

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Govt lifts restrictions on reopening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday lifted restrictions on reopening of public universities and said the syndicates will now decide on resuming academic activities at the institutions.

The decision was made at a meeting between Education Adviser Ayub Quadri and the vice chancellors of 26 public universities.

"We have lifted all kinds of restrictions on reopening of the public universities. The syndicates of the respective universities will now decide on when they will reopen their institutions," the adviser told reporters.

He said the syndicates would take decisions considering the

prevailing situation on the campuses. "We will issue letters to all the public universities informing today's decision within two days," he added.

The caretaker government imposed curfew in six divisional headquarters and shut down all universities and colleges directing to vacate all dormitories on August 22.

Later the government lifted curfew and reopened private universities and other private educational institutes.

The adviser hoped that most public universities excepting a few specially the Dhaka University (DU) and the Rajshahi University (RU) would reopen soon.

"There is no plan to offer amnesty to the students of the DU

BNP won't sit for talks with Khaleda in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will not participate in any dialogue with the Election Commission or hold party council until its detained chairperson Khaleda Zia is released, party leaders loyal to him said yesterday.

Newly appointed Secretary General of the party Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah and other pro-Khaleda leaders took the decision at a meeting at Delwar's NAM apartment residence in the capital.

"It is not possible for us to take part in any dialogue (with EC), hold party council and implement reform proposals for the party keeping the chairperson in jail," Delwar told reporters.

"Reforms would be implemented at the party council with Khaleda Zia in the chair after withdrawal of the ban on politics," he said. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan (removed by Khaleda) served the

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Janmastami today

UNB, Dhaka

Janmastami, the birthday of Lord Krishna and one of the biggest religious festivals of Hindus, will be celebrated across the country today.

Bangladesh Hindu Parishad, Hindu Boudha Christian Oikya Parishad and Geeta Sangha have chalked out elaborate programmes, including special prayers in temples, Geeta Jagna, Kirtan, discussions, drama, rally and peace processions, on the

day.

The traditional Janmastami procession will be brought out from Dhakeshwari Temple in the afternoon. Thousands of Hindu devotees are likely to take part in the procession.

The day is a public holiday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Chief

Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and Awami League Acting President Zillur Rahman have given separate messages felicitating the members of the Hindu Community.

Mobile SIM cards, documents seized from Khaleda's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces yesterday seized a number of mobile SIM cards and documents from the residence of detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia, sources said.

About 30 members of the joint forces entered the residence at about 5:30am and came out at about 4:45pm, said the source.

The forces searched the rooms of the building for about 12 hours and made a list of things. They also measured gold and other ornaments available at the residence.

When contacted, officers at local police station said they were not aware of such operation.

ACC Deputy Director Zahirul Huda, also the investigation officer of the corruption case against Khaleda Zia, told The Daily Star that during around three-hour search, they seized some papers from the house.

"I will look into those papers today," he added.

DU violence probe won't be influenced

Says Justice Habibur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan heading the judicial probe into the untoward incidents at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday said the commission's work would not be influenced by any media or intelligence report or the army's account of the incidents.

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Prayer Timing

September 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

CRIMINAL CASES 12 municipal chairmen suspended

UNB, Dhaka

The government has suspended 12 pourasabha (municipality) chairmen while removed one as they are accused in criminal cases.

The suspended chairmen are Manirul Haq Sakku (Comilla pourasabha), Md Sohrab Hossain Biswas (Narail pourasabha), Harun-ur-Rashid Azad (Noakhali pourasabha), Md Joynal Abedin (Khagrachari pourasabha), Enayet Kabir (Lalmoham

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3 murdered, 2 shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people including a minor girl were murdered and two others received bullet injuries in separate incidents within 14 hours in the city.

The deceased were identified as Sadia Akter, 3, Ahmed Tareq Newaz Guddu, 34, owner of a fashion designing house, and Humayun Kabir, 35, owner of a drug store.

Police quoting Shahinur Begum, stepmother of Sadia, said two criminals entered their house at Hazaribagh at around 11:00am yesterday and held a machete at her neck.

As Sadia screamed in fear, the criminals chopped her indiscriminately leaving her dead on the spot, police added.

But Sadia's father Abdul Karim, an assistant accounts officer of AB Bank of Motijheel branch, alleged that his wife had murdered Sadia in a planned way with the help of the criminals.

He said after the death of Sadia's mother, he got married with

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Ex-MP Lalu jailed in relief misuse case

Former whip Faruk sued for extortion

STAR REPORT

Three BNP leaders including former lawmaker Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu were sentenced to different terms of punishment for misappropriating government relief materials.

The other convicts are Bogra BNP general secretary Saiful Islam Saiful and local BNP leader Shokrana.

Bogra speedy trial tribunal judge AM Ferdous Alami yesterday sentenced Lalu to two years' rigorous imprisonment and fined him Tk 5,000 in default of which he has to spend three more months in jail.

Saiful and Shokrana, also accused in murder cases, were sentenced to one-year's rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000 in default of which they have to suffer another three months' rigorous imprisonment.

Lalu was arrested at his house

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers demolish structures on illegally occupied government land at Halishahar in Chittagong city yesterday. A mobile court recovered around 20 acres of land from land grabbers.

Proceedings of graft cases against Aman, Tuku adjourned

UNB, Dhaka

The special court yesterday adjourned the hearings of corruption cases against detained former state ministers Amanullah Aman and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku and his family on different pleas, court sources said.

When a court set up at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban for trying high-profile corruption suspects resumed, the counsel for Aman refrained from cross-examining the complainant of the case after his deposition.

The counsel, seeking adjournment, told the court that his client was waiting for High Court order on a petition for quashing the case.

The court adjourned the

Over 120 Taliban killed in Afghan, Nato raid

AFP, Kandahar

Military forces fought major battles with Taliban just outside Kandahar city Sunday that Afghan police said killed more than 120 rebels, although the US military issued a much lower toll.

Afghan and international soldiers raided what they said was a Taliban headquarters in an operation that started late Saturday and continued into Sunday, about 17km southwest of the city.

The US-led coalition said the swoop on the complex was based on intelligence that insurgents were attempting to re-establish control after being defeated there last year.

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An estimated 25 rebels were killed in fierce fighting, which included strikes by warplanes that caused many of the deaths, it said.

Soldiers moved through the compounds, coming under heavy fire. One man blew himself up in an apparent suicide attack that did not cause casualties to the security forces, it said in a statement.

Kandahar province police chief Sayed Aqa Saqeb confirmed the fighting. "Over 100 Taliban were killed and the bodies of dozens of them are remaining on the battlefield," Saqeb told AFP.

Twenty-five Taliban were killed

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PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers struggle to cope with a large number of journalists as detained BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia waves on the premises of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, yesterday.

Bush makes surprise visit to Iraq

Britain withdraws troops from Basra

AP, AFP, Baghdad

US President George W Bush paid a surprise visit to Iraq yesterday as Britain withdrew the last of its forces from Basra city in the south after four and a half inconclusive years.

Irqi soldiers hoisted the nation's flag over the Basra palace compound yesterday after British troops withdrew from their last garrison in the city, a move that will

hand control to an Iraqi force riddled with Shia militiamen.

A British statement said the operation began at 10 pm Sunday "with all British troops arriving at the airport by midday" Monday.

"There were no clashes or attacks on British forces during the operation. The formal handing-over of the Palaces will happen in the near future," British spokesman Maj. Matthew Bird said.

US President George W Bush made a surprise visit to Iraq yesterday for "war-council" meetings with his top military advisers and Iraqi leaders to decide on a future strategy for the nation.

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