

DINKAL LIMITED
Hearing today
in case against
Khaleda, others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing of the case filed against former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and nine others for not submitting service return of Daily Dinkal Publications Limited for several years will be held today at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Abdul Mannan, deputy registrar (current charge) of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSCF), filed the case under the Companies Act 1994 on June 12.

Sources close to Khaleda Zia said the former prime minister might not appear before the court as according to the court order she could send her lawyer.

Advocate Ahmed Aazam Khan, one of the lawyers of Khaleda, told The Daily Star last night that he is

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41 killed in violent Greek forest fires

AFP, Athens

At least 41 people have died in two violent fires raging in the Peloponnese peninsula of southern Greece, officials said yesterday, warning that the death toll could climb as the search goes on for more victims and fires continue to burn.

Among the latest fatalities were a mother and her four children, aged five to 15, who were engulfed by flames on the road near the village of Mahista, along with seven other victims, police said. So far seven children have died in the disaster since Friday.

The death toll rose as some 170 firefighters and soldiers at dawn began combing the affected areas and discovered some 24 more

bodies. About half a dozen villages have also been evacuated and roads closed to traffic.

"We are in a state of national mourning.... We must do whatever is necessary so this does not happen again," said Greek President Karolos Papoulias, who was expected to visit the region on Saturday.

The country's Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis held a crisis meeting in Sparta, in the southern Peloponnese, after touring the fire-ravaged area the day before, calling the situation "a national tragedy."

The charred bodies discovered Saturday were found in "cars, houses and in fields" in the area surrounding the village of Zacharo, in the southwest Peloponnese

where 11 fatalities were found Friday, firefighters said.

"It's a Biblical catastrophe, the sight is horrible. I saw people burnt alive in their cars," Christos Kafiras, the prefect of the department of Iliia, told the private Mega television channel Friday.

Six people perished in another fire Friday on the Mani peninsula, a tourist haven in the southern Peloponnese, including four holidaymakers and a volunteer fireman who suffered a heart attack.

Some victims may have been in late in fleeing from the flames while trying to save their belongings, government spokesman Evangelos Antonaros said.

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HASINA'S BAIL ORDER
SC hearing
resumes today

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court resumes today the hearings on state applications for leave to appeal against the High Court orders granting bail to detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in two extortion cases.

On Aug 16, four state applications seeking leave to appeal came up for hearing before a six-member full bench of the Supreme Court.

But the court adjourned the proceedings after hearings on two of the applications relating to Hasina's bail granted by the High Court in two extortion cases filed under the Emergency Power Rules.

Of the rest two government applications, one seeks leave to appeal against another High Court order that halted the ACC notice asking Hasina to submit her wealth statement. The other prays for leave to appeal against HC-granted bail to former FBCCI chief Abdul Awal Minto.



PHOTO: STAR

A man cleans pavement around a tubewell at Basila in the capital yesterday as floodwater receded from the area. Flood situation is gradually improving across the country.



PHOTO: AFP

A helicopter drops water on a fire at Mount Taygete, on the Peloponnese Peninsula in Greece. At least 41 people died in the forest fire that broke out Friday, officials said.

Price hike in Rajshahi kitchen markets

RU CORRESPONDENT

Vegetables, meats, poultry and fish prices saw an unusual hike yesterday in Rajshahi city kitchen markets due to supply shortage during curfew in six divisional headquarters.

Goods carrying vehicles could not enter the city since the curfew was imposed on Wednesday evening, leading to a shortage in the markets and eventually raising the prices, said traders.

In Shaheb Bazar vegetable market, a kg of papaya was selling at Tk 12, bottle gourds between Tk 20 and Tk 22, cucumber at Tk 24 and pui shak at Tk 12 a kilo -- a 20 to 30 percent increase on the prices

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Recent violence was culmination of multiple factors

Say BBC Sanglap participants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent violent demonstrations in the country were a culmination of multiple factors including unremitting price hike of essentials, shutting down of mills and factories, and eviction of street vendors and slum dwellers, said politicians, academics, and a former major general of the army yesterday.

Speaking on BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, they also suggested the military backed caretaker government to initiate quickly dialogues

with political parties, members of the civil society, intellectuals, and academics to solve the ongoing crisis engulfing the nation right now.

Urging the government to allow indoor politics soon for starting the dialogues, they also apprehended that the situation might worsen if early measures are not taken.

"A large number of general people, mostly of poor and deprived classes, participated in the recent demonstrations due to

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HR Watch urges govt to respect int'l rights standards

UNB, Dhaka

US-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged the Bangladesh government to respect international human rights standards as it enforces curfew.

In a press release issued from New York on Friday, HRW reiterated that anyone detained under the emergency regulations must be charged with a cognizable criminal offence or released, and that anyone mistreated in detention should

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8 Palestinians killed in clashes

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli soldiers shot and killed two armed Palestinians heading for a kibbutz after infiltrating Israel yesterday, during a surge in clashes that has left up to eight Palestinians dead.

The Israeli army said one of its soldiers was also wounded in a shootout with the infiltrators who attacked an Israeli liaison office near the Erez border crossing with Gaza with firearms and grenades.

Soldiers from Israel's elite Golani regiment moved in as reinforcement and killed the two, he added.

"With the help of the morning fog, two armed Palestinians managed to infiltrate Saturday into Israeli territory in the area of the

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Bollywood star Salman Khan jailed

AFP, Jodhpur

Top Bollywood actor Salman Khan was sent to jail yesterday after an Indian court rejected an appeal against his conviction for killing a rare gazelle, police said.

Police arrested Khan in the western city of Jodhpur where the

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Offensive in Iraq just beginning, says Bush

7 killed in bombing, indefinite vehicle curfew in Baghdad

AFP, AP, Crawford

US President George W Bush signalled yesterday his unwillingness to consider early US troop reductions in Iraq, saying new offensive operations there were just in their "early stages."

The statement, made in his weekly radio address, followed a fervent plea by John Warner, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, who publicly asked the president to initiate by September 15 at least a symbolic drawdown of US military forces from Iraq.

Warner, a former secretary of the Navy and a widely respected authority on military affairs, suggested Thursday the president bring home up to 5,000 US troops as "the first step in a withdrawal of armed

forces" in order to "send a sharp and clear message" to the Iraqi government that the US commitment was not open-ended.

Bush has not formally responded to the appeal. But in his address, he expressed satisfaction with offensive operations launched in the wake of a nearly 30,000-troop surge he announced at the beginning of the year -- and said they were just beginning.

"We are still in the early stages of our new operations," the president said. "But the success of the past couple of months have shown that conditions on the ground can change -- and they are changing."

He argued that every month since January, US forces have killed or captured on average more than 1,500 al-Qaeda fighters and other

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Prayer Timing		
August 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

