

Army now mulls official residences

Sees legal bar removed

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The military authorities are now pondering to construct high-rise official residences for army officers on the land of disputed cantonment house where BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia used to live. The army officials think that there is no legal bar to proceed for finalising the plan of implementing any project on the 168-katha land, as the Supreme Court dismissed Khaleda's appeal against the High Court order on the house and petition for status quo, said sources in the army. According to the officials

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Khaleda loses house

SC dismisses her leave to appeal petition against HC verdict over cantt residence, decides to hear contempt of court charge against govt today

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed three petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in connection with her previous residence in Dhaka Cantonment. One of those was a leave-to-appeal petition challenging the High Court verdict that had declared valid the government notice asking Khaleda to leave the disputed house. The second petition sought a stay order on the HC judgment. The third sought permission for Khaleda to return to the disputed house while also seeking a status quo on the residence. The apex court's decision came after



FILE PHOTO

an unprecedented chaos that played out in the courtroom for half an hour. It stemmed from insistence by Khaleda's lawyers to hold a hearing on a contempt petition, ignoring the court's requests to

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The arguments

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Appellate Division judges yesterday got into a heated debate with Khaleda Zia's counsels TH Khan and Rafique-ul Huq for 90 minutes over prioritising the BNP chairperson's three petitions for hearing. The court sat at 9:20am and began the proceedings on the cantonment house ten minutes later. At the beginning of the proceedings, TH Khan started placing

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No formal reaction from AL, BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both ruling Awami League (AL) and opposition BNP kept away from giving any formal reaction over the Supreme Court (SC) decision on Khaleda Zia's appeal in respect of her cantonment house case. Sharing personal opinions, a BNP leader blamed the ruling party for the court decision, which went against his party chief, while an AL leader said court has taken decision on its own and as per law. Jamaat-e-Islami, one of the allies of BNP, however, said people's confidence in the SC would have increased if it had accepted the petition of Khaleda Zia, as it was an

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Judiciary insulted

Top legal experts term role of Khaleda's lawyers shocking

WASIM BIN HABIB and RAKIB AHAMMED

Legal experts yesterday criticised the role of Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's counsels for "not taking part in the hearing properly" before the Supreme Court during hearing of her cantonment house case. They however expressed mixed reaction over dismissal of Khaleda's leave-to-appeal petition, labelling the case politically "important and sensitive".

Court deserves respect

Kamal Hossain



Lawyers did not behave

Ghulam Rabbani



PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

Japan pledges \$100m additional credit

Kan assures Hasina of relaxing GSP rules of origin for Bangladeshi knitwear

UNB, Tokyo

Japan will provide additional \$100 million to Bangladesh for the construction of the Padma Bridge. The announcement came in a joint statement signed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan in Tokyo yesterday evening. The additional \$100 million will be given in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan to implement the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project. With this additional \$100 million in ODA, Japan's total contribution for the construction of the Padma Bridge stands at \$400 million, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told newsmen after the summit talks of the two prime ministers at the PM's Office where the joint statement was signed.

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PRE-HARTAL VIOLENCE

50 hurt, 300 more held

13 vehicles torched; 15 vandalised across the country

STAR REPORT

On the eve of the hartal called by BNP, at least 50 people were injured in clashes in the capital and elsewhere in the country and 300 people were detained during 24 hours till yesterday evening. The arrested include the members of the main opposition BNP, its associate bodies and one of its key allies Jamaat-e-Islami. Dhaka Metropolitan Police held another 300 people during the period on various charges.

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Hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP enforces a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for today amid huge preparation of the government to resist any sort of "anarchy" in the name of hartal. Law enforcers yesterday foiled pro-hartal processions in many areas of the capital by charging batons on protesters while in many cases BNP activists got into clashes with police. The party, to muster support for the hartal, has been holding mass contact, rallies and processions across the

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I'm against call for resignation

Dr M Zahir




Noted jurist Dr M Zahir said it is the discretion of the court to take up the matters as the court wishes. However, the court could have disposed of the contempt

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Hearing could've been adjourned

Rokan Uddin Mahmud



Eminent lawyer barrister Rokan Uddin Mahmud said the SC could have adjourned the leave-to-appeal petition alongside the contempt of court petition as the case was

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