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KHALEDA'S OFFICE STAFF No proper meals in 5 days

'Police stop food supply on high-ups' order'
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 30 people, including leaders and activists of BNP and staffs of Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office, have been living on dry food for the last five consecutive days as police have unofficially cut off food supply to the office. BNP Vice-Chairman Selima Rahman, who is among those staying inside the office since January 3, lambasted the government yesterday for not allowing food supply to the office. "The government's ministers and the inspector general of police said there was no obstruction to food being sent to the office. Then why the police do not allow food and drinking water to enter the office," she said after police stopped a rickshaw carrying

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A plainclothes police officer, right, stops a rickshaw carrying food for Khaleda Zia's office staff in front of the BNP chief's Gulshan office yesterday. The officer declining to disclose his identity said the supply to the office was stopped on instructions of higher authorities. Inset, the rickshaw puller put the food and water on the pavement and left.

PHOTO: STAR



BNP welcomes concerned citizens' move for dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday extended its support to "concerned citizens" initiative for ending the ongoing political crisis, saying it was ready to welcome any move to form a national consensus and hold talks for an all-inclusive election.

"We welcome any initiative for a national consensus, national dialogue and formation of a national charter in a bid to hold participatory and acceptable polls under a non-party government."

The party also welcomed business leaders' warning that they would not give any tax and bills for utility services to the government if it did not take initiative for resolving the ongoing political stalemate.

"People from all walks of life are now united to fulfil the national desire for rebuilding the country on a solid foundation and

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Talks with Khaleda to encourage militancy

PM tells JS, slams dialogue initiative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday blasted the recent initiative for a dialogue and said talks with the BNP chief would mean encouraging militancy.

"What's the point of holding a dialogue with Khaleda Zia? A dialogue with her would only mean encouraging militancy," Hasina told parliament.

She also said that speaking for a dialogue with the BNP-Jamaat now means encouraging those who have been engaged in mili-



tancy and criminal activities.

The prime minister was participating in a discussion on how to create a safe environment for the SSC examinees.

She asked, "With whom will I

sit? They have the smell of burnt people in their hands. I think there will be the smell of burnt people of the burn unit if one sits next to her [Khaleda]."

She continued: "Would she accept if a dialogue takes place? She won't."

On February 9, a group of eminent personalities sent three separate letters to the president, prime minister and the BNP chairperson, requesting them to take initiatives for holding a national dialogue to resolve the ongoing political crisis.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

Housewife burnt alive for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A housewife was burnt alive in front of her in-laws' house in Pabna early yesterday.

Mukti Khatun, 30, wife of Jasim Uddin, was the mother of two sons.

Three people stormed her room when she was asleep in her in-laws' house at Hemayetpur Matsyajibipara under Sadar upazila and dragged her out, said Ahsanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, who claimed to have taken Mukti's statement in Pabna before she died.

They gagged her and tied her hands with cloths. Then they set her afire after pouring kerosene on her body around 2:00am, said the OC, adding that a family dispute over dowry might be behind the killing.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF KAMARUZZAMAN Full SC verdict likely this week

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The full text of the Supreme Court judgment upholding the death penalty for war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman is likely to be released any day this week.

It will clear the way for the Jamaat assistant secretary general to seek a review of his capital punishment by the apex court.

All the four SC judges, who had delivered the verdict on November 3 last year by a majority decision, have recently completed writing their parts of the judgment, an SC source said.

The parts of the judgment will be compiled into a full verdict and then the judges will affix their signs on it for its release.

Talking to The Daily Star on Friday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said Kamaruzzaman has to file the review petition with the SC within 15 days after the release of the full judgment.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

'Mugger' shot dead by police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An alleged mugger was killed in police firing while a gang was fleeing after snatching valuables from a man in Mymensingh town early yesterday.

Deceased Liton Miah, 25, was son of Tapon Miah of Shambhuganj Sabjipara area of Sadar upazila.

Police said some four to five muggers took away a mobile phone set and Tk 2,800 in cash from one Abdul Wahab at Balashpur around 3:00am. He was returning home from his workshop in the town's Mashkanda area.

Hearing his screams, a police team patrolling the area chased the muggers, said Abu Mohammad Fazlul Karim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the gang tried to attack the police team with sharp weapons.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

HC for compensating Jihad's family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government why it should not be directed to pay the family of four-year-old child Jihad Tk 30 lakh as compensation.

Jihad fell into an unprotected 300-foot well shaft while playing with other children in the capital's Shahjahanpur Railway Colony on December 26 last year.

His body was pulled out by a group of volunteers the following day, shortly after the government agencies called off the

rescue bid, saying there was no sign of the boy inside the well.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the government to explain in four weeks why the negligence of Wasa, fire service, railway and Dhaka City Corporation authorities leading to the death of Jihad should not be declared illegal.

The HC also directed the fire service authorities to submit to it on May 15 a list of unprotected pipes, wells, tube-wells, water tanks across the country and life-saving

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Superhero vision?

MAIL ONLINE

The first of their kind telescopic contact lenses -- that give 'superhero vision' in the wink of an eye -- are being developed by scientists.

Paired with special spectacles, they offer hope to millions of people with age-related macular degeneration -- the most common cause of blindness in the elderly.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Students of Kalachandpur High School and College are "made" to form a human chain in front of the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office and demand they be allowed to study and go to school safely.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

COPENHAGEN ATTACKS

Sole gunman shot dead

AFP, Copenhagen

Copenhagen police said yesterday they believe a man shot dead by officers was responsible for two fatal attacks that shocked the normally peaceful Danish capital.

The killings, coming little more than a month after bloody Islamist attacks in Paris that left 17 people dead, were described by Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt as "a cynical act of terror".


The man believed to be behind the assaults was shot dead after he opened fire on police officers near a rail station, a spokesman said, without giving details about his identity.

It came after a 55-year-old man was killed at a panel discussion about Islam and free speech on Saturday attended by the Swedish cartoonist behind controversial caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed.

In the second attack, a young Jewish man was killed outside Copenhagen's main synagogue early yesterday. Five police officers were wounded in the two attacks.

"We believe the same man was behind both shootings

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING

FEBRUARY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

HAZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15

JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Bikolpodhara Bangladeshi President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina must initiate steps for holding a dialogue?

Yes

No

81% (19%)

TOTAL VOTES: 477

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for police not to allow food meant for the staff of BNP chief's Gulshan office?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net