

COMILLA MURDER CASE

SC extends stay on bail for Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its earlier order that stayed the bail granted by the High Court to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a murder case filed in Comilla.

The apex court, however, asked the High Court to hear and dispose of the rule over the permanent bail of Khaleda in the case within four weeks.

The case was filed in connection with the killing seven people and the injury of 25-26 others when a bus was set on fire in Comilla's Chouddagram on February 2, 2016.

Yesterday, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC, led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, passed the order following a leave-to-appeal petition filed by the government challenging the HC's bail order.

On May 28, the HC granted six months' bail to Khaleda and also issued a rule asking the government to explain as to why Khaleda should not be granted regular bail in the case.

Following a government's petition, the Appellate Division on May 31 stayed the HC bail order.

During the hearing on the leave-to-appeal petition on June 24, Attorney General Mahubey Alam prayed to the apex court to scrap the bail, saying the incidents of killing through arson took place at Khaleda's instruction and

instigation and she could not get bail in the case.

What message would the victims and their family members get if Khaleda were granted bail, he told the SC.

Khaleda's lawyer Khandker Mahub Hossain told the SC that the government's agents had conducted the subversive acts, including torching vehicles, during anti-government movement in order to damage the image and prestige of his client.

There was no specific allegation against her of instigating such activities, the lawyer argued.

Meanwhile, the HC is set today to hear four appeals in connection with the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case in which Khaleda was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Of the four pleas, one was filed by Khaleda seeking acquittal of the charges, a revision petition was filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission seeking the increasing of Khaleda's jail term and two other appeals were filed by convicts -- Qazi Saleemul Huq alias Qazi Kamal and Sharfuddin Ahmed -- seeking their acquittals.

The HC on March 12 this year granted four months' bail to Khaleda in this case.

On May 16, the apex court upheld the HC order of bail in this case.

Khaleda is accused in 34 cases.



Clockwise from top left, a female demonstrator for quota reform is caught in a scuffle between a group of BCL activists and demonstrators as she tries to protect Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad Joint Convenor Faruk Hassan, centre, from the BCL men near the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Faruk being beaten later. The attackers snatch away a banner of the platform on the Shaheed Minar premises and assault another protester nearby.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON/COLLECTED

Tite's pack of wolves

FROM PAGE 1

traditional favourite, Italy, are watching the football fiesta from home. That should make the race easier for others -- Brazil, France, England and Uruguay -- who have won World Cups. But that seems not to be!

Last night, Brazil were favourites yet not secured when the five-time world champions took on Mexico, their bogey team for decades. The scoreline may read 2-0, but the match was a hotly contested affair.

No team has been able to get under the skin of Brazilians as regularly as Mexico. Brazil never lost a World Cup match against their oldest of enemies (winning three out of four matches and drawing others) but suffered six defeats against five wins in their 13 meetings since 2010.

Mexico, on the other hand, failed to

attacks and testing the improved Brazil defence.

Brazil are born again under Tite. A 7-1 drubbing by Germany was a slap across the face of a country that won more World Cups than any other football-playing nation. The mauling in the last World Cup was just gross and little more than a public flogging.

But Tite has already scored a huge A-plus in helping the Selecao rise from the ashes. This Brazil team look like one that can go all the way and win the cup. Unlike the team under Philippe Scholari, Tite's men play like a single unit, where one of at least half a dozen players win match for Brazil.

Biggest Brazilian ace Neymar is still limbering up in the tournament and yet to hit the right groove. Still, the world's most expensive player of the world notched up one goal and set up

BCL men even more aggressive

FROM PAGE 1

But it was only part of what happened at various universities for a third successive day yesterday. At least 13 people were injured in the BCL-led attack -- six at Dhaka University and seven at Rajshahi University -- in yesterday's attack.

Tarikul Islam Tarek, a RU student and a leader of the quota reform movement, had to be admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

His cousin Jewel Mamun, himself a student of the university, told this newspaper quoting doctors that his right leg was fractured.

The attack and the inaction of police and the university administrations sparked heavy criticism.

In a statement, the Transparency International Bangladesh expressed grave concern and demanded exemplary punishment of the perpetrators.

TIB also urged the government to quickly implement Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's announcement regarding the quotas.

"Had necessary steps been taken after the PM's announcement regarding the quota reform, there would have been no need for a movement by the students," the statement reads.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY
It was around 10:45am. About 15 quota reformists gathered at the Shaheed Minar to form a human chain. Within moments, however, Chhatra League men pounced on them.

First, they snatched the banner and tore it down. Then they grabbed some of the protestors by their collars and started slapping, punching, dragging and stomping them before driving them out. They did not even spare female protestors. While one woman was pushed and shoved, another woman said she was kicked by the attackers.

Quota reformists blamed Chhatra League men for the attack and alleged police and the university authorities were playing a dubious role.

BCL men also allegedly picked up two quota reformists at Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University, as if they are now an auxiliary force of law enforcement agencies.

At the Shaheed Minar, police were seen leaving the spot just before the attack.

Around 15 reformists led by Hasan Al Mamun, convener of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, and its Joint Convenor Faruk Hassan went to the Shaheed Minar to form a prescheduled human chain.

But BCL men swooped on them, hitting indiscriminately anyone they could catch.

At least six protestors, including two women, were injured in the attack.

Some of the protestors managed to run away while two female protestors were seen crying helplessly.

"I was trying to run. Then I stopped. I didn't think they would assault any woman. But I was wrong. One of them kicked on my stomach," said a DU student.

Witnesses said BI Badhon, president of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall unit of BCL, and Al Amin, general secretary of the unit, picked up Faruk from the spot.

General Secretary of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall BCL unit Mehedi Hasan Sunny, central BCL Secretary of School and Students' Affair Joynal Abedin, Human Resource Affairs Secretary Jahir Ahmed Khan, Publicity Secretary of central BCL Saif Babu, Al Amin and BI Badhon were among the attackers, witnesses said.

Of them, Sunny, Al Amin, Jahir were seen taking part in the attack on quota reformists on Saturday.

Talking to The Daily Star in the evening, Al Amin said, "We dropped him [Faruk] at Shahabgh Police Station."

Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahabgh Police Station, declined to comment.

Hasan Al Mamun, a leader of the quota reform platform, said he did not know where Faruk was.

Contacted, BCL leader Mehedi Hasan said they dispersed the quota reformists as they were "hampering the peaceful environment" of the campus in the name of protest.

Luthfunnarah Luma of Eden College said they were being threatened via Facebook messenger for quite a while. "But now we are being threatened in public."

She alleged that the attackers threatened that the male protestors will be abducted and the females will be raped.

BCL leaders and activists were seen staging showdown at different points of the campus, including central library premises, Madhur Canteen, Teachers-Student Centre and in front of the National Museum.

They took position at the places since morning to bar the protestors from staging any further protest.

Around 2:00pm, some 40 BCL leaders riding bikes went to the emergency unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They searched inside the hospital for a protestor, who was admitted there. They left the hospital as they could not find him.

Meanwhile, the students and teachers of English department of DU formed a human chain at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla protesting the attack

on Nurul Haque Nur, a quota reform leader and a master's student of the department.

They alleged that some BCL men threatened them not to hold the programme.

"We want safe environment for all students regardless of their political and religious identity," said Tasnim Mahub, an associate professor.

POLICE LEFT AS BCL CAME
Three on-duty police members were seen leaving the Shaheed Minar after seeing the BCL men.

Asked why they were leaving, the cops said they would explain the matter later.

Sub-inspector Shahed, one of the trio, later told The Daily Star by phone, "Whenever any trouble occurs on the university campus, we normally inform the university authorities and our top officials."

"There are many restrictions for us inside the university campus... I informed the university administration and high police officials about the incident."

Contacted, DU Proctor AKM Golam Rabbani told reporters after the incident that the proctorial body was not aware of the attack.

Asked in the evening again, he said, "I have heard about the incident but none of the protestors informed us. We would take action as per the university law if anyone files written complaints with the proctor's office."

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY
At least seven students were injured when 40-50 BCL men with bamboo sticks, iron rods and machetes attacked them near the main gate of the university yesterday afternoon.

Tarikul Islam Tarek, a leader of the quota reform movement, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with serious injuries after he was attacked.

Part of the assault was filmed by The Daily Star correspondent of the university and several other bystanders.

The clips, showing Tarek being chased, mercilessly beaten with bamboo sticks and kicked on his head, went viral on social media with people demanding justice and expressing shock.

Masud Monnaf, convener of the platform leading the quota reform movement at RU, said the attack was led, among others, by Faisal Ahmed Runu, general secretary of RU BCL.

He added that the quota reform activists had just started a procession near the main gate of the campus around 4:00pm when BCL men swooped on Tarek, also a master's student of the university.

BCL leader Faisal, however, said it was BCL that protested violence on

campus. "In the name of quota reform, Chhatra Shibir and BNP men are leading this demonstration, creating violence on the campus. So we protested."

In a similar note, RU Proctor Lutfur Rahman said, "Some people, allegedly the activists of Chhatra Shibir, led a demonstration in the name of quota reform movement to create panic and violence on the campus. They chased and attacked Chhatra League men with bamboo sticks, leaving several injured."

Quota reform movement leader Masud Monnaf told The Daily Star, "Our demonstration was peaceful. But they attacked us with weapons in the presence of Police. We are totally helpless."

Quota reform activists first attempted to stage a demonstration around 10:00am yesterday, but failed as BCL men took position on campus.

Most of the classes were suspended yesterday amid a tense situation on the campus.

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY
BCL men snatched the national flag from quota reform activists and drove them away from the central library premises where the activists attempted to demonstrate in the morning, witnesses said, adding that the BCL men assaulted an organiser.

BCL activists also picked up Shakil Uzazzaman, convener of the quota reformist platform in JU, from the central library and released him later.

Contacted, JU BCL leader Mamun Rashid refuted the allegation, saying, "Some people were trying to create unrest on campus in the name of quota movement ahead of the national election. The BCL resisted the attempt."

Assistant Proctor Ikhtiar Uddin said, "The BCL men told us they would talk with Shakil about the ongoing movement."

Over 100 BCL leaders and activists gathered in front of the library and rode motorcycles on the campus in what appeared to be an attempt to keep quota reform activists from demonstrating.

In the evening, Jahangirnagar Sangskritik Jote and Progotisheed Chhatra Jote marched on the campus protesting the attacks.

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY
Activists of quota reform movement failed to demonstrate on the campus yesterday.

At least 20 activists told The Daily Star that they were threatened by BCL leaders against demonstrating on campus.

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go beyond the round of 16 in their last six World Cup attempts. One of the sub-plots of last-night's exciting match was that they had a Colombian coach who knows Brazil and their manager Tite very well.

Juan Carlos Osorio coached Brazilian club Sao Paulo prior to taking over Mexico. And, as far as tactics go, he drew with Tite, who was coach of Corinthians at that time, in one-off match between the two teams. Osorio considered Brazil the best team in the world at that moment yet declined to back things in and play the defensive game.

So, as expected it was a high-octane affair, with Tite letting his wolves loose, a favourite metaphor he often uses to mean players hungry for goals. For his part, Osorio stuck to his guns with Mexico also mounting several

another for substitute striker Roberto Firmino to tap in. But that brought no frowns on Tite's face, as he has a pack of wolves with him.

With Philippe Coutinho already becoming the tournament's most beguiling No 11, youngsters in his pack have already showed opponents how hungry they are. Gangling winger Willian, who was not that piercing in group matches, transformed himself into the heart of Brazil last night, tormenting the Mexican defence with his sheer pace, skill and intelligent passes. Unfortunately for him, he went goalless, thanks to excellent goalkeeping by Guillermo Ochoa.

In Willian, Tite's new wolf emerges. There will be a lot more wolves to emerge, for sure!

The writer is former Sports Editor of The Daily Star

Belgium win a stunner

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from Thomas Meunier's cross four minutes into added time at the Rostov Arena.

Belgium, who had taken a conservative approach to the game, got back into contention with late goals by Jan Vertonghen and substitute Marouane Fellaini before Chadli struck.

One of the most exciting teams of the group phase, Belgium faced an embarrassing exit but finally clicked to become the first team to win a World Cup knockout game from two goals down since West Germany beat England 3-2 after extra time in 1970.

Belgium's 'golden generation' have now scored 12 goals in four games in Russia ahead of a mouthwatering last eight clash with Brazil who beat Mexico 2-0 earlier on Monday.

With centre back Vincent Kompany back in the lineup for the first time since picking a groin strain in a warm-up game, Belgium had looked safe at the back but uninspired up front.

Both teams fought a tight midfield battle but their forwards froze in the

area and Belgium's wide players, Meunier and Yannick Carrasco, did not take risks going forward, effectively turning a 3-4-3 formation into a more conservative 5-2-3 system.

The Japanese were ahead soon after the break, though, when Haraguchi beat the offside trap and ran into the area to beat Courtois with a cross-shot in the 48th minute.

Belgium responded but Hazard's shot rattled the post and Japan doubled their tally in the 52nd when Inui picked up the ball 25 metres out and fired a missile into the back of the net.

The Red Devils were still struggling but they pulled a goal back after 69 minutes when Vertonghen looped a header from a high clearance back across goal into the far top corner.

The momentum had shifted and in the 74th, Eden Hazard's cross was met by Fellaini, who equalised from close range with a powerful header.

Belgium continued to push forward and both Chadli and Lukaku forced Japan keeper Eiji Kawashima into a couple of spectacular saves with powerful headers four minutes from full time.

Workers' wage to be doubled

FROM PAGE 12

The new wage of the labourers would be effective retrospectively from July 1, 2015 and the allowances from July 1, 2016, the cabinet secretary said.

The commission recommended hiking the salaries of more than 100,000 workers, employed in state-owned corporations like Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation and Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, considering the current

inflation rate and social status of the workers. The wage hike decision will be implemented retrospectively as the commission recommended it three years ago.

The cabinet yesterday also approved the draft of the Fisheries Quarantine Bill, 2018 to control import of fishes to prevent intrusion of any harmful agents into Bangladesh. Under the proposed law, a Fish Quarantine Authority would be formed to monitor

the import of fish or aquaculture species by water, road, air and other routes.

The fisheries department would act as the quarantine authority, Cabinet Secretary Shafiqul said, adding that an individual or personnel of a company would face a minimum one-year and maximum seven-year imprisonment or face a fine of Tk 5 lakh or both for violating the law.

The proposed law stipulates that the police, Rab, Bangladesh Coast Guard,

BGB, port and civil aviation authorities, Bangladesh Railway, shipping agencies and all the organisations concerned will have the jurisdiction to prevent any activity detrimental to the law and help fisheries officials to implement the law.

The cabinet also endorsed the draft of a bill for extension of the Speedy Supply of Power and Energy (Special Provision) Act, 2010 for next three years, the cabinet secretary said.