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Gram Sarkar abolished

Advisers okay ordinance

UNB, Dhaka

The council of advisers of the caretaker government yesterday approved the Gram Sarkar (Rescission) Ordinance 2008 abolishing the much-debated Gram Sarkar, the lowest tier of local government.

The Gram Sarkar Act 2003 that introduced the village government will be scrapped through the new ordinance.

The council of advisers at its regular weekly meeting with Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed in the chair also gave final approval to the Bangladesh University of Professionals Ordinance 2008 to bring all educational and training institutions of Bangladesh Armed

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MIG-29 CASE
Charge-framing hearing deferred to Apr 27 as Hasina still sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Special Court yesterday deferred the hearing of charge framing in the MIG-29 purchase graft case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six others to April 27 as she was not produced before the court because of illness.

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina was admitted to the city's Square Hospital on Saturday for the second time. Earlier, she was admitted to the same hospital on March 12 and discharged on March 30.

At the beginning of court procedure yesterday morning, Chief

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A dangerous livelihood

At steel re-rolling mills, workers' safety is last on the list

PINAKI ROY

The men and women wrap up old tubes, cloth, thick polythene sheets and whatever they have around their legs every day before entering workplace because they know a moment's carelessness might make them disabled forever.

They know very well their 'pre-cautionary' measures would come to little help if a splash of melting metal falls on their feet, but these are everything they could manage.

One of them, Suruj Mia, risks severe burns every day when he along with fellow workers goes near the furnace of the factory.

Pointing to his feet in frustration, he says, "This is all we can do

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PHOTO: STAR

Wrapping their feet with pieces of cloth, polythene sheets and rubber tubes, workers of a steel re-rolling factory at Kadamtoli of Shyampur in the capital gear up for work.

Release of two top leaders to be discussed in formal talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The issue of release of the former prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia will come up during the formal dialogue between the caretaker government and the political parties, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal said yesterday.

"It (the issue of the two ex-PMs' release) will be on the agenda (of formal dialogue), though it is not being discussed in the pre-dialogue talks," he told reporters while replying to a query at the Secretariat.

At the moment, however, the advisers are working to set the modality of the formal dialogue,

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5 BNP standing body members back Delwar for EC talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five out of eight BNP standing committee members, who are neither in jail nor expelled by its detained chairperson, asked the Election Commission (EC) yesterday to invite Khandaker Delwar Hossain as the legitimate representative of the party to the electoral reform talks with it.

The delegation at a meeting with the EC argued that their faction is now the mainstream of BNP deserving the commission's invitation to the electoral reform talks, since five out of the eight available undisputed standing committee members endorsed Delwar-led pro-Khaleda faction as legitimate.

Out of the 12 members of BNP standing committee, six who are

not in jail including Delwar are Khaleda loyalists; three are in jail accused of corruption and other crimes; and three are the top leaders of the rival faction led by former finance minister Saiful Rahman, with one of them being expelled by the detained chairperson right before her arrest.

Yesterday's letter of Khaleda loyalists also urged the commission not to portray BNP as divided, although the delegation leader Nazrul Islam Khan said after the meeting that a discussion is on for reunification, adding that it is

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MIRZAPUR-JAMUNA BRIDGE Highway turns into death trap

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Tangail police superintendent's office sources that provided the casualty data said among the injured, over 1,000 have been physically disabled for life.

In Kalihati upazila, the highway recently witnessed two back-to-back fatal accidents only three days apart. On Saturday, 18 people were killed and 55 injured as a drowsy driver of an overcrowded and speeding bus lost control of the vehicle and slammed into rail tracks nearby.

Three days back during the early hours, only five kilometres away, another 17 people lost their lives and 25 sustained injuries when the

BAIL UNDER EPR
SC rules today on HC's jurisdiction

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) delivers a crucial judgment today on a government appeal challenging a year-old High Court ruling that the High Court has the jurisdiction to dispose of petitions by persons seeking bail in criminal cases under the stringent Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007.

On April 22 last year, a High Court (HC) division bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice SM Emdadul Huq in its verdict affirmed that it has the jurisdiction to dispose of petition filed by any person seeking bail in EPR cases.

The HC verdict came following

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