

Khaleda's plea

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whether allegations brought against the opposition leader in the case are true.

An HC bench of Justice Khandker Musa Khaleda and Justice SH Nurul Huda Jaygirdar delivered the verdict after hearing arguments from counsels of the accused and the Anti-Corruption Commission, and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

Now, there is no legal bar to continuing the case's trial unless the Supreme Court stays the HC verdict, said Anisul Huq, counsel for the ACC, while talking to reporters after the court order.

Khaleda's lawyer barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon said they would file an appeal with the SC challenging the HC rule.

On July 3, 2009, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Harun-ur-Rashid filed the case against Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and five others with Ramna Police Station accusing them of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" organisation. The trial court took the charges into cognisance on September 7 that year.

'Cluster bomb'

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radiation from within the tumour.

Unlike conventional radiation therapy, which bombards the body with gamma rays from outside, the alpha particles "diffuse inside the tumour, spreading further and further before disintegrating," a university statement quoted Keisari as saying.

"It is like a cluster bomb -- instead of detonating at one point, the atoms continuously disperse and emit alpha particles at increasing distances."

The university said that the process takes about 10 days and leaves behind only non-radioactive and non-toxic amounts of lead.

"Not only are cancerous cells more reliably destroyed, but in the majority of cases the body develops immunity against the return of the tumour," the statement said.

The wire implant, inserted into the tumour by hypodermic needle, "decays harmlessly in the body," it added.

It went on to say that in pre-clinical trials on mice, one group had tumours removed surgically while another was treated with the radioactive wire.

"When cells from the tumour were re-injected into the subject, 100 percent of those treated surgically redeveloped their tumour, compared to only 50 percent of those treated with the radioactive wire," it said.

The researchers have had excellent results with many types of cancer models, including lung, pancreatic, colon, breast, and brain tumours."

The statement added that the procedure would begin clinical trials at Beilinson Hospital, near Tel Aviv, "soon."

DCC polls

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days because the tenure of Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda and Election Commissioner Sohul Hussein expires on February 4. Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, the other election commissioner, will retire on February 14, the EC said in its letter.

The commission said the electoral reforms brought about to hold free and fair election will suffer a blow if the EC holds the polls hurriedly.

Besides, the commission does not have enough manpower to hold the DCC polls as its officials have been sent to the upcoming Comilla City Corporation election, it said in the letter.

The EC on Monday decided not to hold polls to the split DCC.

According to the recent changes brought to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, polls to two city corporations -- DCC North and DCC South -- must be held within 90 days, a deadline that ends on February 29.

Facebook

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intervention at times when it can be of most help. Second, it enables troubled people to start a chat over an instant messaging system that many find more comfortable than speaking on the phone with a counsellor.

"One of the big goals here is to get the person in distress into the right help as soon as possible," said Fred Wolens, Facebook's public policy manager.

"We have heard from many people who say they want to talk to someone but do not want to call. Instant message is perfect for that," said Lidia Bernik, associate project director of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in USA.

In recent years, distressed people have posted their final words on Facebook.

Through email, Facebook directed users to the hotline or encouraged friends to call police if they perceived someone was

about to do harm.

The new service goes a step further.

If a user spots a suicidal comment on a friend's Facebook page, he then clicks on a "report" button next to the posting that leads to a series of questions about the nature of the post.

If harmful behaviour is clicked, then self-harm, Facebook's user safety team reviews it and sends it to Lifeline.

Once the comment is determined to be legitimate, Facebook sends an email to the user who originally posted the thoughts perceived as suicidal. The email includes Lifeline's phone number and a link to start a confidential chat session.

Facebook also sends an email to the person who reported the content to let the person know that the site responded.

The Lifeline currently responds to dozens of users on Facebook each day.

Seven bodies

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administration, however, could not confirm the incident.

The coastguard yesterday launched a search in the Bay for the bodies.

"I saw three bodies floating at Dhalchar at about 8:00am on Sunday while fishing there," Sattar Majhee, a fisherman who works on fishing boat FB Taher, told The Daily Star on Tuesday night.

He told The Daily Star, "I have sent a message to all coast guard stations, asking for confirmation."

He also sent a team yesterday morning to the deep sea to look for the bodies, Harun added.

Mojibur Rahman, Barguna deputy commissioner, said he was not informed of the matter until yesterday afternoon and would take necessary steps.

Local fishermen said gangs of pirates often kidnap fishermen from the deep sea demanding a ransom. The victims, whose bodies were seen floating, might have been killed by pirates.

Meanwhile, Mostafa

Majhee, a fisherman of FB Josna-2, said he caught a body in his net in the deep sea Sunday morning.

Hearing the news of the floating bodies, Lt Commander Harunur Rashid, station commander at the Pathorghata Coastguard, sat with the fishermen Tuesday night.

He told The Daily Star, "I have sent a message to all coast guard stations, asking for confirmation."

He also sent a team yesterday morning to the deep sea to look for the bodies, Harun added.

Faruq, a fisherman of FB Josna-1, said three bodies were trapped in his fishing net at a point in the west of Dhalchar.

"Hands of the victims were tied with ropes and they were in shorts and vests." The fishermen of the boat disengaged the bodies and left the place, Faruq added.

Meanwhile, Mostafa

All she wanted

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and stayed there. Jui's husband Rafiqul, who studied up to class-VIII, unexpectedly turned up there on December 4.

He took her into a room in the house and locked her in. He said he had a surprise for her.

Rafiqul covered her eyes with a piece of cloth, taped her mouth shut and cut the hand with a machete.

"He [Rafique] said he is putting an end to my studies forever," said Jui, a second-year student of Narsingdi Government College, narrating the moments of horror.

Jui was whisked off to the Pango Hospital. She later phoned her parents and told them about the incident. She was then taken to Narsingdi.

Jui and Rafiqul from Brahmanbaria got married on January 30, 2008 with the consent of their families. She had been continuing studies in her parents' house in Narsingdi.

Police arrested Rafiqul after Jui's father Yunus Mia filed a case with the Cantonment Police Station.

Jui told The Daily Star that she was eager to continue her studies. "My right hand has been cut off, but I can use my other hand," she said.

Mohammad Salauddin, officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station, said Rafiqul, who is in prison after a one-day remand, had admitted hacking off his wife's right hand to prevent her from studying.

"We recovered the machete he used," Salauddin said, adding that most of her right hand, with all the fingers, was lost.

Rafiqul's sister and brother-in-law had given statements, said the OC.

Doctors at the Pango Hospital said Jui's severed hand could not be reattached. They said the hand was left detached for more than six hours and the cells had died.

Jui's father sought financial

cial and legal help from the government and people, saying he doesn't have enough money to ensure proper treatment of his daughter.

Don't try

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Meanwhile, Chairperson of BNP and former premier Khaleda recently demanded release of all those leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and her party now facing trial on charges of crimes against humanity during the Liberation war. She also demanded an immediate halt to the trial proceedings, which she said were politically motivated and intended to eliminate the opposition parties.

The AL chief urged the people to get united against the war criminals and those trying to protect them.

Turning to other issues, Hasina came down heavily on Khaleda for "misappropriating" Zia Orphanage Trust Fund money and whitening black money when she was prime minister.

The prime minister criticised the opposition leader for her statement that none from the Bangabandhu family took part in Liberation War in 1971.

Hasina said founder of BNP Ziaur Rahman had rehabilitated the anti-liberation forces in politics and in the country, and released 11,000 identified war criminals from jail.

The premier paid rich tributes to the father of the nation, four national leaders killed in jail and those who sacrificed their lives for liberating the country.

Other speakers at the discussion, chaired by AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, included party General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, Matia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

According to reports, in Dhaka alone some 1,100 persons including artists, writers, Dhaka University teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers were killed on December 14 and 15 after they had been abducted from their houses.

Over 2,000 intellectuals had been killed across the country between March 25 and December 16, the Victory Day.

War crimes trial

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Kafil also asked Hawlader if he had read three books on the Liberation War, including "Sundarbaner Shei Ummatal Dingul" (Those Heady Days in Sundarbans) by Ziauddin.

Hawlader replied in the negative.

Kafil then pointed out that the books have names of many distinguished freedom fighters of Pirojpur but Hawlader's name was not there. He told Hawlader there are 62,000 fake freedom fighters in the country and "you are one of them".

Hawlader said it was not true, adding that his name was included in the freedom fighters' list during the Ershad regime and the list was later published in a gazette during the first BNP government's time.

At around 10:30am when the tribunal went into session, Kafil began cross-examining Hawlader by asking him how long it took him to get to Sundarbans Freedom Fighters' Camp from his home since he claimed that he went there at least 15-20 times.

Hawlader said the time varied since the journey was dangerous and depended on the situation of that particular day.

Kafil then went on to enquire about the details of the camp, its structure, whether there were portraits of any important personalities and so on.

The prosecution raised several objections regarding the defence's intent with this kind of questions and a brief commotion was created in the courtroom as the defence protested.

The three-member bench of the International Crimes Tribunal led by its Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq then ordered them to calm down.

Hawlader's cross-examination will resume today.

Justice

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socio-political and cultural organisations made the call while paying deep homage to the deceased by placing wreaths at the killing grounds of Rayer Bazar and Mirpur of the city as well as other parts of the country.

Just two days ahead of the final victory on December 16, the Pakistani occupation forces with the help of their local collaborators including Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Razakars had killed the intellectuals and dumped the bodies at the two places.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and cabinet members paid their tribute at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Monument early yesterday.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alangir were among those paying tribute to the martyrs at the Mirpur monument.

Apart from organisations, people including teachers, students, women, children and the elderly thronged with flowers and carrying banners both the grounds to pay their homage to the intellectuals.

Most of the banners had the call to speed up the ongoing trial of the war criminals. They also chanted slogans to conduct the trials quickly.

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Worker, environment

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"reflect what people want".

The bench directed the government to reframe the rules so people's hope is reflected in handling and managing hazardous materials and waste.

It passed the order during the hearing on a government plea on extending a High Court order that permitted conditional import of toxic ships till further order, as the HC in October this year restricted import of toxic ships till rules are framed.

The Ministry of Industries on December 12 issued a gazette notification on the rules titled The Ship Breaking and Ship Recycling Rules, 2011 for safe and environmentally sound ship breaking and recycling in Bangladesh in compliance with an SC order.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday placed the gazette notification before the court saying that the government had framed the rules in line with HC directives.

Meanwhile, Industries Secretary SH Masud Siddique as per an earlier SC order appeared before the

bench yesterday with a copy of the gazette notification.

The court exempted Masud Siddique from further personal appearance before it following his petition.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir Lytton, another lawyer from Bela, told The Daily Star that the toxic ships cannot be imported for breaking till further order, as the HC in October this year restricted import of toxic ships till rules are framed.

Following a petition filed by Bangladesh Ship Breakers' Association, another HC bench headed by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik on March 7 this year permitted import of toxic ships for two months and directed the government to formulate the rules by that time.

On December 15 last year, this court for the last time asked the government to frame ship-breaking rules in three months in light of six existing laws. The laws restrict import of toxic ships until the rules are framed.

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Protection Act, 1995; Bangladesh Marine and Fisheries Ordinance, 1989; Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006; Bangladesh Territorial Water and Maritime Zone Act, 1974; and Environment Protection Rules, 1997.

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On May 7, the court extended its March 7 order for another two months. The order was also extended on July 21 till October 12.

On October 27, during hearing of a writ petition filed by Bela,