

AL involved in targeted killings

Khaleda tells BNP-led alliance iftar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday alleged that there have been no targeted killings in the past and that the Awami League was involved with the present ones.

"...this is why Hasina has said she knew. For that reason she did not arrest them even though she knew them," she said, adding that the government sent many of the killers abroad but was arresting common people.

Addressing an iftar of the BNP-led 20 party-alliance in the capital's Ladies Club, she said the present situation had created doubts in people's minds over whether the "illegal" government was itself ruling the country or some other force was controlling it.

She claimed that none was now safe in the country and urged all to unite and achieve freedom from insecurity and an undemocratic situation.

She alleged that the government was blaming BNP for the killings and police were arresting BNP men and common people in such high numbers that even the jail authorities could not accommodate them.

Claiming that over 12,000 people were arrested during the ongoing crackdown and at least 50 killed in crossfire, she asked, "Is it an example of how a country should be ruled?"

Meanwhile in a statement she alleged that the government continued its repression on journalists and threats to the media. She stressed that press freedom was a prerequisite for democracy and freedom of expression was essential to ensure democratic practices.

The statement was issued marking this day in 1975 when the then government decided to shut down all except four state-run newspapers.

Alleging that the Awami League-led government was continuously oppressing the newspapers and newsmen, she said the AL government seems to have gone back to the past by dominating the media houses.

10-year-old domestic help found dead in employer's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the hanging body of a 10-year-old domestic help from a house in the capital's Sabujbagh area yesterday.

Nilufar Akter, had been working in the house of one Nurul Amin, a retired person, for last seven months, said victim's sister Sabina.

Her cousin Uzzal Biswas said they demonstrated in front of Sabujbagh Police Station, saying it was a murder and demanding arrest of the culprits.

Abdul Kuddus Fakir, officer-in-charge of the station, said on information they recovered the body hanging in the kitchen of the house.

The OC said they detained three people including the house owner and his wife for questioning.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College for autopsy.

Now SC regular bench halts production of 20 drug cos

Also orders stopping production of antibiotics by 14 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that directed the government to halt production of 20 pharmaceutical companies and producing antibiotics by 14 other drug companies for manufacturing substandard drugs.

The apex court also asked the HC to hear and dispose of the rule over legality of the government's inaction to stop cancelling licences of the 20 companies by August 18 this year.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after disposing of four petitions filed by four drug companies recently challenging the HC order passed following a writ petition.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the 20 companies cannot manufacture medicines while 14 other companies cannot produce any antibiotics following the SC order.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the writ petition after an expert committee, formed by the parliamentary standing committee on the health ministry in August 2014, recommended revoking the licences of 20 drug companies that repeatedly failed to follow the good manufacturing practices (GMP).

The HC on June 7 directed the government to halt production of 20 companies within seven days.

The court also ordered closing production of antibiotics by 14 other companies within the same time, and issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why their inaction in cancelling licences of the 20 drug companies should-

UGC to request all universities to introduce courses on history, Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to request the authorities of all public and private universities to introduce two courses on the country's history and Bangla literature at the under graduate level at their institutions.

The names of the courses are: "History of emergence of Bangladesh" and "Bangla Language Course".

However, the courses would not be the alternative to Bangladesh Studies, said a press release of UGC yesterday.

The commission took the decision at its 144th Full Commission meeting held on June 9 with its chairman Professor Abdul Mannan in the chair, said the release.

Students should have an extensive knowledge about the Liberation War and history-culture of Bangladesh and Bangla language, said the UGC release about the reason behind its decision.

The commission said the universities where foreign students are studying could introduce a foreign language course, depending on their capability as an alternative.

Vice-chancellors of different public universities were present at the meeting.

Architectural designs of Bangladesh nominated for Aga Khan Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two architectural excellences in the fields of contemporary design from Bangladesh have been nominated for the Aga Khan Award 2016.

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) disclosed that the Bait Ur Rouf Mosque in Dhaka and the Friendship Centre in Gaibandha have been selected among the total 19 short-listed projects for the award, said a press release.

The nominated projects were displayed at a seminar held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 12. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs and AKDN co-hosted the seminar.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Secretary to the Ministry Aktari Mamtaz, AKDN Resident Representative Munir M Merali and Prof Shaheda Rahman of BRAC University attended the seminar.



Students of Nightingale Medical College and Hospital at a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club protest for the second consecutive day yesterday against "the charging of truncheons, firing of rubber bullets and their eviction from residential facilities of the college in Savar by police" while they were demonstrating at the time of sehri on Tuesday against a June 12 government decision to suspend academic activities of the college and two others for violating rules and not having the required standard of education. They also demand that holding of their MBBS examinations be ensured.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP's Aslam now on remand in two arson cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury on a one-day remand each in two arson attack cases filed with Motijheel and Lalbagh police stations.

Now in jail over an alleged plot with Israel to topple the government, Aslam was shown arrested in the two arson cases on May 24.

Both cases are linked with the BNP-led anti-government movement in January last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nurunnahar Yesmin placed Aslam on the remand after Detective Branch (DB) of police Sub-inspector and investigation officer (IO) Anwar Hossain produced him with a 10-day remand prayer in the case filed with Motijheel Police Station.

Aslam was also produced before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Nur Nabi in another case filed over torching of a vehicle in the capital's Lalbagh on January 4 last year.

DB Inspector Emamul Islam, the case's IO, sought a 10-day remand for Aslam but the magistrate granted one day.

Aslam has become mired in controversy after meeting an Israeli political leader in India early this month. He was arrested by detectives in Dhaka on May 15.

He was forwarded before a Dhaka court with a 10-day remand the following day and the court put him on a seven-day remand in connection with the case under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

On May 26, Gulshan police filed a sedition case against Aslam for his alleged plot with Israel to topple the government and was placed on a 12-day remand in two phases in the case.

Revenue for the People's Welfare

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Internal Resources Division
National Board of Revenue
Rajashwa Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

Important Information Concerning Payment of Tax by Foreign Nationals Working in Bangladesh

The National Board of Revenue has been making persistent efforts towards establishing an environment which is conducive to business, industry and investment in order to help implement Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 of the Honourable Prime Minister. With the help of all concerned, the National Board of Revenue is making all-out efforts to mobilize necessary resources to build a self-reliant and digital Bangladesh. As part of promoting foreign direct investment, Bangladesh provides ample opportunities for foreign nationals to work in a development and investment-friendly ambience. Like other developed countries, the existing tax laws of Bangladesh have provisions for deduction of tax at source (TDS) on the incomes of foreign nationals working in Bangladesh. This is the reason for which attention of the management of all companies, enterprises, institutions, NGOs etc, where foreign nationals are employed, is drawn to ensure the compliance of the rules and regulations relating to deduction of tax at source (TDS) while making payment to the foreign nationals at their disposal.

In this context, the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister during the presentation of previous budget for the financial year 2015-2016 is quoted below:

"Despite the existence of large unemployment amongst our eligible workforce, huge numbers of foreign nationals are being employed in our country, most of whom are not in tax net. We have already started registering foreign nationals working in our country and they will be brought under tax net soon. I propose to impose 50 percent additional tax or Tk. 5 lakh (whichever is higher) for the persons employing unauthorized foreign nationals. I also propose cancellation of tax holiday and other tax exemptions facilities along with prosecution and punishment for these unscrupulous entities engaged in such unlawful acts."

Salaries and allowances, received by foreign nationals, employed in any profession (except for persons entitled to special exemptions for their employment in different embassies, UN and international organizations) in Bangladesh, are considered to be taxable income where such income exceeds the taxable limit and in the case of a 'foreign non-resident', salaries and allowances are to be taxed according to the existing income tax law. **Such foreign nationals are required to submit income tax return as well as pay taxes while their employers are required to deduct taxes at source (TDS) on their income.**

Besides, the tax law requires the employer to send to the concerned Taxes Circle a statement of salaries and allowances paid to foreign nationals. Failure to deposit taxes collected at source to the treasury may entail penal measures and abrogation of tax exemption/holiday benefits.

Considering the importance of the issues noted above, all concerned authorities are humbly requested to comply with the rules and regulations governing the employment of foreign nationals in Bangladesh.

Co-operation of everyone is earnestly solicited to collect revenue for the overall development of the country.

National Board of Revenue

GD-1296

Charges taken into cognisance

FROM PAGE 3
May 31. One involved the looting and arson in 132 houses, killing of 59 people and rape of six women of Panchgaon village between May 7 and 8.

The other was over looting and arson in four houses and abduction, confinement, torture and killing of two people of Pashimbhag village between November 24 and 25.

Akmal was a local Peace Committee member while the others were involved with the Razakar Bahini, according to the prosecution.

JAMALPUR CASE
Meanwhile, prosecutors completed placing closing arguments in a case against eight

Body of 'criminal' recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an alleged criminal from an under-construction building in the capital's Pallabi yesterday.

The dead, Sohel alais Bhaigna Sohel, 26, of Narail, was a cohort of Bhaigna Munna in the area, said police. He went missing since Saturday.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

STAR WEEKEND
in other news...

The Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. Our spotlight this week is on Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery's venture of kindness and compassion, by offering iftar to the underprivileged members of society. We also have a story on an initiative called Prio Baba that enables fathers from across the country to establish gender equality within their families. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend, coming out tomorrow, Friday

DHARMARAJIKA'S ACT OF COMPASSION

At the beginning of this Holy month of Ramadan, the internet exploded with a video going viral- but for good reason. This video was not of a child dying, or an accident, or any act of violence or negativity. It was a video that spoke of compassion, humanity and kindness- the three most important elements of this month. In the video we saw members of Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery, and their High Priest, Shuddhanda Maheshwari, distributing iftar boxes to underprivileged members of society who are fasting. This act of kindness struck the whole community by surprise as it spoke volumes of what this month is truly about- harmony and peace. To read more, turn to pages 8 and 9.

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