

ZIA TRUST GRAFT CASE Charge framing hearing deferred to Jan 24

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred to January 24 next year the opposition on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and five others in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Appearing last on February 2, Khaleda, the leader of the opposition, arrived at the court amid tight security around 1:00pm, followed by thousands of activists chanting slogans demanding withdrawal of all cases filed against her.

Khaleda's lawyers, Moudud Ahmed and Masud Ahmed Talukder, submitted the adjournment petition, stating that earlier they filed a leave to appeal petition with the Supreme Court challenging the legality of a High Court order.

The order, passed on December 14, 2011, stated that the case proceedings would continue at the Dhaka court. The Appellate Division, on October 8, fixed January 10, 2013 to hear the leave to appeal petition.

Public Prosecutor Mosharrar Hossain Kajol said the case was pending for long and he was ready to propose the charges.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of Special Judge's Court-3 deferred the hearing and ordered the defence to submit the Appellate Division's January 10 orders to it on January 24.

The other accused are Khaleda's elder son Tarique Rahman, former principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique, former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque, businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed and Momenur Rahman, nephew of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

Salimul and Sharfuddin arrived in the court, Tarique is undergoing treatment abroad and Kamal and Momenur are on the run.

Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station on July 3, 2009 accusing the seven of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" trust.

Another Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Jubo Dal President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal in two cases filed for creating anarchy and torching vehicles before BNP's central office in the capital on October 3.

The court also granted bail to former state minister for energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain till October 21 in connection with a graft case.

SC extends stay on graft case against Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended till October 18 its earlier order that stayed the trial proceedings of a corruption case against BNP leader Moudud Ahmed.

On September 16, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case accusing Moudud of amassing wealth worth more than Tk 7.38 crore illegally and concealing information about wealth of more than Tk 4.4 crore.

The SC's Appellate Division passed the order after a petition filed by Moudud yesterday seeking extension of its chamber judge's order that stayed the proceedings on October 9.

The Division also asked Moudud to file a leave-to-appeal petition with it by October 18 against a HC verdict.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka



Zillur Rahman, former division chief (additional secretary) of the Planning Commission, died of old age complications in the capital's United Hospital on Wednesday. He was 82.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and two sons.

Zillur, uncle of State Minister for Power Enamul Haq, was born in Shibganj of Chapainawabganj on Sept 1, 1930.

International Day of the Girl Child observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first "International Day of the Girl Child" was observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe yesterday.

Observing the day, Plan International, an NGO, launched a global campaign titled "Because I am a Girl" (BIAAG), to help girls provide quality education and stop early marriage.

The campaign was launched at a function inaugurated by Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed at Bashundhara Convention Centre-2 in the capital.

Popular singer Fahmida Nabi, journalist Munni Saha, Bangladesh women's cricket team captain Salma Khatun, renowned beautician Kaniz Almas Khan and the first

ever Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest Nishat Majumder were honoured as the champion of the BIAAG campaign at the programme.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Bangladesh and Debate for Democracy jointly launched a weeklong debate festival in the capital's National Press Club.

Students from the country's different schools and colleges are participating in the debate festival.

The event aims to disseminate the message that a change in view can ensure a better life of girl children in the country, Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron said.

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS BNP probe report comes out today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP will disclose its investigation report on the September 29-30 onslaught on Buddhists in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong at a press conference today.

An eight-member committee headed by BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed submitted the report to the party chairperson Khaleda Zia at her office last night.

In the report, the committee accused the government of fuelling the violence, reasoning that the law enforcers remained inactive during the incident, said party sources.

"Though the investigation committee was formed by a party, we prepared the report neutrally after visiting Ramu, Ukhia, Teknaf and Patiya, and talking with people concerned," Moudud told journalists after submitting the report.

A mob destroyed 12 Buddhist temples and monasteries and more than 50 houses in Ramu of Cox's Bazar on September 29. The violence spread to Patiya in Chittagong the next day.



Arthur Erken, UNFPA representative in Bangladesh, and Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron with student debaters at the inaugural ceremony of a weeklong debate competition, which began yesterday in observance of the International Day of the Girl Child. UNFPA and Debate for Democracy jointly organised the debate competition.

Lawyer threatens to sue The Daily Star

Demands 'Dr' before his name

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer has threatened that he can get the licence of The Daily Star cancelled through initiating a case against it, as the newspaper does not use "Dr" before his name in news reports involving him.

Advocate Eunos Ali Akond said he was much more qualified than Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus and more brilliant than crores of journalists, but they (journalists) could not appreciate him.

"The Daily Star writes 'Dr' before the name of Prof Yunus, but does not use it before my name, which is illegal and derogatory for me," he told reporters covering assignments at the Supreme Court on Wednesday. "I have laws in my hands to have

the newspaper's licence cancelled," he said.

Eunos has recently become very known to lawyers and court reporters after he moved some public interest cases, including the ones regarding the crisis at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), admission tests at medical and dental colleges, and Hall-Mark loan scam.

"Which newspaper are you working for?" Eunos Ali asked this correspondent at the media-room of Supreme Court Bar Association on Wednesday.

When the correspondent replied, the lawyer said he could sue the reporter as well as the newspaper, as he (reporter) did not write "Dr" before his name.



Nestle Bangladesh Managing Director Laurent Therond hands over 25 units of Aquare water treatment kit to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman at the Red Crescent office in the capital on Wednesday. Delegates of Red Crescent, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Aquare, and high officials of Nestle were present on the occasion.

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