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HC asks govt to enforce house rent law properly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain within four weeks why it should not be directed to enforce properly the law concerning house rent to prevent house owners in the capital from arbitrarily raising rent and taking advance from tenants.

The court came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition seeking directives for strict enforcement of the House Rent Control Act 1991.

Secretaries to the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Division, Law Ministry and Jatiya Sangsad, and mayor of Dhaka City Corporation have been made respondents to the rule issued by an HC bench comprised of Justice Mamtaz

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Replicate 'red-shirt' movement in Dhaka

Some BNP stalwarts urge Khaleda

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

A section of senior BNP leaders has urged their Chairperson Khaleda Zia to replicate Thailand's "red-shirts" movement in Bangladesh to oust the Awami League-led government.

At a meeting with Khaleda on Sunday night, those leaders said they believe BNP has the strength to launch a tough anti-government movement like the one rocking the Thai capital Bangkok.

But the idea was strongly opposed by few of their colleagues including the party's Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, and Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman, meeting sources said.

They told Khaleda that destructive programmes like hartals and blockades should not be announced now, as the party is not prepared for such a movement.

During the three-hour meeting of the party's national standing committee, the group favouring more peaceful options warned

Khaleda of the negative implications of a radical anti-government movement, saying that will give BNP a bad name internationally.

"I've heard you all, and I still have two more days to think," the sources quoted Khaleda as saying after she heard both sides of the argument.

Some other BNP leaders told The Daily Star that given the party's present situation, it will opt for programmes that have chances of involving the people, instead of imposing an anti-government movement on them.

Standing Committee Member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy said, "We will be the loser if our movement fails to draw public support. It will boomerang, if we want to impose a movement on the people."

Public interest must get the highest priority when a movement is being considered, as BNP will have to stay on the street for three more years, he added.

Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah said it is not a responsible act of a party to always speak

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Power crisis puts govt in trouble

Says Ershad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said the government is now in deep trouble with the acute power and water crises.

Ershad urged the government to implement its election pledges. Otherwise there will be a "terrible situation" during the next national elections, he said.

"We want to help resolve the present power and water crises by using our experience,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Return from death trap
7 Bangladeshi seamen back from Benin

PORIMOL PALMA

It was almost like escaping death for the seven Bangladeshi seamen who returned home from Benin yesterday evening.

"We may have special blessings of Allah," said deckhand Gulzar Hossain, one of the seven.

Gulzar, Khokon, Rezaul Karim, Sirajul Islam, Murad Hossain Munnah, Mohammad Alam and Elias Hossain arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on an Emirates Airlines flight at 5:00pm.

The remaining 21 crew in Benin will return in two phases this week.

Around 60 seamen went to the country in West Africa in December last year and January



Gulzar Hossain

to work in ships of Greece-based company Golden Shipping SA that allegedly involved them in illegal activities.

After repeated requests, the company gave return tickets to some 30 sailors, but not salaries. As many as 28 others remained stranded in the ships around 15 nautical miles off the coast of Cotonou for about four months.

They are now returning after the Bangladesh government intervened to rescue them.

"I was working in a tug boat, Hero, with a few other Myanmar seamen. We were asked to tow abandoned ships into Benin territory from Nigerian territory in the Atlantic," Gulzar told

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Pedestrians crossing the busy avenue in front of Titumir College in the capital risking accidents. They seem to be oblivious of the safer foot over-bridge right next to them. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

1,974 more bullets found in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Rapid Action Battalion members and police again seized 1,974 rounds of bullet at Shilmuri village of Barura upazila yesterday morning.

Being informed by local

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
May 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Local crocs for German research

PINAKI ROY

The country's lone commercial reptile farm will send its first shipment to Europe on Thursday, half a decade into its inception.

The Reptile Farm Ltd will ship out 67 frozen saltwater crocodiles of different age groups, ranging from newborn to adult, to Heidelberg University in Germany, for research purposes. The order came from the university last year.

"We are not skinning them, just freezing them with dry ice, and then packing them. The importers have their specific orders, so we have to go by that," said Mustaque Ahmed, the farm's managing director.

The processing is being done on the farm premises in Bhaluka of Mymenshig, he said adding, "We are killing them with anesthetics, and shipping them by air."

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Lightning kills nine in 3 dists

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and seven others injured by lightning in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Narayanganj districts yesterday.

About five persons were killed and two others injured at Nageshwari upazila of the district when lightning struck a local house yesterday morning, reports our Kurigram correspondent.

The victims were Hazera Begum, 37, Mehedi Hasan Hridoy, 4, wife and son of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

OnlinePoll

Do you think the sharp rise in the number of students receiving GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations signifies a qualitative improvement in our schools?

- Yes (48.2%)
- No (50.4%)
- No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 705

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the recent clearcutting of the Sal forest in Tangail makes the government's stated concern for environment hollow?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

STARTING TOMORROW

The Daily Star - RANGS TOSHIBA WORLD CUP QUIZ 2010

The call of the wild is getting ever louder! The World Cup 2010, to be held in South Africa, is just around the corner. The Daily Star in partnership with RANGS TOSHIBA is back to answer that call with a quiz competition. Six rounds worth of scratch-your-head questions will be coming your way starting May 19. And as always, there will be opportunities for you to win fabulous prizes.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

For each round a set of questions will be published in the Sport Section of The Daily Star for the duration of the round. Participants in all five preliminary rounds will automatically qualify for the bumper round that will offer even more attractive prizes than the first five rounds. All you have to do is to choose the correct answers, cut out the entry form and mail or hand-deliver it to The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, on or before the dates mentioned in the below chart for each round.

You may send as many entries as you like (photocopies of the quiz coupon will not be accepted). Don't forget, the envelopes must be marked "STAR WORLD CUP QUIZ".

FIXTURE OF THE ROUNDS					
ROUND	STARTS	ENDS	ANSWERS MUST REACH BY 12PM	LUCKY DRAW	VENUE
First Round	19 May	27 May	29 May	2 June	Barisal
Second Round	28 May	5 June	7 June	11 June	Chittagong
Third Round	6 June	14 June	15 June	16 June	Rajshahi
Fourth Round	15 June	23 June	25 June	27 June	Khulna
Fifth Round	24 June	2 July	4 July	6 July	Sylhet
Bumper Round	3 July	11 July	13 July	16 July	Dhaka

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THE BUMPER ROUND PRIZES consist a magnificent 32" Toshiba LCD TV, 15CFT Toshiba Refrigerator, 1-Tonne Toshin Heat & Cool AC, 24" Toshin LCD TV and 21" Toshin Colour TV.

In addition to all these prizes, the audience present at the lucky draw event can enter the chance to win a 20L Toshin Microwave Oven, a 14" Toshin Colour TV and three Toshiba DVD Players in each of the preliminary rounds. The audience can win even better prizes at the Bumper Round Draw where a Toshiba Washing Machine, a 21" Toshin Colour TV, a 20L Toshin Microwave Oven and two Toshiba DVD Players will be up for grabs. So, make sure you get your copy of The Daily Star everyday!

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