

**NEWS IN**  
*brief*

**Case against Tarique: Hearing adjourned till April 25**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday adjourned the hearing for the sixth time, on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others till April 25 in connection with Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Judge (in-charge) Kader Newaz of the Special Judge's Court-3 passed the order after the defendants' lawyers submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the charge framing hearing.

Khaleda being busy with parliamentary sessions could not appear before the court, while Advocate Sanaullah Miah, who represented Tarique has gone abroad for medical purposes.

Former BNP lawmaker Kazi Saleemul Haq Kamal could not appear before the court as he is currently in the USA.

**Power supply dips for plant shutdown**

UNB, Dhaka

Power supply in the country decreased sharply yesterday following the shutdown of the 450-megawatt Meghnaghat power plant.

Official sources said the operation of the power plant was suspended yesterday afternoon for an overhauling at the plant. Power generation came down to 3,600MW at the peak evening hours yesterday from 3,950MW the previous day.

"Both the generation units at the Meghnaghat power plant were shut down to carry out routine work. This will need two days' time to resume production," said PDB Chief Engineer (generation) Abul Quasem.

**Mitford staff go on work abstention**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fourth-class employees of Mitford Hospital staged demonstration and went on five hours work abstention yesterday protesting assault on one of their colleagues by a deputy director of the hospital on Monday night.

Hospital sources said the deputy director assaulted the employee on duty at the third floor of the hospital around 9:30pm, as he didn't wear uniform and ID card. The agitating employees went back to their works around 10:00am as director of the hospital Brig Gen AKM Fariduzzaman assured them of fair probe into the matter.

**Case against Babar: Hearing adjourned till April 27**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned till April 27 the hearing on charge framing against detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar in a tax evasion case filed last year.

Judge (in-charge) Kader Newaz of the Special Judge Court-5 passed the order after Babar's lawyer submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

**Sonali okays Tk 200cr for stock fund**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sonali Bank yesterday decided to contribute Tk 200 crore to a fund designed to help prop up the troubled stockmarket.

The board of the bank approved the financing for the Bangladesh Fund of Tk 5,000 crore, an open-ended mutual fund, the bank said in statement.

**Brac Bank appoints acid survivors**

METRO DESK

Brac bank appointed two acid survivors on the occasion of International Women Day.

Journalist Anisul Hoque and actress Sara Zaker formally handed over the appointment letters to Tahura Khatun of Lalmonirhat and Manika Halder of Barisal at a programme in the bank's head office in the city recently.

Mamdudur Rashid, deputy managing director of the bank, was present on the occasion.

**EARTH-FILLING CASE  
Shah Alam gets anticipatory bail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for three months to Bashundhara group chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam in an earth-filling case filed with Kafrul Police Station.

Shah Alam is a charge sheeted accused in this case filed in 2007, where the investigation found his involvement of illegal earth-filling in a piece of land in Kafrul area.

Shah Alam, who was in bail in this case earlier, and after placing the charge-sheet he again prayed for anticipatory bail yesterday and an HC bench granted his prayer.

Meanwhile, the same court yesterday acquitted former Awami League lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar from the charge of an arms case in which he was earlier convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

**Death anniversary**

METRO DESK

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Advocate Md Aminul Islam, a former member of the then East Pakistan Civil Service (Judicial), says a press release.

On the occasion, qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at his Sherpur residence at Nirjhor and Aftabia madrasa in his village.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayers after inaugurating Bangladesh Textile University, the country's first ever textile university, at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

**PM assures airport, power plant in Bagerhat**

UNB, Bagerhat

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday pledged to set up 1300 MW coal-based power plant and an airport in the district.

The prime minister also said the government has taken steps to introduce railway communication between Bagerhat and Mongla, one of the two ports of the country.

Hasina made the pledges at a public rally arranged by Bagerhat Awami League at Khan Jahan Ali College ground in the afternoon.

Earlier, the prime minister arrived at the coastal district at 2:20pm.

She inaugurated Bagerhat Shrimp

Research Centre at Buitpur and laid foundation stone of Bagerhat Bar Council Building.

Then the prime minister went to the mazar of Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali (Rm) where she offered Fateha and special munajat.

Addressing the party rally, the prime minister said Mongla Port need to be developed further as 40 percent of total food import is done through this port.

To make Mongla Port fully effective, the whole district should be developed, she said.

Hasina said roads, bridges, and all other infrastructures of the district will be developed gradually to set up its fast communication with capital Dhaka and other districts.

**WB promises \$20m loan to repatriate Bangladeshis**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) has committed \$20-30 million to Bangladesh to bring back the expatriates stranded in Libya.

A WB team led by its Country Director Ellen Goldstein met Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday and made the commitment.

After the meeting the finance minister said the government will use the money for repatriating Bangladeshis from Libya and for their rehabilitation.

Muhith said they are bringing back the expatriates through International Organisation on Migration (IOM). He said later the government may have to pay a part of the expenses for the repatriation including air fare to the IOM.

The WB country director said they have offered for additional concessional resources from the government.

**Hasina's efforts in vain as Ctg city AL still riven**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) rival factions of Chittagong city unit continue with their separate programmes despite directions by the party President Sheikh Hasina, in a meeting on February 26, to unite and dissolve rift among them.

In the meeting at Chittagong Circuit House, Hasina also urged all party leaders in the unit to strengthen the party.

She entrusted three senior leaders -- AL North district unit President Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, South district unit President Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and former constituent assembly member and veteran leader Ishaque Mia -- with the task of reconciling the factions.

Sources in the unit said the three leaders are still to take any initiative in this regard.

Observing March 7, the faction led by AL city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and General Secretary Kazi Enamul Hoque Danu organised a rally at Laldighi Maidan.

On the same day, another rival faction led by city unit Vice President Nurul Islam BSC and Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen organised a meeting at Dost Building at New Market area. AL leader Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babul presided over the meeting.

At the meeting, Babul said they would observe March 17, the birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day, at Muslim Hall and March 26, Independence Day, at Shaheed Minar.

Terming the Mohiuddin led committee "illegal," Babul said it lost its validity

a long time ago. But if Sheikh Hasina orders him to work under Mohiuddin's leadership, he would instantly follow, he said.

"The party president said she would sit with us in Dhaka. But before that, she entrusted the three leaders to reconcile the rift," Babul answered as to why they were organising separate programmes despite Hasina's directions.

The three leaders are yet to take any initiative, Babul added.

Kazi told The Daily Star that they would organise the March 17 and March 26 programmes at Laldighi Maidan and all city AL leaders should participate in the programmes organised by the city committee.

"If anyone does not remain present and organises separate programmes, he does not believe in unity," Kazi said.

But Babul refused this accusation saying that the "illegal" committee has no right to call any meeting and moreover they were not invited.

In reply, Kazi said, "How can I invite them as I issued show cause notices to them a few days back?"

Akhteruzzaman on Friday said he began working on the matter and already talked to Mohiuddin and some leaders of the two factions.

"I am confident that the rift will be dissolved within a short time and leaders of the two rival factions will come under the same umbrella to work for the greater interest of the party," he added.

Mosharraf said he is yet to talk to any leader. "I will talk to them immediately and I am confident of bringing them on to the same stage."



State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam speaking at a workshop organised by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at the auditorium of National Academy for Planning and Development in the city yesterday.

**Comply with building code to cut quake risks: Experts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) should be followed in constructing any building to reduce risks during earthquake, experts told a seminar yesterday.

Some 72,316 buildings in the city would be damaged completely and 53,166 partially if a 7.5-magnitude earthquake originates from Madhupur Fault, said ASM Maksud Kamal of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP).

He said this in his power point presentation at the seminar titled "Earthquake and tsunami: perspective Bangladesh" organised jointly by Poribesh Bachao Andolan

(Poba) and Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) at BIP auditorium in the city yesterday.

Prof Maksud also said economic loss would stand at about US\$ 1,112 million for only structural damages caused by the earthquake.

Emphasising the need for open space, Prof Maksud said 1.85 lakh people would be homeless in the earthquake's wake, of whom only 65,000 can be sheltered in 13 open spaces in the city.

Buet's former vice-chancellor MM Safiullah, Poba chairman Abu Naser Khan, and BIP president Prof Golam Rahman and general secretary AKM Abul Kalam addressed the seminar among others.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few over Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 17.2 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	32.8	21.0	53	37
Chittagong	32.8	21.0	68	53
Rajshahi	32.8	17.8	68	48
Rangpur	32.2	18.8	65	50
Khulna	32.0	20.7	76	61
Barisal	32.5	22.0	75	71



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