



Pro-BNP, AL lawyers cause ruckus at HC

Two judges walk out during hearing on Tarique’s statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judges of a High Court bench left the courtroom amid chaos following heated conversations between pro-BNP and Awami League-backed lawyers yesterday over the court’s order to remove statements of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman from social media.

A lawyer allegedly even threw a book, containing the HC’s cause list, towards the judges – Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Khairul Alam.

Additional police personnel were deployed outside the courtroom on the first floor of the HC’s annex building to avoid any further untoward incident.

The incident took place when the HC bench was hearing a rule over publishing Tarique’s statements.

The rule was issued after a writ petition was filed eight years ago questioning whether it was legal to publish his statements in print, electronic and social media.

Earlier in the day, HC bench directed the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to immediately remove Tarique’s statements from social media, including YouTube and Facebook.

It also dropped the petition, including the rule, from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Part of this house has been blown up in an explosion caused by gas leak in Chattogram city’s South Halishahar yesterday. The blast left one dead and another injured. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

GRAMEEN TELECOM 18 new cases filed against its chairman, two others

They’re accused of violating labour law

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen fresh cases have been filed against Grameen Telecom chairman and two others for violating labour laws.

The statements of the cases did not mention any names of the accused, only their designations.

Grameen Telecom chairman is Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, said one of his lawyers Khaja Tanvir Ahmed. The company’s managing director and chairman of the Trustee Board for the participation fund and welfare fund have also been sued.

On August 27, seventeen former employees and one incumbent employee of the company lodged

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Kazi Shahid Ahmed passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Shahid Ahmed, a leading businessperson, author, publisher and sports organiser, died at a city hospital yesterday evening. He was 82.

He died of old age complications, said a source at the English daily Dhaka Tribune. His son Kazi Anis Ahmed is the publisher of the daily.

Born in 1940 in Jashore, Shahid was the founding chairman of the Gemcon Group. He was also the founder of the country’s first-ever organic tea estate.

He was the publisher of the now defunct Bangla daily Ajker Kagoj and weekly Khobor Kagaj.

The Ajker Kagoj introduced a new era in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

FLOOD IN KURIGRAM

Around 30,000 still stranded

Situation unchanged; Teesta washes away half of 60-metre flood protection dam in Rajarhat

STAR REPORT

At least 30,000 people of Kurigram are currently marooned as the flood situation in the district’s Rajarhat, Ulipur and Chilmaria upazilas remains largely unchanged, according to the district relief and rehabilitation office.

The Teesta was still flowing above the danger level in the northern district, despite less rainfall and reduced flow of water from upstream India.

As of noon yesterday, the river was 9cm above the danger level at Kaunia Point of the Teesta Barrage, down from 30cm Sunday morning.

However, it was flowing up to 12cm above the danger level at several other points, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

The Teesta crossed the danger mark on Friday.

In Rajarhat’s Burirhat area, half of a 60-metre WDB flood control dyke collapsed Sunday night.

The remaining half is also at risk of getting washed away in the strong currents.

WDB officials have been trying to protect it by dumping geo bags.

Thousands of families living near the embankment are now at risk of facing inundation and subsequent erosion.

Abdullah Al Mamun, executive engineer of Kurigram WDB, told The Daily Star, “We have already informed the matter to higher authorities. The new dyke will be constructed once the necessary allocation is available.”

Majibur Rahman, 68, a farmer in Burirhat, said, “The dyke was built in 1999. We never thought it would collapse.”

Besides, 50 houses went into the river and 500

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Don’t hatch conspiracy Quader tells BNP leaders visiting Singapore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned the BNP of stern action if the latter hatches any plot or does excesses in the name of politics.

“The conspirators are active and so are we. If they do excesses, we will not spare them,” he said while addressing a rally at the auditorium of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the National Mourning Day.

AL’s science and technology affairs sub-committee organised the event titled “rally for development and peace”.

About some BNP leaders’ visit to Singapore, Quader said, “They have gone to Singapore together and I heard that a Jatiya Party leader also joined them. Talks are going on politics both at home and abroad. Talks are good. Do politics, but don’t get involved in criminal activities, don’t hatch conspiracy.”

No movement ever becomes successful

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

DENGUE CASES FROM AUG 20 TO 26

Over 56pc deaths due to shock syndrome

Shows DGHS data; 8 more die from the virus

HELEMUL ALAM

Around 56.79 percent of the 71 dengue patients, who passed away between August 20 and August 26, died of shock syndrome while 10.4 percent died of expanded dengue syndrome, according to data of the Directorate General of Health Services.

Some 3.4 percent of the deceased had comorbidity while 2.3 percent died from dengue hemorrhagic fever, shows the DGHS data released on Sunday.

The health directorate found 44 percent of the 71 patients died within a day after hospitalisation while 35 percent passed away within two to three days, 8 percent within four to five days, 10 percent between six and 10 days, and 3 percent after more than 10 days.

The World Health Organisation in 2012 had coined the term “expanded dengue syndrome” to describe patients that do not fit into either DHF (dengue hemorrhagic fever) or DSS (dengue shock syndrome) but show atypical symptoms in vital organ systems such as the cardiovascular system, neurological system, kidneys, gut, and hematological system.

Meanwhile, eight more dengue patients died in 24 hours preceding yesterday morning, taking this year’s total dengue fatalities to 556, said a DGHS release.

At least 2,331 dengue cases were reported in the 24-hour period, raising

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Second-time dengue infection with a different strain and late hospitalisation are among the reasons for the rise in deaths.

HM Nazmul Ahsan
Associate Professor, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital

Pakistan court drops Imran Khan’s sedition case

Ruling on graft appeal due today

REUTERS, Islamabad

A Pakistani court yesterday quashed a sedition case against former prime



minister Imran Khan, a relief for the embattled leader whose appeal against conviction in a separate corruption case will be decided on by a high court today.

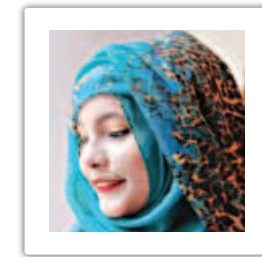
The 70-year-old former cricket hero had filed an appeal in the Islamabad High Court, seeking to suspend his three-year sentence on corruption charges handed to him earlier this month, saying he was convicted without being given a right to defence.

“Judgement is reserved,” his lawyer Naeem Panjutha said in a post on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter about the graft case, adding that the court will announce the ruling today.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

DSA CASE

Amnesty calls for Khadija’s immediate release



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International called on Bangladeshi authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Khadijatul Kubra, who has been jailed for a year under the Digital Security Act (DSA) for hosting a webinar.

In a statement yesterday, Amnesty said Khadijatul’s year-long detention and repeated denial of bail are a “travesty and flagrant violation of the right to freedom of expression in Bangladesh.”

Khadijatul Kubra should be studying for her degree

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Lamia, a dengue patient, is on an IV drip at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital and her father is taking her to a lab for a blood test yesterday. The five-year-old from the capital’s Shewrapara got admitted to the hospital on Sunday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Neolithic village found in France after 150yrs of research



AFP, Val-Des-Marais

Archaeologists working a vast Neolithic site in northeast France have uncovered what they say is the last piece of the puzzle – traces of a permanent settlement.

The settlement was unearthed at the vast Neolithic site of Marais de Saint-Gond, giving rare insights into its social organisation 150 years after the first flints were discovered.

“This is the last piece of the jigsaw we were missing,” said Remi Martineau, a researcher at France’s national centre for scientific research (CNRS), who located the village with his team this summer.

In Marais de Saint-Gond in northeastern France, 15 large flint mines have already been identified on 450 hectares, as well as 135 hypogeum – constructed underground chambers.