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Khaleeda contests 'eviction'

Charges govt with contempt of court, appeals for returning to cantt house; SC to hear pleas on Nov 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia yesterday filed two petitions with the Appellate Division of Supreme Court, bringing a contempt of court charge against the government over her recent "eviction" from her previous residence in Dhaka Cantonment, and seeking permission to return to the disputed house.

She also sought a status quo on the house so the government could not change or alter the nature and character of the premises till hearing of her leave to appeal petition pending with

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This picture taken by a South Korean tourist shows huge plumes of smoke rising from Yeonpyeong island in the disputed waters of the Yellow Sea yesterday. North Korea fired dozens of artillery shells onto a South Korean island, killing two people, setting homes ablaze and triggering an exchange of fire as the South's military went on top alert.

PHOTO: AFP

N Korea pounds South

2 killed; island ablaze; US, China 'calls for restraint'

AGENCIES

South Korea says it has returned fire after North Korea fired artillery shells at one of its border islands, killing two South Korean marines.

The North said it did not fire first in the incident.

The South's military was placed on its highest non-war-time alert after the shells landed on Yeonpyeong island, reports BBC.

Its government met in an underground war room, officials said, in response to what Seoul called an atrocity against civilians. The South

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Hasina talks nuke plants with Putin

UNB, St Petersburg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation from Russia to set up new power plants and repair the old ones.

She was holding bilateral talks with her Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at his St Petersburg residence.

Later, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told journalists both the leaders talked about the proposed Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

SAVING SUNDARBANS, TIGERS

PM urges global help

UNB, St Petersburg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the world community to assist Bangladesh in protecting the Royal Bengal Tigers and the Sundarbans.

"The international community can join in our efforts to save this natural green wonder, the Sundarbans," she said.

The PM was addressing the plenary session of International Forum on "Preservation of Tigers" held at the Marble Hall of Konstantinovsky Palace in Russia yesterday afternoon.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, among others, also addressed the session.

Heads of governments, ministers and experts from 13 countries having tigers' habitat are attending the two-day conference that began on Monday.

Hasina requested the international community to extend its support to the Sundarbans by clicking the website <www.new7wonders.com>.

The PM also called for much more concerted global efforts to tackle poaching, smuggling and encroachment of the tigers' habitat.

"Certainly, a unified voice and promise of a united action would succeed in saving this rare animal and its habitats from extinction," she said.

She said the Tigers Forum, the first ever of its

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Sahara warns against chaos

Asks BNP to call off hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun has urged the opposition BNP to withdraw its proposed hartal on November 30 considering public sufferings, and warned that any kind of chaos in the name of hartal will be contained with an iron hand.

If they [BNP] try to create chaos, they will not be spared. The law enforcement agencies have been asked to

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It's 3G time

Telenor chief spurs telecom regulators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Telenor President Jon Fredrik Baksaas yesterday urged the telecom regulators in Bangladesh to expedite the process of introducing 3G network, as at least half the local telecom market is now ready for the third generation technology.

Speaking at a press meet in the capital, he said, "The introduction of 3G is something we are quite well prepared for both in terms of manpower and investment."

"[Now] it is up to the government to accelerate the 3G licensing process so that we can move forward with the new services in the near future."

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Jon Fredrik Baksaas

'Mugger' killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel at Ashulia in Savar early yesterday.

Rab personnel also recovered a pistol and five bullets from the spot.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately, said Rab sources.

A Rab-4 official said a Rab patrol team in Bishmile area on Dhaka-Aricha highway

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