

'Repression of journalists on the rise'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The incidents of repression of journalists have marked a rise in the last six months, according to a survey report of Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK).

attacked and threatened 13 journalists during the period.
According to the report released yesterday, the law enforcers killed a total of 234 people in the last six months across the country.

after rape and nine committed suicide.
Besides, 72 women fell victim to acid attacks.
The report also said 197 women were tortured because of dowry and 124 of them were killed.

8 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT
Eight people were killed in road crashes in Bogra, Chittagong and Gazipur in the last two days.
Our correspondent in Bogra reports: Three passengers of an autorickshaw were killed when a speeding truck hit the three-wheeler at Bhogil Kalitala in Khahaloo upazila at around 10:00pm on Wednesday.

roadside ditch at Kabilitala on Wednesday.
UNB adds: Three people, including two women, were killed and eight others injured in a road accident near the Seed Plantation Centre on Dhaka-Gazipur highway in Sadar upazila of Gazipur district yesterday.

while Yasmin, 35, succumbed to her injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
The other injured persons were admitted to Gazipur Sadar hospital.
Drivers and helpers of both the vehicles managed to escape.



Police surround Bangladesh Awami Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam MP and two other Awami League leaders at Bangabandhu Avenue during hartal hours yesterday.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka
Advocate Md Badiuzzaman, a senior lawyer, died of cardiac arrest and old-age complications at National Heart Foundation Hospital in Mirpur in the capital yesterday. He was 82.
Advocate Badiuzzaman hailed from Baunara village in Baliakandi upazila in Rajbari.
He was a social worker, renowned philanthropist and honorary treasurer of Bangladesh Society for Blinds (BNSB).
He is survived by his wife, his only son MD Roushanuzzaman, executive editor of UNB and Dhaka Courier, three daughters and a host of grandchildren and friends and relatives.
His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held at sector-7 Jame Mosque in Uttara after Juma prayers today.

Kabir Ahmad Chowdhury

Alhaj Kabir Ahmad Chowdhury, former GM (maintenance) of Chittagong Fertilizer Factory, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 72, says a press release.
He was also a poet and writer. Three of his books were published during his lifetime.
He is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters and a number of grandchildren.
His qukhwan will be held at House # 15, Road # 4, Sector # 4, Uttara today.
Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qukhwan.

Saleha Khatun BSS, Dhaka
Saleha Khatun, mother of K M Kutubuddin, a news editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), died at her Badarpur village home in Mehendiganj upazila in Barisal district on Wednesday morning at the age of 75.
Saleha Khatun had been suffering from cancer, family sources said.
She left behind her four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.
She was buried at her family graveyard at Badarpur village.

Cancel PSCs with Niko Sampad Rokkha Andolan demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different organisations yesterday demanded cancellation of all production sharing contracts (PSC) with Niko and its immediate expulsion from the country.
Gonomukti O Jatiya Sampad Rokkha Sammilita Andolan, a platform of several left-leaning parties to save country's national resources, also demanded Niko's trial for Tengratila blowout under the existing laws of the country.
At a press conference at Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) office in the city, the leaders of the organisation demanded exemplary punishment to corrupt ministers, bureaucrats and other associates of Niko and suspension of its activities.
They also demanded compensation from Niko for the victims and immediate steps to douse the fire at Tengratila gas field.
'We visited Tengratila on June 27 and found severe damage of properties and environment,' said

the leaders.
'The government has identified only 267 affected families, but we found more than thousand families who were affected seriously,' they added.
BSD leader Khalequzzaman, Workers' Party General Secretary Saiful Haque, Shamsuzzaman Milon, Journalist Nazrul Islam Renu, and Abdullah Sarkar were present at the press conference.
Jatiya Mukti Council, another left-leaning organisation, also made similar demands including cancellation of all PSCs and expulsion of Niko.
In a joint statement, council President Badruddin Umar and General Secretary Fayzul Haqim demanded adequate compensation from Niko for the victims.
Like previous Awami League government, the present alliance government has also failed to get compensation from foreign multinational oil companies, they alleged.

Govt to upgrade Fazil, Kamil degrees

Osman Farruk tells Jatiya Sangsad
UNB, Dhaka
The government is actively considering to give Fazil and Kamil degrees of madrasa education the equal status to graduation and master degrees respectively of the general education, Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk told Parliament yesterday.
Osman Farruk told lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin (Narayanganj-4) in a written reply that the government has plans to make the madrasa education modern and time fitting. He said to modernise madrasa education, a curriculum had already been prepared which is now under process of implementation.
Replying to another question from M Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Anny (Laxmipur-3), Dr Osman Farruk said the government had suspended the salaries of teachers and employees of those schools and madrasas from where the pass percentage in SSC and Dakhil examinations in 2002, 2003, 2004 were between zero and 10.
Besides, the government salary of the teachers and employees of the schools, school and colleges and madrasas have also been

4267 people killed in six months Says BHRB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A total of 4,267 people were killed and 24,363 injured since January 1 to June 29 this year, said a report of the Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB).
According to the report, 210 people were killed and 17 injured in 227 crossfire incidents.
Two journalists were murdered, 31 injured and 41 threatened with death during the period.
The total number of rape victim was recorded at 355. Of them, 67 were child, 191 young girl and 97 women. Two were raped by police while 177 gangraped causing death to 78.
Some 2,404 people were killed and 7,894 injured in rail, road, air and waterway accidents.
Natural disasters also caused death to 1,055 and injured 838 throughout the country.
Besides, campus violence, abduction, acid throwing, mass beating, and police beating in jail custody also caused murder and injuries to a number of people.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bar Council has reported 1,349 murder during this period.
Of them, 193 died in crossfire, three in bomb explosion, 39 died after rape, 83 died for dowry and 47 by their husbands.
Besides, 27 people were killed for political reason while 244 committed suicide.
A total of 197 people were the victims of bomb blast, 22 domestic violence, nine fatwa and 39 dowry.

Cancel decision to rename DU hall: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday protested the decision of the Dhaka University Senate to rename the proposed Begum Sufia Kamal Hall as Begum Khaleida Zia Hall with a call to cancel its decision.
A meeting of the party's sub-committee for education and human resource development at AL's Dhanmondi office said the university authorities earlier decided to name a female dormitory after the name of poet Begum Sufia Kamal and it was awaiting for approval of the senate.
'Violating all norms, the senate on Tuesday took a decision to rename the hall after the incumbent Prime Minister Khaleida Zia. This is for the first time in the history of Dhaka University that a hall is being named after a living person,' said a resolution of the meeting.
It said former prime minister Sheikh Hasina donated a piece of land adjacent to the Curzon Hall for constructing a dormitory for female students.
Later, a committee was formed to select a name for the hall and it was unanimously decided to name the hall after Begum Sufia Kamal, the statement added.
The meeting also expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in educational institutions due to politicisation, corruption and violence being resorted by the ruling party's student organisation.



Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Wu Dawei calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Speedy tribunals sentence 311 to death so far

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said that the present government has brought an epoch-making progress in the judicial system by setting up the speedy trial tribunals.
'The sensational cases, including Buet student Sony murder case and Trisha murder case are being disposed of within a very short period in the speedy trial tribunals. The government has achieved a tremendous success through establishing the tribunals. Besides, the government is trying to make other courts vibrant in disposing of the cases, particularly the sensational and important cases,' he said.
Sources said a total of 31 death sentences have been executed till date after the independence of the country.
A total of 56 death reference cases, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case, have been filed in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court from 2001 till June 30. The Appellate Division has so far disposed of only 25 cases, but it could not dispose of any death reference case this year, sources said.
According to the sources, the speedy trial tribunals and sessions judges' courts in last four years have given 434 people death sentences. Of them, the speedy trial tribunals sentenced 311 people and the sessions judges' courts 123 people to death.
The government has been trying to increase the number of condemned cells for the capital punishment awardees, Moudud added.
Sources said 22 people were sent to gallows from May 2001 to June 2005. Of them, one was in 2001, two were in 2002, two in 2003, 13 in 2004 and four in 2005.

ATTACK BY JMJB MEN Rajshahi journo on the run

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Continued threats by the cadres of Bangla Bhais Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) forced a local journalist to leave his home at Bagmara yesterday.
The cadres attacked Shafiqul Islam, a correspondent of the daily Janakantha, on Tuesday and continued to issue threats to him. While the attackers were roaming freely, police recorded a case against the journalist.
'I am feeling extremely insecure as the situation is changing so rapidly,' Shafiqul said on his cell phone while heading for Rajshahi from Bagmara last night.
Moshir Rahman Pitar, a JMJB adherent, lodged a case alleging that Shafiqul, also general secretary of Bagmara press club, and Mahfizur Rahman, president of the club, attacked his house and injured the family members.
He also threatened Shafiqul on his cell phone and asked him not to visit Bhabaniganj in Bagmara for covering any report.
Shafiqul received critical injuries when a group of four JMJB men, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked him on his way to the press club on Tuesday for helping other journalists write reports against the JMJB.
Shafiqul filed a case with Bagmara police station, but no-one was arrested in this connection.
Bagmara officer-in-charge Motiar Rahman told reporters that the case filed against Shafiqul was found 'false' during the primary investigation. 'The case was filed only to save the attackers. We are looking for Pitar and his accomplices,' he added.
Meanwhile, a Rapid Action Battalion team visited the scene.

Mutilated body of garment worker recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday recovered mutilated body of a garment worker from Uttara in the city.
Shafiqul Islam, 23, an employee of Nippon Sweater Factory at Tongi Ershadnagar, had been missing since last three days, said his relatives.
Fellow workers in the factory found the body in the storeroom located on the third floor of the building after smelling bad odour coming from there in the morning.
On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.
Islam was killed couple of days back and the body was mutilated, said morgue sources.
Police picked up two employees Jamil and Sabbir in this connection.

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at most places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00pm today.
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said. It predicted slight rise in day temperature over the country.
Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Syedpur and lowest 24.1 degree Celsius at Rangamati.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

DHAKA TODAY
Roundtable: A roundtable on 'Reforms of Election Commission and election system' organised by Rajnoitk Sangskriti Andolan, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.
Jewelry exhibition: A daylong Jewelry exhibition titled 'Treasure of Java' will be held. Venue: Gallery Chitrag, Road-4, House-21, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am to 8.00pm.
Cultural function: Dhaka Centre of Amader Adda organises a cultural function. Venue: Maula Bukh Sardar Memorial Trust, Farashganj. Time: 10.00am.
Film show: Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will screen two films titled 'D The Company' and 'Desparado'. Venue: Zakiya Alam Auditorium, House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.
Roundtable: Bangladesh Jatiya Samabay Union organises a roundtable titled 'Microfinance is our business! Cooperating out of poverty' with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: 9/D Motijheel. Time: 10.00am.
Tree Fair: The inaugural ceremony of a tree fair, organised by Dhaka City Corporation, will be held with Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Dhupkhola Ground. Time: 4.00pm.
Memorial discussion: Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion to mark the 43rd death anniversary of Kazi Promila Nazrul, wife of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, House-330/B, Road- 28, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am.
Presentation: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust will present a report on its survey on 'Gender, knowledge, networking and human rights intervention in Bangladesh Project'. Venue: Biam Auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 2.00pm.
Reception: Bangladesh Sports Writers Association will accord a reception to two sports writers to mark the World Sports Journalists Day. Venue: National Sports Council Conference Room. Time: 5.00pm.
Award giving ceremony: The distribution ceremony of Rafiqul Islam Banking Award- 04 will be held with Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui as chief guest. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.
White Band Day: To observe the White Band Day, People's Forum on MDGs organises a rally and cultural function. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.
Discussion: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will hold a discussion titled 'Collapse of Spectrum Garments Building at Savar'. Venue: IDEB Auditorium, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.
JP meting: A meeting of Jatiya Party city unit will be held. Venue: 27/8/A Topkhana Road. Time: 5.00pm.
Prize giving ceremony: The report card and prize giving ceremony of the International Education Centre will be held. Venue: Uttara Club. Time: 10.00am.



Md Kamaluddin, chairman of Canadian International School, Dhaka, speaks at the 'Meet the press' in the city yesterday. The event was organised on the occasion of launching of the school.