

**Hearing on Khaleda's birthday tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will hear tomorrow a rule issued around 13 years ago regarding celebration of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's birthday on August 15.

In the 1999 rule, the HC had questioned the legality of a lower court order that rejected a petition from Khaleda Zia, who sought dismissal of a case, which was lodged for prohibiting her to celebrate birthday on the National Mourning Day. Md Sohrawardy, a Supreme Court lawyer, had filed the case on August 20, 1997, with an assistant judge's court in Dhaka, seeking an injunction so that Khaleda could not celebrate her birth anniversary on the death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He said in the case statement that his right to observe the National Mourning Day was curtailed, as Khaleda was celebrating her "false birthday" on the day through various cultural programmes.

Fifth Additional Assistant Judge, Dhaka, Shafiqur Rahman, on September 16, 1999, rejected the petition of Khaleda Zia seeking dismissal of the case statement.

Following a petition filed by the BNP chief, the HC on September 26, 1999, issued the rule asking Sohrawardy to explain why the lower court's rejection order should not be declared illegal. It also stayed the proceedings of the case filed by Sohrawardy.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik fixed June 14 for hearing the rule.



**AGONY OF STATELESS PEOPLE**

1) A Rohingya woman, who fled along with her family into Bangladesh from the ethnic violence in Myanmar, breaks down in tears as she narrates their agony. 2) Family of the weeping woman. 3) Two patrolling soldiers of Border Guard Bangladesh on alert to prevent any intrusion of fleeing Rohingyas, described as stateless people, while movement of all kinds of sea traffic has been suspended from Saint Martin's Island to Teknaf. 4) Three Myanmar businessmen, stranded at Teknaf Land Port due to the unrest, hold out their passports. 5) Kala Hossain, who fled the violence in Myanmar and entered Bangladesh with a bullet wound in his abdomen, died in Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



**SC lawyer in contempt of court**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against a Supreme Court lawyer for damaging the dignity and authority of the apex court by making derogatory remarks against a judge.

Issuing the rule on a suomoto move, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik also summoned Advocate Md Mozammel Haque on July 15 to explain his conduct.

Advocate Mozammel forwarded an application to the president on May 5, praying for removal of Justice Manik. In the application, he claimed that Justice Manik used abusive words against him (Mozammel) during a hearing on May 31.

In the rule, the bench asked

Mozammel to explain in two weeks why he should not be punished for committing contempt of court by making "highly slanderous, fictitious and spurious comments against Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury."

The court also asked him to explain why a direction should not be given to refer him to Bangladesh Bar Council, the licensing authority for allowing lawyers to start legal practice, for an action against him.

Passing the order, Justice Manik said this bench believed that Mozammel had forwarded the application in a vindictive manner, as the HC bench led by this judge summarily rejected a writ petition moved by him (Mozammel) on merit on May 31.

**Removal of Buet VC, Pro-VC demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating Buet teachers yesterday demanded the resignation of what they termed politically-inclined vice chancellor (VC) and pro-vice chancellor of the university.

The teachers made the demand at a human chain programme organised by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Teachers' Association on the campus.

They also reiterated their demand for abolition of the post of pro-VC.

Dr Md Ashrafur Islam, general secretary of the association, in a press release, said they will continue demonstration until the two Buet top officials resign by the end of this month, otherwise fresh agitations would be unfolded.

The teachers were demonstrating in line with the association's June 9 decision to protest what they said free reign and manifold anomalies of the two officials.

To press home the demand, the association earlier on April 7 went on indefinite work abstention, which was postponed and academic classes resumed following assurance by the prime minister to look into the matter.

However, the demonstration was resumed on review of the overall campus situation a month later.

**Bangladesh to buy 50 buses from India**

UNB, New Delhi

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will buy 50 vestibule buses from Ashok Leyland in India to help ease peoples' transportation in the country.

An agreement to this effect was signed by MM Iqbal, chairman of BRTC, and Antony Lobo, special director (international operations) of Ashok Leyland, on behalf of the two organisations in the capital last week, said a report of Indian daily The Hindu quoting a press release.

The deal, worth \$6 million, will introduce vestibule buses in the country for the first time, the report added.

Last year, Ashok Leyland had bagged the single largest order of 290 double-decker buses, worth \$23.3 million, from Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers' Association of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology forms a human chain on the campus yesterday demanding resignation of the vice chancellor and pro-vice chancellor.

**BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PM asks for engineers' cooperation**

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation of the engineers to implement the huge budget of the next fiscal, as, she said, her government did not believe in the development of any specific person but all.

"The engineers are involved in execution of projects at field level, so their cooperation is a must to help the country to rise to its desired goal," she told the newly-elected office-bearers of Bangabandhu Prokashali Parishad, who called on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

After the meeting, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters.

Sheikh Hasina said her government had placed a budget of over Tk 1,91,000 crore for the next fiscal for socio-economic development of the country and change the lot of the people.

She urged the engineers to highlight the present government's successes in different fields before the people.

"The country witnessed tremendous successes in the fields of agriculture, education, health, electricity, food security, social safety net and women empowerment. So you have the responsibility to highlight these successes before the people."

The premier said her government always inherited a devastated country and had to start work afresh for the country's development.

The country would have witnessed more success, she said, if the world had not undergone a recession and skyrocketing of fuel prices. Despite global economic meltdown, the country clocked over 6 percent growth in the last couple of years, she added.

The prime minister said her government had increased the power generation to 5,300MW by 2011 in accordance with the party's election manifesto. "We have also decided to set up seven special economic zones in the country for rapid industrialisation of the country."

She said her government had laid emphasis on research and enacted a law to set up 12 science and technology universities across the country for further development of science education.

"Poverty rate has been reduced by 10 percent for expansion of the social safety net programmes, while 68 lakh jobs including 4.50 lakh in the public sector, have been created during the last three and a half years," she said.

The prime minister said her government had undertaken many long-term programmes for further development of the country.

"We prepared many plans before formation of the government after discussing with all stakeholders through seminars and symposiums," she said.

In this connection, Hasina alleged, the BNP-Jamaat government took the country many years back by committing unbridled corruption and patronising terrorism and militancy.

"The country was turned into a sanctuary of terrorists, militants and corrupts in the past due to patronisation of these social menaces by the four-party alliance government."

The prime minister said 22,000 Awami League leaders and workers were killed by the cadres of BNP-Jamaat. "But after assuming power, the present government did not take any revenge on them. Rather it has applied all its strength for the development of the country."

She also mentioned that Sabekunnahr Sony, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was killed in an intra-party gunfight of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of BNP, during the rule of the past BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Principal Secretary Sheikh Md Wahid Uz Zaman, PMO Secretary Molla Waheeduzzman, Institution of Engineers Bangladesh President Engineer Nurul Huda, and General Secretary Engineer Abdus Sabur were also present on the occasion, among others.

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