Khaleda sued over comments on Bangabandhu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was sued yesterday allegedly for making a "defamatory statement" on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, filed the defamation case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abullah Al Masud.

After the hearing, the court asked the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to submit a report by February 21 after investigation.

In the complaint, Siddique alleged that Khaleda, at a programme on December 31 last year, said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wanted to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Four killed as picnic bus overturns

UNB, *Jessore*

Four people, including two female students and a teacher, were killed and 18 others injured as a picnic bus overturned as it hit a roadside tree in Danbox of Chougachha in Jessore last night.

Jahurul Islam, a teacher of Ramakrishna High School in the upazila, and Milon, helper of the bus driver, died instantly.

Chougachha police said teachers and students of the school were going to a picnic in Dinajpur. The driver lost his control over the steering.

The injured were taken to Chougachha Upazila Health Complex where the two students died.

Six of the injured were shifted to Jessore General Hospital.

Clockwise from left, **patients returning home without getting service from a closed diagnostic centre in Rajshahi city due to a 22-hour strike observed by the private healthcare facilities in the city protesting mobile court verdicts. Sufferings of patients mounted since many of them were forced to leave the clinics during the closure like this anxious woman at the gate of Royal Hospital carrying her sick infant, who was born at the hospital two weeks ago, but could not get treatment as no doctors were available. Many also queued up in front of health care centres to inquire when those will reopen. The photos were taken in Laxmipur area yesterday morning.**

PHOTOS: STAR

RAJSHAHI CITY CLINICS' 22HR STRIKE

Patients bear the brunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Hundreds of patients suffered as the owners of private healthcare facilities in Rajshahi city observed a 22-hour strike until yesterday afternoon protesting mobile court verdicts against three clinic owners.

Operation at most of the clinics remained suspended since Tuesday evening mounting sufferings for patients.

The Rajshahi chapter of Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostics Owners' Association called the indefinite strike at 6:00pm on Tuesday, although most of the private clinics and diagnostic centres closed their shutters down soon after the mobile court drive began around 2:00pm.

Salima Khatun, 45, went to Popular Diagnostic Centre in the city from Kushtia for tests for kidney disease and blood infections. She had to spend the night at the centre's courtyard hoping they would open up soon.

"I have no way to return home without the tests as I cannot afford the money to come back again," she said yesterday morning.

Hafizul Mondol of Dinajpur said he passed the night at Rajshahi Railway Station.

As the clinics and diagnostic centres were closed Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) had to deal with extra pressures of patients, said RMCH Director Brig Gen Rafiqul Islam.

He said the hospital handles 450 indoor and 3,500 outdoor patients daily, but after the closure of clinics, the number of outdoor patients increased by hundreds. Patients also had to suffer at the government hospital as it does not have facilities for all medical tests, he added.

Many patients were seen running from clinics to clinics for pathological tests, but the authorities kept their shutters down.

Some 100 Private clinics and diagnostic centres in the city deals with more than 1,200 patients daily, said the clinic owners.

Assigned by the health directorate in Dhaka, a mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion led by executive magistrate Sarwar Alam on Tuesday fined three private clinics -- Amana Hospital, Royal Hospital and Delta Diagnostic Centre -- around Tk 8.25 lakh in Laxmipur area for using expired and smuggled Indian equipment.

Two managers of Amana and Royal hospitals were picked-up by the law enforcers as they were unable to pay the fines immediately.

The association leaders, however, said the mobile court imposed "excessive fines" under the Consumers' Rights Protection Act of 2009, although private hospitals are conducted by the Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance of 1982.

Instead of appealing to the higher courts, the owners of healthcare facilities preferred strike to challenge the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

VERDICTS IN RANGPUR, BOGRA, BARISAL

Seven to die for murders

STAR REPORT

Seven people were given death sentence by different courts in Rangpur, Bogra and Barisal yesterday.

A Rangpur court yesterday sentenced four men to death for killing a man in Mithapukur upazila of the district in 2012.

The condemned convicts are Sirajul Islam, Jewel Mia, Md Suzan Mia of Pirgachha upazila in Rangpur, and Md Shahin Mia of Bogra.

Abu Zafor Md Quamruzzaman of Additional District and Sessions Judge Court also sentenced one Alam Mia to three years of imprisonment and fined him Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one more year in jail.

Convict Sirajul is now in jail while others are on the run.

According to the prosecution, Chunnu Mia, a studio trader of Pirgachha upazila, was returning home riding on a motorbike in the night of August 23, 2012. The convicts waylaid him at Jalalganj village in Mithapukur upazila and stabbed him before snatching his bike.

Chunnu died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

On August 25, Chunnu's brother filed a case accusing five persons.

Meanwhile, Additional District and Sessions Judge-1 in Bogra Md Hafizur Rahman sentenced two persons to death and one person to 7-year of imprisonment for killing a boy in 2012.

The death row convicts are Zakaria Mia, son of Abdul Mannan, and Dalim Ahmed, son of Alimuddin. The court also fined them Tk 1 lakh each, in default, to suffer one year more in jail.

On the other hand, Abdul Motin, son of Ahmed Ali of Ullotto village in Kahaloo upazila, was given 7-year jail term, and fined Tk 10,000, in default, to stay six more months in jail.

According to the prosecution, on April 5, 2012, the convicts picked up Naimul Islam Naim, 13, a seventh grader of Kahaloo High School in Kahaloo upazila, on his way to a coaching centre and later demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom from his parents.

Though the ransom was paid, they killed Naim and threw his body into the stove of a brick kiln in Ullotto area.

Later, a murder case was filed on April 10,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

Guests at a launching ceremony of a book titled "Locations: Anthology of Architecture and Urbanism" at Edge Gallery in the capital's Gulshan yesterday. Bengal Foundation, Bengal institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements in association with The Edge Foundation organised the event where, *from left*, Zinat Chowdhury, Prof Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, who edited the book, US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, Chairperson and Founder of the Bengal Foundation Abul Khair Litu, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Rashed Chowdhury and Irteza Amin were present.

PHOTO: STAR

Book on architecture launched in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Architecture is not merely about making a building, it is also about designing landscape and locations, said noted architects at a book launching ceremony in the capital yesterday.

In today's Bangladesh, architects have to have a deeper relation with the water and designing of hydro-geography, said architecture educator Prof Kazi Khaleed Ashraf.

Ashraf, also the director general of Bengal Institute, edited the book "Locations: Anthology of Architecture and Urbanism".

Bengal Foundation, Bengal institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements in association with The Edge Foundation organised the event at Edge Gallery in Gulshan.

Printed in San Francisco, the book contains 21 articles on different issues of architecture by noted architects from India, Japan, Turkey and Hong Kong. It is the first volume of a series.

Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, US ambassador to Bangladesh, who attended as the chief guest, said the book provides a unique insight into how people interact with nature and each other.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, a special guest at the event, said Dhaka is virtually being ruined in the name of modernisation and development.

Abul Khair Litu, chairman of Bengal Foundation, and Prof Shamsul Wares, an educator of architecture, also spoke.

STAR WEEKEND
in other news...

This week's spotlight talks about the 10th International Children's Film Festival, where children and young adults aged 6 to 25 from all over the globe have participated. We also have an article that reflects on the tragic history of the Holocaust and discusses how the new world order collapsed as humanity failed to learn from the Second World War. Don't forget to grab your copy of the *Star Weekend*, tomorrow, Friday!