



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits superintendent engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) Abul Kashem, who was injured in an attack by pickets during hartal hours on June 27, at Square Hospital in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## ZIA TRUST CASE Hearing adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday adjourned till September 15 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others in connection with Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Judge (In-charge) AKM Nasiruddin Mahmud of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order following a time petition on behalf of Khaleda and Tarique.

In the petition, their counsels said Khaleda could not appear before the court, as she was busy with the ongoing parliament session while Tarique was abroad for his treatment.

The four other accused are former BNP lawmaker Kazi Saleemul Haq Kamal, Sharfuddin Ahmed, former principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique and former president late Ziaur Rahman's nephew Mominur Rahman.

Of them, Kazi Saleemul Haq could not be present in the court as he went abroad for treatment while Sharfuddin appeared before it.

Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Mominur Rahman remain absconding since the filing of the case.

The ACC on August 5 last year pressed charges against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and four others.

## RAID ON ABBAS'S HOUSE Sahara promises action

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Sahara Khatun has said action will be taken if the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) engaged in any "unjust and unlawful" act inside the house of BNP leader Mirza Abbas during hartal hours on Sunday.

"I didn't see but Rab and police went to Mirza Abbas' residence to detain him in a case filed against him the previous day," she told reporters replying to a question at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after visiting two burn patients who were injured during pre-hartal violence on Saturday night.

Rab allegedly ransacked valuables and tortured Abbas' relatives, after entering his residence during the hartal hours on June 27.

Referring to several vehicles in the capital being set on fire allegedly by pro-BNP activists on Saturday night, several hours before enforcing the main opposition BNP's declared country-wide dawn to dusk hartal, the home minister said an inquiry is being carried out in this regard.

"We can find out who was involved in setting those vehicles on fire. Stern action will be taken against the perpetrators," she said.

The home minister also said the government will provide assistance to the injured people.

Faruk Hossain 30, and his friend Sumon, 28, were admitted to the burn unit of DMCH after they received burn injuries when their private car was set on fire by pro-hartal activists near the Maghbazar level crossing at about 8:45pm on Saturday.

When asked whether the BNP's student affairs secretary and lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie will be released for treatment, Sahara said if his physicians recommend treatment abroad, he might be permitted.

Annie is now undergoing treatment under police guard at United Hospital as he received injuries during a clash between pro-hartal and anti-hartal activists on Sunday.

Earlier the home minister visited the policemen, who were injured during the hartal hours, at Rajarbagh police line at noon.

## Reinstatement of 85 UZ polls officers stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for six weeks a verdict of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal, halting the reinstatement of 85 upazila election officers, who were appointed during the previous BNP-Jamaat alliance government but terminated during the caretaker government.

The Administrative Appellate Tribunal in its verdict had declared illegal the termination of the election officers.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice SK Sinha yesterday issued the stay order following four separate leave-to-appeal petitions filed by the government against the Administrative Appellate Tribunal's verdict.

The judge also sent the petitions to the regular bench of the Appellate Division for a hearing.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam told The Daily Star that the Election Commission (EC) now cannot reinstate the 85 persons to the posts of upazila election officer until further order of the Appellate Division.

He also said that the caretaker government had legally terminated them since they were appointed on political consideration during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

A total of 303 upazila election officers were recruited in

2005, but the recruitment sparked controversy as they were considered to be partisans.

After the Election Commission was reconstituted in February 2007, the authorities decided to test

their efficiency for the post.

Of them, 218 people passed the examinations held on May 18, 2007. The EC secretariat then cancelled appointments of the rest 85 persons in September of that year.

On April 12 this year, the Administrative Appellate Tribunal in a verdict declared illegal the termination of the upazila election officers.

On May 17, the EC reinstated them as per the verdict. On May 20, in response to

a public interest litigation filed by Matiyar Rahman Hawlader of Barisal, the High Court also stayed for a month the Election Commission's (EC) action of reinstating the 85 officers.

## 30th BCS preliminary test on July 30

UNB, Dhaka

The 30th BCS preliminary test will be held at 10:00am on July 30.

About 1,48,000 candidates are expected to appear at the test at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet centres.

Exam hall, seating arrangement and other related information will be notified later through newspapers.

As the festival of Eid approaches, The Daily Star is putting together the Star Fashion- Eid Album 2010, right ahead of the country's largest shopping season.

If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

**Last date for submission  
July 07, 2010**

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