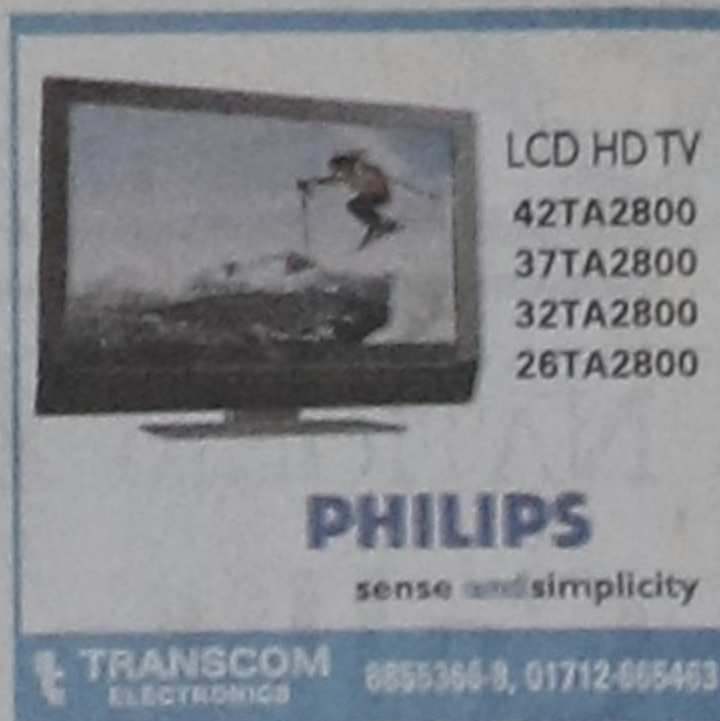




# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Rising Stars



COMMITTED TO

People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 79

DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2008

CHAITRA 20, 1414 BS

RABIUL AWAL 25, 1429 HIJRI

28 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

## RICE EXPORT BAN India exempts Bangladesh

Deal today for 4 lakh  
MT rice import  
STAR REPORT

India yesterday exempted Bangladesh from its decisions to ban export of non-Basmati rice and increase the minimum export price of Basmati rice.

A notification of the decision was issued yesterday after a key committee of the Indian cabinet announced a few measures to contain inflation, reported our correspondent in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will sign an agreement with India today regarding import of the rest 4 lakh tonnes of rice out of 5 lakh tonnes

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Talks with parties likely this month

Govt making preparations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government is likely to begin the much-awaited dialogue with political parties this month.

"The government is presently making preparations to hold the dialogue very soon," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim told newsmen yesterday after a meeting of the advisory council at the Cabinet

Division in Bangladesh Secretariat. "I think it will begin this month," Fahim said in reply to a query at a press briefing at the Press Information Department.

Newspapers had reported that a few advisers were busy holding meetings in the last few days as part of the preparation for the dialogue.

Sources said political parties look forward to raising a number of issues including the parliamentary elections, release of their top lead-

ers, food crisis and price hike of essentials while the caretaker government would want them to reach a consensus about some crucial national issues.

The issue of complete withdrawal of the restrictions on indoor politics across the country will also come up at the talks while a decision on whether to relax or lift the state of emergency might come after the dialogue, the sources added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Stealthy death at night

Truck crashes shanty  
killing 5 of a family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A 17-month-old baby miraculously survived after a truck crashed into a slum house on the Dhaka-Barisal highway, killing all five members of his family in their sleep early yesterday morning.

The baby, Sagor Das, was sleeping with his family members when the driver of the poultry-feed laden truck lost his balance and ran into the hut at Baichkhola village in Gournadi upazila.

The dead were identified as rickshaw van puller Khokon Das, 26, his wife Tapoti Rani Das, 22, his mother Radha Rani Das, 47,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## AMASSING Tk 17CR WEALTH ILLEGALLY ACC files graft case against Khoka, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, his wife, son and daughter for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information.

Assistant Director Shamsul Alam, also investigation officer (IO), filed the case with Ramna police accusing Khoka and his wife Ismat Ara, daughter Sarika Sadeque and son Ishrak Hossain for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 17.57 crore, which does not match his actual income.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



The IO accused Khoka, also president of city unit BNP, of concealing wealth worth about Tk 10 crore in his wealth statement he

## AUG 21 ATTACK CASE CID may file charge sheet this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police is likely to submit charge sheet in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack case by the end of this month.

"We have almost completed our investigation. We will try to submit the charge sheet by this month," said CID chief Javed Patwari while speaking with The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Asked how many people have so far been found to be involved in the attack, Patwari said, "It isn't possible to give out the figure without going through the docket."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## No let-up in rice price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of coarse rice rose further on both wholesale and retail markets in the capital yesterday while people continued to throng fair price outlets amid heavy downpour in desperate need of rice.

The OMS (open market sale) outlets yesterday sold out of rice within a few hours of opening.

The inclement weather in the afternoon could not prevent the rice-hungry people from gathering in large numbers at both the OMS and BDR-run outlets.

Although a thunderstorm forced the BDR to suspend the sale of rice for the time being, the rain-drenched crowd was unwavering and still standing in lines.

The wholesale price of Indian coarse rice including Swarna jumped by Tk 10 per maund yesterday, selling at Tk 1280 to Tk 1320 at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A young mother with her five-month-old baby waits in queue along with many others to buy rice at subsidised rate from a BDR shop near Mirpur Bangla College at yesterday morning.

## Govt trying best to overcome food crisis

Moeen advises people  
to eat potato with rice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said the country is experiencing a food crisis to some extent and the government is trying its best to overcome it.

He suggested adopting a habit of eating potato with rice to ease the pressure on the staple.

"The only problem in the country at present is to make food available for everyone," Gen Moeen said after visiting a farmers' market set up under the supervision of the army at Chelopara in Bogra city.

Stressing the need for growing the habit of eating potato, Moeen said, "Eating potato with rice will reduce the demand for rice while fulfilling the nutrition requirement."

The army chief appreciated the initiative for setting up the farmers'

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Talks for Hasina's parole on Claim AL leaders

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina is likely to be released on parole within a week for going to US for treatment.

"Everything will be finalised in this regard within four to five days," said a senior AL leader preferring not to be named. Talks on the issue are now going on between the authorities and Hasina and some other party leaders, he added.

Sources said some members of the AL chief's family, party leaders and a group of foreign diplomats are in close contact with the authorities to facilitate her going to US for treatment.

Once the authorities and the

former prime minister reach a consensus over her release on parole and some other conditions, then everything would be sorted out within a few days, the sources said.

Hasina was taken to Square Hospital again yesterday morning for eye check-up and brought back to the special jail after nearly three hours of health examination.

Meanwhile, the government is learnt to be considering positively the AL president's release on parole but taking time to reach a consensus with her and the AL over some conditions including a guarantee to take part in the next general election in any circumstances and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Govt out to tarnish Zia family's image

Allege 126 ex-BNP MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 126 Khaleda-loyalist former lawmakers of BNP yesterday in a joint statement said the government is trying to tarnish the image of late president Ziaur Rahman's family by going beyond its constitutional jurisdiction.

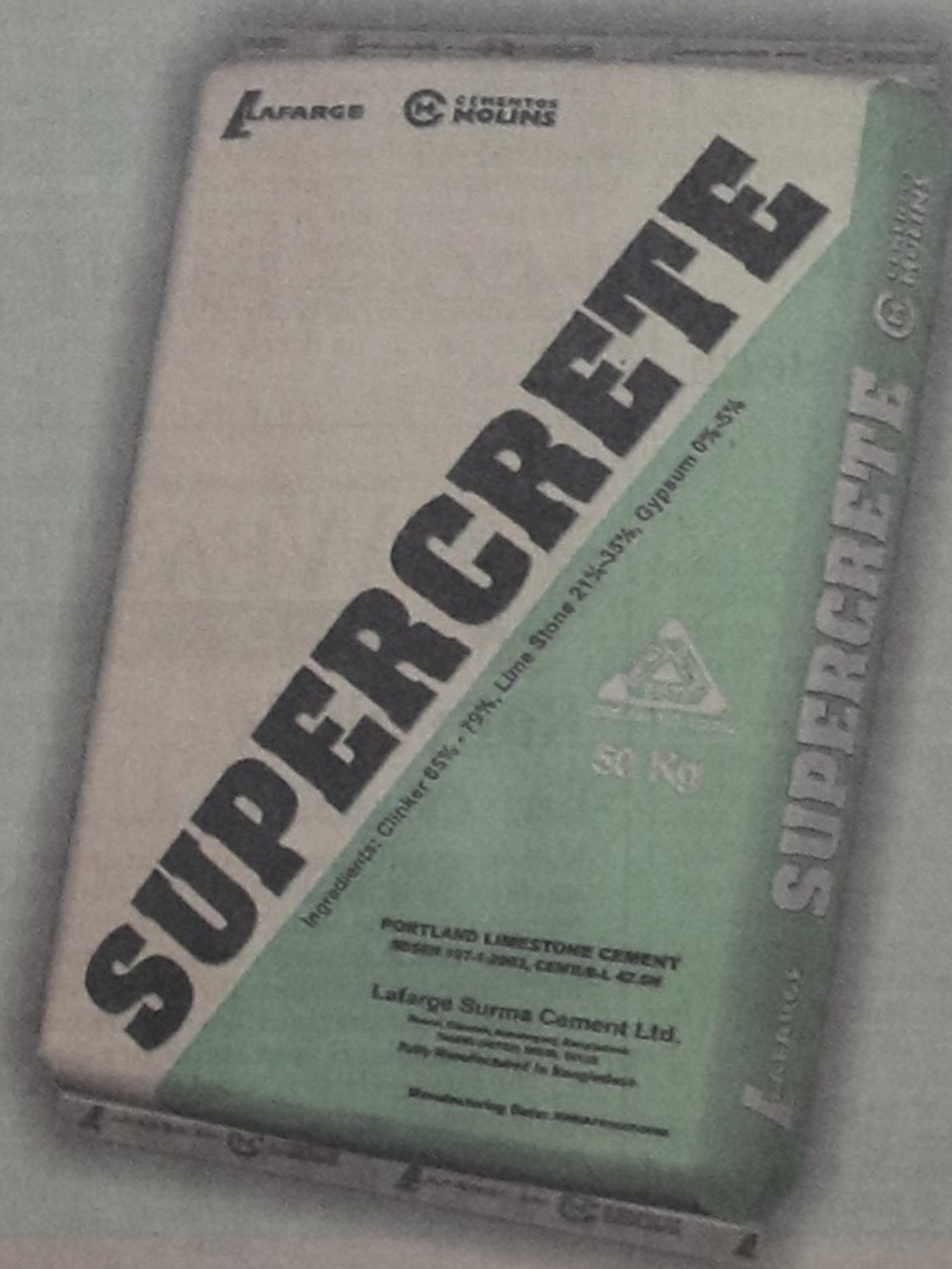
Demanding the withdrawal of cases filed against Tarique Rahman, his wife and mother-in-law, they also said instead of curbing corruption, the government is using the Anti-Corruption Commission to destroy Zia's family.

Selima Rahman, joint secretary general of BNP, read out the statement at a press briefing held at party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain's NAM flat.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Assuring Generations ...

...Take the best decision  
to build for generations.



Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd.

A company of LAFARGE and CEMENTOS MOLINS

Good decision forever