



## Allow Khaleda to go abroad within 48hrs

BNP gives govt 'ultimatum'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to release and send party chairperson Khaleda Zia abroad for better treatment.

"She [Khaleda] is very sick. Doctors said that she needed to be sent abroad immediately for better treatment. Otherwise, it would be tough to save her life," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said while issuing the ultimatum at a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

He said the government would have to take the responsibility if something happened.

Regarding the law minister's statement that Khaleda's family must apply to the home ministry to send her abroad, Fakhrul said the family sent a letter which asked for her release and for her to be sent abroad.

"Now you [law minister] are telling a lie. I wish your good sense will prevail," he said.

Mentioning that he visited Khaleda in hospital, a teary-eyed Fakhrul said, "I never saw tears in her eyes even when she was in jail. She is very sick. She needs treatment."

The former premier has been suffering

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BNP activists join a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan Central office yesterday demanding that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia be released and allowed to go abroad for better treatment. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, among others, spoke at the event organised by its Dhaka south and north city units.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## KHALEDA'S TREATMENT ABROAD

### It's up to court to give approval

#### Says home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The permission for taking BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia abroad for treatment will have to come from the court, not from the home ministry, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

The minister's statement comes after Law Minister Anisul Huq on Saturday said an application must be submitted to the home ministry to allow Khaleda to go abroad for better treatment.

"It is not a matter of the permission from the home ministry. As it's a matter of the court's jurisdiction, the home ministry has nothing to do without the court's permission," Asaduzzaman said while talking to reporters at the Secretariat.

"Khaleda Zia is a convict in a case and the prime minister, after suspending the conviction, allowed her to receive treatment from the best doctors at home," he said.

"The BNP normally seeks permission from the home ministry which is later forwarded to the law ministry for legal explanation. If the law ministry thinks it is a matter of the court's jurisdiction, the application will be sent to the court."

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## CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY

### BCL men beat up journo over news report

Student body dissolves campus committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chattogram University correspondent of Prothom Alo was assaulted yesterday allegedly by Chhatra League activists for reporting on clashes between two groups of the pro-Awami League student body.



Mosharrif Shah

The correspondent, Mosharrif Shah, has been admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for treatment.

Repeated clashes between groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League men at the university have made headlines in recent days.

The BCL in a statement issued in the afternoon said its Chattogram University committee has been dissolved. As the groups chased each other several times later in the day, police were deployed on the campus to calm the situation.

Witnesses said Rejaul Hoque Rubel, president of the CU Chhatra League, along with more than 15 others beat Mosharrif up on the campus around 11:00am.

Several students rescued Mosharrif and

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## US dollar now even costlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banks yesterday raised the US dollar rate by Tk 0.50 for remittances, export proceeds and import payments.

The Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (Bafeda) and the Association of Bankers' Bangladesh (ABB) increased the rate at a virtual meeting held last night.

They have agreed to buy the US dollar at Tk 110 and sell them at Tk 110.50 from Monday.

As a result, remitters and exporters will get Tk 110 per dollar while banks will charge importers Tk 110.50.

The inter-bank exchange rate has been set at Tk 110.50, which was Tk 85.8 in January last year.

The US currency has been gaining against the taka for the past one and a half years amid depleting foreign exchange reserves of Bangladesh, driven by higher import bills against lower-than-expected remittance and export receipts.

## KILLING OF SIKH LEADER

### Canada received 'Five Eyes' intel against India

Says report quoting US envoy to Canada

NDTV ONLINE

A top United States diplomat has confirmed that there was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that had prompted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's offensive allegation about Indian agents' involvement in the killing of a Sikh leader in Canada, according to a media report on Saturday.

There was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that informed Trudeau's public allegation of a "potential" link between the government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen, CTV News Channel, Canada's 24-hour all-news network, reported quoting the US Ambassador to Canada David Cohen.

"Five Eyes" network is an intelligence alliance consisting of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. It is both surveillance-based and signals intelligence (SIGINT).

Trudeau had on September 18 made an explosive allegation of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, in Surrey in British Columbia on June 18.

India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated." It also expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case. In 2020, India designated the Sikh leader Nijjar, 45, as a terrorist.

The CTV's report is based on its exclusive interview on CTV's programme 'Question Period with Vassy Kapelos' that was set to air yesterday.

## Bangladesh 22nd among conflict-ridden countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh ranks 22nd among the world's 50 most conflict-ridden countries, according to an index by a US nonprofit.

The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) came up with the index based on data from over 240 countries and territories between July 2022 and July 2023.

It ranked 50 countries in terms of their levels of conflict in terms of deadliness, danger to civilians, geographic diffusion and armed group fragmentation, according to the ACLED website.

It categorises the degree of conflict as extreme, high, and turbulent.

Myanmar tops the list with a rating of extreme, followed by Syria and Mexico.

Ukraine, Nigeria, Brazil, Yemen, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia are in the top 10.

Bangladesh is in the "high" category on the list. India ranks 16th and Pakistan 19th.

## US VISA POLICY

### Media may come under its purview: Haas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas yesterday said media in Bangladesh may also come under the purview of the US visa policy.

He came up with the remark in an exclusive interview with Channel 24 at its office, reports the television channel.

"We are applying the policy in a balanced way against anyone regardless of whether they are pro-government, whether they are in the opposition, or whether they are in law enforcement, whether they are in the judiciary, whether it's the media," said Haas.

"But it is based on behaviours. It's not based on anything else but their actions."

On Friday, the US Department of State said it was taking steps to impose visa restrictions on Bangladeshi individuals responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh.

"These individuals include members of law enforcement, the ruling party, and the political opposition," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller in a statement.

On May 24 this year, Washington announced the visa policy on Bangladesh against the backdrop of the alleged irregularities in the 2014 and 2018 elections.

Haas in the interview said the US fully supports Bangladesh to be a democratic society and the visa restriction is a message intended to everyone that they want free and fair elections.

"It is the responsibility of the Bangladesh government. We said we want to support you, and so we don't welcome people, who undermine elections and democracy, to our country," he said.

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## BUSINESS

### Will trade in rouble be beneficial?

Russia has included Bangladesh on its list of friendly and neutral countries, a development that would allow the latter's banks and brokers to settle trade transactions in the rouble.

But experts and bankers say Bangladesh might not benefit from trading arrangements in the currency since the country's rouble holding is negligible at present.

One analyst even says if Bangladesh trades in the rouble, the country's reserve will decline further since it would lose the US dollar.

STORY ON B1



Khdrachapri Government Primary School's building has been partially devoured by the Jamuna in Pabna's Belkuchi upazila. While the school was struck by erosion about three months ago, it still remains in a dilapidated state. Inset, students attend classes in a makeshift tin-room, arranged by the school authorities. They will continue classes there until the school building is repaired and ready to be used again. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nasa's first asteroid sample parachutes into Utah desert

REUTERS

A Nasa space capsule carrying the largest soil sample ever scooped up from the surface of an asteroid streaked through Earth's atmosphere yesterday and parachuted into the Utah desert, delivering the celestial specimen to scientists.



The gumbdrop-shaped capsule, released from the robotic spacecraft OSIRIS-REx as the mothership passed within 67,000 miles of Earth hours earlier, touched down within a designated landing zone west of Salt Lake City on the US military's vast Utah Test and Training Range.

The final descent and landing, shown on a Nasa livestream, capped a six-year joint mission between the US space agency and the University of Arizona. It marked only the third asteroid sample, and by far the biggest, ever returned to Earth for analysis, following two similar missions by Japan's space agency ending in 2010 and 2020.