

"Fifty percent of Dhaka city dwellers are women. Yet, the city is not women-friendly."

COUNTRY DIRECTOR, ACTIONAID
FARAH KABIR
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TOP QUOTE

Result 0

Police raid BNP office on allegation from undisclosed complainant; protest rally today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surprise move, police yesterday raided BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office to seize "materials for carrying out anti-state and subversive activities". They found nothing during the more than two-hour-long search.

"We did not get the things for which we carried out the search. We made a zero seizure list and wrapped up the search," Salahuddin, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The raid was conducted following a "mysterious" general diary (GD) filed with Gulshan Police Station on Friday. Police did not disclose the identity of the person who filed the diary.

The complainant alleged that a huge quantity of stickers and other materials were stored in Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office for carrying out anti-state and subversive activities. Police claimed to have had confidence in the content of the GD and prayed to a Dhaka court on Friday for permission to raid the office, sources in the police department said.

The court issued the required warrant.

About 100 policemen cordoned off Khaleda's Gulshan office around 7:00am yesterday. The sudden presence of a large number of law enforcers puzzled the staffers who stay at the office.

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Bare-chested they sleep on the floor inside Karwan Bazar kitchen market yesterday afternoon under one ceiling fan (out of frame). Most of these labourers work throughout the night at the largest kitchen market in the capital. The mercury hit 36.2 degrees Celsius in Dhaka yesterday.

ISLAMI BANK 7 directors threaten to step down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Islami Bank directors have decided to step down if any of them has to resign under duress.

Seven directors of the private commercial bank issued a press release in this regard yesterday.

Earlier on May 11, Syed Ahsanul Alam, vice-chairman and an independent director of the bank, on his Facebook page wrote that he was under pressure from some groups to resign from the post.

According to the release, the issue was taken into consideration at a board meeting on May 13 and the directors pledged to be united if they received any threat.

Expressing concern at the latest developments, the meeting decided to bring the issue to the notice of Bangladesh Bank.

The board also decided to remove the top "anti-state"

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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Seven stand strong

Girls of remote Mymensingh area join hands to stop child marriage

AMINUL ISLAM with OSAMA RAHMAN

Child marriages are an uncomfortably frequent occurrence in parts of the country today. Fortunately, some have decided that talk is indeed cheap and it is time to act. Recently, against all odds, seven adolescent girls from the remote Nandail upazila of Mymensingh showed enormous courage when they stopped the early marriage of two of their classmates. Their act was one of timely defiance and served as an inspiration for those around them.

Uniting under the banner of the forum Ghashphool, formed at their Nandail Pilot Girls High School in 2015, the pupils turned discussions into action and led right from the front. Their success resonated with their classmates and other adolescents in the area while their parents and elderly neighbours also praised them for their bravery.

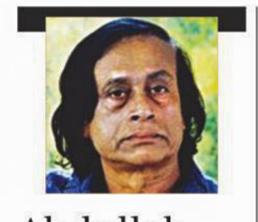
The spectacular seven are Tuli

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CHANGE MAKER

Seven members of Ghashphool, a forum of schoolgirls to prevent child marriage, are all smiles at the Nandail UNO office in Mymensingh recently. They also work for creating awareness against stalking in Nandail upazila.



Abdullah Khalid no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sculptor Syed Abdullah Khalid has passed away.

Famed for his work Aparajeyo Bangla, he breathed his last at the city's Birdem hospital around 11:45pm yesterday. He was 75.

He was admitted to the hospital on May 2 with breathing problems and diabetes, said his younger son Syed Abdullah Johir.

His body will be taken to Charukala at 11:00am today and at the foot of his monumental creation, Aparajeyo Bangla on Dhaka University campus, at 12 noon for people to pay their last respects, Johir told The Daily Star.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the central

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BNP-Jamaat infiltrators creating divisions in AL

Says Hasina; grassroots leaders vent anger at MPs

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said divisions have been created within the ruling party because of infiltration by BNP-Jamaat men, and blamed some of her party lawmakers for this.

Those lawmakers are bringing BNP-Jamaat men to the party to strengthen their own cliques. And organisational action will be taken against them, she added.

Hasina, also the prime minister, made the remarks at a special extended meeting of the AL at the Gono Bhavan yesterday, sources said.

Eight district-level leaders from eight divisions spoke at the meeting on issues like intra-party feuds, organisational weaknesses, infiltration by BNP-Jamaat men and differences between the party leaders and MPs and ministers.

Most of them expressed unhappiness at the formation of grassroots committees by the central leaders, saying BNP-Jamaat men are getting portfolios in those committees as local leaders are left out of the process.

Responding to the allegation, the AL chief admitted that leaders and activists from the BNP, her party's archrival, and also Jamaat-e-Islami have been infiltrating into the party, said meeting sources.

"I have evidence that BNP-Jamaat men, even those accused of torturing and killing my party leaders after the 2001 national election, have infiltrated into the Awami League. Some MPs helped them join the party to strengthen their own circles," Hasina was quoted by a district unit president, present at the meeting, as saying.

Those elements enter the party for personal gains and then become so strong that they eventually elbow out dedicated workers and leaders, she added.

Sounding a note of warning, the AL chief asked party lawmakers not to allow such bad elements in her party as they are creating divisions.

She also asked the lawmakers to work with party leaders and activists and maintain strong ties with their own constituencies.

According to grassroots leaders, several thousand BNP-Jamaat men may have joined the ruling party since it took office in 2009, apparently to get rid of "politically motivated" cases and avoid police harassment.

From the meeting yesterday, Hasina inaugurated the party's membership



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