

# HC final hearing on PM's prayers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) is set today to resume the final hearing on the petitions filed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for quashing the proceedings of four corruption cases against her.

Both the Appellate and HC divisions of the Supreme Court reopen today after a week-long vacation.

An HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddique on March 25 adjourned the hearing on the petitions filed by the PM and fixed April 4 for further hearing.

The cases were filed against Hasina on charges of corruption in setting up of barge-mounted power plant and

Meghnaghat power plant, in the appointment of consultants at Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and in procurement of frigates.

The barge-mounted power plant graft case was filed by Anti-Corruption Commission during the previous caretaker government, and three other cases were filed by the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption during the rule of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government.

Upon petitions filed by Hasina, the HC earlier stayed the proceedings against Hasina in the cases and issued rules upon the government, BAC and ACC to explain why the proceedings of the cases should not be quashed.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveils the plaque of a newly built 51-megawatt rental power plant at Fenchuganj of Sylhet yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

# AL LAWMAKER MOLLAH'S APPEAL Today's SC verdict to decide fate of 500 graft cases Says ACC counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) is scheduled to announce today the verdict on the appeal filed by Awami League lawmaker Habibur Rahman Mollah against a High Court (HC) judgement that declared legal the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) sanction (permitting its officials) to file the graft case against him.

ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan yesterday told The Daily Star that fate of around 500 corruption cases filed by the ACC during the military-

backed caretaker government depends on the appeal verdict.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim on March 25 fixed April 4 (today) for verdict on the appeal.

The HC on November 20, 2008, delivered the verdict. The Appellate Division then stayed the verdict following a stay petition filed by Mollah.

Mollah filed a regular appeal last year with the SC against the HC verdict as per the SC order.

# Extortion, tender manipulation won't be tolerated: PM

UNB, Sylhet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued a stern warning against extortion and tender manipulation by student activists, saying that such acts will no longer be tolerated.

The warning came in the wake of media reports that BCL and Jubo League activists are involved in extortion and tender manipulations in different parts of the country.

"I see news about Chhatra League and others indulging in such activities at different times. I do not want to see such news any more. We'll work hard, but some people will damage our reputation, which cannot be accepted," she told a meeting with local MPs, leaders of the ruling alliance and elite at the Circuit House in Sylhet.

Hasina observed that since she assumed power,

perpetrators who had tortured leaders and workers of Awami League and its front organisations have sneaked into the party and are indulging in misdeeds.

"Such elements must not be accepted. They now seek shelter to save their skin. They will again leave the party at an opportune moment. We don't need them," she told the party leaders.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, asked the party leaders to remain alert against JCD and Shibir so that they cannot enter into the party in disguise. Such elements will earn bad name for the party.

About student politics, she said Chhatra League will consist of genuine students and not of 'uncles' or 'Adu Bhai's'. Chhatra Dal is being run by 'uncles', but such a situation is not acceptable in Chhatra League, Hasina made it clear to the party leaders.

Discouraging the tendency of vendetta, Hasina said a commission has been set up to collect information about torture, killing and looting carried out during the four-party alliance rule (2001-06).

She said those who have been victimised during that period should furnish information to the commission.

The prime minister said legal action would be taken against the perpetrators and victims would be compensated. "No vengeance, everything will be done lawfully," she said.

Hasina said those who had been in power for 29 years since independence will have to explain to the people as to why the country has failed to achieve the desired development.

"They must answer for the present disastrous state of the country," she asserted.

# Call for environment-friendly urbanisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urbanisation must be well planned and environment-friendly to garner the socio-economic benefits, urban experts said at a seminar in the city yesterday.

Making urbanisation sustainable and appropriate is vital to keep up its productivity but there is no policy in Bangladesh to ensure it, said Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP).

BIP and Planners and Power Participation Research Centre (PPRC) jointly organised the seminar titled 'Re-thinking Urban Planning Education for 21st Century Challenges' at BIP.

"Urbanisation in Bangladesh is managed

badly," said Prof Sarwar. "The people could enjoy the benefits of urbanisation if it was managed effectively."

He said urbanisation rate in Bangladesh increased from 8 to 28 percent over the past three decades. There are around 522 small towns and cities in the country and 28 percent of the total population live in the urban areas.

The urban population contributes 60 percent to the country's gross domestic product, said Prof Sarwar, also head of urban and regional planning department at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Urban development policy is vital for a healthy life, environmental conservation and a sustainable economy, he said, adding the modern-day urban

planning has to address social, economic and environmental aspects, and it is a challenge for the planners.

A constant dialogue among the urban planners, economists and anthropologists is necessary for appropriate urbanisation, said Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre, who moderated the seminar.

Today's urban planners have to keep in consideration not only socio-economic growth but also conservation of environment, aesthetics and heritage.

At present, urban planning is taught at Buet, Jahangirnagar University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology and Brac University.

# Increase treatment facilities for cardiovascular diseases Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cardiac specialists yesterday stressed the need for increased treatment facilities for cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in and outside the city as CVDs are on the increase in society alarmingly.

They also found out the ways to exchange scientific knowledge, technology transfer and improve expertise among the Saarc countries.

About half the CVD deaths occur below the age of 50 at the developing world compared to about a quarter in developed countries.

The experts said this at a congress, which was jointly organised by Bangladesh Cardiac Society and Saarc Cardiac Society at Saarc Congress of Cardiology 2010 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Though Bangladesh has advanced much in cardiac treatment in the last few decades, the service is still insignificant and can meet the needs of only one-tenth population, they added.

Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate as the chief guest said treatment facilities for

cardiac diseases are costly and not sufficient.

"We need to decentralise cardiac centres so that people suffering from cardiac diseases can get the treatment properly."

Quoting a study, he further said that by 2030, about 20 million people will die from CVDs globally and the death rate will be higher in South East Asia.

The experts said contributing causes of the diseases include the aging of world population, lifestyle changes due to urbanisation, progressive industrialisation and burgeoning globalisation.

"We should give more emphasis on preventive cardiology, people should be motivated and convinced for lifestyle modification," said Abul Hussain Khan Chowdhury, vice chairman of Bangladesh Cardiac Society, adding that effective regional cooperation and strong political commitment are needed to fight against these killer diseases.

Prof Chowdhury Mahmud Hasan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association, said: "Some 1,500 posts of teachers in medical colleges against

4,000 sanctioned posts are vacant which should be filled up immediately."

Admitting to the shortage of manpower, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said the government is trying to resolve the problem.

The government will provide equipment at different cardiology centres and cardiac surgery will soon take place in Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi also, he added.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is very sincere in developing cardiac treatment in the country," the minister said, adding that the health ministry is actively seeking cooperation from Saarc Cardiac Society.

The experts also discussed inadequate paediatric cardiac care facilities and shortage of manpower.

Bangladesh Cardiac Society President Prof M Amanullah MP, Secretary General Prof Khwaja Nasiruddin Mahmood and Bangladesh Medical Association Secretary General Sharfuddin Ahmed also spoke at the inaugural session where experts from other Saarc countries were present.



Dhaka Metropolitan Police dismantles makeshift shops built illegally on a footpath at Gulistan in the city yesterday as part of its Clean Dhaka Programme.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Discussion

Citizens' Initiative organises a discussion on 'Unity and diversity through youth leadership' in the city today. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

### Prize giving ceremony

Ananya Top Ten Awards 2009 will be handed over to 10 accomplished women for their contributions to their respective fields. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Time: 3:30am.

### Inauguration

Rang, a fashion house, inaugurates its new outlet and also organises an exhibition of its Baishakhi collections. Venue: Bailey Fiesta, Bailey Road. Time: 5:00pm.

### Staging

Centre for Asian Theatre will stage its production 'Amputation'. Venue: Shilpakala Academy National Theatre. Time: 7:00pm.

# BCL man held for beating girl at RU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League on charge of assaulting a female student at Rajshahi University following protests by her fellow students.

Tofazzel Hossain Khan, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, confirmed the arrest of Kawsar Ahmed to The Daily Star yesterday evening after maintaining daylong secrecy over the matter.

"Filing of a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act against Kawsar is underway," said the OC.

Police first picked up Kawsar, a fourth year student of marketing department, from room No 228 of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall on the campus around 10:00am.

Minutes later, he was released from the police station to attend examinations. But, he was again detained in the noon and taken to the police station.

student of Bengali department at the university, for refusing his love proposal in front of Tapashi Rabeya Hall Thursday evening as she was returning to her dormitory by a rickshaw.

Protesting the incident, female students from different dormitories at the university launched a signature campaign Saturday morning.

The victim lodged a complaint with the university authority and the protesting girls submitted a memorandum to the RU vice-chancellor seeking actions against the culprits.

The protesters also threatened to launch a tough movement if the authorities failed to take actions immediately.

On information that the female students were taking preparation at Tapashi Rabeya Hall for a huge protest, RU Proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria rushed in around 10:00am and assured them of taking actions within an hour.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Zakaria said the RU disciplinary committee would meet Sunday morning to decide actions against Kawsar.

## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Bogra, Dinajpur, Jessore and Kushtia, it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:16pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 39.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.1 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.4	27.2	69	60
Chittagong	31.2	26.5	82	83
Rajshahi	39.0	26.0	79	46
Khulna	35.0	26.5	45	66
Barisal	33.8	26.5	76	67
Sylhet	30.6	21.1	87	81
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.5	71	82

# Ex-AL lawmaker Tabibor Rahman passes away

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Former Awami League (AL) lawmaker and Jessore AL president Tabibor Rahman Sarder passed away at Jessore Hospital yesterday at the age of 83.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Jessore district Eidgah maudan after Zohr prayers while second one was held at his Bariapota village in Sharsha at 3:00pm and third janaza was held on Buruj Bagan High School premises.

The deceased was then buried on Navaran Fazilatunnesa Women's Degree College premises in the afternoon as per his last wish.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the death of the former AL lawmaker and offered sympathy to the bereaved family members.

He was elected a member of parliament four times from Sharsha constituency in 1970, 1973, 1991 and 1996.

# 90pc tempo helpers in Ctg are children

BSS, Chittagong

Nearly 90 percent of the tempo helpers in Chittagong city are children engaged in violation of the UN Child Convention.

Of the total tempo 4000 helpers, around 3,600 are children aged between 12 and 17 are working in 2,159 tempos that ply 18 routes of the city.

Talking to BSS, deputy director of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Masud Alam said about 2,100 tempos are plying the city routes and children are working as helpers.

He said they issue licenses only to the drivers, but the drivers employ the children as helpers.

He said they have warned the tempo drivers several times in this regard and conducted mobile courts to stop this malpractice, but the drivers are yet to respond.

Masud said it would not be possible for them to

refrain the children from such a hazardous work without raising the awareness of the drivers.

Premier University Vice Chancellor Dr Anupom Sen said in the context of Bangladesh child labour could not be stopped overnight, but everybody should be conscious so that the children could be free from this perilous work.

Acting chairman of Chittagong Auto-tempo Drivers' Association Abdull Malek said there is no doubt that most of the helpers are children and 90 per cent of them are between 12 and 16. He, however, held the tempo owners responsible for engaging children in such a risky occupation.

Malek said the owners employ the children as helpers on a very ill payment and they have discussed the matter with them several times. He said they would be able to reach a decision in this regard within a few days.



# 18th BCS Forum executives

METRO DESK

Mohammad Sarwar Alam and Md Fazlur Rahman have been elected president and secretary general respectively of the 18th BCS Forum for 2010-11, says a press release.

The committee was formed unanimously at the biennial general meeting of the Forum at the Ansar Academy at Shafipur, Gazipur, on Friday.

Other members of the 43-member committee are vice-presidents: Golam Rahman, Malek, Emam, Awal and Mahub; joint secretary: Moniruzzaman, Saifur and Azad; treasurer: Sirajul Munir; office secretary: Vishnu; publicity secretary: Ataur; literary & cultural secretary: Marzina; and social welfare & sports secretary: Alim.

And the members include Nur Ahmed, Raquib, Nasir, Ryhan, Khaled, Nurun, Mahfuz, Forhad, Halim, Bahar and Santosh.