destroyed during the recent mass movement.

“The Editors' Council does not support such SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Interim govt's major task is to sue Hasina

Prof Ali Riaz tells webinar on alleged crimes against humanity during protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government's key task is to file a case against Sheikh Hasina for her alleged crimes against humanity during the quota reform protest, said political scientist and writer Prof Ali Riaz yesterday.

“... Since July 14, the Sheikh Hasina-led government committed crimes against humanity as defined in international law, specifically article 7 of the Rome Statute,” he said.

If this interim government does not lodge the case, “she will continue to enjoy impunity”, he said at a webinar.

Riaz, a distinguished professor of politics and government at the Illinois State University, made the remarks at the webinar titled “Bangladesh After Mass Uprising: What Needs to be Done,” SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



‘No further delay’ to Gaza ceasefire

Say leaders of France, Germany, UK; 25 more Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

The leaders of France, Germany and Britain said yesterday that “there can be no further delay” in negotiating a ceasefire in Gaza, warning Iran and its allies against any “further escalation” of the conflict.

The joint statement came after one of the deadliest reported Israeli strikes on the besieged Gaza Strip in more than 10 months of offensive.

“The fighting must end now, and all hostages still detained by Hamas must be released,” French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a joint statement.

“The people of Gaza need urgent and unfettered delivery and distribution of aid,” the statement said. “There can be no further delay.”

They also welcomed the “tireless” work of Egyptian, Qatari and US mediators towards

an agreement on a ceasefire and the release of hostages.

Several rounds of negotiations for a ceasefire in Gaza have failed until now, except for a one-week truce that was observed at the end of November.

International mediators have invited Israel and Hamas to resume negotiations towards a long-sought truce and hostage-release deal, as the fighting in Gaza and the killings of Iran-aligned militant leaders have sent tensions soaring across the region, reports AFP.

Hamas later on Sunday called on US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators to implement a ceasefire plan for Gaza put forward by US President Joe Biden, instead of holding “more negotiations”.

In their statement, the three European leaders also urged Iran and its allies “to refrain from attacks that would further escalate regional tensions and jeopardise the opportunity to agree a ceasefire and the release of hostages.”

- » Hamas urges mediators to implement Biden truce plan
- » European leaders warn Iran against any “further escalation”
- » Gaza death toll rises to 39,897

CYBER SECURITY ACT Controversial provisions to be reviewed Says ICT adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clauses of the Cyber Security Act (CSA) that pose threats to freedom of expression will be re-examined, said Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Adviser Nahid Islam yesterday.

He made this statement to reporters following a meeting with ICT Division officials in Agargaon, Dhaka.

“In our primary discussion, we have agreed that the clauses of the Cyber Security Act that are controversial will have to be reconsidered.”

“We will sit with the law ministry in this regard. Even if the law remains, we will ensure that it does not hinder freedom of expression.”

CSA, which came into effect in 2023, has generated significant concern regarding its potential impact on SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Interim govt to protect fundamental rights, freedom

Adviser Touhid Hossain tells foreign diplomats

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is committed to promoting and protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain.

“As part of our renewed nation-building efforts, Bangladesh would need the unstinting support and cooperation of the international community,” he told more than 60 foreign diplomats based in Dhaka during his first diplomatic briefing at the State Guesthouse Padma yesterday.

The adviser appreciated the positive and constructive remarks of the international partners after the formation of the interim government, led by Prof Muhammad Yunus, on August 8.

“We affirmed that the government will uphold and promote all its international legal obligations, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,” Touhid told journalists after the diplomatic briefing.

Responding to a question, he said former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's stay in India will not impact the Dhaka-Delhi relationship.

“Bilateral relationship is established based on the mutual interests. If interests are compromised, the relationship does not sustain.



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People clear the rubble from a building hit during Israeli bombardment in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

BB loses Tk 55cr in forex deals with Islami Bank

MD MEHEDI HASAN and MA JAHID

The Bangladesh Bank has incurred a loss of Tk 55 crore from its foreign exchange deal with Islami Bank centring the introduction of the crawling peg exchange rate system.

As per its commitment to the International Monetary Fund, the central bank on May 8 announced the crawling peg system (a band of rates within which the exchange rate of a currency is allowed to fluctuate).

On May 9, the reserve management and investment unit of the central bank made two dollar buy and sell deals, amounting to \$82 million, with the Shariah-based bank, where S Alam Group holds controlling stakes.

But the date of the transactions was shown to be May 8, found a central SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Congratulations

We, the Board of Directors of Partex family, are thrilled to congratulate Showkat Aziz Russell on being elected as the President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

We are certain that the textile sector will advance and maintain a positive reputation under your strong leadership and proper guidance.

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