

Non-partisan govt a must

Khaleda on next polls; reiterates demand for deployment of army with magistracy power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded the next parliamentary polls be held under a non-partisan government, claiming that no fair election would be possible with Sheikh Hasina in power.

She also demanded deployment of the army with magistracy power to maintain law and order and ensure a free, fair and credible election.

"They [the Awami League] do not understand that there is no pleasure in winning polls by fraudulence," she said at a rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan.

She also urged the Election Commission (EC) to talk about polls under a non-partisan government.

"I will tell the Chief Election Commissioner [CEC] and other election commissioners that it is their job to hold a free and fair election in the country."

Following a lengthy political turmoil, a non-partisan election-time caretaker government system was introduced in 1996. But the constitutional provisions for the system were scrapped in 2011 by the then Awami League-led government. The BNP's demand for restoration of the provisions was rejected by the government. Protesting this, the BNP-led alliance boycotted the 10th parliamentary elections held in January 2014.

According to the current constitutional provisions, the government-led by Sheikh Hasina will remain the prime

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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addressing a huge rally in Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday afternoon. This was her first rally in the city in 18 months.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Judiciary relieved of burden

Says AG on Justice Sinha's resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha's resignation has relieved the judiciary of a burden, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said yesterday.

"If anybody in the judiciary is involved in corruption or moral turpitude, that person should not be in the judiciary under any circumstances," he told reporters at his office when asked about his reaction to Justice Sinha's resignation.

Amid flak from the ruling quarters over different issues including the 16th amendment verdict, Justice Sinha resigned on Saturday.

Now abroad, he sent his resignation letter to the Bangabhaban, the official residence of President Abdul Hamid.

What reason Justice Sinha cited in the letter is yet to be known.

Mahbubey Alam yesterday said, "The Appellate Division of the Supreme

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Rohingya women gang-raped by Myanmar army

UN special representative says as survivors speak of sexual violence

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten yesterday said they consistently heard about sexual violence from Rohingya survivors, including gang rape of women by multiple soldiers.

"One survivor described being held in captivity by the Myanmar Armed Forces for

45 days when she was raped repeatedly," Patten told a press conference at a city hotel.

She said others still bore visible scars, bruises and bite marks attesting to their ordeal.

"Any actor who commits and commands or condones sexual violence against civilians must be held to account," she added.

The special envoy also said Bangladesh's

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200,000 more to arrive in coming weeks

Int'l Rescue Committee fears; 'shocking level' of malnutrition found among Rohingya kids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Rescue Committee fears around two lakh more Rohingyas will flee to Bangladesh in coming weeks, exacerbating an already "unimaginable humanitarian crisis" in Cox's Bazar that already hosts over eight lakh refugees.

"The IRC expects a further 200,000 new arrivals in coming weeks -- bringing the total refugee population to over 1 million," the New York-based humanitarian organisation, which operates in Myanmar's Rakhine State, said in a statement on Saturday.

The figure is based on knowledge of the remaining population of Rohingyas in Rakhine State as the pre-crisis number is estimated to be approximately 1.1 million, said IRC spokesperson Chiara Trincia.

"It's currently estimated that 2-4k people a day are crossing and it is likely that this will continue steadily

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Rohingya refugees who entered Bangladesh on makeshift boats walk towards refugee camps after landing in Sabrang of Teknaf yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

People suffer as transport kept off roads

STAR REPORT

Carrying her sick one-year-old baby in her lap, Salma Khatun started for Dhaka Shishu Hospital from Savar by a bus around 11:00am yesterday.

Little did she know the trouble she would have to endure, as the bus remained stuck in an eight-kilometre tailback stretching from Hemayetpur to Gabtoli, thanks to police check near the Gabtoli bridge ahead of a BNP rally.

"My baby has been suffering from fever and diarrhoea. I still don't know when we will reach the hospital," said an exhausted Salma while resting under a tree near the bridge around 1:15pm.

As traffic on the highway was at a standstill, Salma

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PM, please intervene

Urge DU teachers, students and alumni, demanding safe return of missing NSU teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and alumni of Dhaka University yesterday sought the prime minister's intervention in tracing North South University teacher Mubashar Hasan who went missing on Tuesday evening.

They formed a human chain on Aparajeyo Bangla premises and said if Mubashar was guilty of any crime he could be brought to book and tried. His disappearance only proves the state's failure to protect its citizen, they observed.

Mubashar is a DU alumnus who studied mass communication and journalism. His former department organised the human chain under the banner "Teachers, Friends and Dear Ones". The participants wore masks made of Mubashar's photographs to resemble that they "all are Mubashar".

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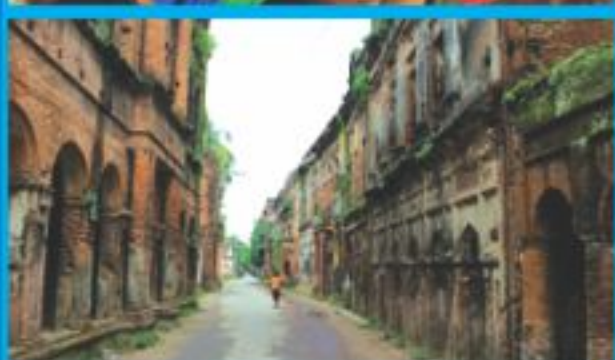


Mubashar

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