

Widow to testify today at inquiry into Kelly's death

AFF, London

The judicial inquiry into the apparent suicide of David Kelly enters its final stages today with what promises to be emotional testimony from the widow of the British weapons scientist.

Janice Kelly is expected to give evidence via video link to avoid an unseemly media circus at the London court where the inquiry headed by Lord Brian Hutton will be going into its fourth and final week.

Kelly, 59, a former UN arms inspector in Iraq, was at the center of allegations that Prime Minister Tony Blair's government exaggerated the threat of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

His death in July, just days after he faced aggressive grilling before a

parliamentary committee, hurled Blair -- who testified Thursday -- into the worst political crisis of his six years in power.

The affair claimed its first major casualty Friday when Alastair Campbell, who denies having "sexed up" a September 2002 on Iraq and weapons of mass destruction, resigned as Blair's powerful communications strategist.

Kelly, a mild-mannered Ministry of Defence expert on Iraq's deadly arsenal, has been portrayed in some quarters as the innocent victim of a nasty row between Downing Street and the BBC over Iraq.

He was the source of a BBC radio report in late May alleging that the September dossier's key claim -- that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons in just 45 minutes -- was

inserted by Blair's team despite reservations among intelligence chiefs that it came from a single Iraqi source.

On Sunday, the Observer newspaper cast Kelly in a new light, publishing what it called an unpublished article he wrote anonymously for a report on Iraq before the US-led war on Iraq began in March.

In it he says that, while Iraq's arsenal was "modest", its development under Saddam -- and the fear that terrorists could get their hands on it -- was serious enough to warrant "regime change".

"Although the current threat presented by Iraq militarily is modest, both in terms of conventional and unconventional weapons, it has never given up its intent to develop

Coalition clinches Savar polls amid rigging charges

JU CORRESPONDENT

Elections to the Savar Pourashabha (municipality) were held amid allegations of rigging by ruling alliance musclemen yesterday as four-party alliance candidate Refat Ullah was unofficially declared winner with 24,987 in 35 centres.

His nearest rival and Awami League (AL) candidate Ashraf Uddin Khan Imu bagged 23,724 votes.

Although held after long nine years, the polls apparently failed to stir enthusiasm among voters as most polling stations were a deserted look during the polling hours yesterday.

The main opposition party Awami League (AL) alleged that the polls were hijacked by ruling coalition goons who expelled an AL polling agent from a centre and prevented minority voters from voting through threats.

Six AL lawmakers monitoring the election in the area alleged that four-party alliance supporters ousted the AL agent from Karmapada centre under ward No. 6 of the municipality, which is close to the residence of four-party candidate Refat Ullah.

The AL candidate himself became the polling agent at the centre with permission from the centre's presiding



Voters line up at the Savar High School polling centre to cast votes in elections to Savar Pourashabha (municipality) yesterday. The polls were held after a space of nine years.

PHOTO: STAR

400 fake patient tickets seized at DMCH

3 staff suspended, probe body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

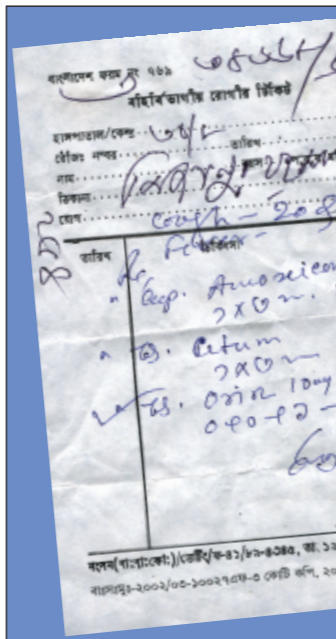
Four hundred fake tickets were seized from the counter of the Out-Patient Department (OPD) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Three DMCH employees were suspended on charge of forgery following the recovery.

When a patient went to see Dr Zahir at 9:30am, the doctor found that the patient's ticket did not have water print of the DMCH monogram on the Tk 5 ticket's right side.

He informed DMCH Director General Nazmul Huda about the matter, who immediately seized all tickets of the OPD counter. Running

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Rajshahi NGO director held for 'embezzlement'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested the director of a Rajshahi-based credit-oriented NGO on charge of cheating in the wake of the organisation's failure to pay back about Tk 20 crore savings to several thousand clients that sparked agitation in Rajshahi.

Police in force cordoned the head office of the non-governmental organisation -- Samaj Unnayan Karma Sangstha (SUKS) -- as its staff fled the office on Saturday in the face of the clients' agitation.

Boalia police arrested Naimuddin, director of accounts of the SUKS, when he went to the organisation's head office at Sagarpara. He was wanted in a cheating case filed with the Bogra Police Station by a client of the SUKS, police said.

They said there were rumours of cheating against the NGO among its clients and they got enraged when their cheques, issued by the head office, were dishonoured by banks.

About 100 cheques for Tk 21 lakh were issued against 96 field workers to repay savings of several

hundred depositors on July 30. The field workers, along with some 1,000 clients, gathered at the Ghoramara branch of the Janata Bank and Alupotty branch of the Rupali Bank on August 30, the date for drawing the money when the cheques were dishonoured.

The clients also gathered in front of the NGO office and staged a demonstration in front of the deputy commissioner's house.

Established in 1993, the NGO has collected Tk 24 crore from nearly 1.5 lakh clients through 70 branches in Dinajpur, Bogra, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Natore, Chapainawab-ganj and Rajshahi districts.

The NGO, however, paid back about Tk 7 crore to 25,000 clients after their savings matured up to June 30 this year.

Clients deposit Tk 500 and Tk 1,000 a month in two- and ten-year savings schemes to enjoy attractive benefits offered by the NGO which operates without the Bangladesh Bank approval.

Chairman of the NGO's board of directors SAQM Haroon admitted

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Mob kills 2 'robbers' at Patiya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

A mob killed two alleged robbers at Shikalbaha in Patiya on Saturday night, raising the lynching death count to 14 in Chittagong in August.

The identity of the dead could not be known.

Police and witnesses said the locals challenged a group of six on suspicion at Shikalbaha Bazar at around 10:00pm. They searched them and recovered a light gun with ammunition.

The locals beat up the gang suspecting them as robbers. Two of them died on the spot, while others managed to escape, police said.

Police suspect that the gang was going to commit a robbery at Shikalbaha Bazar that night.

Police sent the bodies to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy and seized the gun and ammunition.

A case was filed with Patiya Police Station.

Earlier, three alleged muggers were killed and one injured by a mob in Chandanaish thana on August 17. The injured mugger died at the CMCH the following day.

Four alleged muggers were lynched by a mob in Patiya and Sitakunda incidents on August 2, while another mugger was beaten to death in the city on August 8.

4 JCD, Sramik Dal men get life for killing BCL leader

UNB, Feni

A court in Feni sentenced four leaders of student and labour fronts of the ruling BNP to life-term imprisonment for the murder of a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahajahan Mojumder gave the verdict and also fined them Tk 5,000 each. They have to stay another six months in prison if they fail to pay the fine.

Mohammad Musa, publicity secretary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) sadar thana unit, was present during the trial. The other convict are Tawfik Imam Shibly, former organising secretary of Poursava unit, Kamruzzaman Parvez, vice-president of Feni unit and Mokter Hossain Mukta, organising secretary of Dagonbhuiyan thana Sramik Dal, who have been absconding since the killing of the BCL leader Salahuddin.

Sources said the four took Salahuddin at gunpoint from Shaheed Shahidullah Kaiser Road to Rampur on November 19, 1997. Salahuddin suffered fatal injuries from beating and died in hospital.

Salahuddin's brother filed a case against 16 persons, including district BNP general secretary VP Joynal. Police submitted the chargesheet against five.

On a home ministry's instruction, the name of Kamrul Hasan Masud, president of the district unit, was excluded on grounds that he was implicated "for political harassment", sources said.

Govt showcaused for holding back Proshika fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday served a show cause notice on the government asking it to reply in two weeks why a fund release application of Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, an NGO, should not be disposed of.

The court order came after Dr Quazi Faruque Ahmed filed the writ petition for Proshika for fund release.

Proshika applied to the NGO Affairs Bureau on September 9, 2001

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53 abducted in a month, 11 of them killed

HR report says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within the past one month at least 53 people, including millionare Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, were abducted and 11 of them were killed, said a survey report of Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB).

About 50 children were also murdered during the same period, according to Odhikar, a coalition for human rights.

On an average, 12 people were killed a day, resulting in 337 deaths in July, Institute of Democratic Rights (IDR) said.

Seventeen journalists were tortured, threatened and victimised while over 202 incidents robberies were also reported, IDR added.

Political killings also rose alarmingly across the country. In the past eight months were killed about 271 people, 40 of them in August and 36 in July.

Around 3,945 were injured and 1,565 were arrested also for political reasons in the eight months, says Odhikar.

According to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, 639 incidents of child rights violation took place

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 01		6-17 pm
Sept 02	5-40 am	

Prayer Timings		
September 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-25	6-29
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation