

Hearing on charge framing deferred till Feb 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in two cases filed over celebrating "fake birthday" on August 15 and undermining the national flag, till February 19.
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Asaduzzaman Nur passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Ziauddin Zia submitted two petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing in the cases.
In the petitions, the lawyer said Khaleda secured bail in the case on July 31 last year. He also sought extension of bail and prayed to the court to adjourn the charge framing till the next scheduled date.
The cases were filed in 2016 accusing the BNP chief of "undermining" the country's map and national flag and celebrating her "fake birthday" on August 15 every year.



This portion of Kutubkhali Khal in the capital's North Jatrobari is completely filled with all sorts of garbage -- a testament to people's carelessness and indifference towards the canal in South Dhaka. Locals say similar situation exists on almost the entirety of the 3km waterbody, resulting in water-logging during the monsoon. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 298 victims in Jan: Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday said on an average, ten girls and women were reportedly subjected to violence each day in the last month, and blamed the situation on criminals going unpunished, terrorism and failure in enforcement of law.
Rekha Chowdhury, acting movement secretary of the women's rights body, made the disclosure during a press conference at its Segunbagicha office in the capital.
BMP collected the data from 15 national dailies throughout the month. According to a statement released by the organisation, 298 women and girls were victims of gender violence in January. Of them, 52 were raped, 22 gang-raped and five killed after rape.
Last year, 3,918 women and girls fell victim to gender violence, according to BMP. Of them, 942 were raped, 182 gang-raped and 63 killed after rape.
"Perpetrators go unpunished mainly because of political influence," Rekha Chowdhury claimed, adding even if an accused is brought under trial, proper investigation is not carried out and culprits are not given exemplary punishment. Violence against women is taking place everywhere -- on roads, in schools, playgrounds, rallies and public places, she said.
Meanwhile, BMP President Ayesha Khanam demanded that the government adopt a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women, and ensure no intervention from any sides during trial proceedings of rape accused.
"Every other sector is developing in Bangladesh; however, authorities could not prevent violence against women -- which is increasing in an alarming rate," she said, adding laws that guide trial of rape cases should be reformed.

Obaidul Quader's

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"A code of conduct was formulated which prohibits electioneering in the classrooms. If we cannot campaign in the classrooms, how are we going to reach the large number of students who don't live in halls?" he asked.
He said they had notified Prof Akhtaruzzaman about Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader's remark on the Ducsu polls and asked to send a rejoinder.
"The remark Obaidul Quader had made is contradictory to DU's autonomy. General secretary of a political party does not have the right to say anything that goes against the autonomy of the university," said Liton.
On February 1, Quader at a press conference at AL's party office in Dhanmondi said like in the past, the polling centres for Ducsu and hall union election would be set up in the halls.
The first election to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) in 28 years will be held on March 11.
At a syndicate meeting on January 29, the DU authorities decided to enhance the polls participation requirement to include up to MPhil students -- aged below 30 -- who enrolled into the university through admission tests for four-year bachelor degrees, but kept the provision of setting up polling centres inside halls intact.

Cancer treatment inaccessible to masses

NGOs demand better facilities for patients
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Lack of a multi-disciplinary approach has made cancer treatment inaccessible to the masses, and it's causing around 75 percent cancer patients to die within a year of diagnosis, speakers at a conference said yesterday.
Demanding a National Cancer Control Council, they also alleged that the government's five-year strategic plan adopted in 2009 has not been implemented fully.
Marking World Cancer day 2019, several non-profit organisations including Community Oncology Foundation of Bangladesh and Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (PHFB) jointly organised the discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity.
Dr Habibullah Talukder, an associate professor of National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH), read out a written statement where he placed a 14-point demand.
There is a need for population-based cancer database instead of existing hospital-based registration system, said Talukder.
1.08 lakh cancer patients die while another 1.5 lakh are being diagnosed every year in Bangladesh, said Talukder, referring to a recent study by International Agency for Research on Cancer.
In the statement, he demanded the establishment of eight cancer centres in eight divisional cities with all treatment facilities.

Long-term loans, civic facilities in rural areas necessary

Speakers say on affordable housing
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ensuring long-term loans with low-interest rates for lower and lower-middle income people, good governance in development works, and civic facilities in rural areas are essential to provide homes for all in the country, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.
The government will have to take initiatives on a massive scale to ensure housing facilities for the poor, said urban planning expert Prof Nazrul Islam at the roundtable held at the Bangla daily Prothom Alo's office in Dhaka.
Prothom Alo and Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) jointly organised the discussion on "Problems in real estate sector and their solutions."
An NGO has already constructed 40 flats on five katha land for slum-dwellers in Dhaka and 100 more such flats are under construction; the government can also take initiatives to create affordable housing for the poor, said Nazrul.
Decentralisation is also crucial to reduce pressure on Dhaka, for which the government has to create efficiently-planned cities and ensure civic facilities in rural areas, he added.
Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon said National Housing Authority (NHA) and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) will have to change their mindset of "doing business" and fulfil their regulating duties properly.
Joint secretary of housing and public works Hasanuzzaman Kamal said they have constructed 533 flats and 10,000 more are under construction for slum dwellers.
Alamgir Shamsul Alamin, president of REHAB, said though in other countries owning a house or flat through long-term loan facilities is fairly convenient, in Bangladesh home loans are not widely promoted.
"If we want to really boost our economy, we have to seriously consider real estate development in other cities and not just Dhaka," said Tanveerul Haque Probal, former president of REHAB.
Associate Editor of Prothom Alo Abdul Qayyum moderated the programme.

Major Rohingya conference in New York this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Free Rohingya Coalition, a leading global activist group led by members of the Rohingya community, is hosting a two-day international conference at Barnard College, New York City on February 8-9, demanding accountability and protection for the minorities in Myanmar.
Academics and activists with expertise on Myanmar, humanitarians and international criminal law practitioners will be joining the event, said the coalition (FRC) in a statement on February 1.
It is being held after more than 17 months since some 750,000 Rohingya fled Rakhine state as Myanmar military conducted a brutal campaign.
In September last year, the UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission found "overwhelming evidence" that Myanmar is committing "gravest crimes in international law."
The most serious of these include genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against national minorities like the Rohingya, Karen, Kachin, Shan, and others

Follow

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Mentioning that the role of police is essential in a democratic country, he said policemen must work abiding by laws and showing respect to people.
The Gono Forum chief said democracy will not be functional if plundering goes on in freestyle. "I would like to remind the police that their constitutional responsibility is to maintain law and order, protect people and their rights."
At the beginning of the programme, Gono Forum leaders and activists paid homage to Saifuddin Ahmed Manik by observing a one-minute silence.
Gono Forum executive presidents Mofizul Islam Kamal, Subrata Chowdhury, presidium members Jaglul Haider Afrik, Asma Amin and Mokabbir Khan, among others, spoke at the programme.



Students and teachers of Dhaka University's linguistics department bring out a "Bhasha Padayatra" (language procession) on DU campus yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Secondary school teachers

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The government in 2015 recruited a total of 5,200 teachers as ACTs for three years, under a World Bank-funded project to improve math, science and English skills of secondary school students. The project ended in December 2017 and their payments were halted, but some 4,500 of them continued teaching following assurance from government that their jobs would become permanent.
On October 22 last year, the ACTs staged a sit-in demonstration, when they announced an indefinite hunger strike, which was foiled by police the next day.
The government last year assured that it would recruit the teachers under another project, but it neither regularised the jobs nor conducted the recruitment, said Mahi Uddin, joint secretary of the association.

Surviving cancer

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therapies and 18 chemotherapies and is in remission now.
Patients who spoke at the programme pointed out that cancer treatment is extremely expensive, and it would be beneficial for them if these costs were somewhat reduced. Many of them also said they had to go abroad at some point for treatment, because some of the tests were unavailable in the country.
CEO of the hospital Faizur Rahman said the hospital is trying its best to reduce treatment costs where it can, but more importantly, to ensure cost transparency so that patients and their families can make an informed decision and plan their treatment.
"Cancer treatment is very expensive but if we can assure patients that the best treatment is possible here in the country, patients will automatically see their costs reduce. They will no longer have to undertake the stress of travel and spend money and time to go abroad," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
Rangamati Division, Rangamati

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Invitation for e-Tender

Tender Not. Memo No. 46.03.84.00.061.17.398.19-660(1/23/4/5/6) Date: 30/01/2019

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.
2	Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).
3	Project name	The project for safe water supply and sanitation for rural areas at different upazila of Rangamati district.
4	e-Tender IDs	ID No. 280867, 280818, 280782, 280773, 280756, 279658.
5	Description of works district:	Construction of water supply through GFS system at different upazila in Rangamati district.
6	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Engr. Anupam Dey, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Rangamati district.
7.	This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal. Interested persons/firms can see details in the: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

Engr. Anupam Dey
Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Rangamati Division, Rangamati

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Police Week 2019

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up with a list of demands. The demands may include recruiting an additional 75,000 members, upgrading the rank badge of inspector general of police to four stars, forming a separate division for police in the home ministry and establishing a separate medical college for them.
The police high-ups may place the demands before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, according to several top officials of the Police Headquarters (PHQ).
The highest policy-making body of police, in a meeting at the PHQ recently, discussed the demands.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. HED/HPNSP/GOB/e-Tender- 814/2018/15 Dated: 03/02/2019

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of work	Last date & time of selling tender document	Tender closing date & time
01	280938	WP-13642/ GDP-4 (GOB)-HED	Construction of Fajilpur 10 Bed Mother & Child Welfare Center at Begumgonj Upazila in Noakhali District	03/03/2019 & 17.00	04/03/2019 & 12.30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Brigadier General M. A. Mohy, psc
Chief Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)

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