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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 34

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2010

FALGUN 4, 1416 BS • RABIUL AWAL 1, 1431 HJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: TK 10.00

## Dead-again canal

These two photos show how a good initiative to revive Suvadda Khal, lifeline of Keraniganj upazila in Dhaka, turned futile in the span of 19 months. The photo on the right, printed in The Daily Star on June 28, 2008, shows the re-excavated canal. The canal is dying again as seen in the recent photo.



NOW



THEN

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

## Wall collapse kills six of a Bangladeshi family in KSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six of a Bangladeshi family died on Sunday when the wall of a stadium collapsed on their house due to heavy rain in the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

The deceased were identified as Abdus Shakur, his wife Nurun Nahar, son Ibrahim, daughter Munira, grandson Rayan and granddaughter Nura.

Fakhrul Bashar, a Bangladeshi living in Riyadh, told The Daily Star yesterday. "Primary information we have received here is that six members of a Bangladeshi family died in the accident,"

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## Slow anti-graft drive worries donors

They ask govt to increase gas, power prices; hail govt for regional trade initiatives; Observe 2 major parties' excessive competition hurting democracy

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The development partners at Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meeting in the capital yesterday expressed concern over the slowdown of anti-corruption drive and implementation of development projects, and low investment.

They also urged the government to increase the price of gas and power; strengthen local government, reform the civil service and form an energy and power fund for financing projects in the sector.

The donors welcomed regional cooperation in different fields including energy sector but urged the government to handle the issue carefully. Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh might become a regional trading hub if the cooperation succeeds, they noted.

The two-day BDF meeting started yesterday at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Three business sessions on the day discussed development strategies, governance and human development; energy and power; and agriculture, food security

and water resources.

Representatives of 48 donor countries and agencies including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are participating in the BDF meet.

Representatives of the civil society also attended yesterday's sessions.

UN Resident Coordinator Renata Dessallien at the meeting observed that democracy of Bangladesh has been hampered by 'excessive competition' between the two major political parties.

Meeting sources said some of the

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MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

## Deliver on pledges

PM urges development partners to release climate funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the leaders of developed countries to immediately deliver fund pledged particularly for the least developed countries (LDCs) and most vulnerable countries (MVCs) in Copenhagen summit to cope with climate change impacts.

She made the call at the inaugural session of a two-day meeting of Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF), a consortium of donor agencies, at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Six major areas that came under the BDF discussion were development strategies, governance and human development, energy and power, agriculture and rural development, environment and climate change, transport and communications and ICT and digital Bangladesh.

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£60M UK AID  
Bangladesh wants to get it thru' UN  
Objects to WB role  
STAR REPORT

The Bangladeshi government is refusing to accept a £60m donation from Britain to help it cope with the impact of global warming, because of a dispute over how the money will be provided, The Guardian reported yesterday.

Officials in the Department for International Development (Dfid) are insisting that the money, part of a pledge to provide developing countries with climate finance, is channelled through the World Bank. Bangladesh has objected to the role of the bank, which it says will attach

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## Two crackers found near Khaleda's Gulshan office

BNPPP demands probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered two fire-crackers wrapped in scotch tape near the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital yesterday morning.

An official from Khaleda Zia's office said that caretakers found the first cracker in front of the main gate around 6:30am.

It was approximately 300 yards from Khaleda's office.

Deputy Commissioner AKM Hafiz Akter said the

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## Muggers kill student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student was stabbed to death by a gang of four muggers at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday.

Police arrested them while one was injured in a mob beating and the rest three were bullet-wounded in a gun battle with police.

The deceased was identified as Amit Rema, 24, a student of Electrical Engineering

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## Miladunnabi on Feb 27

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (Pbuh), will be celebrated across the country on February 27 as the moon of Rabiul Awal was sighted yesterday.

This was announced by the Islamic Foundation after a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee in the evening that ascertained the sighting of the new moon.

## ZIA made Shahjalal International Airport

All establishments named after Zia to be renamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to rename the establishments named after late president Ziaur Rahman including the Zia International Airport, which is to be named Hazrat Shahjalal (R) International Airport.

It also decided to reinstate original names of the structures, which were changed by the BNP-Jamaat coalition government between 2001 and 2006.

The decisions would come into effect with government's official notification.

A cabinet meeting at Prime Minister's Office

1979  
Dhaka Int'l Airport  
1981  
Zia Int'l Airport  
2010  
Shahjalal Int'l Airport

made the decisions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The premier directed the authorities concerned to go tough against Jamaat-Shibir activists if they keep trying to destabilise the country. She also asked them to show no mercy to the police officials who neglect their duties.

"According to the cabinet decision no structures or institutions will bear name of illegal autocratic ruler Ziaur Rahman following the High Court verdict regarding cancellation of the Fifth Amendment," Prime Minister's Press Secretary

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## HC stays DCC poll schedule till Feb 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed till February 23 the Election Commission's declaration of schedule for holding elections to Dhaka City Corporation.

The EC was reportedly due to announce the schedule this week.

The court also issued a rule upon the government, DCC and EC asking them to explain within the time frame why they should not be directed to demarcate areas of DCC wards on the basis of population.

Besides, the court asked them to explain why they should not be directed to bring the new 17 mouzas into DCC wards.

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## Unparliamentary words in House

Opposition stages brief walkout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Treasury and opposition bench lawmakers yesterday locked horns and verbally attacked and blamed each other indecently for "misrule" in the country, creating an intense situation in parliament.

The lawmakers taking part in the thanksgiving motion on the president's address used indecent and unparliamentary language. They even launched personal attack on opponents ignoring the rules of procedure and paying no heed to the speaker's repeated request to stop.

Speaker Abdul Hamid, who was presiding over the sitting, constantly urged lawmakers not to use indecent and un-

parliamentary language in their statements and attack their opponents. He told them he would expunge those statements.

The speaker said, "I cannot censor anyone's speech before he or she delivers it since I do not know what he or she is going to say. I cannot gag a lawmaker."

Before the discussion on thanksgiving motion began, opposition deputies staged a brief walkout protesting the speaker's refusal to allow BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed speak on a point of order.

They returned eight minutes later and took part in the discussion.

Things heated up in the House at the beginning of yesterday's proceedings when BNP lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne, taking the floor on a point of order, alleged that 40,000 opposition

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## ACC looks into 4 charges against Hasina, Khaleda

EMRAN HOSSAIN

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has initiated four separate inquiries against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia on separate charges.

Meanwhile yesterday, ACC issued a notice upon Khaleda requesting her to reply by February 24-25 where and when it should question her regarding the allegations.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque at a press briefing at Parliament's Media Centre castigated the government to make ACC send the notice to Khaleda.

An inquiry against Hasina, also Awami League chief, is being conducted on charges of causing a loss of £3 lakh worth about Tk 3 crore to the state through purchase of a government house in the UK during her previous tenure.

The other allegation against her is that she and her family members misappropriated Tk 44.57 crore in between 1999 and 2000 in the name of establishing

different training and development centres.

One of the two allegations being inquired against BNP Chairperson Khaleda is laundering of about Tk 7.5 crore in purchasing land for Zia Charitable Trust.

The other charge against the former premier is misappropriation of money in construction of Bhairab Bridge, causing a loss of Tk 100 crore to the state, sources say.

The inquiry involving money laundering also includes Khaleda's sons Tarique Rahman, also BNP's senior vice-chairman, and Arafat Rahman Koko as they are also trustees of Zia Charitable Trust.

"Normally we conduct inquiries into allegations if those fall within our schedule. An inquiry doesn't mean a person is accused or offender. We'll file cases only when there is solid information and data to substantiate the allegations," ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told The Daily Star.

The inquiries against Hasina began as

ACC is reviving the cases remaining pending since the period of now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

Earlier, Khaleda had directed the bureau to investigate the allegations against Hasina.

Insiders say preliminary inquiries have found sufficient information substantiating the allegations to file cases against Khaleda. The inquiry will be completed soon through questioning her, they add.

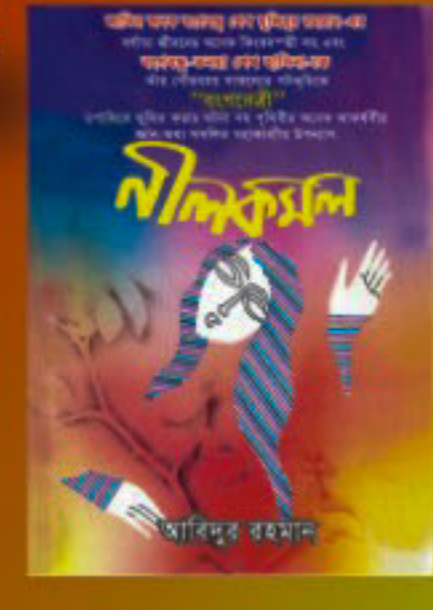
According to ACC code of work, once its inquiry finds sufficient information against an allegation, it goes for filing a case and conducting a fully-fledged investigation.

INQUIRIES AGAINST HASINA  
The allegation says when Hasina was prime minister, the Bangladesh House in the UK was sold at a cheaper price and later another house was purchased at a higher price, causing a state loss of £3 lakh.

The matter was discussed in parliament after the BNP-led alliance assumed power in 2001.

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**বই মেলায় সর্বকালের বৃহত্তম উপন্যাস**  
আন্তর্জাতিক গীতিকার ও সাংবাদিক-সাহিত্যিক  
**আবদুর রহমান-এর**  
**নীলকমল**



১০৭৬ পৃষ্ঠার এই উপন্যাসে আছে চারটি রোমাঞ্চকর কাহিনীর পাশাপাশি জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান-এর বর্ণাঢ্য জীবনের অনেক কিংবদন্তী সহ এবং বঙ্গবন্ধু-তনয়া শেখ হাসিনা-কে তাঁর গৌরবময় সাফল্যের পটভূমিতে "বঙ্গনেত্রী" উপাধিতে ভূষিত করার ঘটনা সহ রবীন্দ্র-নজরুল-বিদ্যাপতি-চন্দীদাস কাব্য-প্রসঙ্গ, দুই বাংলার আধুনিক কবিদের কাব্য-প্রসঙ্গ, পৃথিবীতে ব্যাংকিং প্রথা প্রবর্তন ও ব্যাংকিং ব্যবস্থা প্রসঙ্গ, বিভিন্ন দেশের জি.ডি.পি ও পার ক্যাপিটা ইনকাম সহ পৃথিবীর অনেক আকর্ষণীয় জ্ঞান-তথ্য প্রসঙ্গ।

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