



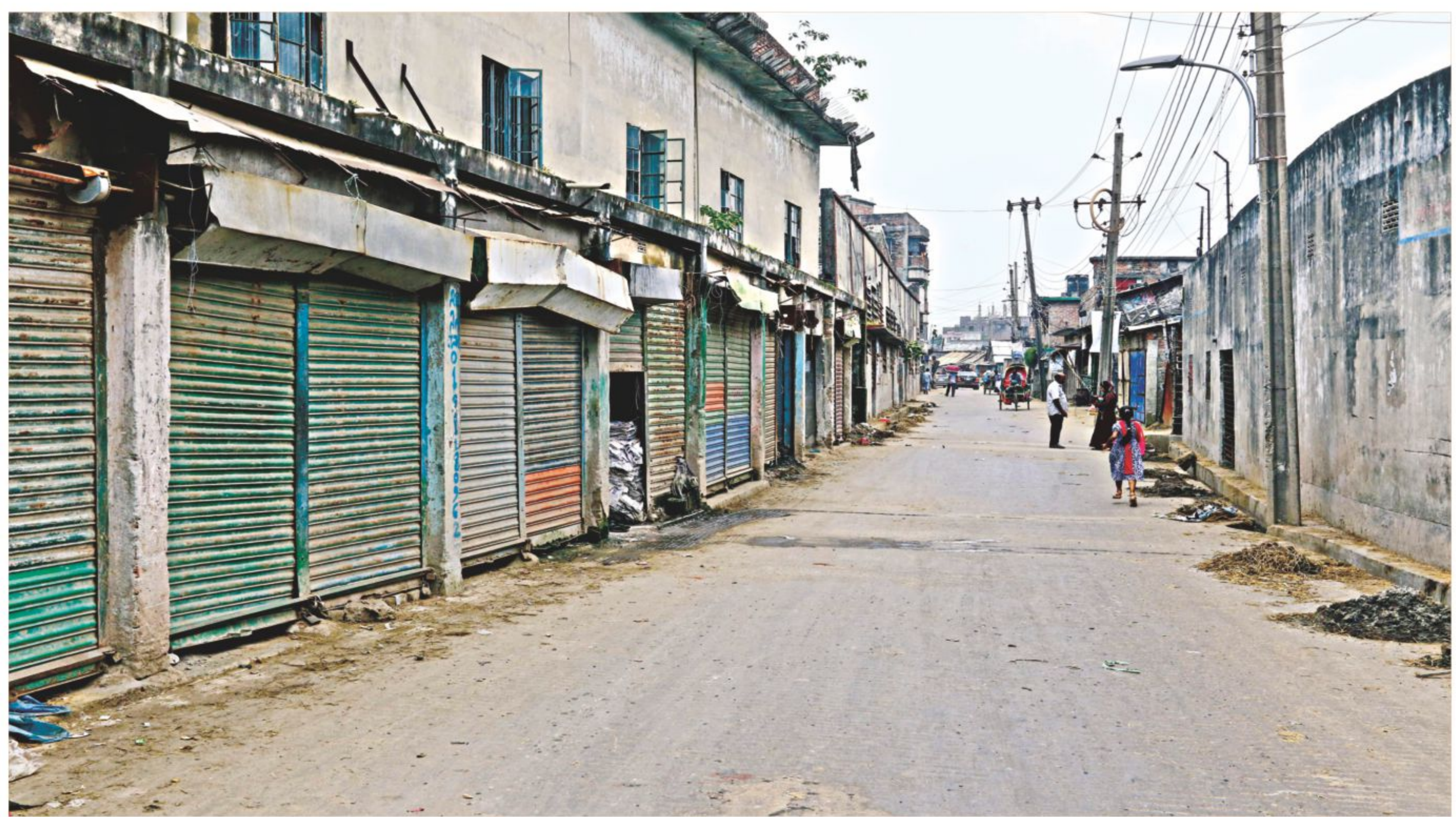
Justice Wahhab Miah acting CJ during Sinha's leave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, a senior judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, will discharge the responsibility of chief justice during the absence of Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha as the latter is scheduled to stay abroad from September 10 to 22.

The law ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification saying that under Article 97 of the constitution, the president has given the responsibility of the chief justice to Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah during the period from

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This time around last year this road was teeming with business. It was the former tannery district of Dhaka -- Hazaribagh. As most factories relocated to the tannery estate in Savar, outside the capital, this place has gradually lost crowds. The photo was taken in Kalunagar yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

1,000 land offices will be modernised by this year

Says minister

UNB, Dhaka

Land Minister Shamsur Rahman Sherif yesterday said the government was modernising union- and upazila-level land offices across the country.

"Work on 1,000 land offices will be completed by 2017, and 2,000 more under the current tenure of the government," he said.

The minister said this while inaugurating the construction work on Lakkhikunda Union Land Office at Ishwardi upazila in Pabna, said a PID handout.

Noting that the government is determined to rehabilitate the landless people, he urged the officials concerned to send lists of landless people and khas land to the ministry soon.

Sherif stressed the need for finding out government land to implement the projects of cluster villages, model villages, and "one house one farm" project to rehabilitate the landless.

53,000 teaching posts in primary schools vacant

Says minister, adding literacy rate now 72.3pc

UNB, Dhaka

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman yesterday said some 53,000 posts of teachers were currently lying vacant in the country's 64,000 primary schools.

"Of the vacant posts, about 21,000 are of headmasters and 32,000 of assistant teachers," he said while addressing a press conference at his ministry on the occasion of International Literacy Day.

The day will be observed tomorrow with the theme: "Literacy in a digital world". The minister, however, said since 27.7 per cent of the population was still illiterate, it was quite impossible to attain expected development.

Let's share the refugee burden

Tofail Ahmed urges countries

STAR REPORT

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday urged the governments of other countries to take the responsibility of Rohingyas as Bangladesh is already burdened with the influx of those forced migrants from Myanmar.

"Every country should come forward to share the disaster of Rohingyas. Bearing the burden of Rohingya influx only by Bangladesh is almost impossible," the minister said while he was exchanging greetings with journalists after Eid at his secretariat office in Dhaka.

The government has been treating the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds as they are now in helpless state because of atrocities by the Myanmar government on the religious minority people, said Tofail.

The global leaders should also show their humanity on the Rohingyas. However, Bangladesh has the limitation to accommodate Rohingyas as the influx of such helpless people has been continuing over the last few days.

The inflow of Rohingyas is so high that only on Tuesday more than 35,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh, although thousands of Rohingyas have already been accommodated in Cox's Bazar, the entry point of Rohingyas from Myanmar.

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GRAFT ALLEGATIONS IN ACC Local govt div tops list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has registered the highest number of graft allegations against the officials and public representatives of Local Government Division (LGD) through its newly launched hotline service.

Out of 483 allegations, ACC registered 85 allegations against LGD whereas 80 graft allegations were made against the officials in the education sector.

"People made allegations against local chairmen, members, officials and staff of LGD for misappropriating government wealth and seeking bribes," said ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

Regarding the education sector, which took second spot in terms of total number of allegations, he said, "Aggrieved persons made allegations that bribes were sought over transfer and appointment of officials."

There are instances that teachers sought bribes on various occasions, he added. People also called ACC's

hotline 106 to file complaints of corruption against the police officers.

ACC launched the hotline on July 27, and until yesterday a total of 1, 71,000 calls were made to the commission.

The graft watchdog has already forwarded 28 allegations to different ministries and government officers to take necessary legal actions.

"People made various kinds of allegations but we could register only the allegations that fall under the purview of ACC's act," Pranab said.

Upon receiving allegations, in the last 42 days, ACC sent their special teams to various government offices. They have beefed up their surveillance at these offices, Pranab said.

ACC got 18 allegations against district and upazila administrations, 15 against health department, 20 against land offices, four against accounts offices, two against civil aviation, two against social service division, 12 against department of housing and Rajuk, six against National Board of Revenue, nine against power distribu-

tion offices, five against Roads and Highways Department, 11 against banks, six against Water Development Board, four against BRTA, three against department of railway, five against department of relief, and three against department of food. The rest were made against individuals and various offices.

Meanwhile, on August 30, ACC issued a notice to an additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) AQM Ikram Ullah and his family members to submit their wealth statements before it within seven working days, said Pranab.

ACC sought the wealth statements as it is conducting an enquiry into the allegations against Ikram and his family members of "amassing huge wealth illegally". Quoting the notice, Pranab said the graft watchdog asked Ikram, his wife Atia Khatun, son Sakib Ikram and daughter Anika Ikram to submit the wealth statements, citing their sources of income. The notice was signed by ACC Deputy Director Mahfuza Khatun.



BARAPUKURIA CASE Khaleda again asked to appear before court on Oct 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 10 others to appear before it on October 30 in connection with Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

Judge Hosne Ara Begum of the Special Judge's Court-2 passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Mia submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the case hearing.

The court also fixed the same date for hearing on charge framing against Khaleda and 10 others in the case.

Earlier, on July 24 last year, the same court asked Khaleda and 10 others to appear before it on August 10 the same year. Following the order, Khaleda appeared before the court on that date and got bail in the case.

But later she never appeared before the court, said lawyer Taherul Islam Tauhid.

In the yesterday's petition, Sanaullah Mia said their client Khaleda had earlier gone to London for treatment, adding that an adjournment for hearing was needed.

BNP leaders Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and AKM Mosharraf Hossain were present at the court while lawyers represented Khaleda and M Shamsul Islam in their absence.

BNP leaders MK Anwar and Aminul Haque were

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

LEFT WITHOUT CARE: As if these replicas of national cricketers were built temporarily only to add beauty to the Chittagong city ahead of the 2011 world cup. This installation is one of the first things international visitors including cricketers see after exiting the Chittagong airport. Instead of being a thing of beauty, this has rather become an eyesore now because the figures got broken, gathered dirt, and their colours faded. The photo was taken yesterday.

ROHINGYA PERSECUTION It's extreme violation of human rights: NHRC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission yesterday condemned the recent killing and suppression of the ethnic Rohingya Muslims by the Myanmar government, terming the incident an "extreme violation of human rights".

Issuing a statement, the NHRC urged influential countries to take an initiative to help the persecuted people and create pressure on the Myanmar government to stop the atrocities.

More than one lakh Rohingya have left their houses in Rakhine state and taken shelter in Bangladesh to escape the barbarity, even against women and children.

On the other hand, despite different obstacles, the Bangladesh government is trying to feed them, treat them, and give them shelter and required support.

"It is Myanmar government's duty to

ensure human rights of the Rohingya," the commission said in the statement.

It said the Rohingya people who took shelter in Bangladesh would have to be repatriated to their ancestral home. Different local and international rights organisations have to play a vital role in this regard, the statement said.

The NHRC also said it would send official letters to rights organisations of different countries, requesting them to create "diplomatic and economic pressures" on Myanmar to stop persecuting the Rohingya.

Letters will be sent to organisations including the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights, and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Health investment augments economy

Emphasises inaugural session of five-day meeting of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, from the Maldives

The five-day meeting of the 11 member countries of World Health Organization (WHO) in Southeast Asia region kicked off yesterday at Paradise Island in the Maldives, emphasising the need for sustained investment in health sector to ensure continuity of economic progress.

"There is nothing better you can do for the people of your countries than to invest in strengthening your health systems," said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom at the inaugural programme of the 70th session of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia (SEAR).

"This includes ensuring the right number of health workers with the right skills, in the right places, to give the right care, at the right time," he said as WHO emphasised the

need for making health for all a top priority for the region.

A strong health system is the best defence against outbreaks and epidemics, he said.

Hosted by the Maldives, the meeting will focus on climate change and its adverse impact on public health. The other members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director of WHO of South East Asia Region, said, "Sustained investment in health is a vital weapon if governments wish to ensure that hard-won economic progress continues."

"The challenges we all face are

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TWO CRIMINAL CASES Zainul Abdin, 28 others of BNP get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to BNP chairperson's adviser Zainul Abdin Faroque and 28 other local BNP leaders and activists for six weeks in two separate criminal cases.

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Amir Hossain granted the bail following two separate petitions filed by the accused BNP leaders and activists seeking bail in the cases.

They also appeared before the HC bench for anticipatory bail.

Petitioners' lawyer Barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star that local Awami League leader Abdullah Al Mamun, who was earlier a BNP leader of Senbagh area in Noakhali, filed a case with Shenbagh Police Station on August 30 against Zainul Abdin Faroque and 18 others for violence and beating some people during a clash over distributing relief among the poor on August 29 this year.

The other case was filed by Chiranjit Tangchangya, chairman of Wagna Union Parishad under Kaptai upazila of Rangamati

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Shamimbagh area near Dhaka in Narayanganj has been waterlogged for three months. The photo was taken inside DND embankment area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON