

Rare gesture, late response

PM goes to Khaleda's office but returns finding gate locked; aide says grieving Khaleda sedated; later BNP chief thanks Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In a gesture not so common in the country's political culture, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday went to Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office to console the BNP chief grieving the loss of younger son, but she could not meet her archrival.

The prime minister returned from the gate as it was locked from inside, and nobody from the BNP chief's office was there to receive her.

While Hasina was on her way to Gulshan from the Gono Bhaban, one of Khaleda's aides told the media that the BNP chief was sedated by doctors as she felt unwell and thus won't be able to meet the PM.

In a late-night development, Khaleda's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan said the BNP chairperson thanks Hasina for coming to her office to express sympathies. "Now, whenever she wishes to come here, she would be welcomed," Maruf quoted Khaleda as saying.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in front of BNP chief Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office. She went there to console Khaleda whose younger son Arafat Rahman Koko had died in Malaysia yesterday. Hasina had to return without seeing her as Khaleda was sedated.

PHOTO: PMO

Koko dies of heart attack

Body to be flown in from Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, died of heart failure at his rented house in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia yesterday.

Koko complained of chest pain around 12:00noon and told his brother-in-law Md Shimpu about it, Atiqur Rahman Rummon, a close aide to Koko's elder brother Tarique Rahman, told The Daily Star.

Shimpu, who lives with Koko's family in Malaysia, phoned a nearby hospital for an ambulance. A doctor came to the house by an ambulance and announced Koko dead around 1:30pm.

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Now 36-hour hartal

Reason proposed power price hike; polluted politics pushes people up against the wall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has been reeling under an indefinite blockade by the BNP-led alliance for the past 19 days. At least 30 lives perished, scores burnt and many groaning in hospital beds with other forms of injury.

Businesses are in tatters, education put on the backburner and farmers left in despair, as if nothing else mattered except for political rivalry.

Yet, the BNP and its allies have made another move to add to the pangs of

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Arson terrors beyond arrest

Helpless law-enforcers bank on bounty call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More and more innocent people are becoming the victims of arson attacks as the government's repeated commitments to contain such attacks and steps in this regard are proving ineffective.

Amid such a situation, Police Headquarters and Rapid Action Battalion yesterday announced cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of those involved in such activities.

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BURN UNIT AT DMCH Air thick with tears, groans, curses

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

There was crying, groaning, yelling and the smell of burnt flesh at the overcrowded burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

"Whom should I blame for my fate," said the wife of Abul Hossain in tears while standing amid a few hundred people at the burn unit. "He wanted to feed us. Now he is fighting for his own life," she said.

On Friday, Abul was returning from work. It was his first day at a new job after four months of unemployment. Yet, his wife was less overjoyed and reluctant to let him go, fearing harm amid violence on the streets.

Abul, a 35-year-old father of two, got Tk 200-a-day job at a chicken-meat

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68 BNP-Jamaat men sued for Jatrabari arson

Khaleda's name in FIR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed a case against 68 BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, including several top leaders, and a number of unnamed people, for the arson attack on a bus in Jatrabari Friday night.

Even though BNP chief Khaleda Zia was not accused in the case, the first

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TIGERS LEAVE FOR WC

Alongside his wife, pacer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza kisses his daughter at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday as the Tigers leave for Australia to play the ICC World Cup. The Tigers are scheduled to play two official warm-up matches prior to the World Cup. They take on Pakistan on February 9, and Ireland on February 12.

PHOTO: STAR

WE MOURN



The Board of Directors of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, its shareholders and employees deeply mourn the sad demise of His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

We pray for the salvation of his departed soul and express our profound sympathy to the bereaved Royal Family and people of the Saudi Arabia.

The Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited pray to Allah to guide and bless King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and his Crown Prince in their grand role of leading Saudi Arabia into a bright future.

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited is grateful to the Government of the Kingdom and different organizations for their kind support in its establishment and advancement.



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