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'Govt wants Khaleda dead' Fakhru alleges she's being denied treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru al Islam Alamgir accused the government of wanting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia dead by denying her proper treatment.

Awami League leaders are telling lies and wrongly interpreting the law about the process to send Khaleda abroad for treatment, Fakhru said while addressing a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltn central office yesterday.

BNP organised the rally as part of its 15-day programme to press home the demand for holding the next election under a non-partisan administration.

Fakhru alleged that the government was spreading lies about Khaleda's health out of fear. "Because if Khaleda Zia gets well and returns, crores of people will take to the streets at her call."

"When you [Hasina] had a problem with your ears, you went to America on parole. Then why are you not letting Khaleda go abroad for treatment?"

The BNP leader said the government is not letting Khaleda go abroad for treatment for political vengeance. "They

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Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, the farmers' wing of the BNP, at a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltn central office yesterday. They demanded resignation of the government, national election under a neutral interim government, and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia be freed.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BNP plotting to foil next nat'l polls

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleging that the BNP is plotting to foil the upcoming national election, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday reiterated that the polls would be held as per the constitution, and no evil force could obstruct it.

"By questioning the legitimacy of the electoral process and taking a stand against the democratic process, the BNP is trying to disrupt the country's progress. The people are united against any attempts to unconstitutionally interfere in the election," he said in a statement to the media.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, took a dig at BNP leaders' "provocative statements".

He said, "In 2014, the BNP was responsible for a number of arson attacks that killed and injured hundreds of innocent people. These attacks were an attempt to foil the election."

Labelling the BNP as an "illegal" political party, Quader said, "The party was founded by Ziaur Rahman, who seized power at gunpoint in 1975 in an unconstitutional and illegal way.

HSIA 3RD TERMINAL Installation of all equipment nearly complete

Says Caab chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost all equipment, including check-in counters, immigration counters, escalators, lifts, baggage handling system, and several boarding bridges, have been installed at the under-construction third terminal of the Dhaka airport, which will get a soft launch on October 7.

"Overall, 89 percent works of the third terminal mega project have been completed as of today [yesterday]," said Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

Speaking at a press conference at the third terminal yesterday, he said around 10 percent work of the project, which include some interior works, integration, calibration, and functional test of all equipment, will start after the soft launch to make the third terminal operational.

After completing all work, the third terminal will be fully opened to passengers by the end of next year, Mafidur added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to soft launch the terminal. The government is implementing the project to improve the quality of passenger services to international standard and turn the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport into a regional aviation hub.

Caab chief said as per the contract, the construction of the third terminal building was scheduled to be completed by April next year at a cost of around Tk 21,398 crore.

But the construction would be completed around

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Trump reaped over \$1b from fraud

Lawyers for NY state attorney general tell judge as civil trial begins

REUTERS, New York

Donald Trump sat in a Manhattan courtroom yesterday and listened to a New York state lawyer accuse him of generating more than \$1 billion by lying about his real estate empire, claims the former president called a "scam."

The trial in a downtown Manhattan courtroom case concerns accusations by state Attorney General Letitia James that Trump inflated his assets and his own net worth from 2011 to 2021 to obtain favourable bank loans and lower insurance premiums.

James is seeking at least \$250 million in fines, a permanent ban against Trump and his sons Donald Jr and Eric from running businesses in New York and a five-year commercial real estate ban against Trump and the Trump Organization.

Trump looked on with his arms crossed as Kevin Wallace, a lawyer in James' office, called Trump "materially inaccurate" in describing his finances to banks and insurers.

"This isn't business as usual, and this isn't how sophisticated parties deal with each other," Wallace said in his opening statement. "These are not victimless crimes."

The attorney general has said

Trump overvalued assets including his Trump Tower penthouse apartment in Manhattan, his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and various office towers and golf clubs, and inflated his own fortune by as much as \$2.2 billion.

Christopher Kise, a lawyer for Trump, countered in his opening statement that the financials for Trump and the Trump organization were entirely legal.



"It is one of the most highly successful brands in the world, and he has made a fortune literally being right about real estate investments," Kise said. "There was no intent to defraud, there was no illegality, there was no default, there was no breach, there was no reliance from the banks, there were no unjust profits, and there were no victims."

No rallies without approval

DMP commissioner warns of action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will take action if any political programme is organised without permission, said newly appointed Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Habibur Rahman.

He made the comment at a press conference at the DMP media centre yesterday in response to a question about BNP's declaration that it would hold rallies without permission.

"Law and order is our main concern; we won't allow any incident to happen that would harm public security and safety centring the national polls," said the commissioner.

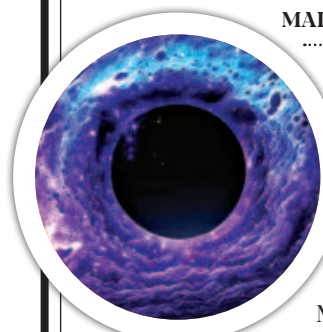
Regarding US visa restrictions ahead of the upcoming polls, the DMP boss said it would not affect the DMP.

"I don't think Bangladesh Police has anything to worry

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Astronomers confirm first evidence of black hole spinning

MAIL ONLINE



Astronomers have for the first time found direct evidence of a black hole spinning.

The discovery was made by studying powerful jets of energy beamed from the first black hole ever imaged by humanity, which sits at the heart of the neighbouring Messier 87 galaxy.

Scientists had long believed that the rotation of a black hole powers these jets, but only now has the theory been proven. It is an "exciting" breakthrough that reinforces Einstein's theory of relativity and could help unravel the mystery of the universe's most enigmatic objects.

M87 is a radio galaxy located 55 million light-years from Earth which has a supermassive black hole 6.5 billion times more massive than the Sun at the centre.

This was snapped by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) four years ago and described as a fuzzy orange "donut", only to be rebranded a "skinny ring" when the image was enhanced by artificial intelligence.

"After the success of black hole imaging in this galaxy with the EHT, whether this black hole is spinning or not has been a central concern among scientists," said Dr Kazuhiro Hada, of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan and co-author of the new study.

Poet assaulted in Kurigram He points finger at local Jamaat activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Lalmoirhat

Poet Radhapada Roy suffered injuries after being assaulted at Madhaikhal village in Nageshwari upazila of Kurigram on Saturday.

He is currently undergoing treatment at Nageshwari Upazila Health Complex.

Radhapada, an author of at least 100 spiritual poems, filed a case against two persons, Kodu Mia, 42, and his younger brother Rofiqul Islam, 36, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nageshwari Police Station Ashiqur Rahman.

Radhapada said, "I still don't know why I was attacked. The attacker has no enmity with me. Kodu and Rofiqul are residents of our nearby village Kachuarpar. They don't like music. They are supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami."

"When Rofiqul was beating me with the bamboo stick, he was saying 'Nothing will happen if I beat a Hindu poet'," he added.

According to police, the poet went to a canal near his home on Saturday morning to fish. As per Kodu Mia's instruction, Rofiqul beat the poet with a bamboo stick and fled the scene after locals rushed in. Locals rescued injured Radhapada and admitted him to the local hospital.

OC Ashiqur said police were trying to arrest the

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Radhapada Roy



Six fishermen on two boats cast their fishing net, hoping for a good haul, at a canal in Khulna's Terokhada upazila. Many fishermen of the upazila's Bamondanga village venture out to different waterbodies nearby to catch a variety of fish -- tengra, taki and prawns -- and make a living. Each of them earn around Tk 400-500 per day by selling the fish. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

BUSINESS

External debt nears \$100b

Bangladesh's overall external debt stock nearly hit the \$100-billion mark in June driven by increasing appetite for funds from both public and private sectors, central bank figures showed. The debt buildup, still within the threshold recommended by the International Monetary Fund, is becoming a headache in view of the unfavourable developments on various economic fronts.

The overall external debt rose 3.35 percent to \$98.93 billion in June. It was \$95.7 billion in March, central bank data showed.

STORY ON B1