

KALPANA CHAKMA KIDNAP

Probe report submission date extended again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Time for submission of a further investigation report on the abduction of indigenous community leader and activist Kalpana Chakma around 19 years ago has once again been extended, with the date rescheduled to June 16.

The Rangamati district chief judicial magistrate's court fixed the date yesterday, when the submission was due.

Kalpana, the then organising secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, was kidnapped allegedly by some military personnel and law enforcers from her house in New Lalaghona of Baghaichhari, Rangamati on June 12, 1996.

Two police investigation reports failed to satisfactorily explain the abduction and Kalpana's whereabouts.

The court on January 2013 ordered the Rangamati superintendent of police (SP) to re-investigate the matter. The report submission date has since been rescheduled multiple times.

"The Rangamati superintendent of police was not present in court," said Jewel Dewan, a lawyer appointed by Kalpana's family.

"Had we not filed a petition to learn what has been done since the last police super Amena Begum submitted a progress report on July 20, 2014, the case would not have moved in court," he said.

The present SP, Sayeed Tarikul Hassan, told The Daily Star over phone that the case was handed over to him this month and that he had taken over in late January.

"The last SP could not finish the final report. Now I have to take into consideration all the aspects of the case including testimonies of witnesses which have already been taken, the previous investigation reports and court directions," he said.

Meanwhile, two women's organisations, Hill Women's Federation and Parbatya Chattagram Mohila Samity, formed a



A floating wholesale rice market on the Sandhya river in Barisal's Banaripara upazila. Coming together every Saturday and Tuesday, the market specialises on local untainted varieties produced in the north and south with prices around Tk 1,000 for about 38 kilogrammes. But the availability of fast growing, high yielding, crossbred varieties has cut down sales there by nearly one-third. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN



AS Mashiur Rahman passes away

CITY DESK

Dr AS Mashiur Rahman died in his Gulshan residence of the capital on Friday. He was 96.

He leaves behind a unique legacy.

He was the chief lead-engineer for the construction of the Jatiya Shangshad Bhaban.

Born in 1919, he was the first engineer to get a doctorate degree in undivided Bengal.

He received his advanced degrees from Yale and Iowa State universities in the US with distinctions.

He left behind his wife and children. He was buried next to his mother's grave.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION FUNDS

Pilfering keeps goals unattained

Ex-Bangladesh Bank deputy governor Khondker Ibrahim tells press conference announcing national char convention on June 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Funds allocated for the government's poverty alleviation programmes are pilfered at different levels before they reach marginal groups for which these people always remain financially insolvent, said former Bangladesh Bank deputy governor Khondker Ibrahim Khaled yesterday.

A good GDP growth cannot be an indicator of poverty reduction as, though the development trickles down, the drips never reach those who are cash-strapped, he said.

Khondker was addressing a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club where representatives of over 80 non-government organisations announced holding "The 1st National Char Convention 2015", aiming

to draw policymakers' attention in alleviating poverty of people living in shoals or chars.

With the slogan "Let the Light of Development be Spread All Over the Char", the convention will be held at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh on June 6.

The government takes up initiatives only when people's plights are highlighted in the media, Khaled reasoned for organising the convention.

The noted economist informed that there was no specific budgetary allocation for char people while that allotted for unions does not reach chars.

The convention Coordinator M Anwar Hossain read out a paper pointing out some

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BNP welcomes Modi visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his upcoming June 6-7 visit, BNP yesterday said it does not believe in anti-India politics, has not practiced it and never would.

"(BNP) serves only the interest of the country and it cannot be termed anti-India politics," Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a press conference at BNP's Naya Paltan central office in the capital.

Regarding Indo-Bangla relations, the international affairs secretary said the Indian government has been saying that they were giving importance on relations with Bangladeshis, not with a particular party. He also hoped that the relations would be intensified.

On whether BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will hold any meetings, he said details of Modi's itinerary have not been disclosed.

Ripon said Modi was a farsighted political leader trying to build relations with neighbouring countries.

On whether the visit will have any effect on Bangladesh's ongoing political crisis, he said people worldwide knew there was no democracy in Bangladesh and that the present government was an unelected one.

"BNP hopes the Indian premier will not speak on our internal matter...BNP hopes that Modi will want a democratic government in Bangladesh for the development and stability of the whole region," he added.

KEEPING PRICES IN CHECK DURING RAMADAN

Combined effort starts June 1 in Ctg city

City corporation, chamber of commerce and industries, district administration join hands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong district administration, Chittagong City Corporation, and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries will jointly launch market monitoring drives from June 1 in the city to keep the prices of essential commodities stable during Ramadan.

The decision came from a views-exchange meeting organised by the district administration in the conference room of Circuit House in the city yesterday.

At the meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Mejbah Uddin, business leaders assured the participants of no "unreasonable" price hike of essentials.

CCCI President Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury emphasised a stop to extortion by police from the vehicles used for transport-

ing essential items on highways.

CCC Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin said importers also should take necessary steps so that no artificial crisis was created in the markets.

Later, the mayor declared conducting mobile courts on behalf of CCC in coordination with the district administration in 41 wards.

Due to stability in world market, prices of almost all the commodities, except chickpeas and lentils, have remained stable in the country, said Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber Director Abul Bashar Chowdhury.

Of the total two lakhs tonnes of demand, around 7,000 tonnes of chickpeas are imported from Myanmar and the remaining from Australia and Ethiopia, he said, adding that now the price of the item was a little high in the world market.

Hasina hopes Bangladesh will build fighter jets

Inducts three L-410 training aircraft, eyes effective airforce by golden jubilee of independence

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing hope that Bangladesh will one day build fighter planes, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed her strong resolve to turn Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) into a strong and more effective force by the time the country observes its golden jubilee of independence.

She was addressing the induction of three L-410 training aircraft to the air force in the capital's BAF Base Bashur.

Hasina said the aircraft would cut training costs and make possible search

and rescue operations, patrols, air surveys and deployment of paratroopers.

A jet trainer YAK-130 and a Mi-171SH helicopter will also be procured from Russia with loans while purchase of another Mi-171E helicopter was underway, she said.

Besides, two Augusta Westland helicopters are going to be inducted for maritime search and rescue operations, she added.

Mentioning that there is no alternative to labour, professional skills and honesty, Hasina asked the air force personnel to pay attention to training

and exercise imbued with the motto of highest discipline and patriotism.

"Become vanguards at airspace during battle and become close friends of people in tackling natural disasters," she said.

She said Bangabandhu Aeronautical Center was set up to ensure proper, safe and cost-effective maintenance and overhauling of all sorts of aircraft, radar and other machineries, including that of F-7 fighter planes.

She said the overhauling activities of F-7 fighter planes has already started

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CONGRATULATIONS

M Shoeb Chowdhury

for being elected as Director in FBCCI with enormous votes from general body members.

Courtesy of: National Association of Small & Cottage Industries of Bangladesh

We Mourn

Renowned Rabindra Sangeet Singer **Maleka Azim Khan** passed away on 27th of May 2015 (06.00 am) at The Holy Family Hospital (Innalillahhi.....Rajeun). She was the wife of Late Haider Ali Khan, former Comptroller of Jahangirnagar University and the daughter of Late Khan Bahadur Barrister Anwarul Azim and Late Tohfatunnisa Azim, former MLA of Chittagong. She left behind a son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren to mourn her death. Qulhani of the deceased will be held at Flat # C-1, Century Tower, 119/1 Boro Mogbazar after Asar prayers on Friday, 29th May 2015. Relatives and well wishers are cordially requested to attend her Qulhani.

-- Family Members

RAPE OF 12-YR-OLD RANGUNIA GIRL

OC, SI sued for destroying evidence, filing false case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two policemen, including an officer-in-charge, were sued yesterday for destroying evidence of a rape of a 12-year-old girl in Rangunia of Chittagong and for forcing the victim's mother to sign a false FIR accusing the victim's brother of the crime.

The victim's mother filed the case with the Chittagong Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 accusing OC Humayun Kabir of Rangunia Police Station and Sub Inspector Majibur Rahman, said the plaintiff's lawyer Advocate Ershadur Rahman Ritu. The court accepted the case and will give an order today, added Ritu.

The victim worked as a domestic help in the residence of Shah Alam, 55, an influential resident of Shilok Minagazir Tila village of the upazila, and reportedly became pregnant.

On May 8, police detained Shah Alam following a complaint filed by the victim's mother. However, they later

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STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the *Star Weekend* has an array of articles for your reading pleasure. This week's spotlight is about human trafficking and why thousands of Bangladeshis from different parts of the country leave their homeland, leaving behind their families and worldly possessions. There is an article on how Asia Foundation works to bridge the gap between religious leaders and the development sector. There is also an article about how Rupchanda-The Daily Star Superchef shatters stereotypes by showing men cooking purely out of joy! Don't forget your copy of the *Star Weekend* tomorrow, Friday!

EXODUS TO NOWHERE