

Court to decide on accepting sedition suit against Khaleda July 12

Hearing on charge framing against her in arson case July 18; Fakhrul gets bail in 2012 blockade case
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed July 12 to decide whether the sedition charges brought against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be accepted.

Momtaz Uddin Ahmad Mehedi, a Supreme Court lawyer and member of the ruling Awami League's central committee, on January 25 filed the case against Khaleda for her remarks on the number of Liberation War martyrs.

Judge Kamrul Hossain of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer submitted a petition seeking adjournment.

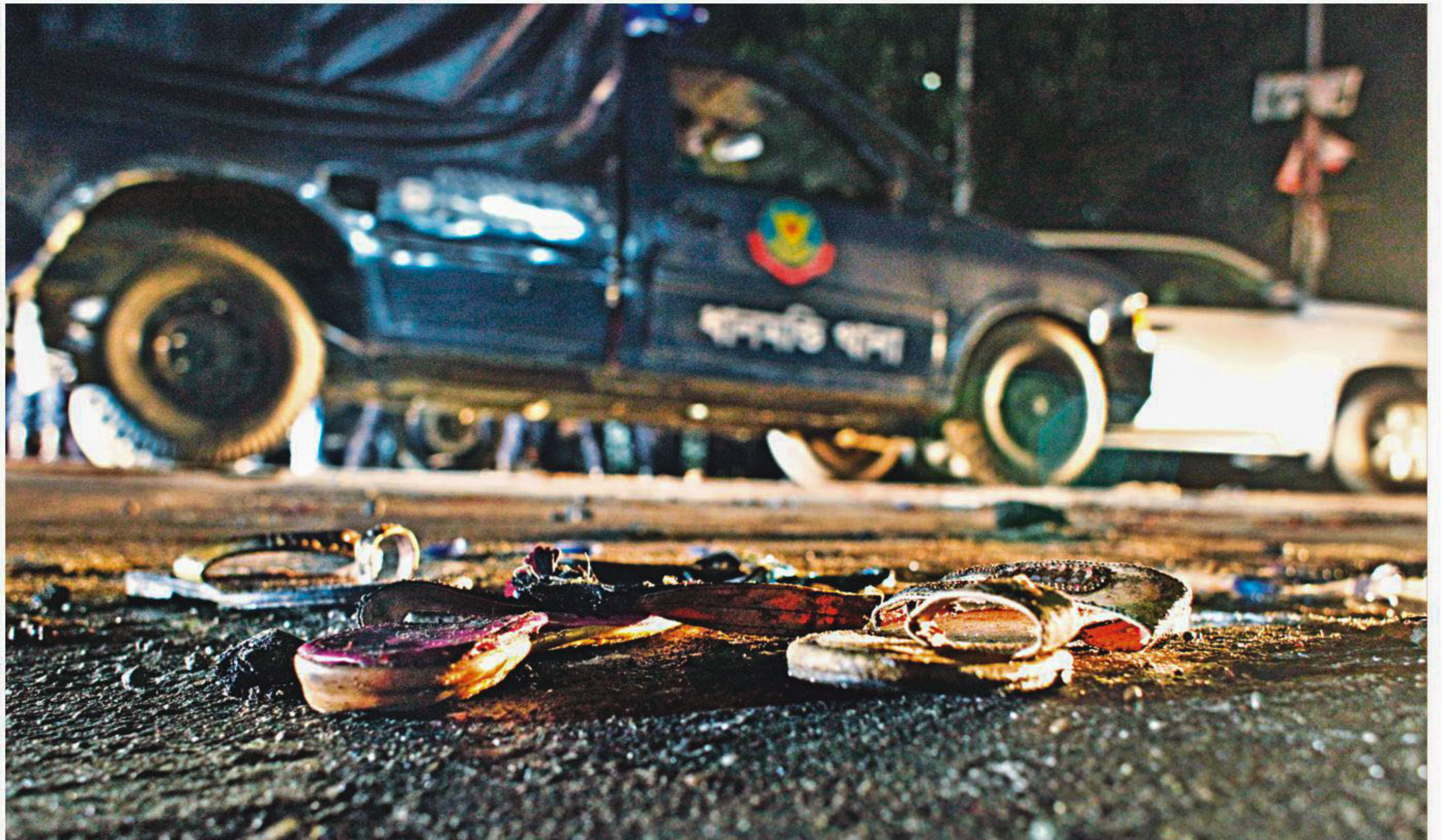
The lawyer said Khaleda could not appear before the court due to physical illness.

In the case statement, the complainant alleged that Khaleda at a programme on December 21 last year said, "There are controversies over exactly how many were martyred in the Liberation War. There are also many books and documents on the controversies."

ARSON CASE
Another Dhaka court yesterday fixed July 18 for hearing on acceptance of the charge sheet against Khaleda and 26 others in connection with an arson case filed in February last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Emdadul Haque passed the order after police placed the charge sheet before it. Earlier on May 11, SI Shahidur Rahman of Darussalam police, the case's investigation officer, pressed the charges.

In the charge sheet, Khaleda was shown as the mastermind even though her name was not mentioned in the first information report. Also, it was
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Sandals left by dispersing unemployed nurses after cops charged batons and used water canons on them yesterday night, when they tried to enter Health Minister Mohammed Nasim's Dhanmondi residence, as the deadline for arranging a meeting with the prime minister, a promise that he had made to them, expired. Dozens of the nurses, injured by the police action, were rushed to hospitals.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

AUG 21 ATTACK CASES Seized grenades destroyed without court order

Says second IO
COURT CORRESPONDENT

The August 21 grenade attack cases' second investigation officer yesterday told a Dhaka court that three live Argus grenades seized soon after the incident were destroyed though no court order to do so.

Fazlul Kabir, also former assistant superintendent of police of Criminal Investigation Department said the grenades were very important evidences.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka fixed June 6 to continue recording Fazlul's statement. Later defense counsels will cross-examine him.

Fazlul said he took charge of investigations on July 3, 2007. Later he said to have scrutinised all the documents which were seized and prepared by investigators previously.

A total of 223 prosecution witnesses, including the complainant, gave their statements.

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Sending troops not mandatory

Says FM on Saudi-led alliance; PM goes to KSA tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In an apparent effort to remove confusion over sending troops to the Saudi-led alliance to combat terrorism, Dhaka yesterday reiterated its position and said nothing is mandatory for 34 member states.

"This is not a military alliance rather a centre for cooperation among member states. Cooperation will be extended voluntarily. Nothing is mandatory," Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told reporters at a press conference in the ministry ahead of the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia.

He said the centre consisted of two tracks - political and security -- and the second one was military track. The minister said sending troops is mandatory for any military alliance but since this is a centre, it was not mandatory to send troops.
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Mahmood Ali briefly described how the cooperation would be extended under the centre through two tracks and a member can even avoid meeting and remain silent on a particular issue.

A questioner asked whether Bangladesh would respond positively if Saudi Arabia, being a friend of Bangladesh, wanted military cooperation for the centre. In response, the minister said, "It's still evolving. We will see. Things are optional." Bangladesh, however, will consider sending troops to Saudi Arabia only if UN Security Council approved it.

The members of the centre are Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the
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2 die under train wheels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were crushed to death under the wheels of trains in separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Mohammad Mofiz Uddin, 35.

Mofiz was crossing the rail track in Kamarpara area around 5:00am when a Dhaka-bound train ran him over, said Ali Akbar, a sub-inspector of Dhaka railway police.

Around 6:00am, an unidentified man was crushed under the wheels of a Jamalpur-bound train near Biswa Road, he said, adding, the victim was wearing a "Gamchha" and mosquito net. Police suspect he was not mentally stable, Ali Akbar said.

Adolescent girls, women severe victims of Roanu

Says UNFPA, alerts donors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescent girls and women remain among the most severely affected groups in coastal regions hit by cyclone Roanu on May 21, says United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) based on a joint needs assessment.

Of the 1.3 million people in affected areas of seven districts, there are 3.5 lakh women and girls of reproductive age, and around 30,000 of them are pregnant or lactating mothers, said a UNFPA statement issued yesterday.

"These women are in need of special attention and care for safe and clean delivery, including the services of a professional birth attendant and access to 24/7 emergency obstetric and neonatal care in case of complications," it said.

It said many of the girls and women who lost their belongings, including clothes, told UNFPA field staff that they are too ashamed to go out in public.

The UN agency, therefore, is initially distributing among the most vulnerable girls and women 2,000 "Dignity Kits" that include clothes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soaps and sanitary pads.

"A flashlight and whistle in the kit provide additional safety to the girls and women against risks of violence," it said.

UNFPA is also ready to provide 7,800 "Safe Delivery Kits" to ensure that women can deliver their babies in a clean and safe environment.

It estimated that a minimum of US \$1.2 million is needed to ensure reproductive
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Teachers and students of Anthropology department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology form a human chain on the campus premises yesterday demanding that the government increase budgetary allocation for education sector.

PHOTO: STAR

Community clinics bringing health care to doorsteps

BSS, Dhaka

Even though Anindita Chakma was waiting patiently in a queue at a local community clinic at Dokkhaiya Para, a remote village in Rangamati, she was not disheartened by the long line.

"I'm waiting here to take a tetanus vaccine as a doctor told me it is important for the safety of a pregnant woman and her baby," said the four-month pregnant woman.

Like Anindita, expectant mothers Devaki Marma, Tulshi Tripura and Lima Tanchangya were also waiting. The clinic attendant, busy providing services, said the number of patients, especially the expectant mothers is increasing. She said she attends forty to fifty patients every day.

In 2009, the government relaunched the Community Clinic Project to bring basic healthcare to the doorsteps of the community and as

many as 13,500 clinics have so far been established. Of them, 12,906 clinics are providing services and 30 types of emergency medicines are supplied free of cost from the clinics.

According to the project authorities, 298 community clinics are under constructions and a move is underway to construct 606 more.

There are arrangements for normal child birth in 224 community clinics and the government is giving laptops with internet connection to the clinics for preserving information about mothers, children and other patients.

The clinics provide service to pregnant women and adolescent boys and girls about reproductive health. Vitamin and zinc tablets are distributed for malnourished children, and iron folic acid for pregnant and anemic women.

Some clinics have family welfare assistants who make regular visits to

villages. Talking to the news agency, a healthcare provider of Baraigram upazila Sadar Community Clinic of Natore said the poor people of the area are getting proper healthcare because of the community clinic. About 100 patients get treatment from his clinic daily, he said.

Specialised doctors from the government hospitals come to community clinics once a week to serve the patients, he added.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, community clinic is a unique example of Public Private Partnership as they are constructed by the government on community donated lands. The government provides medicine and all necessary logistics.

Each clinic is run by a management comprising representatives from both the government and community.

BARISAL BOARD SSC RESULT DEBACLE Responsible to face stern punishment

Says Education Minister Nahid about question paper, answer sheet mix-up during evaluation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stern punishment await those who mixed up answer sheets with corresponding question sets of Hindu Religious and Moral Education, leading to Barisal education board's result debacle following this year's SSC exam, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

"I will stop their salaries first and then take further decision. Officials have been assigned to decide on possible action," he told journalists at his secretariat office.

He said they would also examine if mistakes were made because of a problem in supervision, or if there were any lack of preparation. Amid criticism, the ministry

formed a three-member probe committee led by the board Chairman M Jiaul Haq and it submitted the investigation report yesterday.

Jiaul earlier said the two chief examiners evaluated "Kha" objective answer scripts using question set "Gha" and vice versa.

Of 10,492 examinees, 1,193 failed in the subject and some 5,809 sought a review.

Afterwards, 1,994 got different results and 1,141 more passed.

Of them, 94 got GPA-5, including Sarbajit Ghosh Ridoy who committed suicide on finding that he had failed.

The review revealed that he got A+ in the subject.

Suspended Rajshahi mayor freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Suspended Rajshahi City Corporation mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul was finally freed from jail yesterday seven days after he got bail in two cases from the High Court.

Bulbul was released after his bail documents reached Rajshahi Central Jail from the office of the attorney general, said Senior Jail Super Shafiqul Islam Khan.

Bulbul, also a BNP leader and an accused in total 19 cases, surrendered before a Rajshahi court on March 13, said his lawyer Roisul Islam.

At the time of his surrender, he was wanted in nine cases. He got bail in seven cases from Rajshahi courts after his surrender.

On May 24, he was granted bail in two cases from the HC and the documents reached the Rajshahi jail on May 26, said the jail super.

One case was filed over a bomb attack on former Rajshahi mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton's house and the
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in other news...

The Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. Our spotlight this week is on **Sayed Khanam, the first female photographer of Bangladesh and how she broke the stereotype regarding women by stepping in a male-dominated profession like photography.** We also have an interesting article on how the first batch of female traffic sergeants is managing Dhaka's intense traffic alongside their male colleagues. Don't forget your copy of *Star Weekend*, coming out tomorrow, Friday!

SHUTTERING STEREOTYPES

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQA

PHOTO: SULTAN KHAN (AP/GETTY)

5 A STEP TOWARDS HUMANITY

It shows the country's progress in social development. It also shows the country's progress in social development.

10

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