

GRAFT CASE

June 15 fixed for placing Khaleda's self-defence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 15 for placing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's self-defence statements in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

The court also allowed the defence lawyer for Khaleda Zia, Md. Shahidul Haider Rashid, a deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the investigation officer of the case.

Judge Md Akhtarruzzaman of the Special Judge Court-5 of Dhaka passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Jamiatul Sircar Haider filed a writ of habeas corpus.

Earlier in the day, the BNP chief appeared before the court around 11:40am and left around 1:30pm.

According to the charge sheet of the case, Khaleda and three others abused power to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia Charitable Trust during the BNP-led government's tenure between 1991 and 1996.

"It is double standards of the university authorities," the statement of the case says the BNP chief, her son, Tarique Rahman and four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by forming the charity that exists only on paper.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Controversy as JU staff protest 'vandalism'

FROM PAGE 3

About the protest, a student said, "Our vice chancellor on several occasions told media that the case will be withdrawn. But after 10 days of the incident, the university's movement backed by the authorities seemed to be a new plot."

"It is double standards of the university authorities," the student said.

Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam, however, refuted the allegations, saying some of the staff were injured in the attack, and they organised the protest on their own.

"Neither did they come to me nor did I tell them to

organise it," she said. Through the staff held the human rights protest, the news did not appear on most media. The next day, however, the public relations (PR) office of the university sent a press release to media outlets requesting them to report the incident.

"At this moment, this is a positive movement for the university administration. So we sent a press release," said Salim, adding that the VC was informed of it.

Asked, the VC said it was an event of the university, and the PR office could send such press releases as general news.

Imran Nadim, president of JU Chhatra Union, said it is a shame when such a press release came from the university's PR

director of the PR office, said, "The university officers and students are not the rowdy ones. They are not outsiders. We think their demands have only gone in favour of the administration's stance."

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Imran Nadim, president of JU Chhatra Union, said it is a shame when such a press release came from the university's PR

officer. We are concerned whether the authorities really want to withdraw the case.

Meanwhile, asked about branding the agitating students as "criminals", Sarowar Hossain, vice president of the Officers' Association, said they had no objection about making comment on media about this incident.

Contacted over the phone, President of the Officers' Association Masudur Rahman declined to comment.

Amor Chand Mandal,

president of the Workers' Association, said, "Our staff were injured by the rowdy students. So we demanded their punishment."

"We have given one month time to the university administration to take action against them," he added.

WIDENING THE CASE

Asked about the case against the students, the VC said the case had become the plaintiff of the case now.

"As the police investigation has already started, it is not

possible to withdraw the case

right now... There are some

procedures and we need time for this," she said.

Meanwhile, the Shikkha-Samaj Oikya Parishad yesterday decided to submit a memorandum to the VCs demanding the withdrawal of the case against the students and reconstitution of the committee investigating the incident.

to do so. "But there are some procedures to follow," he added.

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Samaj Oikya Parishad yesterday decided to submit a memorandum to the VCs demanding the withdrawal of the case against the students and reconstitution of the committee investigating the incident.

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D-248

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