

NEWSIN brief

Arrest of Khaleda sought

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prosecutors of Zia Orphanage Trust graft case yesterday submitted a petition to a Dhaka court seeking an arrest warrant against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for going to London without its permission.

Public Prosecutor Mosharrar Hossain Kajol submitted the petition to the makeshift court of Special Judge-5 at Bakshibazar after defence lawyers informed the court that Khaleda had earlier gone to London for treatment. In the petition, Kajol said the BNP chief should have taken permission from the court before her departure as the case was pending against her.

Defence lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder, however, opposed it saying the BNP chief had earlier gone abroad on several times without permission from the court for her treatment; so they did not submit any application.

SC lawyer sued for 'sexually harassing' woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer has been sued on the charge of sexually harassing a woman in the capital's Bijoyagar.

The woman, 29, filed the case with Paltan Police Station on Wednesday night, accusing Sheikh Mohammad Azad, 48, who denied the allegation.

The case statement says the woman was enrolled at a coaching centre seven months back for a bar council examination. On Tuesday evening, following conclusion of the course, she went to Azad's chamber to say "good-bye". He, however, made her wait till everyone left and, at one stage, harassed her sexually.

Law minister again discusses rules for lower court judges with CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq met Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha again yesterday regarding the issuing of a gazette notification on the disciplinary and conduct rules for lower court judges.

After the meeting at the chief justice's Supreme Court office in the afternoon, Anisul told reporters that there was significant progress made at the meeting for finalising the rules and issuing the gazette.

The government is trying to issue the notification soon, he said, expressing hope that it might be done within the next few days. The discussed the same issue with the chief justice on July 16.

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MJF hails justice for Aduri

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manuser Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed satisfaction over the verdict that sentenced a woman to life term imprisonment for torturing a minor domestic help.

A Dhaka court on Tuesday gave the verdict against Nawrin Jahan who physically tortured 11-year-old Aduri. The court also fined the woman Tk 1 lakh.

Such an exemplary punishment was necessary amid the growing situation of violence against children, especially child domestic helps, said a press release.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said, "We have seen that torture on domestic helps is being occurred one after another. The girls like Sarna, Tanjina, Chumki, Husne Ara, Fatema and Sabina are being tortured by their employers. Some of them are dying. We hope that every torturer would be brought under trial and their punishment

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For a child, a mother's lap is the safest place to sleep. But the baby is hanging precariously as the woman holds the infant with one arm. Disregarding potential danger, many ride motorbikes on busy roads of the capital this way. The photo was taken in Shahbagh area yesterday.

Rain brings miseries, again

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Yesterday's heavy rain inundated most parts of Khulna city again, causing sufferings to residents.

Within a span of six hours -- from 6:00am till noon -- 113 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the city. Amirul Azad, regional director of Khulna Met Office, told The Daily Star.

Many areas including Khanjahan Ali Road, Lower Jessore Road, Rupsha Strand Road, KDA Avenue, Iqbalnagar, Tutpara, Gallamary, Moilapota, Dakbanglo, Santhidham Mor, Phulmarket and Press Club area went under ankle to knee-deep water.

People of the low lying areas were the worst sufferers as most of the roads there went under waist-deep water.

In many places, water entered their households, said locals. It was almost impossible to find any transport on roads. Due to the rain, many students did not attend school yesterday.

According to the residents, rain escalated their miseries as the roads remained waterlogged due to a poor drainage system. They blamed the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and Khulna Development Authorities (KDA) for this continuous misery.

Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, secretary general of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Committee, said, "Due to unabated encroachment, most of the 47 canals are clogged up. Also, people continue to dump waste in those, making the situation worse."

According to KCC sources, it has around 550 employees to clean and maintain 2,187 drains.

"But the authorities are not maintaining them properly," Ashrafuzzaman alleged.

Contacted, KCC Mayor Moniruzzaman Moni said, "It's natural that the low-lying areas will inundate after a heavy rain."

He said the city corporation is cleaning the drains and canals regularly. "But influential people continue to encroach upon the water bodies, contributing to the waterlogging."

"Everyone including Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Khulna Development Authorities, Khulna Metropolitan Police and people will have to work together to mitigate the waterlogging crisis."

He said they have taken a Tk 6,000 crore master plan where a 35km embankment will be built to save the city from tidal water, which is also a reason behind waterlogging.

Ragib Ali, son denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday turned down bail petitions of industrialist Ragib Ali and his son Abdul Hye who were convicted of forging legal documents for grabbing an endowed property in Sylhet.

A Sylhet court on February 2 this year handed down 7 years' imprisonment to each of the father-son duo for fabricating legal documents of Tarapur Tea Estate.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil disposed of the bail petitions.

Deputy Attorney General Md Bashirullah told The Daily Star that the HC refused to grant bails to the convicts as an appeal against their conviction and sentence is pending with the district and sessions judge's court in Sylhet.

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Housewife faces remand

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received treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, for recording her statement, the police officer said.

Hashem, a resident of Sanchapur village in Mymensingh, got suspicious about torture while visiting his daughter at Swapna's house on Tuesday.

When he took his daughter to his niece's house, she broke down in tears, the father said.

"When I asked why she was crying, she refused to return to her employer's house as the accused used to torture her for silly reasons," Hashem said in the complaint.

The accused used to issue threats and keep a watch on her when the girl talked to her family over the phone so that she could not tell it to others, the father said.

At least 22 incidents of house help torture were reported in different media in six months since January, according to rights body Ain O Salish Kendra. Recently, the torture of 11-year-old Sabina Akhter allegedly by her employer Ayesha Latif, wife of an army officer, raised a social media outcry.

Meanwhile, on July 18, a Dhaka court awarded housewife Nawrin Jahan Nodi with life imprisonment for torturing 11-year-old domestic help Aduri and dumping her into a dustbin in Dhaka nearly four years ago, assuming that she was dead.

Rokeya University ex-VC

FROM PAGE 3
According to the case statement, the accused had appointed 349 officials in exchange for money without the approval of University Grants Commission in 2013.

The ACC filed a charge sheet accusing the five officials on March 19. Four of the charge-sheeted accused were also promoted at a meeting of the university's regent board on Sunday.

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