

2 Chhatra Odhikar leaders placed on remand

22 others' bail, remand pleas rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two leaders of the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad on a one-day remand each in an attempt-to-murder case filed by the Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The remanded accused are Akhter Hossain, president of the parishad's DU unit, and Akram Hossain, its general secretary.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate passed the order after rejecting separate remand and bail prayers sought for the remaining 22 accused, who were sent back to jail.

Sub-Inspector Md Golam Hossain Khan of Shahbagh Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case, had initially appealed for a seven-day remand.

In the forwarding report, the IO said the accused, including several unnamed people, assaulted the complainants and their associates.

The arrestees needed to be remanded to find out the names and addresses of other fugitives responsible for carrying out the attacks, he added.

Meanwhile, the defence submitted separate petitions, seeking bail along with the cancellation of the remand appeals, claiming it was actually the BCL men who attacked their clients.

But the victims, who were supposed to file cases against their attackers, were instead sued, arrested, and sent to jail, the defence lawyer said.

Upon hearing both sides, the magistrate turned down the defence pleas and placed Akhter and Akram on remand for interrogation.

The court fixed Monday for the hearing on a seven-day remand appeal in the second attempt-to-murder case filed by another BCL man.

On October 7, at least 13 people were injured when BCL men attacked a rally organised by the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the DU campus, marking the third death anniversary of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

A day after the attack, BCL men filed two attempted murder cases against 25 leaders and activists of the parishad. Twenty-four of the accused later landed in jail.

BCL Organising Secretary Nazim Uddin and activist Aminur Rahman filed the cases with Shahbagh Police Station.

Among the detainees were several who were receiving treatment for their injuries from the attack.



A bus picking up and dropping off passengers on the ramp of the Mohakhali flyover in the capital, right next to a DMP sign saying that stopping of any vehicles at that point is forbidden. Such a scene is common near the city's flyovers, and this practice poses risks to passengers getting on and off buses, and obstructs smooth flow of traffic. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ukrainians conserve power

Endure water outages after Russian strikes on plants: EU agrees sanctions over Iranian drones in Ukraine

AGENCIES

Ukrainians conserved electricity and some went without running water yesterday to ease pressure on the grid and allow the repair of infrastructure destroyed by Russian air strikes as Kyiv's forces advanced towards the city of Kherson.

Although Ukraine is successfully prosecuting counter-offensives against Russian forces in the east and the south, it is struggling to protect power generating facilities and other utilities from Russian missile and drone strikes which appear designed to disrupt and demoralise as winter approaches.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of using energy and hunger as weapons.

"Scorched earth tactics will not help Russia win the war. They will only strengthen the unity and resolve of Ukraine and its partners," Scholz told the German parliament.

Russia's defence ministry said it was again targeting Ukrainian energy infrastructure, a strategy it has stepped up since the appointment this month of Sergei Surovikin - nicknamed "General Armageddon" by the Russian media because of his alleged toughness - as commander of what Moscow called its

"special military operation" in Ukraine.

Reuters journalists said five drones hit the southern port city of Mykolaiv yesterday, but it was unclear where they had exploded.

Herman Halushchenko, the energy minister, told Ukrainian TV that Russia had carried out more than 300 air strikes on Ukrainian energy facilities since October 10.

Much of the destruction has been inflicted by Russian drones, which Ukraine and the West say are Iranian-made, something Tehran denies.

The EU yesterday imposed sanctions against three Iranian generals and an arms firm accused of supplying Iranian drones to Russia that have been used to bomb Ukraine.

Meanwhile, people across Ukraine were trying to adapt after the government placed restrictions on electricity usage nationwide for the first time since Russia's February 24 invasion following a barrage of attacks which President Volodymyr Zelensky said had struck a third of all power plants.

Under the new energy-saving regime, power supply across Ukraine was restricted between 7:00 am and 11:00 pm. Ukraine's energy minister Halushchenko said the government was seeking a 20 percent

reduction in energy use.

Cities such as the capital Kyiv and Kharkiv announced curbs on the use of electric-powered public transport such as trolleybuses and reduced the frequency of trains on the metro.

The whole northeast region of Sumy, which borders Russia, said it would go the entire day - from 0700 to 2300 local time - without water, electric transport or street lighting.

"We need time to restore power plants, we need respite from our consumers," Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, head of grid operator Ukrenergo, told Ukrainian TV.

Zelensky explained the need to conserve power in a Wednesday night video address: "There is new damage to critical infrastructure. Three energy facilities were destroyed by the enemy today.

"We assume that Russian terror will be directed at energy facilities until, with the help of partners, we are able to shoot down 100 percent of enemy missiles and drones."

While Ukraine remained tight-lipped about its operations, its military in an early yesterday update on the Kherson region said 43 Russian servicemen had been killed and six tanks and other equipment destroyed.

Two auto-rickshaw drivers murdered

STAR REPORT

Two battery-run auto-rickshaw drivers were killed by unknown assailants in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila and Tangail's Mirzapur upazila on Wednesday.

The dead were identified as Mofazzol Hossain, 25, of Bhaluka's Kaminibhita area; and Mahhub Alam Monin, 42, of Mirzapur's Baoar Kumarjani Purbopara village.

Mofazzol was found dead in Seedstore Aamtoli area on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, while Mahhub's body was recovered from Achhimtala area beside the Dhaka-Tangail highway.

"His body had multiple injury marks. We are assuming he was strangled to death," said Kamal Hossain, OC of Bhaluka police.

Similar injuries were found on Mahhub's body, informed Abu Saleh Mohammad Masud Karim, OC of Mirzapur police.

The victims families have filed cases. (Our correspondents from Tangail and Mymensingh contributed to this report.)

2 students drown in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Joypurhat

Two bodies were recovered by divers of the Fire Service and Civil Defence from a river in Joypurhat yesterday.

The dead Sanjit Kumar, 22, a degree student at Open University, and Tanmay Tazak, 16, a 10th grader at Joypurhat Kashia Bari High School, both residents of Rail Colony, drowned on Wednesday afternoon after they went to immerse the idol of Hindu Goddess Kali with 11 others at Choto Jamuna river.

Locals tried to rescue them after they went missing. "After the locals informed us, we conducted our own search and found the bodies at 10:00am yesterday," said Shawkat Ali, director of Joypurhat fire service.

Man detained for pregnant wife's murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday detained a rickshaw-puller over the murder of his pregnant wife in Mymensingh's Phulbari upazila.

Four-month pregnant Rozina Khatun, 30, wife of detainee Anwarul Islam, was hacked to death allegedly during a feud with her husband yesterday morning, said Abdullah Al Mamun, OC of Phulpur Police Station, quoting neighbours.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy. No case has been filed yet, he added.

One dies of Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person died of Covid-19 in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services.

This brings the total number of deaths to 29,411.

A total of 243 more were infected with the virus against 4,174 tested samples during this period. The positivity rate decreased to 5.82 percent from the previous day's 7.18 percent.

Meanwhile, 468 have recovered from the disease with the recovery rate now at 97.18 percent.

The deceased was a female from Sylhet, aged between 31 and 40.

They may drag on beyond a year

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some steps to overcome the crises, considering them as short-term. We, however, are facing medium and long-term crises... if the problems are not addressed properly, they may lead to a job crisis and then to a political crisis."

Replying to a query, he said the government can take long-term loans from the International Monetary Fund or abroad to expand the fiscal space. The use of funds, however, should be proper.

If funds are misused and capital is siphoned off abroad, the country will face even deeper problems, he pointed out.

Had the government taken reform measures when the economy was in a better shape, it could have got more fiscal space and been in a better position to handle the situation.

"But it [the government] spent over Tk 26,000 crore in the name of capacity charge for power companies in the last fiscal year... Many of the owners of those companies became rich but the government's fiscal space shrank."

Answering a question on food security, Moazzem said the food-importing countries will be in trouble

if they face dollar shortage.

Moreover, the government should focus on increasing food production and storage capacity, as food is now becoming a "political commodity" globally.

"Agricultural subsidies should rise," he added.

About the recent price hike, the CPD said the poor and low-income earners are facing increased hardship, as the living cost has been soaring since the spread of Covid in early 2020.

These people continue to struggle because the burden of rising prices weighs more heavily on their meagre incomes.

It is urgent to revisit and revise the minimum wages of workers in all industries immediately, according to the CPD.

Private companies should consider a higher salary increment for all their employees to help them maintain their living standards.

About the energy crisis, the think-tank said the power and energy sector is suffering the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war and the pandemic. Factories are not getting enough gas and electricity to carry on production as usual.

The industries, especially gas-dependent textile, ceramics, glass, and steel factories, are struggling to meet the production targets.

Recently, oil-exporting countries decided to cut oil production, which may put more pressure on Bangladesh since it is heavily dependent on imported petroleum.

Based on a calculation, the CPD said Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation has been making profits since August.

The BPC should revise down the fuel prices to help reduce inflationary pressure on the domestic market, the think-tank said, adding that Bangladesh took mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce energy use but hasn't given enough attention to renewables-based power generation.

Falling forex reserves continue to be a cause for concern as it depleted to \$36.3 billion as of October 12 due to high import bills and slow growth in remittance earnings. It was \$41.8 billion at the end of fiscal 2021-22, the CPD said.

It recommended ensuring market-based floating exchange rate to help improve the situation.

game to promote the positive sides of the EVMs.

The EC is planning to use Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Imo, and WhatsApp, etc. as part of the campaign.

The DPP also said that positive sides of the EVMs should be highlighted on bus and launch tickets, and at bus, rail, and launch stations and at schools, colleges, universities, madrasas, mosques, tea stalls, barber shops, super shops, drug stores, and other places people frequent.

The EVM issue came to the fore especially after Hasina at an Awami League meeting on May 7 said voting machines should be used in all 300 constituencies.

Sri Lanka, Netherlands enter

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While a crushing disappointment for Namibia, getting a first-ever win was a huge confidence booster for UAE.

Zahoor Khan and Basil Hameed grabbed two wickets each as the UAE reduced Namibia to 69-7 in the 13th over before late fireworks from David Weise (55 off 36 balls) set up a tense last-over finale.

"A great moment for UAE cricket. We had been doing well in patches, but today everything clicked together," said skipper Chundangapoyil Rizwan.

For Sri Lanka, the reigning Asian champions, it was a rocky road to enter the Super 12s, stunned by Namibia in the tournament's opening game before crushing UAE and the Dutch.

"We knew that we could be the

number one in this group, but we missed out in the first match," said Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka.

"The boys have done well though, especially the bowling group. I knew the wicket was two-paced, so we wanted to bowl well in the first 10 overs and then control the game."

After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Sri Lanka started slowly but Charith Asalanka and Mendis knuckled down in a 60-run third-wicket stand to step up the run rate before Asalanka was caught behind off all-rounder Bas de Leede for 31.

Mendis brought up his ninth T20 half-century with a six, then smacked successive sixes in the penultimate over, before he was out going for another boundary, almost carrying his

Truss quits after 6 weeks as UK PM

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warning of "huge damage" to the UK economy, although the pound surged against the dollar after Truss's dramatic announcement.

Speaking outside 10 Downing Street, Truss said she would stay on as prime minister until a successor was chosen to serve as Tory leader.

"We've agreed that there will be a leadership election to be completed within the next week," she said, after senior backbench MP Graham Brady told her the game was up.

"This will ensure that we remain on a path to deliver our fiscal plan and maintain our country's economic stability and national security."

The new leader will be in place in time for new finance minister Jeremy Hunt to deliver a crucial budget statement on October 31.

Hunt has already thrown out nearly all of debt-fuelled Truss's tax promises, which Sunak had warned would bring about higher inflation and market turmoil.

Sunak's warnings were vindicated, and the former finance minister quickly emerged as the bookmakers' favourite. But he remains held in deep suspicion by Johnson loyalists.

Johnson himself was eyeing a comeback, the Times and Telegraph newspapers reported, despite remaining deeply unpopular with many Tory MPs

and the electorate for the many scandals that brought him down.

Another potential runner is senior cabinet member Penny Mordaunt, who narrowly failed to make the Truss-Sunak runoff this summer.

The end for Truss came after a key minister resigned and many Tory MPs rebelled over an important vote in chaotic scenes at the House of Commons late Wednesday.

By yesterday morning, more than a dozen Conservative MPs had publicly urged Truss to resign, after her tax-cutting plans caused a market meltdown during an already severe cost-of-living crisis.

Many more were reported to have submitted letters to Brady calling for Truss to be removed, although party rules would have forbidden another leadership campaign for 12 months.

"The prime minister acknowledges yesterday was a difficult day and she recognises the public wanted to see the government focusing less on politics and more on delivering their priorities," her official spokesman told reporters.

Barely two hours later, she quit, and will fall well short of Tory predecessor George Canning who served 118 days as prime minister in 1827 before dying in office.

Amid Russia's war in Ukraine and growing economic problems, Britain's allies have been observing the tumult

bat.

In reply, Netherlands opener Vikramjit Singh was out for seven off Maheesh Theekshana, then Lahiru Kumara got the big wicket of rising star de Leede for 14.

Opener Max O'Dowd held the Dutch innings together with a superb 53-ball 71, laced with six fours and three maximums, hung on but when captain Scott Edwards was bowled by Binura Fernando after a quick-fire 21, Netherlands slumped from 100-4 to 109-8 and the game was all but over.

The final two places in the Super 12 will be decided after the two matches today as all four Group B teams - with Scotland and West Indies facing Zimbabwe and Ireland, respectively - are still in contention.

with concern, with political instability recurrent since the country voted in 2016 to quit the European Union.

US President Joe Biden vowed to "continue our close cooperation with the UK government" on shared challenges including Ukraine.

"It is important that Great Britain regains political stability very quickly, and that is all I wish," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

For its part, the Russian foreign ministry said Britain has "never known such a disgrace as prime minister".

Events reached a head after what right-wing tabloid The Sun called "a day of extraordinary mayhem" on Wednesday.

Interior minister Suella Braverman left, apparently at Truss's demand after she sent a government document in a personal email.

Govt helping BNP

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About the BNP's allegation that bus strike was declared to obstruct BNP's Khulna rally, Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said the government or the AL did not interfere.

Noting that the transport owners and workers' association called the strike, he said if the association felt insecure due to the rally, what the government or the AL could do?