

Pro-BNP lawyers protest murder charge against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of pro-BNP lawyers demonstrated on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises yesterday afternoon protesting submission of charge sheets against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in an arson case.

Earlier in the day, they organised a meeting under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum before the office of the SCBA president.

JAF leader Zainul Abedin told the meeting that Khaleda's voice for democracy could not be stopped through charging her.

The country is running in such a way that it cannot be said who will be disappeared or killed, he added.

The forum leaders Taimur Alam Khandker, Abed Raza and Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal, among others, addressed the meeting.

On Wednesday, detectives pressed murder charges before a Dhaka court against Khaleda and 37 others, mostly her party men, for their alleged involvement in a petrol bomb attack on a bus in the capital's Jatrabari in January.

The attack on the night of January 23 killed one person and injured 30 others.

Niko, Gatco, Barapukuria Graft Cases Hearing on Khaleda's challenges adjourned again till May 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday adjourned for six more days the hearing on the seven-year-old petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of Niko, Gatco and Barapukuria coalmine corruption cases.

It fixed May 13 for resuming the hearing.

Yesterday, Khaleda's lawyer Raghieb Rauf Chowdhury placed the charge sheet of the Gatco case and also started reading out the first information report (FIR) of Barapukuria case. Earlier, he placed the FIR and charge sheet of Niko case before it.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the Niko case in 2007 accusing Khaleda and four others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian

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Protesting the mass molestation of females on Pahela Baishakh, Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) forms a human chain in front of its office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman burnt 'by in-laws' for dowry dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman who was three months pregnant died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday five days after she had been burnt allegedly by her in-laws for dowry in Kishoreganj.

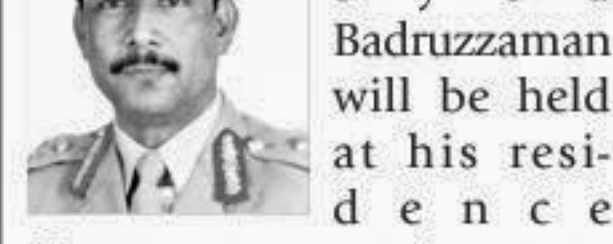
Papia Akter, 19, daughter of Nazir Mia, was admitted to the hospital Saturday.

Her husband Ashiqul Haque of Kishoreganj's Karimganj has been torturing her for dowry for over a year. Papia's sister Popi Akter

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Doa mahfil

CITY DESK



A doa mahfil for Maj Gen Syed Badruzzaman will be held at his residence

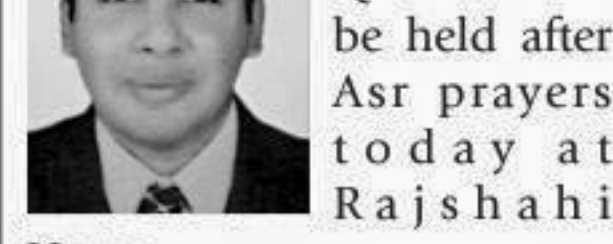
(house-146, road-4, new DOHS Mohakhali) after Asr prayers today.

He died on Tuesday at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital and was buried in Banani Army graveyard.

He was a former GOC and area commander of 33 Infantry Division, master general of Ordnance, director general of Ansar and VDP, Commandant Bangladesh Military Academy.

Sadat Quddus

CITY DESK



A doa mahfil for Sadat Quddus will be held after Asr prayers today at Rajshahi House.

The eldest son of Abdul Quddus and Late Munira Quddus died from cancer on Monday. He is survived by his father, a brother, his wife and two sons.

Man held for attempting to rape 3 girls in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a man over his alleged attempt to rape three girls aged between 8 and 10 in the capital's Bhasantek slum last night.

Moklesur Rahman, 35, a cleaner and a resident of Benarosi Palli in the area, was caught red handed in his house, beaten up and handed over to the law enforcers by locals, Bhasantek police Officer-in-Charge Abul Kalam Azad told The Daily Star.

In this connection, mother of one of the girls filed a case against him.

CONFINEMENT OF CHEATED JOBSEEKERS IN NEPAL Trafficking ring flees abandoning office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As soon as the 26 fortune seekers returned to the country from confinement in Nepal in March, the transnational human trafficking ring, which had swindled them with promises of jobs in Canada, abandoned its operation in the capital's Lalmatia and went into hiding.

The syndicate had been running an office on the first floor of a building at Block C of Lalmatia over the last one and a half years, according to locals and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), which arrested two "key persons" of the gang in Khulna on Wednesday.

Wishing anonymity, a salesman of a nearby grocery said a peon of the office would buy stuff like sugar and teabags from his shop regularly, but he did not show up for over a month. "I did not see any of the 'officers' during this time as well," he said.

The salesman added that the syndicate members did not even tell the hawker to stop delivering newspapers, as the hawker came several times for payment in the last couple of weeks but returned empty-handed.

Another shopkeeper said locals knew that they had been running manpower business there. Abul Kalam Azad, father of a victim, who filed a human trafficking case against five persons on April 21 with Dhanmondi police, said he went to the office over a month ago but found it closed.

His son Arif Shahrar Rasel and 25 others returned on March 20 from Nepal via India after each family paid the syndicate ransoms ranging from Tk 14 lakh to Tk 22 lakh, said Rab.

Using the name Planet Overseas Consultant, the traffickers used to attract "clients", saying they did not take money in advance.

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Recruiting primary school teachers from union-based panels illegal: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that declared illegal a government decision to recruit primary school teachers from union-based panels of selected candidates.

It also affirmed the HC directive asking the government to appoint 10 selected candidates as assistant teachers at primary schools in Naogaon.

Mohammad Siddique Ullah Miah, a lawyer for the 10 candidates, said other selected candidates, who were deprived of jobs due to a government decision to recruit from union-based panels, instead of appointing from upazila-based panels, might get remedy in line with the apex court order, if they move petitions before the HC.

Deputy Attorney General Amatul Karim Swarna said the SC did not say anything about the fates of other selected candidates and the government may move a petition before the SC seeking a

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

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