

## VANDALISM ON SC PREMISES All proceedings against 12 lawyers quashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday in a verdict quashed all proceedings against 12 Supreme Court lawyers, including Dr kamal Hossain, in a case of vandalism on the Supreme Court (SC) premises over the caretaker government issue in November, 2006.

The other lawyers are M Amirul Islam, Rokanuddin Mahmud, Subrata Chowdhury, Subrata Shaha, Tania Amir, Khairul Alam Pipul, Syed Mamun Mahub, M Sohrwardi, M Enayetur Rahim (now a High Court judge), M Khshruzzaman and Sheikh Awsafur Rahman.

An HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddique delivered the verdict after hearing a petition filed by the lawyers for quashing the proceedings against them.

The court observed in the judgment that there is no element of offence against the petitioners, as the case was filed from ill motive of the then government.

On November 30, 2006, violence erupted on the SC premises as the then chief justice stayed the proceedings of three writ petitions minutes before an HC bench was to issue rule on one writ challenging legality of the president's takeover as the chief adviser of the caretaker government.

Barrister Omar Sadat, an SC lawyer, had filed the criminal case with the CMM court on December 5, 2006.

Advocate Mahmudul Islam appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Md Salim and Assistant Attorneys General M Bashir Ullah and Zakir Hossain Ripan represented the state.

## Render services properly to rural people

### PM urges doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the physicians and surgeons to render health services properly and timely to the people living in the villages.

"People living outside the capital are also human beings and they have also the right to get health services. We'll give you everything for your professional development. In exchange, we want you to render health services properly to the rural people," she said.

Hasina was addressing a function at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) auditorium after laying the foundation stone of a 10-storied building of the college on its Mohakhali campus in the morning.

She also directed the authorities concerned to maintain quality of medical services at the government hospitals, particularly to enhance services at the emergency units.

She told the doctors that she understands it well why all the officials want to get posting in the capital city.

"I know that in Dhaka food, accommodation and other facilities are good. But, if all stay in the capital, then what will happen to the rural people -- the major portion of the population," she said.

She requested the senior physicians to encourage their juniors to work at the grassroots level to ensure

proper health services for the villagers.

She said health services on many occasions have been in such a condition that doctors are not found in the hospitals at upazila and even at district level. "I urge the doctors to be more respectful to rules and regulations of your profession."

She reminded them that the masses spend a lot of money behind every medical student to make them doctors.

Hasina said her government will restart the project of 18,000 community health clinics that were closed by the last BNP-Jamaat government.

"Our last government had set up 10,000 health clinics under the programme, but the four-party alliance government stopped the project on political consideration," she said.

Hasina sought all out cooperation of the doctors to reach the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

She assured them of giving all types of cooperation and assistance from her government for improving the skills and facilities of the doctors.

She also observed that Bangladeshi doctors are in very good demand in many foreign countries.

"Bhutan, the Maldives, many Middle Eastern and European countries' governments have told me that they want to recruit Bangladeshi doctors. I also think that doctors



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayers after laying the foundation stone of a 10-storied building of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons on its Mohakhali campus in the city yesterday.

from Bangladesh should go abroad for higher studies and jobs," she said.

Hasina underscored the need for appointing more nurses to take best care of the patients.

"The nurses also need modern training," she added.

Drawing the attention of the owners of the private clinics and hospitals, the prime minister urged

them to arrange training programmes for the nurses.

"Well trained and skilled nurses also can be sent abroad for jobs," she said.

Hasina said some 3,000 posts for nurses remain vacant for long and the process is underway to appoint in the vacant posts.

With BCPS President Prof.

Nazmunnaahar in the chair, the function was also addressed by Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Huq, Health Adviser Dr Syed Mudasser Ali and State Minister for Health Captain (Retd) Majibur Rahman Fakir.

The prime minister declared a donation of Tk 10 crore initially for establishing the planned ten-storied building of the BCPS.



Police intercept a procession of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Association in front of the High Court in the city yesterday while they were proceeding towards the prime minister's office to submit a memorandum. (Story on Page 2)

## Call to review vested property return act immediately

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent personalities yesterday called on the government to review the Vested Property Return (amended) Act-2009 immediately in order to establish a liberal-democratic and secular Bangladesh and ensure equal rights for all.

At a press conference, they also called for immediate steps to resolve all vested property-related problems in the country.

The Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Sammilita Samajik Andolon, Orpito Sampatti Ain

Protirodh Andolon (Enemy Property Law Resistance Movement), HDRC, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and Nijera Kori (NK) organised the press conference on 'Statement of citizen society and victims of the Vested Property Return (amended) Act' at the National Press Club.

Noted economist Prof Abul Barakat said around 12 lakh Hindu households have been directly affected by the vested (enemy) property act in the country from 1965 to 2006 and these families have lost their 26 lakh acres of lands.

Termining the act 'black', Nijera Kari Executive Director Khushi Kabir said there is no such act in any civilised society across the world.

She also demanded amendment to the act.

Reading out a written statement, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, general secretary of the Orpito Sampatti Ain Protirodh Andolon, placed a six-point demand.

The demands include setting out the definition of vested property, issuing gazette notification of vested properties in accordance with the census list, and forming tribunal at district level.



Family members of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam place wreaths at his mazar on the Dhaka University campus yesterday on the occasion of his 111th birth anniversary.

## FOOD SECURITY INVESTMENT FORUM BEGINS TODAY

# Bangladesh to receive major share of \$20b G-8 fund

### Hopes food minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh expects to receive major share of the \$20 billion committed by the G-8 countries last year for improving the agriculture and food security in the developing countries.

"We hope to get a major share of the fund announced by G-8," said Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque at a press conference at Press Information Department on the eve of the two-day Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum beginning in Dhaka today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the forum, which will be attended by experts from home and abroad. Bangladesh is hosting forum with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Razzaque said the G-8 has identified 15 countries, including Bangladesh which will be showcased in global forums as a model among developing countries for its success in steadfastly pursuing sustainable food security.

Despite this accomplishment, he said, 50 million people in Bangladesh still live in extreme poverty, and 36 million are chronically hungry or malnourished. More than 40 percent children here lack nutrition.

"Addressing these challenges and promoting sustainable agricultural development are high on the government's agenda," he said.

Bangladesh has been working to prioritise its areas of investments and the international forum is expected to help Bangladesh finalise its roadmap for future investment in agriculture and food security, he said.

The areas to be discussed in the forum include agricultural growth and productivity of crops, adaptation to climate change, development of fisheries and livestock, agricultural marketing, price stabilisation, income growth, social safety nets and public food distribution, food utilisation and nutrition security and gender and governance.

Stating that natural disasters are a great threat to food security in the country, Dr Razzaque said investment in developing drought-, salinity- and other stress-tolerant crop variety is crucial.

USAID Mission Director Denise Rollins, FAO Representative in Bangladesh Ad Spijkers, IFPRI Senior Researcher Purnima Menon and BIDS Director General Dr Mustafa K Mujeri also spoke. Agriculture Secretary CQK Mustaq and Food Division Secretary BD Mitra were present.

## CANTONMENT HOUSE Hearing on Khaleda's pending writ June 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday fixed June 6 for hearing the pending writ petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging a government notice that asked her to vacate the cantonment house.

The bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif fixed the date after Khaleda's lawyer Barrister Moudud Ahmed prayed to the HC to fix the date after the end of upcoming vacation of the court.

The court will go into a vacation on June 13 and scheduled to reopen in the first week of July.

Moudud told the court that they need time for taking preparation to place arguments on the writ petition before the court.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed to the court for early hearing on the matter.

Earlier on May 23, Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim sent the writ petition filed by Khaleda to this bench for its hearing as Khaleda expressed no trust in another bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan.

The HC stayed the government notice on May 27 last year asking Khaleda to vacate the cantonment house and issued a rule upon the government to explain why its notice should not be declared illegal.



Children are engrossed in drawing pictures at a painting competition at Shishu Academy in the city yesterday on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Environment Directorate organised the competition.