

Some household

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has already started shifting household items to other places in the capital. She took the items in 51 cartons, four large travel bags, two large luggage and a steel trunk, as of November 10.

Most of the items were taken to the houses of her relatives in the capital, sources added.

They said all precious and important items were hauled in two Pajero sports utility vehicles in four days.

At 11:30pm yesterday, Khaleda's counsel Mahbubuddin Khokan said, "I talked to her at 11:17pm and she told me that she will not leave her house."

Masud Ahmed Talukder, another counsel for Khaleda, echoed the same.

A BNP leader said he had heard that some of the relatives of Khaleda, who moved into her house after Khaleda's release from jail, moved out their belongings from the house in the last few days.

Earlier in the day, BNP leaders, its chairperson's counsels and sources close to her family said Khaleda would not vacate her cantonment residence under any circumstances.

Queried what she would do if the verdict of the apex court goes against her, a senior BNP leader and also her counsel, said, "We will see when the time comes."

The government, meanwhile, has not moved to oust Khaleda from her house on Shaheed Mainul Road since the matter remains pending with the Supreme Court, said a source in the government.

"There is no scope for evicting our chairperson from her house if the government follows the law," said BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed.

Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the cantonment board that sent the notice to the opposition leader to vacate the house would decide on whether to allow her to stay there.

"Neither the government nor Awami League has any involvement with the issue," he said and urged Khaleda to vacate the house immediately.

"She should vacate the cantonment house where conspiracies were made to assassinate the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders and many armed forces personnel and also to capture state power illegally," Mahbubul said.

AL presidium member Obaidul Quader said if Khaleda did not vacate her cantonment house, it would be a bad example in respect of the country's judiciary and the rule of law.

BNP leaders and Khaleda's counsels said they would fight against any eviction move with their highest effort.

Several junior counsels for the BNP chairperson said their seniors made a mistake by not seeking a stay order on the HC order while filing the appeal petition with the Supreme Court on November 8.

But Moudud Ahmed and senior counsel TH Khan said an application for a stay order was there in the leave petition. The whole matter now remains pending with the SC.

The High Court on October 13 asked the government to give Khaleda 30 days' time to vacate the cantonment house scrapping a petition of the BNP chairperson, who challenged a government notice for vacating the house. The time expired yesterday.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing on the appeal till November 29.

On Thursday Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said it would not be illegal if

Stalker fined

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teased a woman at a bus stand while she was returning home from a local bazaar in the morning.

Police arrested Sattar after Karim, a senior teacher of Nabinagar Pilot High School, lodged a written complaint with local police station in this connection.

the government takes step to evict Khaleda from the cantonment house after November 12.

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed said the authorities have no scope for ousting the former premier from the house until the completion of the legal battle.

HIGH COURT ORDER STAYED AUTOMATICALLY

The HC order regarding the cantonment house was automatically stayed as the Appellate Division is still hearing the case, said Khaleda's counsel TH Khan at a press conference at his Mohammadpur home yesterday.

"We went to the chamber judge for the stay order and the issue is still pending for hearing," said TH Khan, also the BNP vice-president.

He said the attorney general's remark that it would be a contempt of court if Khaleda did not vacate the cantonment house by November 12 was just to mislead people and create a sensation.

"I think he [AG] considers the issue a game," TH Khan said.

BNP's senior lawmakers Moudud Ahmed and Jamiruddin Sircar, General Secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association Badruddoza Badal, and the chairperson's counsel Masud Ahmed Talukder also expressed their reaction to Attorney General Mahbubey Alam's remark at the press conference.

TH Khan said, "His [AG's] statement on an issue which is still sub judice in the Supreme Court is not true."

Moudud Ahmed said the High Court did not give Khaleda Zia any direction, so no question of contempt of court arises. "Application for the stay is part of our leave petition," he said.

Moudud, also the former law minister, said if anyone has to be charged with contempt of court it should be the attorney general.

BSF tortures Bangladeshi cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) left a Bangladeshi cattle trader seriously injured, severing his two ears and nose in Kalaroa upazila of Sakhira early yesterday.

The injured was identified as Isharat Ali Mollik, 27, son of Keramat Ali Mollik of village Chanduira in the upazila.

Locals said BSF arrested him along the Kalanchi border in India while he was returning to Bangladesh with cattle. They tortured him severely till around 3:30am. At one stage, they severed his two ears and nose and left him near the Chanduira border of Bangladesh.

Isharat Ali was rescued and rushed to Sakhira Sadar Hospital by the local people around 5:00am, they added.

Later, he was shifted to Khulna 250-bed hospital as his condition deteriorated, hospital sources said.

Major Jahangir, operations officer 41 rifles battalion, confirmed the incident.

MP draws

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Teknaf upazila chairman Shafique Miah and Ukhia upazila AL President Adil Uddin Chowdhury pointed out Badi's unlawful activities at the meeting. Badi was there but not allowed to speak.

Badi is among many party lawmakers criticised for their unlawful activities in their constituencies and the party has warned them about this several times, sources said.

Yesterday's long meeting started around 10:00am. Prime Minister Hasina took notes of their statements and gave instant directives on some issues.

As Kajol, president of Ramu upazila AL unit, tried to speak at the meeting, most of the grassroots leaders there chanted slogans against him and termed him an agent of BNP.

The AL president directed all the leaders of the district to immediately resolve the internal feuds within the rank and file. She also asked the central Organising Secretary Ahmed Hossain to prepare for holding Cox's Bazar district AL council after holding councils of all wards and upazilas of the district.

CJ warns

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He shared his experiences from his recent sudden incognito visits to different Dhaka courts.

He said he found insufficient light, and environment so hot and filthy at the courts that any fit person will become sick if he or she stays there 15 to 20 minutes.

"I know you work under such conditions, and I have the fullest sympathy for you. But, we will not lose our hope, and keep working to ensure justice."

He also criticised those judges who do not keep their families with them at their posts in districts, and rather keep them in the capital. The chief justice questioned if that is a healthy practice for judges.

He said he knows that most of the district judges head towards Dhaka every Thursday and return to their workplaces on Sunday morning. The termed the practice "very unlike of a judge".

He said judges should have the coldest possible heart while dealing with their cases.

The chief justice directed the judges to be aware of proper administration of justice at the time of granting bail.

He said most lawbreakers nowadays are influential, and they might influence investigations after getting bail, so bail should usually be avoided during investigations. But if an investigation is too long, bail can be considered, he added.

Although some people argue that bail is a fundamental right, it actually is not, he noted.

But that does not mean the judges should not grant bail, as bail is an issue of liberty and the judges do not have the right to infringe upon any person's right to liberty, he went on.

If there is any tangible evidence against an accused, he or she can be detained, but why should one be detained without any reason, he questioned.

People who deserve bail must get it, but if there is apprehension based on facts that the accused might commit another crime upon bail, in that case the person should be kept detained, he elucidated.

He urged the judges to deliver verdicts while courts are in session, and asked them to motivate their colleagues to do so as well.

The chief justice also said he spoke rather harshly to the judges, because if he did not, the people will say those things on streets in the future, if the present situation continues.

He told the judges to work for mitigating sufferings of the people.

College student

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a hospital.

Saleha said her husband Abdur Razzak immediately knocked on the door of the girls' room.

Razzak heard groaning from inside the room. Jebin was found dead when Tanisha could open the door after several attempts, Saleha said.

Tanisha was taken to Saphena General and Dental Hospital Ltd at Malibagh while the dead body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 4:30am.

Tanisha is undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the Malibagh hospital. A doctor of the hospital preferring anonymity quoted Tanisha as saying that she took poison at the instigation of Jebin and no one else is responsible for her taking poison.

Meanwhile, Shamsuddin filed a case with Ramna Police Station in this connection. Sub-Inspector of the police station Zafar Ali, also investigation officer of the case, said police recovered two small bottles of poison from the room.

He also quoted Tanisha as saying that some Lalon had a relationship with Jebin but recently he denied marrying her. Tanisha also told him that she and Jebin had bought the poison from Khilgaon Bazar Thursday night.

Saleha Begum said that on the day the girls went out around 5:00pm telling her that they had to collect some suggestion papers for their study and would come back by 8:30pm.

About how much she charged the girls for the room, she said she used to provide meals along with the accommodation in exchange for Tk 4,200 per month from each. But she hardly knows anything about their families.

She mentioned Jebin's uncle Shamsuddin, who is a resident of Dhanmondi, seldom visited Jebin and used to pay for her while Tanisha's mother often came to the place. Last month, Saleha overheard Tanisha while she was talking with her mother over the phone that a youth had been teasing her.

Ramna police, meanwhile, picked up Razzak for interrogation.

Beggars' census

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automobile repairing, book-binding, bread or biscuit making, tailoring etc.

The rehabilitation programme would eventually be expanded to other divisional cities, they added.

The census would find out the reasons behind so many people taking up begging. "Natural disasters and poverty are pushing many to adopt begging and their number in urban areas is growing rapidly," said Enamul Haque Mostafa Shaheed, minister for social welfare.

As many of these beggars belong to a 'floating community', surveyors will be required to complete the process within a day dividing the capital into ten zones, said Hossain adding, "This will require hundreds of surveyors reaching them with prescribed forms and digital cameras."

The paupers would be sorted out within three age groups between one and twelve years, twelve and fifty and above. The survey would also reveal different categories such as disabled, children, women, professional and seasonal beggars.

According to a study conducted by nine national-level NGOs in December 2009, up to seven lakh people seek for alms at bus stands, railway stations, markets, court areas, traffic intersections and in front of temples, shrines and mosques.

About 54 percent of them are female, depicted the survey. Sixty-seven percent of them are involved in begging for poverty, 20 percent for disability and 10 percent took it as profession.

The study, derived from interviewing 1972 child and adult beggars, also found that 15 percent of them are involved in drug peddling in city and about 11 percent involved in mugging and snatching.

Seasonal beggars move to capital ahead of Eid or after natural disasters, including drought, flood and monga, said Qamrul Huda,

Eastern

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from the government's priority list with Capital River Dredging mega-project replacing it.

Besides protecting a vast area from floods, the project was meant to help expand the city and divert east and south-bound traffic from northern region of the country.

Contacted, WDB Chief Engineer (central zone) Md Humayun Kabir said work on the bypass project first began with the help of the Engineering Corps of Bangladesh Armed Forces in 1998 but never got through.

Thousands of landowners and real estate developers are now haphazardly filling up the low-lying areas on the eastern side of the capital.

Hérons in danger

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The poachers trap the birds or hunt those using airguns, which don't require a licence, all over the eight northern districts. Awareness against this practice is so low that even the law enforcers don't say anything to stop it.

The authorities concerned have no definite statistics about the past and present numbers of herons in the region. However, scientists and bird watchers think the number has reduced by half in the last two decades.

Hamidul Hoque, assistant professor of zoology at Carmichael University College, said the number of pond herons is already dwindling due to lack of food including fish and frogs.

"Indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilisers and shrinking water bodies are fast depleting food chain for the birds and other animals whose existence is vital for our ecosystem," said Hoque.

While many express their grief over poaching, a single person in Bhatina village in Dinajpur brings a light of hope.

A respected bird lover, Hashem Ali keeps vigil against poaching. Recently he has convinced villagers not to deplete bamboo bushes and create habitat for herons and otherspecies.

Hashem's endeavour now attracts hundreds of birds in the area and also bird watchers from other parts of the country.

"If the bamboo bushes were preserved in other places, herons would not disappear from our nature," Hashem observed.

programme manager of BEDO, an NGO involved with the survey.

A tramp on an average earns Tk 150 to 300 a day, said Raisul at the footbridge in Farmgate. Earnings rise on some occasions like public exams, Eid or religious festivals and also in front of graveyards during the weekends, he added.

Saddam Mia, a 14-year-old orphan from Rangpur, told this correspondent at Panthapath crossing that he used to work at a motor workshop.

"I left the job as I could not bear the torture of my employer. I met some friends begging on the thoroughfares. Now I spend time begging at traffic signals and sleep on the pavement," said the young pauper.

Aliya Akhter from Gaforgaon brings her eight-year-old physically challenged son Sumon to Karwan Bazar pedestrian underpass every day and leaves him there for begging.

"My son cannot do anything without my help. When I came to Dhaka three years ago, I tried to get him admitted to school and open an opportunity for him," said Aliya, adding "But this [begging] remains the only option for him now."

Ctg steel

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iron the hot liquid sparked and splashed on to their bodies around 11:00am. Seriously injured Jakir was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Doctor at the hospital declared him dead.

Sources claimed that due to the mixer of liquid iron and soil, the sparks and splashes generated. Zakir was standing nearer to the furnace.

2 killed

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take over the vehicle.

The Rab personnel chased them but the 'carjackers' opened fire on them forcing Rab to retaliate. According to Rab officials, the two were bullet hit during that time.

The injured died after they were taken to Saver Upazila Health Complex.

Rab recovered two foreign pistols, 10 bullets, six bullet shells and two knives from the spot.

Rab officials claimed that a group of thugs had been mugging, abducting people and carjacking over the last few days in the area.

However, Shumi Akhter, sister of deceased Hasan Matbar, told The Daily Star that Hasan was the owner of Chandra Para Automobiles and Manir Hossain was a worker of his workshop.

They have no priors or cases filed in any police station, she said.

She claimed that a driver of the workshop, who was arrested in connection with kidnapping a child, implicated her brother and Rab personnel murdered him.

UNDP offers

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Former New Zealand premier made the remarks after a meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith at his official residence.

"We have discussed how we can support the digitisation process as part of modernisation of the state apparatus," she told reporters after the meeting with the finance minister.

Ms Clark, the third-highest ranked UN official after the secretary general and deputy secretary general, is in the capital to join the nationwide launching of information service centres.

"I think for the steps to be really effective we need access to records in a timely fashion. The citizens should have access to the archives. It also helps the transparency agenda," she said.

The UNDP is looking forward to support the country with a capacity to formulate strategies, said Clark, adding this would integrate development and climate change risk adaptation and mitigation.

Finance Minister Muhith said they have requested the UN body to play the role of a coordinator among donors to implement the government's digitisation programmes.

"We can ask the donors for a coordinator in the whole programme. I have requested them to take up the role. We will finalise the issue after discussion with others. The UNDP has also agreed to coordinate," said the minister.

The UN agency also aims to ensure a win-win situation for the people involved in the fight against climate change. "We look for win-win for the community like we saw in Char Kukri Mukri yesterday (Thursday), where ladies are earning from growing the mangrove, which is also going to protect the charland," mentioned Clark.

"It is win-win for tackling poverty efforts and also for getting better environment protection. These kinds of things can be scaled up nationwide," she added, referring to her visit to Charfashion upazila in Bhola district. She spoke to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from there through a video-conference after the opening of information service centres.

Muhith told journalists that the government is going to conduct population registry after the census due for March next year. "The UNDP has already worked in various capacities such as preparing voter identification card. So I think they can play a role in conducting the population registration process."

The minister observed that access to information is not the only aspect of land digitisation. "There are many other issues involved... The UNDP can help us formalise that. They can also help us in the areas of financing and identifying possible outputs."

The major portion of global climate change fund should come as grants, so that it could be helpful for the countries like Bangladesh, pleaded Muhith.

"We did not get any money from any sources for effluent treatment plants in the leather sector. But it is very important for climate change. If the donors had any grants, then we could have facilitated more," he added.

The minister did not expect the criminal record digitisation to start very soon. "The concept is not clear yet. The police department is not thinking in the way that we are on."

The issue of transfer of technology between the project teams working in Bangladesh was also discussed. "We have our own project teams and the UNDP has theirs, but there is no transfer of technology. The technology is destroyed once their project team departs," he added.

"We don't know how to assimilate the two, but we discussed the problem, so we need to do something about it."

The meeting also featured issues of climate change and migration, the ministers said.

State minister

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Law enforcers have recently arrested several leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami including its general secretary Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and senior assistant secretaries general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla on charges of genocide and crime against humanity and peace during the Liberation War.

Police are investigating the case to know the motive behind the killing. Past enmity might be the reason, the OC added.

The victim's body has been sent to Pabna General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries later.

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Suu Kyi

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freedom appears to be a price it is willing to pay to deflect criticism of recent elections.

"The authorities will release her. It is certain," a government official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Lawyers for the 65-year-old dissident say her current term of house arrest started with her imprisonment on May 14 last year and so is due to end on Saturday.

"She will be released for sure as planned," said another government official who also declined to be named.

Suu Kyi's detention was extended by 18 months last year over a bizarre incident in which an American swam invited to her lakeside home, keeping her off the scene for the first election in 20 years.

About 600 supporters and onlookers gathered at her National League for Democracy (NLD) party's headquarters on Friday, some wearing T-shirts bearing her image and the words "We stand with Aung San Suu Kyi."

Undercover police were photographing and filming outside the offices, where a banner hung alongside two portraits of the opposition leader read: "The time is here for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi."

Some NLD members planned to donate blood to a local hospital to mark her release.

But as night fell the supporters started to go home in response to a call from party leaders, who said they still had no word on the timing of her release, which an unnamed government official said would come on Saturday.

Turkish PM

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high-level visit by a Turkish leader after the visit of Turkish President Abdullah Gul in February this year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive Erdogan at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 4:00 pm.

After his arrival at the airport, he will be given a guard of honour by a smartly turned out contingent to be drawn from three services of the Armed Forces.

During his stay, the Turkish PM will hold talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, foreign ministry sources said.

Erdogan is expected to call on President Zillur Rahman and meet Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia.

Air connectivity and increase in bilateral trade and investment would dominate the talks between Turkish premier and Bangladeshi leaders, sources said.

The two countries are likely to sign agreements on cooperation in health sector and on exchange of land for embassies in Ankara and Dhaka during Erdogan's visit, sources added.

China-US

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Seoul, and risks being seen by financial markets as toothless, shorn of US proposals to limit trade surpluses and deficits to a specific level.

China, backed by other export titans such as Germany, launched a furious counter-offensive that intensified last week when the Federal Reserve instituted a 600-billion-dollar attempt to reflate the US economy.

They argued that the Fed's "quantitative easing" policy was a back-door way to the United States to depress the dollar and trade its way back to prosperity, at the expense of export-reliant countries around the world.

In the end, the G20 leaders settled for vague language and an indeterminate timetable on redressing trade imbalances.

They told their finance ministers to write the non-binding guidelines "and pursue the full range of policies conducive to reducing excessive imbalances and maintaining current account imbalances at sustainable levels."

Hu had presented his own counter-proposals in Seoul, calling on the United States to adopt "responsible policies" and maintain a stable dollar.

The Chinese leader, who presides over the world's second-largest economy and its largest exporter, demanded global resistance to trade barriers as he painted a bleak picture of the economic outlook.

"The international financial markets are volatile, the fluctuation in the major currencies is large, prices of com-

Her supporters said they expected her to be freed but were still awaiting confirmation from the authorities.

"They cannot extend her detention according to the law," said one of her lawyers, Nyan Win. "They should release her for the country."

The daughter of Myanmar's independence hero General Aung San swept her party to victory in elections two decades ago, but the party was never allowed to take power.

When the softly-spoken but indomitable opposition leader was last released in 2002 she drew huge crowds wherever she went -- a reminder that years of detention had not dimmed her immense popularity.

Some observers believe her release could come with restrictions to ensure she cannot threaten the generals or the military-backed government to which they are preparing to hand over power.

But Nyan Win has suggested she would refuse to accept any conditions on her release, as in the past when she tried in vain to leave Yangon in defiance of the junta's orders.

Although some see her as a figure from the past, sidelined by recent political developments, she remains idolised by many in the impoverished nation.

"I am praying for her to be released," said a 30-year-old taxi driver in Yangon, adding that Suu Kyi had "suffered enough."

Her freedom is seen by observers as an effort by the regime to tame international condemnation of Sunday's election, the first since the 1990 vote.

He will visit the National Memorial at Savar and pay tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War in 19