

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE : Tk 10.00

ANOTHER SCAM

BB detects huge irregularities by a director of Mercantile Bank

PAGE B1

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Manjur Mahmud describes how victims of the Savar tragedy could be tracked easily

PAGE B4

TENSION ON SPY'S DEATH

Indian spy dies, under Pakistan's custody, a week after attacks by other inmates

PAGE 7

EU warns of trade action

Wants measures to ensure safety standards of factories in Bangladesh; experts see bad signal for export

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The European Union, the largest destination for the country's garment items, plans to take trade actions against Bangladesh, which the industry insiders think will have a negative impact on apparel exports.

The bloc of 27 countries is considering taking action to oblige Bangladesh to improve safety standards in factories as a way of preventing frequent accidents, following the death of more than 400 gar-

ment workers in the Rana Plaza collapse in Savar.

The EU has voiced concern over labour conditions, including health and safety provisions, established for workers in factories across the country.

"The EU is presently considering appropriate action, including through the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) -- through which Bangladesh currently receives duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market under the 'Everything But Arms' scheme -- in order to

incentivise responsible management of supply chains involving developing countries," it said in a joint statement on April 30.

The EU is the destination for almost 60 percent of Bangladesh's apparel products. Bangladesh became its major apparel supplier for having duty-free and quota-free access under the GSP and the EBA scheme.

"The EU has sent a strong message through this statement," said Mustafizur Rahman, executive

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Talks hope in sight

PM invites Khaleda; BNP wants formal invitation; Ashraf says offer by tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia to sit for a dialogue in or outside parliament to resolve the present political crisis.

In response, the main opposition BNP asked the government to send a

written proposal.

Hours later, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said if the BNP chief positively responded to the PM's call, the ruling Awami League would invite the opposition through a letter in a day or two.

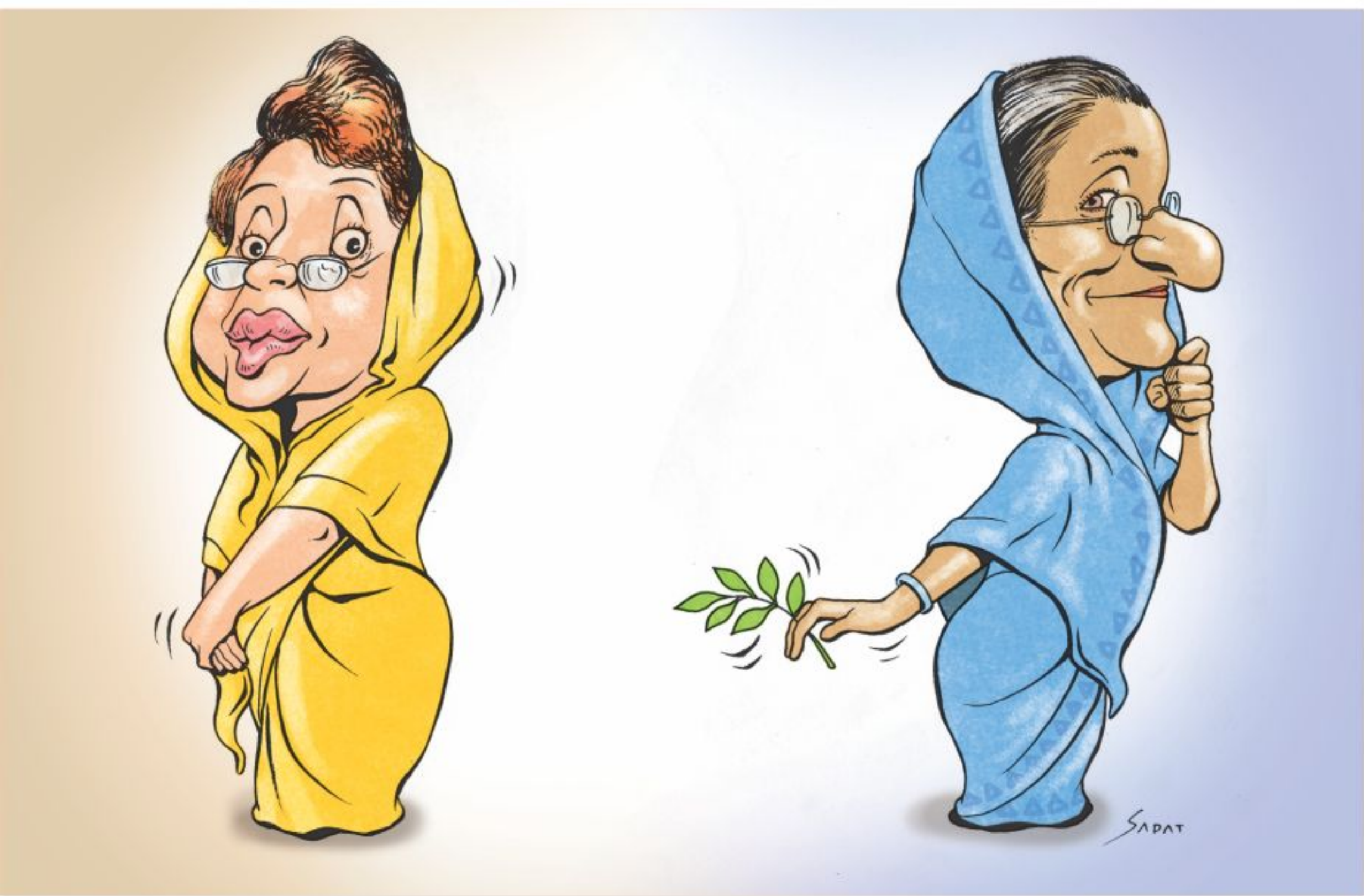
Hasina's offer of talks came at a

view-exchange meeting with Jhalakathi district AL leaders at Gono Bhaban.

She urged the opposition leader to sit for a dialogue whenever and wherever she (Khaleda) wanted.

"We want peace. We don't want to see more killings in the name of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



ILO for quick action

Asks govt to stop recurrence of building collapse, pledges help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has assured Bangladesh of providing full support to the victims of the Savar building collapse as it called for immediate action to stop recurrence of avoidable workplace tragedies.

Gilbert Houngbo, the UN agency's deputy director-general for field opera-

tions, who is leading a high-level mission to Bangladesh, gave the assurance during a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Wednesday, said her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Houngbo, former prime minister of Togo, handed over to Hasina a letter of condolence from ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

'Killer govt' must go
Says Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Wednesday said this government started its journey with the blood of 57 army officers in February, 2009 and set to complete its tenure with the blood of workers killed in Savar tragedy.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

FIRST ODI TODAY
Tigers back at happy ground

SPORTS REPORTER from Bulawayo

After the bittersweet Test days of Harare, the Bangladesh cricket team will today start a format they are more comfortable with at a ground where they have enjoyed much success. Like before the Test series on their tour of Zimbabwe, when they take on the home team in the first of three ODIs at

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

It's slave labour

Pope shocked at poor wages Bangladesh RMG workers get

STAR REPORT

The pope has condemned as "slave labour" the working conditions of the Bangladesh garment workers who died in last week's Savar factory collapse.

As workers took to the streets to demand better working conditions and the official death toll rose to more than 400, Pope Francis said he was shocked by a headline saying some of the workers were living on €38 (£32) a month.

"This was the payment of these people who have died

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



BLOOMBERG

When a fire at the Tazreen garment factory in Bangladesh killed 112 people in November, many wondered what more it would take before something would be done to improve labour conditions in the country, the world's No. 2 clothing exporter.

The world didn't have to wait long for the next test: the collapse on April 24 of Rana Plaza, a nine-storey building housing multiple factories. At least 433 people have died. In total,

No permission taken for upper floors

Admits Rana Plaza owner during interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sohel Rana, owner of the Savar building that caved in on April 24 killing at least 442 people, has said they illegally raised the upper floors against permission to construct a six-storey structure.

Both Rana and his father Abdul Khaleq, who is the building owner on papers, also

admitted their liability saying they had failed to control the quality of both construction and materials, said an interrogator.

"They also named to us three engineers who had been involved in the construction," said the interrogator asking not to be named.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Problems there, govt to fix them

PM says about RMG industry in CNN

CNN ONLINE

Prime Minister yesterday acknowledged that the country's garment industry is beset with problems, but said her government is moving rapidly to fix them.

"Bangladesh now is a place for good conditions for the investment," Sheikh Hasina told CNN's Christiane Amanpour eight days after a nine-story building collapsed on the outskirts of Dhaka, killing at least 446 people. She said 2,437 survivors were pulled from the rubble, where recovery work was continuing.

"Yes, there are some problems," she said, but added that a committee has been formed to ensure the safety of buildings and workers.

"This committee will submit the findings to the Cabinet committee and, side by side, we have been



SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



পত্রাশের দশকের শুরুতে শুরু করা সংসারের পুরো ভার মায়ের কাছে দিয়ে, পাকিস্তান নৌবাহিনীর চাকরী ছেড়ে একাত্তরে দেশ স্বাধিনের যুদ্ধে যান আশা। তারপর নৌবাহিনী গড়ার ব্যস্ততার মধ্যেই ১৯৭৭-এ আশার আকস্মিক দেহত্যাগ। সেই থেকে মা-এর ক্রান্তিহীন একার সংগ্রাম-নিজের সব শখ-ইচ্ছা-ভালো লাগ-মন্দ লাগা বিসর্জন দিয়ে আমাদের দশ ভাইবোনের জীবনকে সুন্দর করে তোলা। অসামান্য দুঃখ-কষ্টকে নিজের জীবনের সঙ্গী করে আমাদের বড় করেছেন মা। তার মধ্যেই শিখিয়েছেন কীভাবে মাতৃভূমিকে ভালোবাসতে হয়। জীবনটাকে শুধু খাপন করে যাচ্ছেন তিনি, উদ্যাপন করেননি কখনো। আমাদের সংগ্রামী মা বেগম ফজিলাতুন্নেহার আজ ৭৭তম জন্মদিন।

শুভ জন্মদিন
আম্মা

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2