

Khaleda's adviser Zahurul sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser former home secretary AKM Zahurul Islam was sent to jail yesterday in connection with two cases filed against him on charge of setting fire to vehicles in November last year and June this year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Harun-Or-Rashid passed the order cancelling the remand prayers and sent Zahurul to jail after Tejgoan police produced him before it with a ten-day remand prayer in two cases.

The investigators in their forwarding reports mentioned that on instruction from the accused his accomplices set fire to two vehicles in the city's Tejgoan areas on November 29 last year and on June 6 this year.



Outgoing US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. PHOTO: PID

No room for militancy: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her government's firm stand against terrorism saying that Bangladesh would not allow its land to be used in carrying out terrorist activities.

"We are determined to prevent any sorts of terrorism... there is no room for terrorism and militancy in the country," Hasina said when US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty paid a farewell call on her at her office in the city.

She said her government has been working with an aim to establish peace in the South Asian region by maintaining good relations with the neighbouring countries.

During the meeting, they also discussed issues relating to bilateral interests including the friendly relations that exist between the two countries, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

The US envoy lauded the government for achieving progress in various sectors, especially in economic sector despite worldwide economic recession.

Regarding power and gas situation, Hasina said her government is working relentlessly to solve the problem within the shortest possible time. A significant progress has already been achieved in the sector as her government has been implementing various programmes in this regard.

The US ambassador thanked the PM and her government for providing all out support for him in discharging his duties during his tenure in Bangladesh.

BHITORGARH FORT HC orders to stop construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked two private companies to stop construction of structures in and around Bhitorgarh fort in Panchagarh for next six months.

Assort Plus Limited and Selilan T & Estate Limited are reportedly constructing structures in the perimeter of the archeological site of Bhitorgarh fort. In response to a writ petition, the HC ordered the local administration to monitor archaeological site -- Bhitorgarh fort, so that none can damage it.

An HC bench also issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to declare the site as 'protected antiquity' and to publish it in a gazette notification.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to protect and maintain the Bhitorgarh fort.

Door still open for ACC act challenged

Says Syed Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said the main opposition BNP can still suggest their formula on the caretaker government system in a bid to hold the next election in free and fair manner.

"The door is still open for them. The door for discussion has not been closed," he said while addressing a joint meeting of the AL and its all associated bodies at the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

"Opposition leader Khaleda Zia always says no on any issue at the beginning, and says yes at the end. Now on the caretaker government issue, she will be obliged to say yes in line with the Supreme Court verdict," said Ashraf.

He said the prime minister and her party always urged Khaleda to sit for discussion in the parliament to place her alternative formula on the caretaker system, but the latter has always rejected it and enforced "unnecessary" hartal to cause public suffering.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule on the legality of Anti-Corruption Commission law that empowered the commission to charge people with amassing wealth beyond known sources and concealing information about it.

In response to separate writ petitions, the bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore asked the government and ACC to explain within three weeks why sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the ACC act should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The bench also asked the government and ACC to explain why the commission's filing and proceedings of cases against petitioners should not be declared illegal.

Rabiul Islam, a Dhaka City Corporation official, and his wife Afroza Islam, against whom the ACC filed separate cases under the two sections in April and May this year, have recently filed the writ petitions challenging the legality of the sections.

They said in the petitions that under a provision in the income tax law, an accused can get acquitted on the charge of dodging income tax by paying 10 percent of the income to the authorities. But the ACC filed cases against the couple without giving them any opportunity to get remedy under the income tax provision.

Kazi Aktar Hamid appeared for the petitioners.

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