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Chaos at SC over Khaleda's bail

Pro-BNP lawyers shout, interrupt court proceedings; SC asks BSMMU for her medical reports by Dec 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-BNP lawyers yesterday created unprecedented chaos at the Supreme Court during the hearing of party chief Khaleda Zia's bail appeal in a corruption case, forcing the chief justice and five other judges to leave the courtroom.

The lawyers shouted at the apex court judges, "Shame, Shame", "We want justice", "Khaleda Zia has the right to get bail". The pandemonium hampered judicial proceedings for more than an hour.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain termed the incident "unprecedented".

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and pro-Awami League lawyers said it was derogatory for the judiciary.

Mahbubey urged the CJ to take appropriate action against the lawyers who caused chaos in the courtroom.

Khaleda's lawyers said they were not satisfied with the SC order that gave Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) another week to submit two reports on Khaleda's health condition.

"There is a limit to everything... I have not seen such a situation in a courtroom before. This is unprecedented."

CHIEF JUSTICE SYED MAHMUD HOSSAIN

They claimed that her condition is very bad and she needs advanced treatment.

Strongly condemning the incident, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government is considering legal action against those who created disorder at the SC.

Around 9:45am yesterday, a six-member SC bench led by the CJ started hearing the appeal filed by the BNP chairperson seeking bail in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

Mahbubey told the court that the BSMMU authorities were yet to prepare the medical reports on Khaleda's condition, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BNP SEE'S 'GOVT INTERFERENCE' -- PAGE 2



A huge tailback in Amin Bazar on the outskirts of the capital around 9:00am yesterday as police, placing pickups on the Dhaka-Aricha highway, frisk those entering the city. After being stuck in the buses for long, many got down and started walking towards their destination. Asked about the sudden move, on-duty policemen claimed it was part of their regular duty.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TOGGLE

A brand new weekend publication from us

For 23 years of its 28 years, The Daily Star added a new dimension to our Friday experience with Star Weekend -- first in magazine form, then in tabloid -- with the content and staff seeing routine updates with the times. With the many iterations of Star Weekend, the nature of the publication changed, as did The Daily Star and journalism in general.

With technology being an ever present, sometimes invasively, in our daily lives, the familial scene has changed -- the young and old alike now find their news first not on news-print but on news feeds. They express their opinions on the content we provide (as well as how well we provide them). They interact, they learn and they

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Amend kidney law in 6 months

HC asks govt to incorporate provision allowing persons beyond close relatives to donate kidney for transplant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voluntary donors beyond near relatives can donate kidneys to patients with renal failure, the High Court ruled yesterday.

At present, the law allows only parents, children, brothers and sisters, spouse, grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, maternal and paternal uncles and aunts to donate their kidneys to patients.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman delivered the verdict on a writ petition filed in 2017 regarding kidney donations.

Referring to the court order, the petitioner's lawyer Rashna Imam yesterday said the voluntary donors could either be someone known to the patient, a friend or a relative not included in the list of near relations as per the Organ Transplantation Act-1999 (amended in 2018).

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Baki's wait for gold continues

ATIQUE ANAM from Kathmandu

Bangladesh's best rifle shooter Abdullahe Baki's wait for a gold medal in South Asian Games continued as he settled for a bronze in his pet event of 10m air rifle on the fifth day of the Games, which proved to be another goldless day for the country.

There were five more silver and 13 more bronze

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RETURNING FROM MALAYSIA BY DEC 31

30,000 Bangladeshis facing uncertainty

Airfare unusually high amid shortage of tickets

RASHIDUL HASAN

Around 30,000 undocumented Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia are seriously worried about returning home within the December 31 amnesty deadline as the prices of Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka air tickets have shot up due to a high demand, said sources at the expatriate welfare and civil aviation ministries.

The Malaysian government offered the amnesty under its "back for good" programme to repatriate illegal foreigners.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, a top official of the expatriate welfare ministry said around 29,000 undocumented Bangladeshi workers returned home since

the start of the amnesty programme on August 1.

The situation got worse in recent weeks as several thousand Bangladeshi remained stranded in Kuala Lumpur amid a dearth of air tickets. The prices of Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka tickets have soared to Tk 50,000-70,000, up from the regular fare of Tk 10,000-15,000," the official said wishing anonymity.

In a bid to tackle the crisis, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate 16 additional flights on the Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka route from December 12 to December 31. The national airliner made the decision as per instructions from the

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Support centre for specially-abled people in all upazilas

Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said support and service centres would be set up in every upazila across the country for the differently-abled persons.

"Now, there are 103 support and service centres -- 64 at district and 39 at upazila levels -- for the persons with disabilities in the country. There is also an autism corner in each centre. We will set up such centres in every upazila," she said.

The PM was addressing a function marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2019 and 21st National Day of Persons with Disabilities in the capital's Mirpur.

This year, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands a crest to an awardee during a function at Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation in the capital's Mirpur yesterday. The programme was organised to mark the 28th International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the 21st National Day of Persons with Disabilities-2019.

ROHINGYA CRISIS FALLOUT

TIB paints grim picture

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh faces long-term financial, political and security challenges as Rohingya repatriation may not happen anytime soon, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

The fund from the international community for nearly one million Rohingyas may not sustain as no strong international initiative has been taken to oblige Myanmar for creating a conducive environment for the refugees to return soon, he said.

"As a result, Bangladesh's socio-economic instability will grow. There are risks of security at local and national levels. The crisis also creates political and diplomatic challenges for the government," Iftekharuzzaman said.

It also involves the risks of growing extremism as the people who face violence are more likely to become violent, he said at a press conference during the launch of a report titled "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (Rohingya) in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way out" at the TIB office in the city yesterday.

According to the report, the funding for the Rohingyas from the international community is on the decline. Bangladesh got 73 percent of the projected fund in 2017, 69 percent in 2018 and 55 percent as of October this year.

The government of Bangladesh has so far spent Tk 2,308 crore on the Rohingyas since the latest influx of the refugees began on August 2017, the report said.

"This is a direct burden. Indirect burden is much more and it will continue to increase," Iftekharuzzaman said.

Bangladesh had sheltered the Rohingyas on

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