

NEWS IN *brief*

President's clemency protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF), a pro-BNP lawyers' platform, yesterday demanded cancellation of the 15th amendment to the constitution and withdrawal of the "false cases" against BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman.

The forum placed the demands at a press briefing in the south hall of the Supreme Court Bar Association Building.

The JAF leaders also condemned the president's clemency to murderer AHM Biplob, a death row inmate.

JAF President Rafiqul Islam Mia, Mahbub Uddin Khokan MP, and SCBA Secretary Badrudozza Badal also spoke.

Building owner fined Tk 1 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhya (Rajuk) yesterday fined a building owner Tk 1 crore for deviating from the approved plan of the building in the city's Naya Paltan area.

The building owner left no open space in the 6.5 katha plot and converted two floors of the six-storied residential building for commercial use, said Executive Magistrate Shahidul Islam Bhuiyan, conducting the court.

Sheikh Abdullah, secretary general of Hajj Association, is owner of the building number 78, said Shahidul.

Abdullah gave an undertaking to the court to remove the illegal portions in three months, said Shahidul.



Teachers, students and employees of Government Bangla College in the city's Mirpur form a human chain in front of the college yesterday demanding trial into the killing of Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil, students of the college, and three others at Keblarchar in Bardeshi village of Aminbazar on July 18. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Porimol's bail prayer rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petition of Porimol Joydhor, a sacked teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College who was arrested for violating a Class-X student.

Porimol submitted a petition through his lawyer Shahin Bepari for withdrawal of his confessional statement given earlier to a magistrate, court sources said.

However, Metropolitan Magistrate Sabrina Ali did not accept the petition as it was not submitted through the jail superintendent, as is the correct legal procedure.

The accused was also present before the court during the hearing.

On July 11, Porimol, confessed to have sexually assaulted the student. The victim also made a judicial statement to a Dhaka metropolitan magistrate on July 17.

"The accused has confessed to violating the student twice, but denied taking any photos of her" said Shahadat Hossain, investigation officer of the case.

The victim returned from abroad on July 14 where she was taken for treatment.

AL starts greater unity talks

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League has begun inviting small parties that are not part of its grand alliance to talks with its chief Sheikh Hasina for forging a greater unity "against militancy and poverty".

Awami League insists that this political unity will be for fighting militancy and poverty, not to form an electoral alliance.

On Wednesday night, Awami League delegates led by party presidium member Obaidul Quader held talks with Liberal Democratic Party chief Oli Ahmed followed by Krishak Sramik Janata League's chief Abdul Kader Siddiqui and Bangladesh Tariqat Federation Chairman Syed Nazibul

Bashar Majbhandari yesterday. The delegates invited them to dialogue with Hasina.

These talks were held after the party corresponded with 10 small parties over the telephone.

During the talks, Awami League delegates conveyed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's message and invited them to dialogues with her.

Hasina took the initiative for dialogue with small parties following the main opposition BNP's move to forge a bigger political platform against the government.

A couple of days ago, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia sent her delegation to small parties with invita-

tion to have dialogues with BNP.

Kader Siddiqui who was an Awami League leader until 2001 when he floated his own party is scheduled to sit with Khaleda tomorrow.

However, Obaidul Quader told the press yesterday that his talk with Kader Siddiqui was successful. Obaidul claimed that the dialogue is not meant for forging an electoral alliance.

Apart from talks with the small parties, Quader also talked to Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad Wednesday night as part of strengthening the grand alliance. On Tuesday night, he sat with Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party and Hasanul Haque Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

Bail to Duke stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order that granted bail to Saiful Islam Duke, nephew of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in the August 21 grenade attack case.

An eight-member bench of Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Mozammel Hossain stayed the HC order after granting a leave-to-appeal petition recently filed by the government against the order.

The stay order will continue till disposal of the appeal, the apex court said.

The SC passed the order after scrutinising the charge sheet and hearing arguments from the attorney general and the counsel for Duke.

BRITISH TEAM MEETS PM Strong democracy underscored

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is working hard to put the current democratic process in a strong footing.

Hasina said this when a delegation of All Party Parliament Group on Debt, Aid & Trade of the British Parliament led by Lord Tariq Ahmed called on her at her office in the city.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

The PM informed the British Parliamentary delegation that the present government elected in 2008 general election has put in its highest effort to establish a strong democratic process in the country.

She praised the United Kingdom and the EU member countries for their all out support to the restoration of democracy in the country.

The PM said no country in the world can progress without having strong and functional democracy.

Hasina informed about the steps taken by the government for establishing a full-

functional democracy where the people will enjoy the supreme power.

She said the government revived the community health clinics across the country to provide healthcare facilities to the rural people.

The PM said newly launched Sangsad TV (Parliament TV) will be used for providing educational and healthcare information while the Parliament will be in recession.

The government also took many programmes to eradicate poverty, the main enemy of the region, she said.

The delegation praised the pragmatic leadership of the PM, saying Bangladesh achieved a lot during the last two and half-years.

"The difference is visible, we came here two years ago. Now we are watching developments all over the country," they said.

They appreciated Sheikh Hasina's role in different international forums on various burning issues including climate change.

The British delegation also hailed the PM for her relentless effort to maintain good relations with neighbouring countries.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, said Met Office.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:24am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.3 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.1	25.7	83	95
Chittagong	27.5	25.0	97	97
Rajshahi	32.4	26.1	92	80
Rangpur	33.7	27.0	77	73
Khulna	27.1	25.0	100	98
Barisal	29.0	26.4	87	100
Sylhet	34.5	25.3	76	91

Bail prayers of JCD, Shibir chiefs rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petitions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Sultan Saluddin Tuku and former Shibir President Rezaul Karim in a case filed for obstructing policemen from discharging their duties in March this year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahdat Hossain passed the order after Sub-Inspector Bahauddin Faruqi of Detective Branch of Police, also the investigation officer (IO), produced them with a ten-day remand prayer.

The magistrate also ordered to sent them to jail.

Detectives arrested Tuku on July 4 from a Gulshan house.

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