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Walking free from the jail, he hails 'new dawn' for Malaysia
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SC VERDICT DISMISSES GOVT APPEALS

Khaleda's bail upheld, but release uncertain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia cannot walk out of prison right now even after winning a hard-fought legal battle for bail at the Supreme Court yesterday, as she didn't get bail in seven other cases in which she was shown arrested.

Two weeks after landing in jail upon being sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage graft case, Khaleda filed a bail petition with the High Court. Her petition was strongly opposed by the government. The HC bench on March 12 granted her bail for four months.

The government and the Anti-Corruption Commission then moved to the apex court to block her bail. A week later, the SC stayed the HC bail order in response to their two leave-to-appeal petitions.

Finally, good news came for the BNP chief yesterday as a four-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed the appeals filed against her bail granted by the HC two months ago.

The grounds on which the apex court upheld the HC order could not be known immediately as the full text of the SC verdict was not released yesterday.

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WAITING FOR BAIL IN 7 CASES

- 3 arson attack cases (Comilla)
- 'Fake birthday' case (Dhaka)
- National flag undermining case (Dhaka)
- Defamation case (Narail)
- Arson attack case (Khulna)

Ramadan begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ramadan, the lunar month of self-purification through fasting and abstinence, begins in the country tomorrow as the new moon was not sighted anywhere in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessings and benediction, will be observed on the night of June 12.

The National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision at a meeting at Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office with Religious Affairs Minister and committee Chairman Mator Rahman in the chair.

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A turnout that raises eyebrows

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Of all the 286 polling centres in Khulna City Corporation, the one at Nayabati Haji Shariatullah Bidyapith in ward-10, stands out for recording a turnout of 99.94 percent voters.

The result sheet of the returning officer shows that all 1,818 voters, except one, exercised their franchise in Tuesday's KCC polls.

It is one of several polling centres that saw unrealistic voter turnouts while the overall turnout was less than 63 percent.

In the centres where the unusual casting was found, Awami League candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque clinched an easy victory. In the Nayabati centre, Khaleque got 1,114 votes while BNP's Nazrul Islam Monju received 373 votes.

Talking to The Daily Star, an election official said, "Such casting of vote is unusual... It may happen due to some irregularities."

Asked whether he would inform the Election Commission, the official refused to comment.

At two other polling centres in Natun Bazar Government

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KCC victory boosts AL

BNP sees it as govt defeat as anomalies tainted the polls

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and RASHIDUL HASAN

Ruling Awami League and BNP insiders believe they have gained more than their arch rival from the just-concluded Khulna City Corporation elections.

Sources in the AL said Tuesday's victory was a showcase of party unity and a morale boost for party workers who had been feeling down following losses in Rangpur and Comilla city polls.

The AL wants to hold on

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Vehicles stuck in traffic near Shimrail area of Narayanganj on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday morning. Motorists said bottlenecks due to a stretch of narrow road near Kanchpur Bridge and poor parking were largely responsible for the situation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY No let-up in tailbacks, sufferings

STAR REPORT

Congestion on Dhaka-Chittagong highway has been nothing short of a nightmare.

Thousands were stuck on the road for hours yesterday.

For over a week, people have been subjected to tailbacks reaching miles on the highway known as the economic lifeline of Bangladesh.

Tailbacks stretched to 110km near Feni for almost five days due to bottlenecks caused by the construction work of a flyover at Fatehpur.


But yesterday's gridlock ensued from several other spots. Women and children suffered the most as vehicles on both sides of the road crawled to a halt.

Vehicles heading towards Dhaka were subjected to a 35-km tailback between Kutumbopur of Chandina and Meghna Bridge early yesterday while those leaving the capital

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BCL threatens quota leaders with life

Allege quota reform leaders; police 'refuse' to record GD

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra League men have allegedly threatened to shoot and kill quota reform activists if they do not stop their movement.

"None of you [protestors] will be spared. Just let the gazette [on quota reform] be published. You will be shot dead," quota reform leader Nurul Huq Nur quoted

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77pc pasteurised milk unsafe: icddr,b

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 77 percent of pasteurised milk samples assessed in a study were found to have high levels of bacteria, making direct consumption of such milk unsafe.

The level of bacteria found was beyond the standards set by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, said the study.

"Raw or pasteurised milk available in the market are found to be contaminated with disease-causing organisms and should not be consumed without thorough boiling," said Mohammad Aminul Islam, associate scientist and head of the Food Microbiology Laboratory at icddr,b.

Consuming such milk can cause various diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid, he said.

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In Remembrance

Faruq Choudhury 1934-2017

"You will always remain in our hearts and prayers"



Today is the first death anniversary of Faruq Choudhury who passed away on May 17, 2017.

Faruq Choudhury was a diplomat and writer. He joined the Pakistan Foreign Service in 1956. In 1971 he led the establishment of the Bangladesh Foreign Office and was Bangladesh's first Chief of Protocol. He was Deputy High Commissioner to the UK and subsequently served as Ambassador to the UAE, the BENELUX countries and the EEC. He was the Chief Coordinator of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Islamic Countries. In 1984 he became Foreign Secretary. He subsequently served as High Commissioner to India till his retirement in 1992.

Faruq Choudhury authored several books in Bangla such as Desh Deshantor and Priyo Farzana. For his significant contribution to Bangla literature and his "Jiboner Baluka Bela", he was awarded the prestigious Bangla Academy and IFIC Bank Literary awards. He was a columnist for several newspapers including The Daily Star and Prothom Alo. Post retirement he served as Adviser to BRAC, and as a member of the Trustee Board of BRAC University. He was also an Adviser and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Awami League. He was the Chairman of Delta-Brac Housing until his demise.

Family, friends and well-wishers are requested to kindly remember him in their prayers.



Neymar still scared

AFP, Sao Paulo

As Neymar, the world's most expensive player, battles to be fit for Brazil's World Cup campaign, he is aware of the pressure.

"Nobody is as scared as me," he said on Tuesday.

The Paris Saint-Germain striker has not played since February, but knows that soccer-mad Brazil hopes he is fit to lead their team to glory in the World Cup.

"I know that people are a little anxious, but nobody more than me, nobody is as nervous about my comeback and nobody is more scared than me," Neymar told Brazilian station TV Globo.

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