

NEWS IN *brief*

'Khaleda vanguard of democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Branding his party chairperson as "vanguard of democracy", BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said Khaleda has been democracy's glittering star since Bangladesh's independence.

"Khaleda Zia went to jail as she did not bow down for the sake of democracy after the 1/11 changeover and now she will lead the upcoming movement to protect the country and its sovereignty," he said.

He was addressing a discussion organised by BNP on the occasion of Khaleda's third jail release day.

Party leaders Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Khandaker Mahbob Hossain and Mahmudur Rahman also spoke.

Police, Jamaat activist clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police fired 10 live rounds and 10 tear gas canisters after a clash erupted over a bar on a procession of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists in the city's Chouhatta area yesterday afternoon.

Police picked up four from the spot after the incident, which left 20 people including seven law enforcers injured.

The activists started the procession near Court Point area, demanding release of all their central leaders, now behind bars on various charges including war crimes.

JS body concerned at illegal kidney trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry is going to form a monitoring team comprised of doctors, experts and others concerned to stop illegal organ transplantation.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said this yesterday in a meeting of a parliamentary body at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare ministry expressed grave concern over the recent newspaper reports on illegal kidney trade and transplantation, and asked the ministry to take stern action against the people responsible, said Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, chief of the committee, after the meeting.

The health minister told The Daily Star that there is a set of rules for organ transplantation and everyone has to follow them to receive or donate kidney or any other organs of human body.

"The monitoring team will ensure that the rules are followed," he said.

Murad Hasan, lawmaker and a member of the House watchdog, said the team will visit hospitals where transplantation of human organs is done.

The parliamentary committee asked the ministry to stop the illegal business, he added.

NU hangs list of 807 sacked staffs

Demonstration continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National University (NU) authority yesterday hanged a list of 807 sacked officials and employees on the notice board of its Board Bazar campus in Gazipur.

On Saturday, the NU syndicate at an emergency meeting decided to sack 821 officials and employees who were recruited through a fake advertisement during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government.

An NU official in return for anonymity told The Daily Star that the number of dismissed officials in the list may be less as some of them either had died or left the job.

Meanwhile, the sacked staffs yesterday staged a demonstration under the banner of Job Preservation Committee at the university in Board Bazar.

They at a rally at the university canteen said they will appeal to the Supreme Court against the August 23 verdict. They also demanded the university authority should not stop disbursing salaries to the sacked staffs until disposal of the appeal.



PHOTO: STAR

A patient is being wheeled inside the city's Mitford Hospital by her attendant instead of the hospital employees, who went on a 5-hour work abstention yesterday protesting the assault incident on the hospital's deputy director.

Test for faster detection of dengue introduced

METRO DESK

A new test for the early detection of dengue infection was introduced at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday.

The dengue virus produces an antigen NS1, a toxin or foreign substance, in the body triggering the body to produce antibodies, which destroy substances carrying diseases.

Conventionally, dengue virus is detected by the presence of these antibodies, which may take over a week.

But the test, named DENGUE NS1 ANTIGEN, detects NS1 from the first day of the onset of the fever, making early diagnosis and immediate treatment of dengue infection possible, says a press release.

Patients suffer as Mitford staffs abstain from work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite arrest of the main accused in an assault incident on the deputy director of Mitford Hospital in the city, doctors and employees abstained from work for five hours yesterday causing suffering to the patients.

They also staged demonstration demanding arrest of all associates of the arrested Nasir Uddin, a Jubo League leader of Dhaka city unit, ensuring security of the hospital employees and setting up a permanent police camp there.

The outdoor service, where several hundred patients seek treatment every day, was almost stopped during the work abstention by the employees under the banner of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

The patients admitted to the hospi-

tal also suffered as no doctor or nurse was present at that time.

A pregnant mother, Asma Akhter, 26, who came to the hospital around 11:00am with labour pains, was found leaving without any treatment.

"I waited for one and a half hour. Since there is nobody to attend to me, I am going to Dhaka Medical College Hospital," she said.

However, the hospital Director Brig Gen AKM Fariduzzaman told The Daily Star that emergency services were not hampered at all.

"But some of the departments of outdoor were closed due to the work abstention," he said.

Following assurance from the hospital authorities to meet their demands, the agitating employees went back to work.

When contacted, the hospital's Deputy Director Abul Hashem Khan said Nasir along with four others entered his room on Saturday noon, assaulted him and ransacked the room.

"It was because while I was on a round on Friday night, I found some people standing in the gynae ward and, getting annoyed, I asked them to leave. Nasir was among those people," Abul Hashem said.

Officer-in-Charge Salahuddin Khan of Kotwali Police Station said they arrested Nasir, a resident of the area near the hospital on Saturday afternoon.

A case was filed under speedy trial act and they prayed for a seven-day remand. But they could not arrest Nasir's associates, he added.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Trial to end culture of impunity: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said democracy cannot be institutionalised unless people who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation are brought to justice.

Trial on crimes against humanity is being held in order to put an end to the culture of impunity, heal the wound of the nation, establish the rule of law and ensure justice for the victims, he said.

Shafique was speaking as the chief guest after inaugurating a daylong international seminar titled "Old Evidence and Core International Crimes" in the morning.

Forum of International Criminal and Humanitarian Law, an international law organisation, organised the seminar in the city's Sonargaon Hotel.

Eminent legal expert Barrister M Amir Ul Islam, International Criminal Court (ICC) Consultant and ICC Legal Tools Project

Coordinator Morten Bergsmo and Prof David Cohen from California University spoke at the function.

Shafique said the government amended International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 in order to ensure a fair and transparent trial of perpetrators of 1971 crimes against humanity.

The accused criminals have been provided all opportunities to defend themselves including the option to select lawyers as per their own choice, he said.

The minister also urged the international community to extend their cooperation to Bangladesh to make the trial a success.

Amir presented a written statement saying, "There is no scope to be ambivalent, hesitant or even half-hearted in one's resolve to try and punish those perpetrators with a proper investigation and by a fair trial."

Failure to bring criminals to justice slowly contributes towards generating future crimes, he added.

AUG 21 CASE

Hearing on Sept 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until September 15 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and 29 others accused in the supplementary charge sheets of the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the order after three of the accused submitted petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

They are former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Lt Commander (Retd) Saiful Islam Duke and Maj Gen (Retd) Rezzakul Haider, former chief of National Security Intelligence. In the petitions, their counsels said they had not received necessary documents of the cases to prepare for the hearing.

Criminal Investigation Department submitted the supplementary charge sheets on July 3 mentioning 30 names apart from the 22 accused in the main charge sheets.

Tarique and 10 others were shown as fugitives in the supplementary charge sheets.

Earlier, charges were framed against the accused of the main charge sheets including BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu and chief of Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) Mufti Abdul Hannan.

The 32 accused, who are now in jail, were produced before the tribunal yesterday. They include Babar and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed.

Pro-BNP Lawyers scuffle

Meanwhile, two factions of pro-BNP lawyers yesterday engaged in a scuffle in a human chain programme over space.

Two factions of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, Dhaka unit--one led by Sanaullah Miah and another by Iqbal Hossain--were holding the programme on the court premises demanding withdrawal of all cases filed against Tarique and other party leaders.

File case against PM, former chief justice

Pro-BNP lawyers urge ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers yesterday demanded filing of a case and punitive action against the prime minister and former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque on charge of misappropriating money from the prime minister's relief and welfare fund.

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF), a pro-BNP lawyers' body, placed the demand at a press conference at the South Hall of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) building in.

JAF President Rafiqul Islam Mia presented a written statement urging Anti-Corruption Commission to file the case against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Khairul.

He alleged that the premier and former chief justice misappropriated money by terming Khairul "a destitute man". A pro-BNP lawyer, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that they are making the statements against Khairul to make him controversial so that he cannot be the chief of a caretaker government if the system is restored in the future.

Motorcycle rider dies in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man riding a motorcycle died after an unknown vehicle hit his two-wheeler from behind at Motijheel in the city last night.

The deceased Mohammad Mamun, 40, a mechanic of Madina Motor Workshop in Kakaril, was going to his Chakbazar residence in Old Dhaka through Culvert Road around 10:30pm.

The vehicle fled instantly, said Raju Ahmed, brother-in-law of Mamun.

Local people rushed Mamun to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

6 Rohingyas held with Bangladeshi passports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested six Rohingya refugees along with a Bangladeshi at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday while they were trying to catch a flight to Saudi Arabia with forged Bangladeshi passports.

The arrestees Mujibul Haque, Milon Mia, Ahmad Ali, Abbas Ali, Alamgir Hossain and Anwar, all in their early 20s, were caught while trying to pass through the airport immigration around 8:30pm.

Raisul, a Bangladeshi, was arrested for helping the Rohingyas, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Armed Police Battalion (APBn), Selim Khan told The Daily Star.

The forgery was done by replacing photos in old passports, he said, adding, six Nepali passports were also recovered from their possession.

"The arrestees couldn't speak Bangla during the interrogation and admitted that they were Rohingya refugees," Selim Khan said.

State minister rescues 5 kidnapped men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker rescued five people from kidnapers and helped police arrest a Jubo League activist from the district Jubo League office near Hemangini Bridge in the town yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Rajib, 24, son of Azibor Ali of Bolaripara area of sadar upazila.

The rescued are Abdul Malek of Bagha upazila of Rajshahi; Abdur Rashid, son of Mohir Uddin, Golam Mostafa, son of Abu Moslem, and Abu Raihan Rentu, son of Rekat Ali, of Lalpur upazila; and Shahin, son of Shahid Master of Boraigram upazila of Natore district.

Malek said they were abducted by nine men and taken to the Jubo League office around 2:00pm while they were returning home after attending a Natore court regarding a case.

The men told Malek to withdraw the case he filed against Abdul Jalil and Abdul Karim of Lalpur upazila and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom.

Ahad, also the acting general secretary of Natore unit Awami League, said he took police to the office as soon as he heard of the kidnapping while returning from a meeting.

Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam of sadar police station said Rajib confessed and said 8 to 9 people, namely Hasu, Sojib, Hira and Bappi, were with him.

Madrasa teacher held for attempt to violate child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A madrasa teacher was arrested for allegedly attempting to violate a minor girl at his mess at Sabujbagh in the city on Saturday.

Police said the arrestee Habibullah Bashar, 32, of Kodomtola Darul Ulum Madrasa, used to teach Arabic to children at his mess.

The girl, aged around nine, came to his mess with other children in the afternoon for learning Arabic, said police.

Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sabujbagh Police Station, said Bashar told the victim and another minor girl to stay after finishing that day's tuition in the evening.

Sending the other girl to a nearby shop to buy some stuff, Bashar tried to violate the victim, he said.

Locals rushed to the mess and rescued her as she cried for help. They caught Bashar red handed and later handed him over to the police, the OC said.

Bashar, son of Atiar Rahman hailed from Alamdani village in Satkhira, admitted to his involvement in the incident during primary interrogation.


Victim's mother filed a case with Sabujbagh Police Station under women and children repression prevention act in this connection.

British national taken on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday remanded a British national arrested in Dhopadighirpar area of Sylhet city on September 6 on charge of alleged sexual abuse on a Bangladeshi boy for about a year.

The arrested Peter Allison, 55, is wanted in the UK, said Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner AB Barua. He, however, refrained from disclosing the details and source of this information.



WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 5:44am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Chittagong.

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	33.5	27.4	75	75
Chittagong	32.0	24.5	74	76
Rajshahi	35.0	25.8	83	70
Rangpur	33.8	26.0	79	73
Khulna	33.7	26.0	80	74
Barisal	33.7	26.0	69	84
Sylhet	36.2	27.3	77	77
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	83	79