

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and other judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will hold a courtesy meeting with its lawyers including the attorney general on October 3.

The registrar general of SC, Syed Aminul Islam, issued a notice to this effect yesterday.

The chief justice and other judges of the Appellate Division will hold the courtesy meeting that day with the attorney general and president, secretary and lawyers of the Supreme Court Bar Association from 10.30am till noon at the law of the Supreme Court main building, the SC registrar general said in the notice.

The Supreme Court resumes business on

Govt to probe Zia family for 'money laundering'

Hasina tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that her government would investigate the allegation of laundering over Tk 1,200 crore in 12 countries by the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's family.

She said this while replying to a supplementary question by opposition bench lawmaker Fakhru Imam.

In his question, the Jatiya Party MP said according to a latest report of "Global Intelligence Network", family members of Khaleda Zia have laundered over Tk 1,200 crore in 12 countries where they have business and properties.

Fakhru Imam said Khaleda Zia, her sons Tarique Rahman and late Arafat Rahman Koko, BNP leader Moulud Ahmed, former minister Aminul Islam, BNP standing committee members Mirza Abbas and Nazrul Islam Khan, and Abbas's wife Afroza Abbas have business and properties abroad.

He wanted to know whether the PM was aware of the report and what actions her government would take regarding it.

In reply, Hasina, also leader of the House, said she is aware of the report. "We will take actions following a proper investigation... The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit under the Bangladesh Bank is also working in this regard."

She, however, said for the sake of the investigation she will not provide further information.

Pointing to BNP's rule from 2001 to 2006, the premier said everyone is well informed that BNP had carried out killing and repression and looted public money.

"People know it well how they had laundered the money. For the first time in the country's history we had brought back the laundered money of Arafat Rahman Koko."

The Daily Star, however, could not verify authenticity of the IP MP's claim independently.

According to the website of Global Intelligence Network, it has been incorporated in Nevada, USA since 1996 and has a seasoned staff that encompasses over 150 years of investigative, law enforcement and

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Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) dismantles illegal structures on Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

As if 'Muslims were doing the burning..'

BBC correspondent Jonathan Head gives firsthand account of Myanmar govt-sponsored media trip to Rakhine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When the Rohingya, who are fleeing violence in Myanmar in tens of thousands, say Myanmar security forces and Rakhine mobs are burning down their homes and killing their relatives, Myanmar denies it.

Restricted access for journalists to report on the ground in Rakhine makes it impossible to verify the claims. But, as the narratives of the Rohingya men and women arriving in Bangladesh dominate the world media, Myanmar government planned a media trip to parts of Rakhine recently.

BBC's Southeast Asia correspondent Jonathan Head, who was one of the 18 local and foreign journalists in the trip, describes in a report, published on September 11, how he found evidences that do not support Myanmar's claims that Rohingya Muslims burnt all the houses.

On arrival at Sittwe, capital of Rakhine, Myanmar officials instructed them not to leave the group and try to work independently. Journalists could request to go to places that interested them, but in practice their requests were rejected on grounds of security.

"To be fair, I believe they were genuinely concerned for our safety," Jonathan says.

After a six-hour journey from Sittwe to Buthidaung, they travelled for an hour on a rough road over the Mayu Hills to Maungdaw where they passed first burned village, Myo Thu Gyi. Even the palm trees were scorched.

The journalists were first taken to a small school in Maungdaw, now crowded with displaced Hindu families. They all had the same story to tell of Muslims attacking, of fleeing in fear.

"Oddly, Hindus who have fled to Bangladesh all say they were attacked by local Rakhine Buddhists, because they resemble Rohingyas," Jonathan said.

In the school the journalists were accompanied by armed police and officials. Jonathan doubted if they could speak freely in the presence of police. However, one man started to tell him how soldiers had been firing at his village, but quickly he was corrected by a neighbour.

A woman in an orange, lacy blouse and distinctive grey and mauve longyi was especially animated about the abuses by Muslims, he says in his narrative of the scene.

"We were then taken to a Buddhist temple, where a monk described Muslims burning down their own homes, nearby. We were given photographs catching them in the act. They looked strange," Jonathan Head writes.

Men in white hair caps posed as they set light to the palm-thatch roof. Women wearing what appeared to be lacy tablecloths on their heads melodramatically waved swords and machetes, he says.

"Later I found that one of the women was in fact the animated Hindu woman from the school, and I saw that one of the men had also been present in among the displaced Hindu... They had faked the photos to make it look as though Muslims were doing the burning."

Colonel Phone Tint, the local minister for border security, described journalists how "Bengali terrorists", as they call the militants of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), had taken control of Rohingya villages, and forced them to offer one man per household as a fighter. Those

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