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Khaleda won't be evicted now

Attorney general assures HC, seeks one-week time after Khaleda files writ petition against govt decision on her house; 2 HC benches feel embarrassed to hear her petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday accepted BNP chief Khaleda Zia's writ petition challenging legality of the government decision cancelling allotment of her Dhaka Cantonment house and adjourned its hearing after two other benches felt embarrassed to hear her petition.

The HC bench of Justice Zinat Ara and Justice Abdul Hakim adjourned the hearing on assurance by the attorney general that the government would not move in a week to evict Khaleda from that house.

The HC bench fixed May 10 for next hearing. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam gave the assurance to the HC bench of Justice Zinat Ara and Justice Abdul Hakim when Khaleda's counsels moved a writ petition that sought a stay order on the government's cancellation order.

The attorney general told newsmen at his office Justice Qamrul Islam Siddiqui and Justice M Azizul Haque, members of two sepa-



rate HC division benches, felt embarrassed to hear the writ.

The attorney general quoted Justice Siddiqui as saying he was embarrassed as he had served as a law ministry official when Khaleda was given the allotment in 1981.

As an official he handled some files regarding the allotment and also made different opinions on the issue.

The top state law officer added Justice Siddiqui felt embarrassed for the interest of fair justice on the petition.

He added Justice M Azizul Haque did not instantly explain any reason for his feeling embarrassed.

The attorney general also said he took time from the HC so that his office can strongly oppose the writ as the government has taken the matter seriously.

Speaking anonymously, some lawyers however said Justice Haque as a senior metropolitan sessions judge in Dhaka had taken into

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A large number of hoardings in the capital pose a threat to the city dwellers especially during storms as authorities concerned hardly conduct any drives against unauthorised billboards or take proper initiatives to set those up in a safe way. One such hoarding on Bailey Road in front of Siddheswari Girls' High School in the capital broke during yesterday's storm but luckily none was hurt.

5TH AMENDMENT ILLEGAL

Govt seeks withdrawal of appeal against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attorney general's office yesterday prayed to the Supreme Court for withdrawing the pending leave-to-appeal petitions against the High Court judgment that had declared illegal the fifth amendment to the constitution which endorses late president Ziaur Rahman's take-over and all acts since August 15, 1975.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam made the prayer on behalf of the government while Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim moved a similar prayer on behalf of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust.

The BNP-Jamaat coalition government and Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust had filed two separate leave-to-appeal petitions

with the SC against the HC verdict, which came on August 29, 2005 following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Italian Marble Works Company (BIMWC).

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday filed an application with the apex court to make him an intervener of this case so that he can run an appeal with the court against the HC verdict.

The seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, held hearing on the question whether Khandaker Delwar can be made an intervener of this case after withdrawal prayers have been filed. The SC will hold further hearing on the issue today.

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What the verdict was

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on August 29, 2005 declared the fifth amendment to the constitution illegal, meaning the rules of Khandker Mushtaque Ahmed, Abu Sadaat Mohammad Sayem and Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman from August 15, 1975 to April 9, 1979 were unlawful.

The verdict came upon a decades-old writ petition that challenged the Martial Law Regulation (MLR) 7 of 1977, issued to legalise all illegal acts of the martial law government prior to that time.

The HC observed that martial law as a whole is illegal and unconstitutional and all

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CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

Ex-NSI boss held

He allegedly played key role in arranging transport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former director (Security) of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Sahab Uddin was arrested in the capital's Green Road yesterday for his alleged involvement in arranging transport and equipment for carrying the illegal arms and ammunition seized at CUFL jetty in Chittagong on April 02, 2004.

Sahab Uddin, a wing commander of Bangladesh Air Force who joined the NSI on deputation, went into voluntary retirement soon after the arms haul.

The arrest was made after detained NSI Field Officer Akbar Hossain Khan in a confessional statement before a magistrate on Saturday said he hired seven trucks and a crane

from Greenways, a transport agency, for carrying the arms and ammunition on orders of Sahab Uddin.

The former NSI director, being taken to Chittagong amid tight security yesterday evening, is to be produced before a Chittagong court today, say sources in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) assigned to investigate the arms haul case.

In the seven-page confessional statement to Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman, Akbar said the trucks were supposed to carry the consignment up to Moulvibazar border while the crane was required for offloading those at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Ltd (CUFL) jetty.

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BNP, CG RULES

Two JS bodies formed to probe power, health sector graft

RASHIDUL HASAN

Two parliamentary sub-committees on power & energy and health sectors were yesterday formed to investigate alleged corruption and misappropriation of money in the sectors during the caretaker and BNP-led alliance governments' rule.

A parliamentary standing

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UZ parishads to start work within 2 days

Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued directives to make the upazila parishad system functional in a day or two, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said yesterday.

"Necessary directives have been given so that the upazila

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Three held for making fake nat'l ID cards

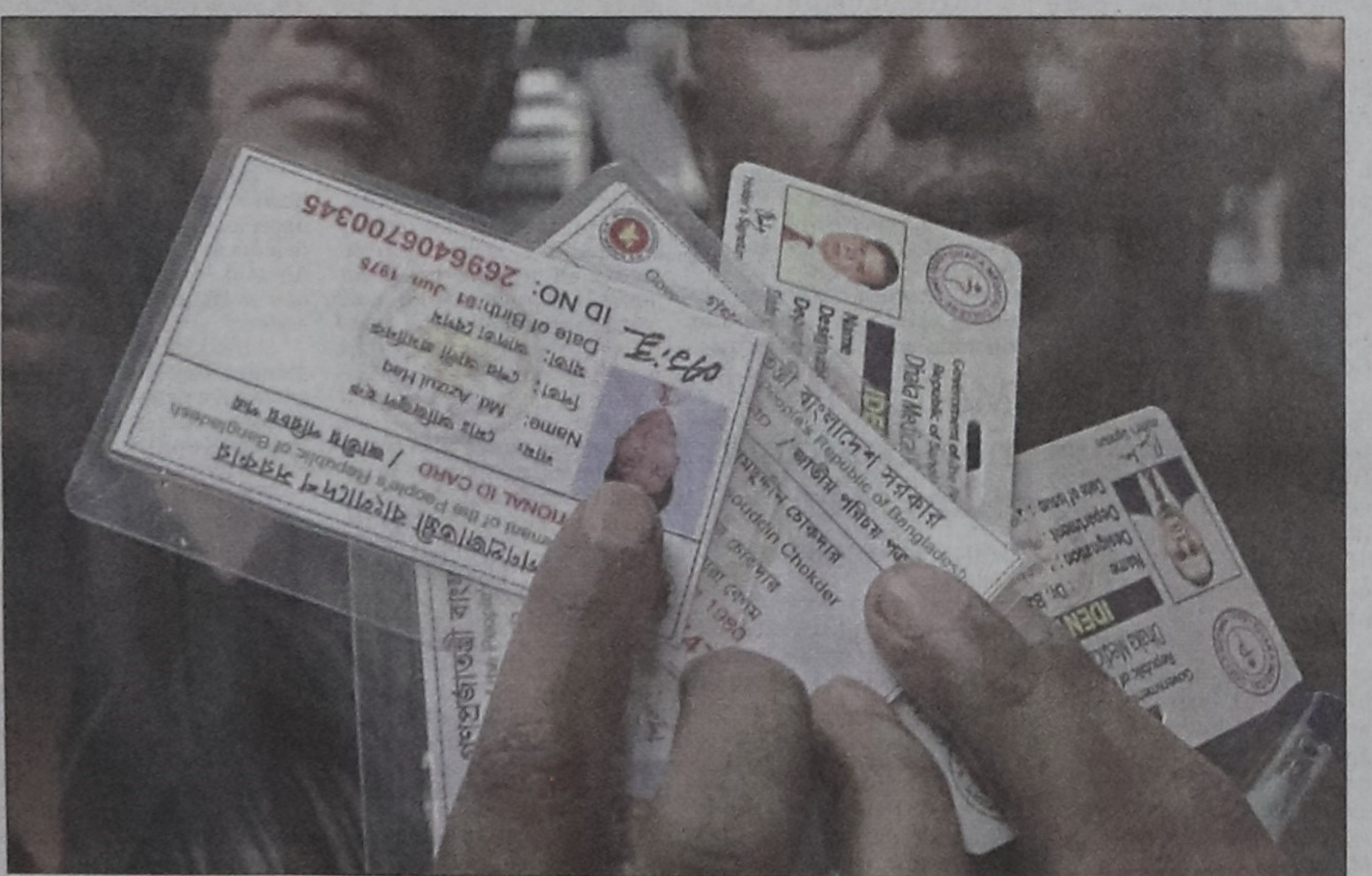
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) yesterday detained three people and recovered several fake national identity (NID) cards, a number of other fake ID cards of various educational institutions, banks and offices from their shops in city's Nilkhet area.

Lt Commander Amirul Islam of Rab-2 told The Daily Star, "We recovered three fake NIDs, a large number of other ID cards and certificates bearing names of different offices, banks, educational institutions, and different kinds of licenses during the drive at three shops at Baku Shah market in Nilkhet."

He said, "The fake document providers only sell them to people they know, or 'reliable' customers brought through

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A Rab official displays fake national identity cards seized during a raid at Baku Shah Market in city's Nilkhet area. Three people were arrested on charge of faking the cards.

SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

12 bigwigs asked to surrender to trial courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed 12 persons, sentenced in absentia in separate criminal cases, to surrender before the trial courts concerned within two weeks.

A special HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali passed the order while disposing of 16 bail petitions filed by 12 convicts sentenced in 16 criminal cases most of which were filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Those who will have to surrender before the trial courts are Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, former state minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa, former AL lawmakers Haji Mohammad Selim, Mokbul Hossain, former BNP minister

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think Hasina was correct to blame BNP for present power crisis?

Yes (48.93%)

No (49.31%)

No Comments (1.76%)

Total votes: 797

Nor'wester claims 7 more lives

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 21 others injured while hundreds of kutcha houses were razed to the ground by nor'westers in eight districts including the capital yesterday.

In Dhaka, a woman was killed in a wall collapse during the nor'wester at the city's Dainik Bangla intersection yesterday. Asia Begum, 45, wife of Jummat Ali Kha, was standing beside a wall that collapsed onto her during the storm. She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she died.

Uttam Das, 22, an HSC examinee, was killed and two people were injured in lightning strike at Battala in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

The injured persons were rushed to district Sadar Hospital. A nor'wester that swept over Sherpur district town and adjacent areas yesterday afternoon, killing Nadira Begum, 35, wife of Bilal Hossain, dead on the spot and injuring at least 10 people, reports UNB.

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New policy to end discrimination in primary education

Says education policy formulation committee chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Policy Formulation Committee Chairman Kabir Chowdhury yesterday said the government wants to introduce a uni-track curriculum for students at least up to class five.

"We would like to eliminate the existing discrimination at primary level education," committee Chairman Kabir Chowdhury told reporters after its first meeting.

On April 8, a 16-member committee headed by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury was formed to formulate a modern national education policy in line with the Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission-1974 after reviewing the report of Shamsul Haque Education Commission.

The committee, 25 days into its formation, held its first meeting yesterday at the National

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5 of a family killed in bus crash

UNB, Savar

Five members of a family were killed and eight other people injured in a tragic road accident at Baroipara under Ashulia police station yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Habibur Rahman, 55, his wife Halima Begum, 45, mother-in-law Sufia Begum, 70, sister Marzina Aktar, 40, and sister-in-law Renu Begum, 25.

Police said Habibur Rahman along with his wife and relatives was returning to Basail upazila of Tangail in a pickup-van with the dead body of his daughter Laboni, 20, who died of jaundice at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Saturday night.

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