



KHALEDA’S TREATMENT

Legal issues being used as pretext

Says BNP about govt decision not to allow her to go abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government is depriving party Chairperson Khaleda Zia of treatment and pushing her towards death on the pretext of legal complications.

Speaking at a press conference, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said denying treatment to a former prime minister, who is a seriously ill senior citizen, is not only inhuman but also a violation of the constitution.

“The consequences of pushing a political opponent towards death will never be good,” he said at the party chairperson’s Gulshan office.

Fakhrul urged the government to allow Khaleda to go abroad for treatment as having treatment is a citizen’s fundamental right.

“Otherwise, the government will be held responsible for illegal, inhumane, SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



A woman, with a child in her arms, walks across the Shoilmari river, which is barely ankle-deep during low tide, in Khulna’s Batiaghata upazila. Though during high tide, the water level can go up to seven feet, the river is slowly dying, causing residents to be in fear of floods. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Tigers land in Dharamshala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After completing their warm-up phase in Guwahati with a 50 percent success rate, the Bangladesh team reached Dharamshala yesterday for their first two matches in the ICC ODI World Cup.

The Tigers will begin their World Cup campaign against Afghanistan on October 7. Shakib Al Hasan and his troops will then take on defending champions England in their second fixture on October 10.

In their two warm-up matches, Bangladesh defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets on September 29 but lost their second practice match against England by four wickets in Duckworth-Lewis method (DLS).

This is the second time the Tigers have been to Dharamshala to play at the picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Stadium. They had previously played three first round matches of the ICC Twenty20 World Cup 2016 at the venue, where they won against the Netherlands and Oman while the match against Ireland got washed out.

Meanwhile, the ICC on Monday SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Listed criminal ‘took part’ in police raid

Pictures of the incident go viral; Natore SP says probe body to be formed soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A listed criminal had recently accompanied two police officers arresting a suspect in Natore.

In photos and a video footage that went viral on social media, Golam Kibria Selim, who is accused in at least six cases of battery and named in a police list of local criminals, is seen with Sub-inspector Mintu.

In the photos, Selim is seen standing next to the arrested suspect who is in handcuffs. Selim is grabbing one arm of the arrestee while SI Mintu is grabbing the other. The other officer who participated in the operation is Sub-inspector Ariful Islam.



Selim

Both officers were transferred from the police station on September 29, amid criticisms over their conduct.

Several other men known as Selim’s associates were also seen in the photos taken during the incident that, according to locals, took place on September 28.

Awami League leaders and activists in the district also expressed outrage over the matter.

Contacted, Tariqul Islam, superintendent of police in the district, said police sometimes take help from locals to catch suspects, but it is unexpected for a policeman to take help from a listed criminal.

He added that a committee will be formed to investigate the matter. If the officers are found guilty, they will face departmental action.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

ACC asks Prof Yunus to appear tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus and seven others have been asked to be present at the Anti-Corruption Commission office tomorrow to present their statements in a money laundering and embezzlement case.

The seven others are Grameen Telecom Managing Director Nazrul Islam, directors Parvin Mahmud, Nazneen Sultana, Muhammad Shahjahan, Nurjahan Begum, and SM Hajjatul Islam Latifi, and former managing director Ashrafur Hasan.

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan issued the letters on September 27.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah yesterday told reporters that an investigator requested Prof Yunus to appear at the ACC office. “If he comes [to the ACC], it’s good; if he doesn’t, it’s up to him. I



SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

S’PORE MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE Value of seized assets stands at \$2b now

More arrests, seizures likely

REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore said it was expecting more arrests and seizures as the Asian financial hub investigates one of its biggest cases of money laundering, in which the value of assets seized now stands at S\$2.8 billion (\$2 billion).

Simultaneous raids in mid-August by authorities of the city state known for its low crime rate led to the arrest of 10 foreigners and the seizure of luxury properties, cars, gold bars, designer handbags and jewellery worth S\$1 billion.

“This case is a reminder that even the most stringent preventive measures can be circumvented by determined criminals,” Josephine Teo, the second minister for home affairs, told parliament yesterday.

The government would set up an inter-ministerial panel to review the anti-money laundering regime, reflecting learning points drawn from the case, she added.

But Singapore’s arrests and

investigations showed its system was able to detect suspicious individuals and activities, Teo said.

She was one of three cabinet ministers responding to almost 60 questions filed by lawmakers on the case.

The government said it was inspecting financial institutions

involved in the case and would launch enforcement action against any of them, and their staff, found to have breached central bank requirements.

The case had been on the radar of police since 2021, after the filing of suspicious

transaction reports by financial institutions, Teo said.

She dismissed as “completely untrue” rumours that pressure from authorities in China had spurred efforts to roll up the operation.

“We started investigations because we suspected that offences had been committed in Singapore,” Teo added. “Once we confirmed our suspicions, we acted.”

The case had been on the radar of police since 2021, after the filing of suspicious transaction reports by financial institutions, Teo said.

Trio win Nobel in physics for work on electrons



Agostini



Krausz



L’Huillier

REUTERS, Stockholm

Scientists Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L’Huillier won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics for creating ultra-short pulses of light that can give a snapshot of changes within atoms, potentially leading to better detection of disease.

The prize-awarding academy said their studies had given humanity new tools for exploring the movement of electrons inside atoms and molecules, a phenomenon that was long thought impossible to trace.

Changes in electrons occur in a few tenths of an attosecond – a unit so short that there are as many attoseconds in one second as there have been seconds since the birth of the universe.

“The ability to generate attosecond pulses of light has opened the door on a tiny, extremely tiny, time scale and it’s also opened the door to the world of electrons,” said Eva Olsson, member of the Nobel Prize in Physics Selection Committee, yesterday.

There are potential applications of the findings in many different areas. In electronics, it is important to understand and control how electrons behave in a material.

The field also holds promise in areas such as a new in-vitro diagnostic technique to detect characteristic

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Solar airship targets non-stop flight

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A French company is aiming to complete a non-stop circumnavigation of the Earth using a solar-powered airship in a bid to test a new form of zero-emission travel.

France-based Euro Airship is building the Solar Airship One with the aim of completing the round-the-world journey without fossil fuels in less than a month.

Flying at an altitude of around 20,000 feet (6,000 metres), the futuristic craft uses a casing of solar panels, batteries, and hydrogen fuel cells to deliver power day and night, making it theoretically possible to fly forever.

“The good thing is that we’re not doing this world tour flight just for an exhibition or for an adventure... There is an additional process after that for our technology,” French aerobatic pilot Dorine Bourmeton, one of the pilots of the airship, told Flying magazine.



A road being constructed after hills were illegally cut in Bayezid Taltala area of the port city. Around half a kilometer was already constructed when this photo was taken last Wednesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Lawyer’s aide dies in DB custody Family alleges he was tortured to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A lawyers’ assistant died in police custody in Bogura last night.

A team of the Detective Branch of police picked up Habibur Rahman, 42, and took him to the DB office. They later admitted him to Bogura Mohammad Ali Hospital around 7:00pm. He died around two hours later.

Habibur, a resident of Chakjora village in Bogura’s Shahjahanpur upazila, was the joint secretary of the Bogura Advocates’ Assistant Association.

His family members alleged that detectives picked up Habibur from the Bogura court premises without any arrest warrant and tortured him to death at the DB office.

Snigdha Aktar, additional superintendent of police (administration and finance), said Habibur was picked up as he was a murder suspect.

As he fell sick, police admitted him to the hospital where he died, the official added.

Atiqur Rahman, medical officer at the Bogura Mohammad Ali Hospital, told reporters that Habibur was unconscious when police took him to the hospital at 6:55pm.

“Police told us that he was suffering from chest pain. We gave him basic treatment. He passed away around 8:45pm,” he added.