

Writ regarding resignation of B Chy

UNB, Dhaka

Elderly politician Oli Ahad yesterday filed a writ petition as to why the resignation of Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury as president of the republic should not be declared extra-constitutional.

A release of the seven-party alliance led by Ahad has said the writ petition is likely to be moved today for hearing at a High Court bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana.

Lawyer Dr Kazi Akter Hamid will appear for the petitioner, said the release signed by Munshi Abdul Majid, who did not mention his designation in the alliance.

Professor Chowdhury stepped down on June 21, conceding a resolution adopted by the BNP Parliamentary Party.

Security guard murdered at Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants killed a security guard of a commercial building at Savar near the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Savar Police said the miscreants took Shah Alam, 27, near the building— Razzak Palza — and slit his throat. The reason behind the killing could not be known.

Police recovered the body from the spot in the morning and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Alam hailed from Poranpur village under Kasiani upazila in Gopalganj district. He resided at Dikhsobagh in Savar.

The victim's younger brother filed a case with Savar police but none could be arrested till yesterday evening.

Girl murdered allegedly after gangrape in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A young girl was murdered allegedly after gangrape in village Joradah in the district.

Harinakundu police recovered the decomposed body of Chikdana Khatun, 16, from an abandoned house Sunday evening.

Niharonnessa, mother of the victim in her statement to police said, Chikdana left her residence on Friday afternoon for her sister's house. But she did not return home.

She alleged that her daughter was strangled after gangrape.

A case was lodged with Harinakundu thana and the body was sent to Jhenidah sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

No one was arrested in this connection till filing of this report yesterday evening.

7 killed in bus mishap in Katiadi

BSS, Kishoreganj

Seven people were killed in road accident in Kishoreganj under Katiadi upazila yesterday afternoon.

Police said a Hossainpur bound passenger bus coming from Dhaka lost control over its steering and killed seven passengers on the spot. Twelve other passengers were injured.

The injured people were admitted to different hospital and clinics.

Three of the dead passengers were identified as Majid of Hossainpur and Rahman Ali and Nayan Mian of Katiadi.

Reshuffle speculation makes ministers wary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Continued speculations over a couple of months about an impending reshuffle of the council of ministers have left some cabinet ministers and most junior ministers wary.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said there is a possibility of reshuffle and it may well take place on Thursday.

BNP policymakers and influential cabinet ministers said reshuffle of the cabinet as well as downsizing the council of ministers have become overdue. They said it is apparently hindering the smooth administrative functioning.

A number of senior ministers said state and deputy ministers under them have now become a burden since they 'create trouble' instead of easing administrative activities.

They said the junior ministers are apparently forcing the officials to initiate note as they wish, and in many cases they are also misbehaving with the senior officials.

Most cabinet ministers and policymakers feel there is 'no need' to keep 28 state ministers.

The ministers said that fate of most of the state ministers now hangs in the balance and that they may well lose their portfolios any day on charge of incompetence, corruption or trouble making.

PMO sources said the number of state ministers might be halved to 14 and more than five cabinet ministers may lose their jobs. Two of the four deputy ministers may also lose their job.

Meanwhile, sources said the government has selected two senior ministers to appoint one of them as home minister, namely Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Industries Minister MK Anwar.

PMO sources hinted that State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar may retain his position, as he is deemed competent.

They said Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka, also the Dhaka city Mayor, is willing to relinquish his cabinet position. In that case, Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed may take over the fisheries and livestock ministry.

Sources said the post-reshuffle council of ministers

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A patient named Alam gasps for air at the medicine ward of the DMCH yesterday. Alam is one of the three admitted unconscious to the hospital.

DMCH in disarray

NAIMUL HAQ

It was noon yesterday. Three young men, all unconscious, were brought to emergency wing of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

After a 'stomach wash' for food poisoning, they were referred to the medicine ward, but there was no trolley to carry them. However, on 'payment', a ward boy at the emergency wing arranged one to take them to ward-1.

But doctors on duty at the ward looked confused as there was no empty bed there and the nurses did not even look at the men to know what had happened to them. After a while, the men were 'dumped' on the veranda of the ward on the first floor.

After about an hour, one of the three men - Alam - was seen gasping for air. A group of about 10 doctors, only a few yards from where he was lying, was accompanying Professor Md Fazlul Hoque on his routine visit to see patients.

Citycell down on technical glitch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A technical glitch in the switching system of cellular phone company Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (PBT), which is the service provider of Citycell, has barred thousands of its subscribers from making or receiving calls all over the country.

Subscribers alleged that they could not communicate for several hours. Worse still, Citycell users could neither make nor receive calls from other cell phones.

"We were thrown out of the cell phone network following the technical problem in Citycell," one subscriber said.

Subscribers were kept in the dark about the problem, as the company did not entertain queries on fixed line phones about the fault in its service.

The problem started at about 2:00pm and continued till filing of this report at 9:00pm.

A severe breakdown in the switching system of the company

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Chhabi can now leave hospital, doctors say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The five-member medical board formed for the treatment of Chhabi Rani Mondal at the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) has said Chhabi could leave the hospital anytime as she has completely recovered from her illness.

Doctors said Chhabi's medical report including results of the CT scan of brain shows that she has no internal injury. She is quite well and may leave hospital any time, said members of the medical board yesterday.

Chhabi's mother Kalidashi Mondal however feels insecure about taking her daughter back to Rampal at the moment. In an oblique reference to some AL leaders, she said they are insisting that Chhabi be shifted to Dhaka for better treatment.

Registrar of KMCH Dr Quazi Habibullah said Chhabi Rani has no problem in getting further treatment at KMCH, although, he said, her injuries were minor and not internal, and that she received the best medical treatment at the hospital.

Chhabi Rani was beaten up and molested allegedly by BNP men at Rampal on August 21 following a dispute over possession of shrimp enclosures.

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Motorised vehicles jostle their way through rickshaws at the Kakrail crossing in the city yesterday. With black smoke-spewing two-stroke auto-rickshaws off the roads, rickshaws ruled the city yesterday, causing chaos and traffic jams for hours on end.

NCBs cut rates

STAR REPORT

The nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) have cut their interest rates on deposits ranging from one to half per cent and the new rates became effective from yesterday.

According to sources, interest rate for the short-term deposit (STD) came down to 3.50 per cent from four per cent. The rate for the saving accounts has been fixed at five per cent. Earlier, it was six per cent.

The rate for the fixed deposits up to three months has been fixed at seven per cent from 7.5 per cent and up to six months at 7.25 per cent from 7.75 per cent. For one year or above the FDR rate has been fixed at 7.75 per cent from 8.25 per cent and for two years or above it came down to eight per cent from 8.50 per cent.

The NCBs are Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank and Rupali Bank.

Satkhira journalists protest assault, submit memo

Case filed against several ruling party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Journalists of the district staged a demonstration in the town yesterday in protest against repression and assault on them allegedly by cadres of the ruling party during opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's visit to the district on August 30.

Covering their face with a black scarf as a mark of protest against the incident, the journalists marched in procession from the Satkhira Press Club to the office of the deputy commissioner (DC) where the procession ended.

At the DC's office, they submitted a memorandum to the prime minister, home minister and the opposition leader demanding immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to their attackers, removal of Kolaroa thana officer-in-charge (OC) ABM Golam Kibria and settlement of the assault case in the speedy trial court.

Abu Ahmed, president of the local press club, its secretary Abdul Bari, Kallyan Banarjee of the Prothom Alo and Ram Krishna Chakrabartee of the Jugantor led the procession.

While submitting the memorandum, the journalist leaders threatened to go for a greater movement if their demands are not met by today.

They also met the Superintendent of Police (SP) Rafiqul Islam and expressed grave concern about the danger to their security created by hoodlums of the ruling party after Friday's incident, and demanded necessary measures to ensure security of journalists of the district.

A case was also filed yesterday by Habibur Rahman, a reporter of the Daily Runner, accusing several ruling party men allegedly belonging to ruling party MP Habiburul Islam Habbib, of beating up journalists on August 30.

The accused named in the FIR of the case are Jubo Dal general secretary of Kolaroa thana Abdul Kader Bachchu, its president Ashraf Hossain, Biplob, Romel (nephew of the local lawmaker), Ripon, Raju and Mozahar.

Meanwhile, the district Awami League in a press briefing yesterday blasted the PM for "diverting the

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Graft case Charge-sheet against Alamgir taken into cognizance

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday took the charge-sheet of a graft case against former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir into cognizance for trial.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa, passed the order after the case was placed before him.

The court also transferred it to the Special Court for Dhaka Division for disposal.

The Investigation Officer of the case submitted the charge-sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka against Alamgir on August 28.

In the case filed with Tejgaon thana, it has been alleged that Alamgir, while in office, misappropriated Tk 56.60 crore of a Japanese Grant in the name of ADP (Annual Development Programme) allotment for 2001-2002 for rehabilitation

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US under fire at Earth Summit

AFP, Johannesburg

The United States was isolated and under pressure yesterday at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, where several leaders pointed to its profligate use of the world's resources and called on Washington to ratify a global-warming pact.

President George W Bush is snubbing the summit, which has drawn about 100 heads of state and government, and Secretary of State Colin Powell was not due to arrive until today.

The strongest words on the United States in the first session of the top-level three-day debate came from President Jacques Chirac of France, whose country has repeatedly been at political odds with the United States.

Chirac painted a picture of a world where all five continents were in crisis, plagued by environmental, social or economic problems.

In the case of the United States, "the American economy, with its often-

ravenous appetite for natural resources, seems to be hit by a crisis of confidence in the way it is managed," he said.

"(...) Humanity is suffering, it is suffering from poor development, in both the North and the South, and we stand indifferent. The Earth and mankind are in danger are we are all responsible. It is time to open our eyes."

Chirac, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and British Prime Minister Tony Blair made emphatic references to the looming peril of climate change and indirectly appealed to Washington to ratify the Kyoto Protocol -- the UN accord on cutting heat-trapping fossil-fuel pollution.

And Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien declared that his country's parliament would vote on ratification by the end of the year.

In one of his first acts after taking office, President George W Bush declared in March 2001 that he would not put Kyoto to the Senate for ratification.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 3		6-15 pm
Sept 4	5-41 am	

Prayer Timings		
Sept 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-26
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation