



Khaleda 'fugitive'

Court says she has to surrender first before defending herself in graft trials; arrest warrant upheld

CHATANYA CHANDRA HALDER and SHAKHAWAT LITON



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has lost her right to defend herself in the two corruption cases for now, as a Dhaka court has declared her a fugitive in the cases.

"She can contest the cases if she surrenders to the court in future," Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of the Special Judge Court-3 said in a packed courtroom yesterday.

On February 25, Khaleda's counsels were not allowed to participate in the trial proceedings to defend her as the court cancelled her bail on the day and issued arrest warrants in the Zia Orphanage Trust and the Zia Charitable Trust graft cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The court that day completed recording the statement of complainant ACC Deputy Director Harunur Rashid, also one of the 23 witnesses in the two cases.

Yesterday, the court also rejected Khaleda's bail plea and upheld the arrest warrants for the former premier for dodging the court hearing on four consecutive dates.

The judge came up with the decisions

after hearing four petitions filed on behalf of Khaleda, seeking withdrawal of the arrest warrants and adjournment of the case proceedings.

After a two-hour hearing, Judge Abu Ahmed said the law did not allow filing of such pleas on behalf of any fugitive accused.

However, he neither accepted nor rejected the petitions. He simply put those in the case files.

The court fixed April 5 for the next hearing of the cases.

According to the charge sheet of the orphanage case, Khaleda, Tarique and four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by forming the charity that exists only on paper.

The statement of the other case said the BNP chief and three others abused power to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia Charitable Trust during the BNP-led government's tenure between 1991 and 1996.

During yesterday's hearing at the makeshift court in the capital's Bakshibazar area, former attorney general AJ Mohammad Ali, a counsel for Khaleda, filed another petition

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2
KHALEDA ATTENDS KOKO'S CHELLUM - PAGE 2

Khaleda wants to be in prison: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia wants to be in jail to avoid the public wrath following the recent violence and to get coverage in international media and sympathy from foreigners, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday.

Alleging that Khaleda does not abide by court orders, law, rules and the constitution, Hasina yesterday said the government would take actions as per the directives of

the court regarding her not showing up in court.

"If anyone disobeys court order, actions will be taken as per the law ... we have to follow the orders of the court," she said replying to a supplementary question from opposition Jatiya Party lawmaker Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu during the PM's question-answer session in parliament.

"We will do whatever needed," Hasina said, adding that by disobeying the court

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



It's about time for Tamim Iqbal to come out of his rusty self and show the world what he is capable of with his trusted bat.

PHOTO: BCB

Hunt or be haunted

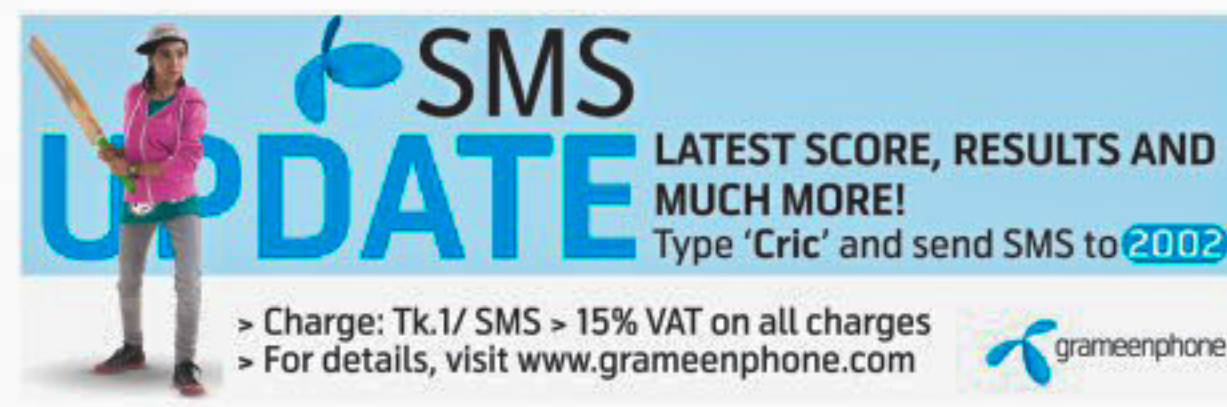
Tigers take on Scotland at Saxton Oval today

SAMAMA RAHMAN

When most of the Tiger's fans will wake up this morning and pick up this newspaper, their beloved team will have already played out half of their game against Scotland. Whether the fans will be left smiling or seething at the close of the first innings, it's safe to say that the Tigers' future in this World Cup will hinge on today's game at the Saxton Oval.

We would hope that Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's men, through either a dominant batting display or fierce bowling, will leave the fans happy at the conclusion of the first innings. This would ultimately guarantee two valuable points for the Tigers, giving them five points from four games, level with Australia.

However, if they fail to do so against a team they have never lost to in



Charge: Tk.1/SMS + 15% VAT on all charges

For details, visit www.grameenphone.com



three ODI meetings, then they will be left with a task of monumental proportions of beating both England, in their penultimate group game, and New Zealand on March 13, to reach the quarterfinals for the first time.

The crucial game for the Tigers will however be against the struggling English

in Adelaide on March 9.

England, with two points from four games so far, will need to beat both Bangladesh and then Afghanistan on March 13 to qualify for the quarterfinals.

Provided that Bangladesh do beat Scotland today, they will still need a result against either England or New Zealand to qualify, or hope that England stumble against Afghanistan in their last group game.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Habibur Rahman Jewel at his rundown home on 2.5 katha of land in Gendaria in the capital. He sleeps on the makeshift bed inside the room. His family deserted the place but he refuses to leave his birthplace.

Of a 'crazy' man, 2.5 katha land

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Habibur Rahman Jewel, 45, has developed a symbiotic relationship with his birthplace. It is a small 2.5 katha plot in the capital's Gendaria where an old, tin-shed house once stood. What remains of it now are piles of dust, brick chunks and rubble all around.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE 'NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER' FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt to purchase 10 vessels

Tk 2,777cr proposal okayed

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to purchase 10 ships from China and Italy at a cost of Tk 2,777 crore under state arrangement. Of the ships, four will be bought from Italy at a cost of Tk 965 crore to improve naval capability of Bangladesh Coast Guard.

Six other ships will be purchased from China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation (CMC) for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) at a cost of Tk 1,812 crore.

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved two separate proposals for purchasing the ships.

Of the four ships, two will be delivered within one year while the rest in two years' time from the date of signing of an agreement, according to the home ministry proposal.

The payment for ships will be made from the government's own fund in nine instalments within four years' time.

All the four ships, used by the Italian Navy, will be turned

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



TOP QUOTE

"Launch a combing operation at that house [Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office]. All the terrorists and militants are staying there."

DISASTER MANAGEMENT MINISTER MOFAZZAL H CHOWDHURY MAYA IN A MEETING OF CITY AWAMI LEAGUE

Endorsed by: Education MALAYSIA

REGISTER NOW! For 2015 intake & get FREE plane ticket

Malaysian Edu Expo '15

7th - 8th March 2015 Spectra Convention Centre 10.00am - 5.00pm House 19, Road 7, Gulshan 1, Dhaka (Behind DCC Market)

9th - 10th March 2015 MUAC Office 10.30am - 6.30pm Plot 1/A, Road 4, Sector 4, Uttara, Dhaka (Beside Agora)

Seminar on HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CAREER PATHWAY TO 100% SCHOLARSHIP @ 11.30am & 3.30pm

Submit applications for Foundation, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's & Phd courses for 2015 intake !!

MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES APPLICATION CENTRE (MUAC) Plot 1/A, 3rd Floor, Road 4, Sector 4, Uttara, Dhaka 1230 Website: www.muac.com.my FB: facebook.com/muac.my Tel: 01966567199 / 01624053565 / 01791046943 / 8956546 Email: muac.my@gmail.com

Scholarships Available! bring photocopies of your original certificates & passport

Participating Institutions: KDU, manipal international university, SWINBURNE, UNIKL, SEGI University & Colleges, ERICAN COLLEGE, MAHSA UNIVERSITY, UCSI UNIVERSITY

DEATH PENALTY Kamaruzzaman to file review petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemned war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman will file a review petition with the Supreme Court today, the last day of lodging the petition, against its verdict that upheld his death penalty for his crimes against humanity in 1971.

His lawyer advocate Shishir Manir said after he along with four other solicitors held a meeting with Kamaruzzaman at Dhaka Central Jail yesterday morning.

A convicted war criminal can seek review of the verdict on the appeal in 15 days since receiving the certified copy of the judgment or being informed about it, said the SC in its full judgment on two review petitions filed by

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TIGER CEMENT

বিজয়ের তীব্র মুখায় গর্জে উঠি বারবার

Go Ahead TIGER

Go Ahead. Go Strong.