



Khadija's ordeal lingers on

SC full bench stays HC bail order on the JnU student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University student Khadijatul Kubra's bail order was stayed for four months by a full Supreme Court bench, led by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, yesterday.

The bench also consisted of three other judges -- Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim.

Khadija has been in jail for over 10 months in two Digital Security Act cases filed for hosting a webinar.

The Appellate Division of the SC yesterday stayed for four months a High Court order that had granted Khadija permanent bail.

There were four petitions involving her bail -- all of which were adjourned and stood over for four months by the Appellate Division.

This is the second time it stayed her bail.

On February 16, the High Court granted permanent bail to Khadija but the state then filed two petitions with the SC, challenging the bail order.

Following the petitions, the SC chamber judge stayed the order.

Khadija then submitted two petitions to the Appellate Division, praying that the chamber judge's stay order be vacated, said her lawyer BM Elias Kachi.

He added that the SC chamber judge then sent all the



A boat struggling to pass through an under-construction sluice gate at the estuary of Chaktai Khal (canal). Boats ply this canal to carry goods to different areas. But the sluice gate is so narrow that boatmen find it very difficult to navigate their way through it. The photo was taken in Chattogram city's Firingibazar area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SSC exams in February next year

All subjects to be included after 4yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams for 2024 will be held in the first week of February.

It will be the first time the exams return to their traditional schedule after a four-year disruption caused by the pandemic.

The exams will cover all subjects as per the full syllabus and be graded using the full marking scheme, said a notification issued by the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee yesterday.

Students will also be allocated the customary three hours to complete each exam, added the notification.

Traditionally, SSC exams were held in February, followed by the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams in April. However, the pandemic forced education authorities to revise the schedule.

AL to hold massive rally tomorrow

Plans to gather 'several lakh' people in the capital to counter BNP rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will hold a massive rally in the capital tomorrow in what appears to be a bid to counter the BNP rally.

Dhaka (Dakshin) AL has already asked its 24 thana units and 75 ward units to gather several lakh people for the event.

BNP's event is scheduled to start in Nayapalant at 3:00pm. The party is supposed to formally announce its one point movement demanding resignation of the government and the national election under a caretaker government.

The AL yesterday decided to hold a "peace rally" at the same time in front of the south gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader will be the chief guest of the event and he will give his reaction about BNP's one-point movement.

These decisions were made at the extended meeting of Dhaka (Dakshin) AL.

The ruling party will also hold "peace rallies" in Savar, Dhamrai, Ashulia, Dohar, Nawabganj, and Keraniganj.



Admin sees 3rd reshuffle within a week

8 more districts get new DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed new deputy commissioners in eight districts.

In the last one week, new DCs were appointed in 28 districts.

The public administration ministry yesterday issued a notification, saying that this order would take immediate effect.

Rehena Akter, deputy secretary of the public administration ministry, has been made Manikganj DC, replacing Mohammad Abdul Latif.

Latif has been transferred to the Economic Relations Division.

He was transferred at a time when media reported Health Minister Zahid Maleque and his family's land purchase issue in Manikganj.

The minister and his family members bought 20.65 acres in an area proposed for establishing a government drug factory in Manikganj. The project was

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Ukraine not ready for Nato membership

Biden tells CNN; Kremlin says Ukraine joining the bloc would have negative consequences for Europe

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden told CNN in an exclusive interview that Ukraine is not yet ready for Nato membership, saying that Russia's war in Ukraine needs to end before the alliance can consider adding Kyiv to its ranks.

Biden told CNN's Fareed Zakaria that while discussion of Ukraine's imminent membership in Nato was premature, the US and its allies in Nato would continue to provide President Volodymyr Zelensky and his forces the security and weaponry they need to try to end the war with Russia.

Biden spoke to Zakaria ahead of his weeklong trip to Europe, which includes a Nato summit in Lithuania where Russia's war in Ukraine and Zelensky's push for Nato membership will be among the key issues looming over the gathering.

"I don't think there is unanimity in Nato about whether or not to bring Ukraine into the Nato family now, at this moment, in the middle of a war," Biden said. "For example, if you did that, then, you know -- and I mean what I say -- we're determined to commit every inch of territory that is Nato territory. It's a commitment that we've all made no matter what. If the war is going on, then we're all in

war. We're at war with Russia, if that were the case."

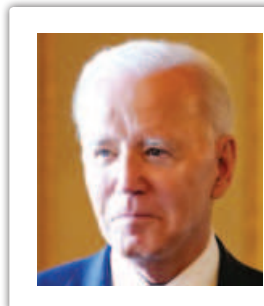
The Kremlin said yesterday that Ukrainian membership of the Nato military alliance would have very negative consequences for Europe's security architecture and that Russia would consider such a step a threat which demanded a harsh response, reports Reuters.

Nato is holding a summit on July 11-12 in Lithuania aimed at showing solidarity with Ukraine.

Biden said that he's spoken to Zelensky at length about the issue, saying that he's told the Ukrainian president the US would keep providing security and weaponry for Ukraine like it does for Israel while the process plays out.

"I think we have to lay out a rational path for Ukraine to be able to qualify to be able to get into Nato," Biden said, noting that he refused Russian President Vladimir Putin's demands before the war for a commitment not to admit Ukraine because the alliance has "an open-door policy."

"But I think it's premature to say, to call for a vote, you know, in now, because there's other qualifications that need to be met, including democratization and some of those issues," Biden said.



Tigers at risk of rare home whitewash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will look to avoid a whitewash as they take on Afghanistan in the third and final ODI at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram today.

The Tigers have already lost the series, having been beaten by 17 runs (DLS Method) in the first ODI and then suffering a 142-run thumping in the second match, in the process losing only their third ODI home series 2016.

The last time Bangladesh were on the receiving end of a whitewash at home was back in 2014 when Sri Lanka beat them 3-0.

The hosts will hope to brush away the batting woes that have pulled them back in both previous contests as the batters have struggled to tackle Fazalhaq Farooqi, and failed to get a read on Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan.

In the bowling scheme of things, the Tigers will look to regroup as they were handed a hammering by Afghan openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran in the second match.

With all the momentum in the bag, an upbeat Afghanistan will be at more ease going into the contest, while the unwanted record of a whitewash at home looms large for the Tigers.



People queue up in front of an OMS truck near the Secretariat to purchase essentials at reduced prices. Sales of OMS products resumed here on Sunday after Eid. Due to soaring prices of essentials, the number of people buying OMS products is increasing. The photo was taken around 11:30am yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Alien planets could be trapped at edge of Solar System

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Scientists have predicted that there could be large planets the size of Jupiter or Uranus likely trapped at the edge of our solar system, much farther than the hypothetical planet X.

Such a planet from outside the Solar System could be trapped in the Oort Cloud -- a theoretical shell of debris marking the gravitational edge of the Sun and its planets.

Researchers, including those from CNRS in France, say there could be more interstellar objects in this edge of the Solar System than previously thought.

Scientists ran complex computer simulations to assess how solar systems tend to cast off large planets, and also how a planetary system could catch one such "orphan" planet.

While a cast-off planet requires a kinetic energy threshold to leave the pull of its star, it also needs a significant amount of energy for another star system to trap it in.

Simulations suggested that a tiny fraction of such celestial encounters may end up with a star's gravitational field catching a cast-away "orphan" planet and claiming it as its own.

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