



## Govt won't reply to Khaleda notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to take legal action against Khaleda Zia if she fails to vacate her cantonment house within the 15-day time limit starting from April 20 when the cantonment board sent a notice to her.

The government has also decided not to reply to the legal notice of Khaleda in which she asked the government to withdraw its legal notice within 5 days.

Khaleda's lawyer sent the notice to the cantonment board on April 24.

The government's decisions were taken at a regular cabinet meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

While talking to reporters BNP senior leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said, "BNP will go for legal steps if the government does not respond to Khaleda's notice. We will move ahead after the discussion at the party forum."

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## Power crisis slightly better

UNB, Dhaka

Power-supply situation slightly improved in and around the capital while improvement in Chittagong region may be in sight from tomorrow (Wednesday) following some urgent government interventions.

According to official sources, Dhaka city and adjacent areas started getting additional 100 megawatt (MW) electricity from yesterday morning following the prime minister's directive given Sunday about solving power and water crises.

The prime minister summoned all the chiefs of the power and water utilities to her office and directed them to improve the situation.

Managing Director of Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) Saleh Ahmed told UNB that his organization has been receiving 45 MW since morning from the PDB while the rest 55 MW is being given to Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC).

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# Wasa water poses danger

### It fails to treat polluted river water; over 10,000 ended up in diarrhoea hospital



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Gypsies, top, on the Turag near Tongi Bridge use this dark, polluted and smelly water daily, which eventually spread various diseases among them. A large sewage pipe, bottom, dumps industrial waste into the Turag at Kamarpara near Bank Colony in Savar simply polluting the water. More related photos on Pollution in Frame (page-20).

PINAKI ROY

In the broiling midday sun, Rashida Khatun was standing in the queue in front of the Sabujbagh Buddha Temple with two big plastic jars and a steel pitcher in her hands. The temple authorities were providing drinking water from their own pump to the poor, who depend on the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for water.

"The Wasa water is so stinky that we cannot drink it. Honestly, I hate to even touch their water," said Rashida Khatun.

Finding no other means, they use Wasa water for 'cleaning' purpose and go to the temple for drinking water. The

Wasa used to treat the waters of the Buriganga and Shitalakshya rivers and supply the treated water to the city dwellers. Now the waters of these two rivers have become so polluted that even after applying additional chemicals Wasa cannot treat the water perfectly.

Speaking anonymously, a Wasa official said, "With all technologies we have, we cannot treat ammonia found in the waters of these rivers."

However, the Wasa chief engineer claims there is no health risk in their supply water.

"I know our water is stinky, but it's

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Embassies asked to be watchful, helpful

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the country's missions abroad to be fully active in solving the problems of Bangladeshi expatriates.

She also instructed the ministries concerned to keep watch on activities of the Bangladeshi embassies, high commissions and consulate offices to keep them on stream.

The PM made the directives at the cabinet meeting held at Bangladesh Secretariat in the morning, two days after her return from Saudi Arabia.

The cabinet, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, also approved in principle eight proposed bills following which the prime minister will no more be chancellor of seven public universities.

At present, out of a total of 31 public universities in the country, Hasina is the chancellor of seven--Kushtia Islamic University, National

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## 5 killed in road crash

UNB, Keraniganj

Five people were killed and eight others injured in a head-on collision between a human hauler and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Rajendrapur in South Keraniganj thana yesterday.

Of the deceased, three were identified as Ibrahim, 35, driver of the auto-rickshaw, its two passengers - Nur Jahan, 45, and Khalil, 48.

Identity of two others could not be known immediately. Local people said the human hauler collided with the auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Maowa road leaving Nur Jahan and Khalil dead on the spot and injuring 11 others at about 9:00am.

Of the injured, Ibrahim and two other unidentified men died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The eight injured human hauler passengers were admitted to DMCH and Mitford Hospital.

The driver of the human hauler fled the scene soon after the accident.

# Focus on alliance era audit objection

### PAC decides to deal with Tk 4,617cr disputes

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will examine audit objections involving Tk 4,617 crore in seven years till December 2007 to help recovery of the public funds feared misappropriated.

The decision came yesterday at the inaugural meeting of the parliamentary body formed on February 18.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) office placed a report before the committee meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, said sources.

To expedite matters, it recommends that PAC form four sub-committees to examine the objections to different ministries' expenditure during the period mentioned.

It also suggests setting up a committee to oversee implementation of the PAC recommendations.

In the report, CAG's office notes that as many as 100 audit reports with 1,899 objections involving Tk 4,617.71 crore remain unexamined.

Most of the objections were raised during the BNP-led four-party alliance

rule since October 10, 2001 to October 29, 2006. Some were brought up during the tenures of the immediate past caretaker government and the last AL government.

Besides, work is on to make recommendations on how should PAC go about the audit objections raised between 1972 and 2000, says the CAG report.

The audit objections of the last seven years in particular hint at massive financial irregularities in different ministries and call for immediate attention of the parliamentary body, it adds.

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## War crimes trial not for harassing Jamaat

### Says State Minister Tajul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of war criminals is not a trial of Jamaat-e-Islami, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam said.

Criticising remarks of Jamaat leaders on the trial of war criminals issue, the state minister said, "Jamaat leaders have been making negative remarks since the initiative to try war criminals was taken. We are trying the war criminals not Jamaat leaders... why does this irritate them?"

He was speaking to a private TV channel after a meeting with the principal staff officer of the army at his ministry office yesterday.

He said, "They say that the nation is being divided in the name of trial of war criminals and conspiracy is being hatched to harass Jamaat politically. If they are innocent, why are they making such a fuss about it?"

"People of the country want the trial of war criminals and the trial will take place in the country," he said.

He said cases filed against war criminals across the country would be brought under

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# Missing grenades cause for concern

### Mutineers destroyed ledger books after looting arms depot

KAILASH SARKAR

The mutineers of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) not only looted firearms, ammunition and explosives from the armories of the border security force's headquarters, but also destroyed many of the ledger books making it difficult for investigators to make an estimate of missing weapons.

The BDR authorities, and intelligence and other law-enforcing agencies are worried about the missing weapons, mainly about the gre-

nades, as those might fall in the hands of terrorists and other criminals causing threats to the country's security.

On April 21, the BDR authorities provided the media with an approximate detail of the looted firearms, but they could not provide any information about missing ammunition and explosives, although about two months had already elapsed since the mutiny on February 25 and 26.

BDR sources said the mutineers broke into

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## OnlinePoll

Do you think a 'crisis management fund' is needed to tackle the fallout of global financial crisis?

Yes (49.86%)  
No (44.44%)  
No Comments (5.69%)

Total votes: 738

# Delwar in deep crisis

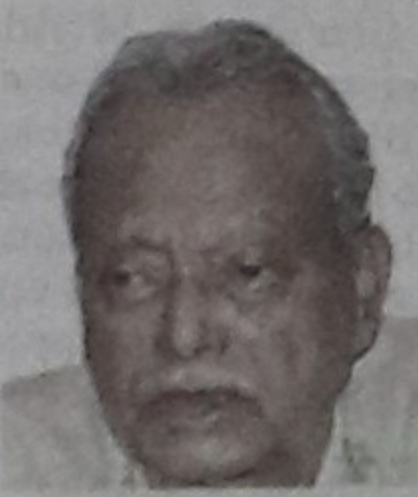
### Khoka factor in dissolved city unit tests his strength; rivals out to oust him from secy general's post

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP high command is in a dilemma over how to handle the worsening conflict between factions of the party's Dhaka City Unit, which has been without a committee for almost a year.

Meanwhile, it is crunch time for Khandaker Delwar Hossain as a number of senior party leaders are bidding for the BNP secretary general post.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain dissolved the Dhaka City Unit commit-



tee in June last year, when the BNP chairperson was behind bars, following intra-party conflict between reformists and pro-Khaleda factions.

The party high-ups could not form any committee due to escalating internal conflict between factions led by Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and former mayor Mirza Abbas. This is stalling unit activities, said unit insiders.

While talking to The Daily Star, BNP Joint

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## BDR CARNAGE Anisul made chief public prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government appointed Anisul Haq, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court (SC) and a counsel for the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC), as the chief public prosecutor for the BDR headquarters carnage case.

However, the law minister himself was unaware of this appointment and there is still

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## Move to file 40 sedition cases

### BNP leader, 2 sons held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female BNP leader of Hazaribagh and her two sons were arrested Sunday night on charge of organising a procession in favour of BDR mutineers near Pilkhana during the February 25-26 BDR mutiny.

Charges of abetting BDR jawans to flee from Pilkhana were also brought against the detainees Suriya Begum, the local BNP leader, and her sons Sumon and Jewel.

Meanwhile, the police headquarters yesterday sent papers to the police stations concerned to file 40 sedition cases in 27

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