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## Faulty buildings won't get utility services

### Rajuk steps against violation of approved building designs

TAWFIQUE ALI

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has decided to cut off utility services to the buildings built in violation of the approved design.

The extent of violation is overwhelming, said Rajuk Director (Development Control) Sheikh Abdul Mannan.

"We had no other option but to go for the stringent measure against buildings with various deviations from approved design," he said.

Rajuk at a meeting on March 18 chaired by its Chairman Md Shafiqul Islam decided to take punitive measure against violation of approved design.

Any kind of extension and alteration or change in a building beyond approved design is considered as a deviation. Usually Rajuk

demolishes only the unauthorised portion of a building.

Rajuk Chairman Md Shafiqul Islam said, "We have identified over two thousand such buildings so far to be demolished after notifying them under the building act."

Rajuk has already taken actions against one or two cases of such violation but it will continue it on regular basis from now on, said Mannan.

The rule 29 of the Metropolitan Building Rules-2008 provide for such action, said Mannan.

Representatives of Dhaka Wasa, Desa, Titas Gas, Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh Bank and House Building Finance Corporation, among others, attended the meeting.

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The construction work of the wholesale kitchen market in Mohakhali, left, and the one in Jatrabari, right, in the capital goes on slowly and is on the verge of closure due to increasing cost and lack of additional funds.



PHOTO: STAR

## Foil conspiracy against nation, Liberation War Sahara urges all

DU CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday urged all to stand against distortion of history of the Liberation War and foil conspiracy against the country. She said the history of the country's Liberation War should be placed before the young generation without any distortion.

"People, especially young generation, should learn well about the Liberation War as vested quarters are trying to distort history after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975," she said speaking at a prize giving session of an art competition organised for

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## 4 wholesale kitchen markets in limbo

### Project requires additional funding

HELEMUL ALAM

The fate of four wholesale kitchen markets in the city is uncertain as the government is yet to take a final decision on whether to provide additional funding towards completing the project.

The executive committee of the national economic council (Ecne) approved the project near the end of the BNP-led four party alliance government. It is aimed at reducing the monopoly that Karwan Bazar wholesale market has enjoyed over the years.

The kitchen markets are being constructed at Mohakhali, Jatrabari, Amin Bazar and Lalbagh.

Already Taka 112 crore has been spent but construction is now moving at a snail's pace for the last seven months due to a combination of

increasing material costs and higher land acquisition prices. This has led to the budget shooting up from Tk 206 crore to Tk 426 crore, said a Dhaka City Corporation official seeking anonymity.

The DCC official feared that the project may be halted if the required Tk 220 crore is not approved by the Ecne.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, however, said the matter had been discussed recently. "Apart from the financial concerns, some other problems were identified which need to be solved. But we are confident that the markets earmarked for construction will be completed," he said.

Earlier, the Planning Commission at the project evaluation committee meeting held on December 14, 2008 asked the authority

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## CTG ARMS HAUL CUFL officials remain tight-lipped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

On the second day of the three-day remand, the two Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) high officials remained tight-lipped about their role in the 2004 Chittagong arms haul.

The CUFL officials—former managing director Mohsin Talukder and former general manager (Admin) Enamul Haq, have been on remand for suspected link with the offloading of 10 truckloads of arms hauled at CUFL jetty on April 02, 2004.

During the interrogation they refrained from disclosing any new information about

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PHOTO: STAR

Twenty kilometers away from Chittagong Port, this inland container depot on around 46 acres of land will be able to handle 15,000 (twenty equivalent unit) containers.

## 40 killed in Afghanistan fighting

AFP, Kabul

Afghan and US authorities said yesterday troops killed 40 militants in some of the heaviest fighting this year in Afghanistan, which is gripped by mounting Taliban insurgent violence.

In the biggest clash, the US military said 30 militants died Thursday in the flashpoint southern province of Helmand, in a district where a key anti-Taliban lawmaker was killed in a bomb attack the same day.

The toll was the highest from a single clash announced by the military in more than two months, with Afghanistan gearing up for another year of

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## Tk 300cr private ICD starts operation in Chittagong today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Tk 300 crore off-dock Inland Container Depot (ICD) 'KDS Logistics', begins its formal operation today on a sprawling 14.65 lakh square-feet (around 46 acre) land at Sonaichhari in Sitakunda, about 20km from Chittagong port.

Shipping Minister Afsarul Amin will formally inaugurate the yard in the morning. Industries Minister Dilip Barua, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and a few lawmakers are expected to be present in the inaugural function.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technologies the ICD is capable of handling around 15,000 TEUs (Twenty Equivalent Unit) containers, said Quazi Murad Hossain, KDS group executive director.

He said the modern and swift services of this depot would help boost the trade and economy of Bangladesh to a great extent.

KDS Group, one of the country's leading apparel, accessories,

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## 7 killed as plane crashes into house

AP, QUITO, Ecuador

An upscale neighbourhood in Ecuador's capital turned into a charred, smoky disaster scene when a small army plane crashed into an apartment building, killing seven people and sending a fireball into the evening sky.

The plane grazed a house before plunging into the

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| Prayer Timing |       |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| March 21      |       |        |
|               | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr          | 4-55  | 5-30   |
| Zohr          | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr           | 4-45  | 5-00   |
| Maghrib       | 6-16  | 6-20   |
| Esha          | 7-45  | 8-15   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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## BNP move to cheer up grassroots

### Khaleda meets district leaders from tomorrow

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will start crucial meetings with party leaders from tomorrow on revamping the district committees of her party, the organisational activities of which apparently remained stalled because of serious leadership crisis.

A month-long programme will also be taken up soon to recruit new members and renew memberships of the existing party men to strengthen party activities across the country.

Khaleda sits tomorrow with the Chittagong division central team led by party Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy. Party sources said at the meeting the party chief might hold discussion on the report the team submitted after its meeting with grassroots level leaders.

However, despite Khaleda's initiative, there is huge uncertainty over the much-talked-about reorganising process of her party since the five other teams have not yet submitted their reports.

## AL to revamp party, resolve feuds

### Meet on Mar 28 to finalise council strategies

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Ruling Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meets on March 28 to finalise strategies for the party's next council likely to be held in June, and boosting organisational activities by resolving intra-party problems across the country.

AL's organisational activities have apparently come to a standstill after it secured a landslide victory in the December 29 general election last year. This is viewed as the fallout from conflicts and factional feuds within the party that intensified centring upazila parishad election on January 22.

Party sources said that at the ALCWC meet to be chaired by party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she might instruct the party's rank and file to reorganise most of its metropolitan, district and upazila unit committees, tenure of which expired years ago. The party could not elect new committees in more than 10 districts for over 10 years.

Contacted, a number of senior AL leaders said internal con

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