

# SC sits Nov 29

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is ill, told journalists that he did not ask the apex court to stay the HC verdict since Khaleda had already done that in her appeal filed on November 8.

He argued that even though the Supreme Court did not stay the HC verdict, the HC order remains stayed until the appeal is disposed of.

As per the rules, a petitioner gets 60 days' time after the HC delivers a verdict to file an appeal, TH Khan said. The HC gave only 30 days' time to vacate the house, which is a serious matter, he added.

However, a number of legal experts said there is no legal bar for the government to evict BNP chief Khaleda Zia from the cantonment house since the SC did not stay the HC verdict.

They, however, said the government should not take any action since her appeal is pending with the apex court.

They said it would be wise for the government to wait until the SC passes an order on the appeal.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam said the SC did not pass any stay order on the HC verdict and it is now up to the government whether it would evict Khaleda from the house after November 12.

The HC verdict cannot be stayed unless the Supreme Court says it is stayed, he argued.

He said he would be able to shed more light on the matter once he has the copy of the SC order.

Eminent jurist M Zahir told The Daily Star that as the SC has fixed a date to continue hearing the appeal, the government should be respectful to the court and wait for its decision.

Not implementing a High Court verdict when there is an appeal against it pending with the SC is a common practice, he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Special Assistant Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star that it was the Cantonment Board that issued Khaleda the notice and it will decide whether to evict her or not.

Due to a massive vaccination programme, the government was able to contain anthrax two months ago and withdraw the "anthrax alert" on October 7. The alarm was raised just before Eid-ul-Fitr.

If buyers and sellers suspect sickness of any cattle, they can inform the teams and the vets would look into the matter and take necessary actions, said Khalil Ahmed.

"No cattle market would be set up creating obstacles to vehicular movement. Action would be taken if people realise extra toll [hasil] or set up cattle markets without the approval of the DCC," he added.

The home ministry on Tuesday also formed a monitoring cell to prevent extortion related to cattle transport and marketing with Additional Secretary to the ministry Iqbal Khan Chowdhury as its coordinator.

The monitoring cell will oversee activities from the control room at the police headquarters.

address this amicably, sources said.

According to sources the two sides will try to evolve a new thinking on the issue of adverse possession. Transfer of land in some pockets is difficult and line may have to be redrawn in those areas, according to experts.

At present, there is 551.8 acres of Bangladeshi land under adverse possession of India, while 226.81 acres of Indian land is under adverse possession of Bangladesh.

The Indian side is understood to be keen for a package deal to address all three aspects of the boundary.

"What we need today is a new thinking. The success of the meeting will depend on how we go about addressing the unresolved issues. The idea is to reduce the gap and proceed to settle the issues once and for all," a senior Indian official said.

The JWG will be followed by a series of meetings between the land, foreign and home ministries of the two countries. A Home Secretary-level meeting is also likely to be held in Dhaka in December on this issue.

The flurry of meetings, said sources, is aimed at working out a concrete solution to the festering boundary and enclave issues ahead of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's likely visit to Dhaka in January next year.

They said resolving 6.1 km undemarcated portion of the boundary is not a difficult task. This 6.1 km is in three patches and officials from two sides will look into how to

allow her to stay.  
"The government has no stance on evicting her from the cantonment house, but as a party we want her [Khaleda] to vacate the house by accepting the High Court verdict," he said.

"Leave the house that you [Khaleda] have occupied illegally... Go to the Gulshan residence and get in touch with people," said Hanif, also a joint general secretary of the ruling Awami League.

During yesterday's hearing, TH Khan told the Appellate Division of the SC that he was ill and unfit to move for the appeal. He said Khaleda's lawyer barrister Rafique-ul-Huq was in Singapore for his wife's treatment.

Journalists and some lawyers, who were not in their gowns, were barred from entering the courtroom yesterday.

In protest, the newsmen under the banner of Law Reporters Forum observed a 30-minute strike at the passage linking the SC building and Supreme Court Bar Association building at 9:10am.

Asked whether there was any rule barring journalists from entering the SC courtrooms, Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque told The Daily Star that there is no such bar.

He also said he has instructed the SC registrar to take necessary measures so that newsmen face no trouble coming to court.

The cantonment house in question was given to Khaleda after her husband president Ziaur Rahman died in 1981. The house was government property before. She, however, had been living there since 1972 as the army issued the house to her husband as his official residence.

Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of Human Rights Commission, said stalking should be considered as a crime. According to him, the culture of impunity is the main reason behind it.

Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, suggested moving forward with a holistic approach to address the problem.

Proper implementation of law together with a massive cultural movement can stop stalking, she observed.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said women are still considered as weak, dependent and a commodity in the society.

"A campaign should be launched for changing women's status in the society," she noted.

AKM Shahidul Haque, additional inspector general of police, expressed hope for a significant change with mobile courts being empowered to punish stalkers on the spot.

The relevant law has been amended recently.

"But, there's no alternative to waging a social movement," he said.

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# Families

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Nahid said his ministry will prepare a guide on issues like stalking and drug addiction for the teachers who will discuss those in classroom.

Stalking of women has taken a turn for the worse with a growing number of people being killed for trying to resist the menace.

In last nine months, at least 25 women killed themselves to escape the horror of abuse, while nine males lost their lives for standing up against stalkers, says a report of rights group Ain O Salish Kendra.

Salma Khan, former chairman of the UN Committee on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), said at the roundtable that stalking incidents would not have taken such an alarming turn, had the stalkers been punished with an iron hand.

Social apathy, politics and patriarchal mentality are the reasons behind it, she said, suggesting employment opportunities for the youths.

Dr Mehtab Khanam, a psychologist, said families should educate children on social and moral values at an early age when children's personalities start to develop.

"The problem will never end unless the families take the first step," she said.

She also urged reporters to choose their words carefully while covering stalking incidents.

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# Explore NE India

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The discussion was largely attended by the businessmen from Bangladesh and India's north-eastern region.

In response, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said Bangladesh truly wants to make Chittagong and Mongla seaports into a business centre of this region and "we do not want to use it alone or only give it to India for use, but we also want Nepal and Bhutan to use it."

"Let us grow together... develop our nations and remove poverty and hunger from this region forever," she said.

The foreign minister said there are tariff and non-tariff barriers to export Bangladeshi items to India, but "I firmly believe that removal of those obstacles is now a matter of time and it will take place very soon."

She stressed the need for revival of old rail, road and river connectivity between Bangladesh and India. "There were links, but those were closed. Now, we just need to revive the routes."

Dipu Moni observed that the South Asian region is the world's less connected area and one of the poorest regions.

Tripura chief minister also laid emphasis on connectivity with Bangladesh and pledged to look into the demands of Bangladeshi businessmen for reduction of tariff and allocating a house to set up Bangladesh Business Centre in Agartala.

He said in the present global context, there is no scope for any country to behave like a big brother. "No one can advance with this attitude," he said.

**RMG workers**

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traffic congestion on both sides of the highway, causing sufferings to hundreds of commuters.

Instead of joining work in the morning, the workers of Taha Textile Ltd staged a sit-in programme inside the factory at Kabirpur, said Sirajul Islam, officer