

ZIA TRUST GRAFT CASE  
Decision on charge against Khaleda March 18  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will hand down its decision on March 18 whether it will take cognizance of the charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three others in connection with Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haq of the Senior Special Judge's Court yesterday fixed the date after Khaleda's lawyer Tahirul Islam Towhid submitted a time petition before the court for adjournment of the hearing.

The petition said Khaleda needs the time because as an opposition leader in the parliament she is busy with some affairs since the 12th session of the ninth parliament has been going on.

During the yesterday's proceedings, the court also extended the bail period of two other accused -- Khaleda's former political secretary Harris Chowdhury's assistant private secretary (APS) Ziaul Islam Munna and former Dhaka mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka's APS Monirul Islam Khan -- till March 18.

The court extended the time following a petition seeking extension of their bail as it expired yesterday.

The High Court earlier granted the duo six-week anticipatory bail in the case.

Another accused, Khaleda's former political secretary Harris Chowdhury, is on the run.

Khaleda Zia on February 2 secured permanent bail in the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on August 8 last year filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda and three others, accusing them of abusing power in raising funds from unknown sources in the name of the Zia Charitable Trust.

**Bangladesh delegation in Juba**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A seven-member delegation from Bangladesh led by Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gwoher Rizvi reached Juba in South Sudan to hold talks with its government on strengthening bilateral relations with the new state.

South Sudanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Prof Elias Nyamll Wokoson received the delegation at Juba International Airport on Monday.

Official sources in Dhaka said Bangladesh is planning to open its mission in Sudan and the visit is part of that plan.

The delegation will meet South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit, cabinet ministers as well as high military officials during the visit.

The delegation will be in Juba for four days.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, centre, and visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Robert O Blake, right, exchange a souvenir at a commemorative discussion on Senator Edward M Kennedy at DU Senate Hall yesterday. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena is also seen.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Youths potential for Bangladesh: Blake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young Bangladeshis possess enormous creative potentials to create a thriving future for this country, visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Robert O Blake said yesterday.

The US Embassy along with Dhaka University and the Bangladesh Association for American Studies (BAAS) organised the commemoration at the university's Senate Hall to reflect on Kennedy's humanitarian ideals and support for Bangladesh's liberation.

Referring to the power of individuals in this country, he said Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus lifted millions out of poverty with micro-finance and strengthened women's economic rights.

He said the US was proud to support youth movements like the Volunteer for Bangladesh, Jaago, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre and Community Action.

Bangladesh remains in the focus of his government's initiatives in food security, climate change, global

health, and engagement with the Muslim world, the senior US official said while attending a commemoration of Senator Edward M Kennedy's visit to Bangladesh in 1972.

Bangladesh's becoming a middle income country is not an empty dream, he said, adding that this country looms large in the world market of readymade garments, household textiles, pharmaceutical products, information technology, shipbuilding and leather goods.

Senator Kennedy during his visit to Bangladesh planted a tree on the DU campus on this day four decades ago as a symbolic expression of US-Bangladesh friendship.

Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of DU, said Kennedy took an unrelenting position for the cause of Bangladesh's liberation war and protested the use of US military aid, as mass killings were going on in Bangladesh.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and pub-

lisher of The Daily Star, said Senator Kennedy was a crusader for democracy and friend of Bangladesh. His visit to the Bangladeshi refugee camps during the Liberation War enkindled a renewed sense of hope among the freedom fighters, he added.

Dr Rounaq Jahan, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said public service is the key word while discussing Kennedy.

Abdul Momin Chowdhury, a noted history professor at DU; Akku Chowdhury, founding trustee of Liberation War Museum; and Dr AKM Nurun Nabi, president of BAAS; also spoke at the programme moderated by Lauren Lovelace, director of the American Centre.

## Hearing on Ghulam Azam case today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal is scheduled to hold a hearing today on charge framing against former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam in connection with crimes against humanity committed in 1971.

Ghulam Azam, who faces charges on 62 specific crimes against humanity, will be produced before the tribunal during the hearing, Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ghulam Azam's lawyers filed some petitions with the tribunal yesterday and last week seeking bail and adjournment of the proceedings against him for four weeks, and directions to the prosecution to supply them with copies of some documents.

Dasgupta said that the prosecutors are ready to place arguments during the hearing on charge framing against the arrestee who is being held in a prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital.

Meanwhile, Tajul Islam, counsel for the former Jamaat chief, said the hearing on petitions submitted on behalf of Ghulam Azam would be held first.

He said that the defence have prayed for their client's bail on different grounds including that of his old-age and health condition. They have also appealed for adjournment of the proceedings as they are not prepared to place an argument to defend him before the tribunal.

The prosecution on January 5 brought 62 specific charges against the former Jamaat chief and on January 9, the tribunal accepted the charges and ordered Ghulam Azam's chief counsel Barrister Abdur Razzaq to produce him before the court on January 11.

On January 11 Ghulam Azam appeared before the tribunal which rejected his bail petition and ordered the authorities to send him to Dhaka Central Jail. They also fixed February 15 for holding of a hearing on charge framing against him.

The arrestee was moved to a prison cell at BSMMU hospital for treatment the same day.



## শুরু হয়েছে বিশ্বখ্যাত English Spelling প্রতিযোগিতা

এই প্রতিযোগিতা বাংলা ৩ ইংরেজি মাধ্যমের ৬ষ্ঠ থেকে ১০ম শ্রেণির ছাত্র-ছাত্রীর জন্য ● মেজিস্ট্রেশন ৩ Online প্রতিযোগিতায় অংগীকৃত করতে  
২০১২ পর্যন্ত ● বিজয়ীরিত জাতে যোগাযোগ করার নং ০৯৬০৬২৯২৯২৯ নম্বর

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## BERGER PAINTS TEAMS UP WITH HEMPEL



Berger Paints, the absolute market leader in Bangladesh paints industry, has joined hands with HEMPEL, a global leader in marine coatings, to offer the most advanced marine paint solutions in Bangladesh market. Under the agreement, Berger will exclusively market and distribute HEMPEL products backed by sound technical services.

HEMPPEL, the largest independent manufacturer and supplier of marine and protective coatings with an experience of over 95 years, has created its strong footprints in more than 80 countries in the world. With its astounding product offerings & technical services, HEMPEL is a widely reputed and acknowledged name in global paint industry. Their products and services are networked through over 150 stock points strategically located around the world. With this tie-up, BPBL will have diversified marine paint solutions for the customers, ship building industry for export & domestic market.

Rupali Chowdhury, Managing Director of Berger Paints, and Umesh Singh, Regional Director- South Asia, HEMPEL, signed the agreement on behalf of the companies. Abdul Khalek, FCA, Director Finance & Company Secretary, Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, GM-Sales & Marketing, A.K.M. Sadeque Nawaj, Head of Marketing, Imranul Kabir, Sales Manager- Industrial & Marine of Berger Paints, Jonas Bruhn, Sales Manager, Key Accounts & International Projects, from HEMPEL were also present in the occasion along with other high officials of both the companies.



## FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

# PM for close links with UN

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for close cooperation between Bangladesh and the United Nations towards effective national and global response to contain HIV/AIDS.

She made the emphasis when visiting Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for HIV/AIDS for Asia and the Pacific Dr Nazif Sadik called on her at the Prime Minister's Office.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad said that the prime minister told the envoy that Bangladesh was deeply involved to curb HIV/AIDS since its election to the Programme Coordination Board of UNAIDS.

Sheikh Hasina said there was a very low prevalence rate of AIDS in Bangladesh, but the rate is higher in the case of migrant workers.

She said Bangladesh supports getting to zero initiative on the zero incidents, zero discrimination and zero death, and needs to strengthen global partnership, particularly in capacity building, finance and technology.

The prime minister informed the UN envoy that Bangladesh intends to gradually enter the production of anti-retroviral medicines, despite very low demand.

Ambassador at-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Sheikh Wahid Uz Zaman, PMO Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad were present.

DHAKA TODAY	
<b>Human chain</b>	Paribesh Bachao Andolon will form a human chain; Venue: Fine Arts Faculty, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.
<b>Seminar</b>	Department of Mass Communication & Journalism of Dhaka University (DU) will arrange a seminar; Venue: RC Majumder Auditorium, DU; Time: 10:30am.
<b>Discussion</b>	Bishwa Kabitakantha Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.
<b>View exchange meet</b>	Community Development Centre will organise a view exchange meeting; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:00am.
<b>Mourning meeting</b>	Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra will

hold a mourning meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

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