

COMMENT

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Today democracy is limping along in Bangladesh but it is alive. It is also aware of liberal democracy beckoning in the horizon. With umpteen attempts on her life democracy has not perished nor is in comatose, writes **Hasnat Abdul Hye** in *Two Cheers for Democracy*

**Mohammad Badrul Ahsan's** Are we losing the sense of the Deep?

SOUTHASIA

Mansoor Mamoon writes on upcoming Sri Lankan parliamentary polls in *olls: A Challenge for Democracy*

**Ekram Kabir's** Right to Respect and Gratitude

FOCUS

Syed Muhammad Hussain's *The Ganges Basin Development: An Actionable Proposal*

ENVIRONMENT

Saleemul Huq's *Climate change negotiations: What can Bangladesh do?*

PEOPLE

Vice President and Controller of the World Bank Fayed Choudhury talks to Navine Murshid

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## Police, BDR put up road barricade

# Khaleda prevented from visiting flood-hit Kolaroa

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 5: The authorities today prevented BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia from visiting flood- hit Kolaroa in Satkhira district.

The former prime minister abandoned her programme and returned to Jessor after remaining stranded for about three hours at Jhauddanga, three miles from Kolaroa, as police and BDR blocked the road by placing buses and trucks haphazardly.

At Kolaroa, police fired tear gas shells to disperse agitated BNP activists who protested the authorities' action.

Police also damaged the podium erected in front of Kolaroa Pilot High School for Khaleda Zia's scheduled public meeting.

Police and BDR intercepted her convoy at Jhauddanga on the Satkhira-Jessore road at about 11am on the plea of security for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Kolaroa at 2pm.

Hundreds of buses, trucks, cars and other transports were stranded on both sides of the road, causing sufferings to thousands of people.

Khaleda Zia's visit to Kolaroa was earlier scheduled to begin at 3pm. When she came to know about the Prime Minister's programme, she advanced her timing, party sources said.

## Kolaroa incident BNP to stage protest today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the government for preventing party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia from visiting flood affected areas in Satkhira and distributing relief.

BNP will stage demonstrations across the country today protesting government's action in Kolaroa. In Dhaka, the city BNP will organise a protest rally at Muktangan today at 4pm.

He said Khaleda Zia was going to flood-hit Kolaroa in Satkhira from Jessor yesterday morning as per her earlier announced programme.

Police and BDR obstructed her at Jhauddanga, three miles from Kolaroa thana, at about 11am. Bhuiyan told a press conference.

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## Floodwaters threaten 2 crucial embankments in Satkhira

Twenty-one more villages inundated

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 5: Flood engulfed twenty-one more villages in eight unions under two upazilas of the district in the last 24 hours ending at 5pm today.

The unions are Kulia, Parulla, Sadar under Debbata upazila and Kushkhali, Agardar, Bhomra, Shibpur and Ghona under Sadar upazila.

Thousands of people in those unions have been rendered homeless. According to official sources, 32 unions including twelve under Kalaroa thana, 14 unions under Sadar, three under Tala and three other unions under Tevaga thana have so far gone under water.

Waters rolling down from

across the border have submerged different points of Satkhira-Bhomra, Debbata-Shakhipur and Purulia roads. Satkhira-Bhomra Road is still snapped and activity at Bhomra landport also remained suspended. Roadlink between Satkhira Sadar and Kalliganj may be snapped anytime.

Officials feared the collapse of the dams would inundate more than half of the district headquarters and two other upazilas.

Police and flood control room officials said hundreds of volunteers were struggling to repair the breaches of Machholi embankment near the Betra river along the eastern part of the town.

A similar scene was witnessed

taken shelter in 120 relief camps in Kolaroa, 83 in Sadar thana and eight in Tala thana.

Meanwhile, gushing floodwaters seriously threatened two crucial embankments in the district creating panic among residents.

Officials feared the collapse of the dams would inundate more than half of the district headquarters and two other upazilas.

Thousands of flood-hit people with their belongings are streaming to Satkhira town for food and shelter. They are facing acute scarcity of drinking water as most of the tubewells have been submerged. Prices of Kerosene oil and essential commodities have shot up at Satkhira town.

About 1,50,000 people have

reached his fifty off 59 balls.

Bangladesh made a positive start when Caddick strayed onto the leg side with his first delivery and Javed flicked the ball away to the long leg boundary.

Opening partner Al-Saharier Rokon looked nervous, however,

and struggled for 43 balls before

attempting a wild shot to a ball

from Caddick and Mark Alleyne

made no mistake at mid-off.

Javed soon followed him back

the pavilion for treatment after

being rapped on the finger, bringing Amimul Islam out to the middle and he and Habibur Bashar stayed together until the 21st over.

Bangladesh reached 149 for

four over 40 overs but skipper

Naimur lifted the tempo with an

aggressive 46 from 60 balls.

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## Mobilise public opinion to stop repeat of army rule

Speakers at a seminar in the city say

By Special Correspondent

Participants at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday

expressed the view that effective

steps should be taken to mobilise

public opinion at national and

international levels to prevent

recurrence of military rule in

Bangladesh and other developing

countries, disrupting democratic

process.

They also felt that ambitious

military men who plan to impose

or actually impose military rule

should be tried for treason.

The United Nations should also

adopt a principled stand not to

recognise unconstitutional rulers

and to isolate states having military

regimes, the participants noted.

They were speaking at a dis-

cussion meeting on "UN

Millennium Summit: Legal Impli-

cations of Usurpation of Power

through Unconstitutional Means."

The discussion was held

against the backdrop of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina's state-

ment at the Summit where she

had said, "Necessary action must

be taken against those who cap-

ture power by unconstitutionally

overthrowing any government

elected by the people constitu-

tionally."

Appreciating Hasina's stand

against military rule, the speak-

ers said that UN membership of a

state was being used "nakedly

and shamelessly" to legitimise

military rule. Sheikh Hasina is

the first leader from any country

who had spoken about the world

body's role in this regard, they

noted.

The discussion meeting was

chaired by Finance Minister SAM

Kibria and addressed by

renowned academics, lawyers

and diplomats.

Former ambassador and

Director of Bangladesh Institute

of Law and International Affairs

(BILIA) in his opening remarks

gave a list of military interventions

since the Second World War.

He pointed out that coups d'etat

occurred in 17 of 20 Latin Ameri-

cans countries, half a dozen North

America and 10 in Europe.

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