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BNP decides to join JS today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The BNP-led opposition lawmakers will return to parliament today ending their boycott for 74 consecutive sittings since June last year.
"We've decided to join the House tomorrow [today] considering the overall situation of the country," opposition chief whip Zainul Abidin Farroque said last night.
He was speaking at a press briefing at the parliament's media centre following a two-hour meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP).
The meeting, held at the parliament

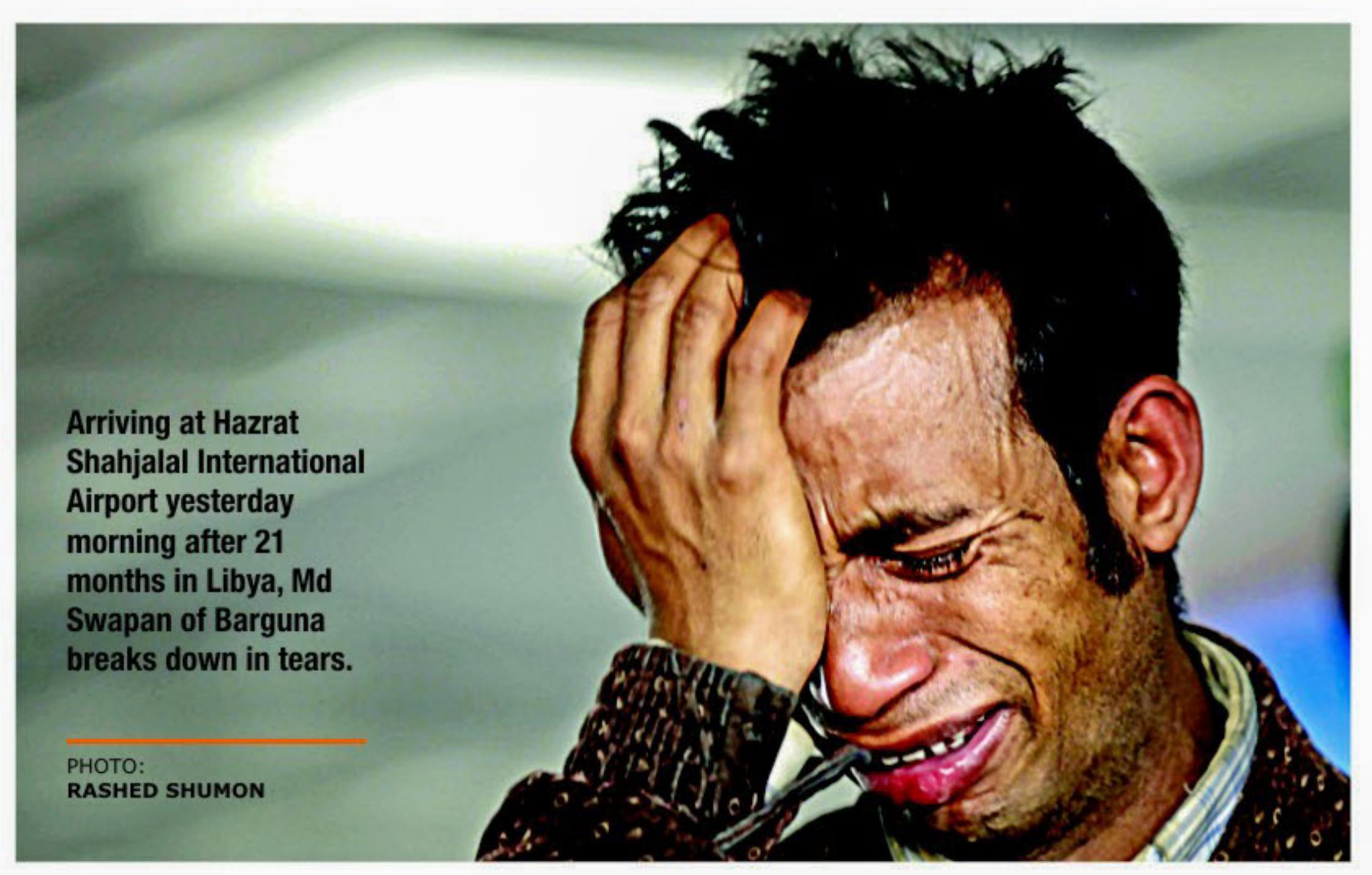
building and chaired by opposition leader Khaleda Zia, took the decision "in line with the lawmakers' views", meeting sources said.
Thirty-six of the 39 opposition parliamentarians were present at the meeting where 24 of them spoke favouring to join parliament.
They said they should raise their voice both in and outside the House.
Lawmakers belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party, allies of BNP, also attended the meeting on "special invitation".

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Back home with horror

PORIMOL PALMA
With dreams shattered and future uncertain, the Bangladeshi returnees from Libya have nothing for their families but the memories of horror and hardship in the desert.
In contrast to a happy homecoming with bags full of gifts, the unfortunate Bangladeshis are home penniless and in filthy attires.
Going to Libya as guest workers now feels a wrong turn of life to every one of them.

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Arriving at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday morning after 21 months in Libya, Md Swapan of Barguna breaks down in tears.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NZ ranked best for girls

Report places Bangladesh at 45th place in Commonwealth
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

New Zealand is the best place in the Commonwealth to be born a girl, while Sierra Leone and Nigeria are among the worst, says a report published yesterday in London on the occasion of the Commonwealth Day.
Bangladesh has tied with Gambia, Pakistan,

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PRAYER TIMING March 15

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 5:00	5:35
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:30	4:45
Maghrib 6:14	6:18
Esha 7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

US congressmen send letter to PM

Urges her to resolve Yunus issue thru' mutual compromise; full SC bench hears Yunus appeal today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six congresspeople of the United States have said they are troubled by the removal of Prof Muhammad Yunus from the Grameen Bank, and urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resolve the issue through a mutual compromise.
Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Supreme Court is scheduled today to hear Yunus' appeal against the High Court verdict that upheld the central bank's decision to remove him from the bank.
A full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque will hear the appeal in the morning.
The hearing tops the cause list of the day's proceedings.
Bangladesh Bank removed Yunus, recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, from the post of Grameen Bank managing director allegedly for holding the position without the central bank's approval.

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Girl diagnosed with bird flu virus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A 13-month-old girl was diagnosed with bird flu virus in the capital yesterday.

The minor girl of the city's Kamalapur area was taken to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) with fever where doctors found "mild symptoms" of the virus in her body, said IEDCR Director Mahmudur Rahman.
This is the second case of human infection of bird flu, also known as avian influenza (H5N1), in the country.
The first human infection was detected on May 22, 2008. Also in the capital, it was a 15-month-old boy who fully recovered after treatment at the IEDCR.

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Subsidy in farm, energy to go up

Budget implementation report placed at JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the revised budget will see an increase in subsidy in agriculture, food and energy, it might be slashed by about three percent due to a shortfall in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation.
The size of the revised budget was projected at Tk 128,645 crore with a cut of Tk

3,525 crore from the original outlay.
Finance Minister AMA Muhiith yesterday placed a report in the parliament on the budget implementation situation, and the state of the economy in the first six months of the current fiscal year.
The finance minister said Tk 3,370 crore will be slashed from ADP. However, he said the government expenditures like

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Yahya Khan in Dhaka

SYED BADRUL AHSAN
President Yahya Khan arrived in Dhaka for talks with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 15.
He was escorted to the President's House under heavy guard by soldiers of the Pakistan army. The authority of the Pakistan government was

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ফোন: ৮৮২৪১২৩, ৮৮২৩৫৫৯, ৮৭১০২২৬

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Lord Avebury, vice-chair of the UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group that Prof Muhammad Yunus is a political victim?

Yes (85.7%)
No (13.4%)
No Comments (0.9%)

TOTAL VOTES : 673

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the ruling Awami League will be able to stick to its decision not to back candidates in UP polls?

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