

BNP chief's election remarks distorted

Fakhrul tells press
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was trying to give a wrong impression to the people by distorting Khaleda Zia's recent remarks about the next national election. "It's unfortunate that our chairperson's comments have been distorted. What she (Khaleda) said at the concluding session of our council was we want the next election to be held under a non-party government," said BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"We hope the current prime minister will not be there in the election-time impartial government. But she will surely participate in the election to be held with the participation of all parties. It was the meaning of her (Khaleda's) statement. But her remarks were

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Imran president, Nasir GS of Chhatra Front

DU CORRESPONDENT

Imran Habib Rumon and Nasir Uddin Prince were elected president and general secretary respectively of a faction of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), the student front of a faction of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal. SCF announced its 20-member central committee at the 4th National Council on Aparajeyo Bangla premises at Dhaka University, inaugurated by Prof Ajoy Roy.

Former president Janardan Dutta nantu, Comrade Khalequzzaman, Prof Anu Muhammad, Journalist Abu Sayed, Sucheta Dey, president of All India Student Association, Gopal Krishna of All Nepal National Independent Student Union, and Mir Sakib Khurshid, vice president of Democratic Student Federation spoke, among others.



A mobile court inspects an ice cream factory, Happy Icebar, in Paschim Madarbari area of Chittagong city yesterday, which was later sealed off and its owner Shafiqul Huq fined Tk 10,000 for using harmful colouring and chemical agents, lower inset. Led by the district administration magistrate, Ruhul Amin, the court destroys the seized colouring powder and chemical, upper inset.

PHOTO: STAR

30,000 poor families to get free healthcare cards

BSS, Dhaka

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will distribute smart health insurance cards among 30,000 poor families in the first phase under its "Health Protection Programme" to provide modern healthcare services free of cost.

The ministry took the initiative in the light of the Universal Health Coverage of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim will formally inaugurate the programme in three

upazilas of Tangail, Modhupur, Kalihati and Ghatail, on March 24 at noon in Kalihati upazila.

The Green Delta Insurance Company has already been recruited as the management firm and a contract in this regard has been signed on December 19, 2015.

The health insurance cards will be distributed to provide healthcare services to the tune of a maximum Tk 50,000 to one member of each of the families, said Md Asadul Islam, director general of the Health Economy Unit.

The card-holders can avail medicare

services for 50 specified complicated diseases including fever, cold, cough, fractured bones, gall bladder, appendicitis, hernia and complicated heart and kidney ailments, from district and upazila level public hospitals, he added.

"A list has already been prepared for distribution of cards among nearly one lakh families. We will bring all the families who live below poverty level and have no houses, land properties and permanent source of income, under the project in phases," said Asadul.

Woman, child die in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A woman and her three-year-old child were killed as a Dhaka-bound bus abruptly crushed them while they were crossing a road at Baghopara Bus Stand in Bogra Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Ranu Khatun, 25, wife of Jahangir Hossain, and their daughter Zakia Sultana, of the upazila. Police seized the vehicle, but its driver and his helper managed to flee, said Aslam Hossain, inspector (inquiry) of Bogra Sadar police.

Meanwhile, in Nilphamari, a bus, losing its control, abruptly hit a central reservation on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway near Kamar Pukur Bazar in Saidpur upazila yesterday morning, leaving its driver and helper critically injured.

Victims Bishal Aktar, 28, and his helper Shahidul Islam, 35, were from Bogra Sadar upazila.

Informed by locals, police and fire brigade team reached the spot and brought them out of the smashed vehicle.

Later, Aktar and Shahidul were taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where the former succumbed to his injuries.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Court starts recording of IO's statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday started recording the statement of the first investigation officer (IO) of the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Police Inspector Md Amir Hossain, the first IO, gave his deposition before the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 for two hours.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin recorded his statement and fixed today for cross-examination of the witness on behalf of the accused.

Amir told the court that he was a sub-inspector of Motijheel police during the time of the occurrence. On August 22, 2004 he took over the charge of the investigation as per direction of the officer-in-charge of the station.

Later he visited the place of occurrence and made a sketch map of the scene. Moreover, he recorded statements of five

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Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amir Hossain, 45, a mechanic of Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali, is suffering from tumor, which



has developed and caused chest pain and swelling in the legs and testicles, says a press release.

Amir underwent treatments at various hospitals and currently is under the supervision of Dr Shahdat Hossain at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The doctors advised that he is in need of better treatment and should undergo a surgery, which requires at least Tk 5 lakh.

As the treatment is expensive and the family alone cannot afford the expenses, they are seeking financial assistance.

Aid can be sent to savings account no: 12100001667 South-East Bank Ltd. Mouchak Branch, Malibagh, Dhaka; contact number: 01732180763.



President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Chairman of China's National People's Congress Zhang Dejiang making an announcement that the two organisations will cooperate to help develop the capacity of national parliaments in developing countries in delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030, in Lusaka, Zambia yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ctg worker dies after falling from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died after falling from the third floor of a building in Halihsahar area in the port city yesterday.

Deceased Md Mosharaf, 40, a painter, was from Chandpur.

The incident took place around 4:30pm when Mosharaf was painting outer walls of a four-storey building owned by one Najir Ahmed at Halihsahar's Abbas Para, said Nayek Md Jahangir of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) police outpost, quoting locals.

Mosharaf was rushed to CMCH where the on-duty doctors declared him dead, added Jahangir.

Massive Independence Day march planned

Hundreds of thousands likely to join 36km parade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Showing love and respect for the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the movements leading to the country's liberation in 1971, people are preparing to join a huge march on Independence Day.

Participants will start off from Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka for the 36km march to the National Memorial in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

The organisers, Liberation War Museum and Abhijatri, expect huge participation.

The march will start from Shaheed Minar at 6:00am and touch historic places like the

Rokeya Hall killing field, Bangabandhu's home at Dhanmondi 32, Asad Gate, Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial, and Shyamoli SOS Palli where war babies took shelter during the Liberation War.

Anybody will be able to take part by registering for Tk 1,000, which will be a donation to build the Liberation War Museum at Agargaon, said Nishat Majumder, first Bangladeshi woman to scale Mount Everest, reading out a statement during a press conference on the museum's current premises yesterday. Pre-registration can be

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4 doctors sued over woman's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four doctors at the capital's Mugda General Hospital (MGH) have been accused of providing wrong treatment and of negligence in a case filed with Mugda Police Station yesterday following the death of a pregnant woman along with the child.

Eight months' pregnant Fatema Akhter Kona, 24, and the child died while she was undergoing a caesarean section on Sunday night, said her husband, Tarekul Hasan, who filed the case.

The Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said forensic tests were being conducted on the bodies to determine the cause of death. Mugda police said they were looking for the accused as they were absconding.

Tarekul said he took Kona to MGH on Sunday afternoon after she felt severe pain. Doctors told him that Kona needed a caesarean section and took her to the operating theatre around 9:30pm.

"I went out of the hospital to bring some medicines and blood they asked for. When I returned around 11:30pm, the doctors were leaving without telling me anything," he said.

Tarekul later learned that his wife and the child were dead.

Visiting the hospital yesterday, this correspondent failed to talk to the administration despite repeated attempts. They could not be reached on the phone as well.

Diti laid to rest at village home

FROM PAGE 3

her village home where hundreds of people, including villagers, professionals, and cultural and local political personalities bade her farewell, many breaking down in tears.

A qulkhani will be held after Juma prayers on Friday at Duttapara.

Born on March 31, 1965 in Sonargaon, Diti aspired to become a singer and was even awarded at a national competition by the Shishu Academy.

While singing for Bangladesh Television, she first drew the attention of actor Al

Mansur, who cast her in the TV drama "Laili Majnu" opposite Manas Bandopadhyay.

Despite her family being not entirely supportive of her new ventures, she worked in another TV play "Imitation", before taking part in a talent hunt "Notun Mukher Sondhane" by BFDC in 1984, and winning it along with Sohel Chowdhury.

The first film she played in was Udayan Chowdhury's "Daak Diye Jai" (opposite Afzal Hossain), but the film was never released, and Ajmal Huda Mithu's "Ami-e Ostad" marked her debut on the big screen.

13th witness links Shakhawat to

FROM PAGE 4

former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain and eight other Jessor men gave his testimony before the tribunal.

Majid Morol, 72, linked Shakhawat and his two accomplices, Sheikh Md Mujibur Rahman and Billal Hossain Biswas, who are also accused in the case, to the torture of his brother Nur Uddin Morol.

Earlier, Nur Uddin, a freedom fighter, gave his testimony as the third prosecution witness, stating that Shakhawat and other Razakars had confined and tortured him at a

Razakar camp.

The six other accused were Abdul Khaleq, Lutfar Morol, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar (2) and Ibrahim Hossain. Majid, however, did not mention their names in his testimony.

The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and have pleaded not guilty. The rest are on the run.

The tribunal adjourned proceedings until April 20 after defence counsels completed cross-examining Majid.

"আবুল হায়াতের গল্পের কতগুলো নিজস্বতা আছে। চরিত্র সৃষ্টিতে তাঁর কুশলতা অবাক করার মতো। তাঁর গল্পগুলোও তিনি তুলে আনেন চেনাজানা পরিপার্শ্ব থেকে।"

—সৈয়দ মনজুরুল ইসলাম

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