



All eyes on court

Tension mounts amid tight security measures ahead of verdict in Khaleda's graft case today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is a nervy siege situation; the capital has been wrapped in an unprecedented security blanket.

Alongside a huge number of regular law enforcers, the government yesterday deployed paramilitary forces in Dhaka and elsewhere ahead of the verdict in a corruption case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

In the capital alone, 20 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (each platoon has 10-20 members) were deployed in the evening. Another 23 platoons have been called in for

deployment across the country.

Police set up checkpoints in the city and at all entry points of the capital, and searched people. They also raided different places including mess, hotels and houses of BNP leaders and workers.

Police also checked inter-district buses in efforts to prevent BNP activists from coming to Dhaka.

Vigilance by regular law enforcers and intelligence agencies has been increased since a special court fixed today for the verdict.

Awami League men will also be on the streets to prevent the opposition party activists from "resorting

to violence" centring on the judgment.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police said it would deploy majority of its 35,000-strong force alongside members of Rab and other agencies. Usually, some 8,000 members of the DMP are deployed.

All measures are aimed at preventing BNP men from staging demonstration or causing any damage to life and properties, as the party planned a large gathering in the capital during the court proceedings set to start at 11:00am.

Khaleda will leave her Gulshan home around 10:00am.

The home minister, inspector general of police and the DMP commissioner warned of tough actions against troublemakers.

"We hope that the law and order will be normal and under control across the country. If anyone tries to disrupt law and order and threaten public safety, law enforcers will handle it strictly," IGP Javed Patwary told reporters at the police headquarters.

D M P C o m m i s s i o n e r Asaduzzaman Mia said they had no information of any possible act of sabotage.

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A policeman talks to a detained BNP leader near Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court as the law enforcer takes him to the court yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Khaleda Zia declared war against court

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that BNP was playing "dirty politics" over a court verdict.

"Khaleda Zia has declared a war against the court by making false and provocative statements," he said at a press conference at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

The AL organised the press conference around an hour after BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had spoken at a press meet at her Gulshan office.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said the AL as the people's political force was committed to ensuring

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All problems can be solved thru' dialogue

PM on relations with neighbouring countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that it was possible to resolve all problems with neighbouring countries through dialogue, no matter how complex those were.

The PM said this pointing to her government's success in resolving disputes with India and Myanmar over maritime boundaries.

On the Rohingya issue, the premier informed the House that it was her government's timely decision to give shelter to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

"Bangladesh wants a sustainable and

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LEAKED QUESTION PAPERS

It's now free in the mornings

STAR REPORT

It appears money is not a big deal for the people who leak question papers of public exams.

Even though they sell the question papers the day before the exam, they give it away for free in secret messenger groups on Facebook hours before the test.

Like in the case of the first three tests, the leaked questions of English second paper circulated in social media and messenger groups yesterday.

Pictures of the questions of "Kha" set were found on several Facebook pages about 45 minutes before the exam began at 10:00am. However, one of the screenshots containing the questions of Kha set had been circulating in a secret WhatsApp group since 4:11am.

Some of the leakers were seen bragging on Facebook when the test was still going on. They claimed that they have again been successful in leaking the questions and promised questions of future SSC tests.

"Those who got it [question], how are you feeling? Full common. Stay with us! Now it's time for Islamic Studies [to be held today]," read one of

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KIDNAP IN B'BARIA

Girl's presence of mind saves her, 3 others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A little girl's courage and quick thinking saved four girls including her from kidnappers yesterday.

Fourth grader Lima Akter and three other girls of her school were being taken away by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, when the girl jumped off the speeding vehicle, prompting bystanders to intercept the kidnappers.

The 10-year-old, critically injured by the fall, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

People, who stopped the three-wheeler and caught

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I'm ready to face any situation

Says Khaleda, accuses govt of 'trying to use court' to keep her away from politics, election



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday accused the government of trying to use court to keep her away from politics and elections, and clear the way for holding a lopsided election again like the one in 2014.

"I am ready to face any situation. It is useless to threaten me with imprisonment. I will not bow down. I will not retreat from the struggle for establishing people's rights. People are being deprived of their rights," she said at a press conference at her Gulshan office a day before a Dhaka court is set to deliver verdict in a graft case against her.

"They [the government] are trying to use court to keep

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ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST GRAFT CASE

CASE FILED: July 3, 2008

TOTAL ACCUSED: 6

CHARGES FRAMED: March 19, 2014

TRIAL STARTED: September 22, 2014

TOTAL PROSECUTION WITNESSES: 32

DEFENCE WITNESSES: 3

CLOSING ARGUMENTS: December 20, 2017 to January 25, 2018

NUMBER OF DAYS OF PROCEEDINGS: 236 days

HIGHEST PUNISHMENT: Life term

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THE CASE IN BRIEF

The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the graft case with Ramna Police Station in July 2008, accusing Khaleda and five others of misappropriating over Tk 2.1 crore that had come from a foreign bank as

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