

Submit HC stay orders on 11 cases

Court asks Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday warned that charges would be framed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia if she fails to submit before it on April 25 the High Court's stay order on 11 criminal cases including a sedition one.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Mia submitted 11 separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In the petitions, Sanaullah told the court that their client had earlier filed separate writ petitions with the High Court seeking quashment of the case proceedings.

After the hearing, the HC stayed the trial proceedings of three cases on different dates. But Khaleda's lawyers were yet to get any certified copies of the stay order. Moreover, hearing of eight other cases now remains pending with the HC. This is why they prayed for adjournment of the hearing, the lawyer said.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is being welcomed with a bouquet of flowers by Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader on her return to Dhaka from India yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

'Kuchh to mila'

STAR REPORT

"Didi pani nehi diya, lekin bijli to diya... Kuchh to mila." (Sister did not give us water, but gave electricity... at least we've got something).

Pointing to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the comment in Hindi yesterday on the last day of her four-day India visit, which has failed to resolve the Teesta water-sharing issue, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Speaking at a reception organised by India Foundation at Imperial Hotel in New Delhi, the PM also reminded Delhi of assurances on the Teesta.

Mamata has changed her stance on the Teesta and offered Bangladesh electricity and water from other rivers instead, claiming that there was no water in the river to spare for Bangladesh.

'WILL EAT HILSA TO MY HEART'S CONTENT IN BANGLADESH'

"When I come to Bangladesh, I will eat hilsa and rice to my heart's content."

Mamata said this to Hasina as the West Bengal chief minister missed Saturday's special dinner at India's Rashtrapati Bhavan, where the Bangladesh premier cooked steamed hilsa.

During a conversation between the two top leaders, Hasina said she will SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Private univ student shot dead in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A student of City University was killed while his classmate is on life support after being shot at the university gates in Khagan of Savar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

Sifat, 22, a final-year textiles student of Muktagachha in Mymensingh, died on being hit by a bullet to the right chest while Bashudeb Pal was hit in the back by two.

Students accompanying the body at Enam Medical College Hospital claimed that a student of the university arrived at the gates around 2:00pm with some 10-15 youths on seven to eight motorcycles.

The student arriving with the youths started shouting the name of another student, challenging him to attack over a dispute they had over a girl, they said. When some students came out, the group on motorcycles fired some shots and fled, they added.

Students caught two persons from the spot on suspicion and handed them over to police. They also blocked the Berulia-Savar road for some time, torched a motorcycle and

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\$10b business deals signed

FROM PAGE 1

However, the long-pending issue of Teesta water-sharing remains unresolved with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee insisting that there wasn't enough water in the common river to share with Bangladesh.

In the last leg of her four-day state visit, Hasina yesterday once again reposed faith in her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi's assurance about settling the issue even though Mamata refused to budge from her opposition to the Teesta deal.

Speaking at a reception hosted by a pro-BJP think-tank at Hotel Imperial in New Delhi yesterday morning, Hasina said, "Prime Minister Modi once again reiterated his government's strong resolve to conclude the water-sharing treaty at the soonest. Once it happens, the face of Indo-Bangladesh relations would undergo another transformation."

"We strongly believe our common water resources must act as a uniting force."

The Bangladesh premier pitched for "a comprehensive, basin-wide solution to water sharing of all the common rivers" saying this "holds the key to our common future."

Earlier on April 8, appearing before the media with Hasina after their talks at the Hyderabad House, Modi said it was his government and that of Hasina

which can and will find a solution to the Teesta issue.

Yesterday's reception was attended by Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani, among others.

13 DEALS

The deals include power purchase agreement between India's Reliance Power and Bangladesh's Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources for the first phase (718MW) of the 3,000MW power project at Meghnaghat, involving \$1 billion of the proposed investment of \$3 billion.

The agreement between India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation and Bangladesh's Power Development Board (PDB) for supply of power from Nepal envisaged an investment of \$3.15 billion.

A pact between India's Adani Power (Jharkhand) and the PDB with an investment of \$2 billion, and a power purchase agreement between Adani Power and Bangladesh's Power Grid Company were also signed.

Besides, the MoUs signed yesterday include a deal between India's Petronet LNG and Bangladesh's Petrobangla on use of Liquefied Natural Gas terminal.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and

Industry (FICCI) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) unveiled a six-point agenda to boost trade and investment between the two countries.

It includes setting up of a Joint Task Force on tariff and non-tariff barriers, and another Joint Task Force to promote Indian investments in Bangladesh in the areas of infrastructure, education, healthcare, power and tourism.

The agenda touched on connectivity initiatives for expansion of sub-regional cooperation among BBIN (Bhutan-Bangladesh-India-Nepal) countries by establishing links through road, rail, river, sea, transmission lines and petroleum pipelines.

It also includes pursuing joint investments in Blue Economy and a road-map for cooperation in the Bay of Bengal in exploration of hydrocarbons, marine resources, deep sea fishing, preservation of marine ecology and disaster management.

There was also mention of collaboration in knowledge sharing to facilitate innovation and research, and building a partnership on skill development.

HASINA AT BUSINESS FORUM

Speaking at the meeting of India-Bangladesh Business Forum, Hasina said Bangladesh and India have wit-

nessed tremendous progress in almost all sectors of cooperation -- connectivity, power, trade and commerce, health and cultural exchange.

"In Bangladesh, we have envisioned to become a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. India is our partner in this path to progress."

The premier said the two countries have amicably settled land boundary and maritime boundary issues. She reiterated her government's "deep appreciation to leaders of all political parties and members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of India for their unanimous support for the Land Boundary Agreement."

"It was indeed a historic decision," she noted.

Hasina further said, "With the restoration of trust and confidence, the people-to-people exchanges [between the two countries] have also grown exponentially. All these are the hallmarks of a new paradigm of partnership."

She also pointed out that cooperation in the power sector has been another high point of the Indo-Bangla relationship.

The Bangladesh PM said her country is importing electricity from India and also collaborating in other sectors of energy such as solar, wind and hydro

projects, and offshore exploration.

"We are identifying hydro-power projects in Bhutan and Nepal for joint development and import of power to Bangladesh across Indian territory."

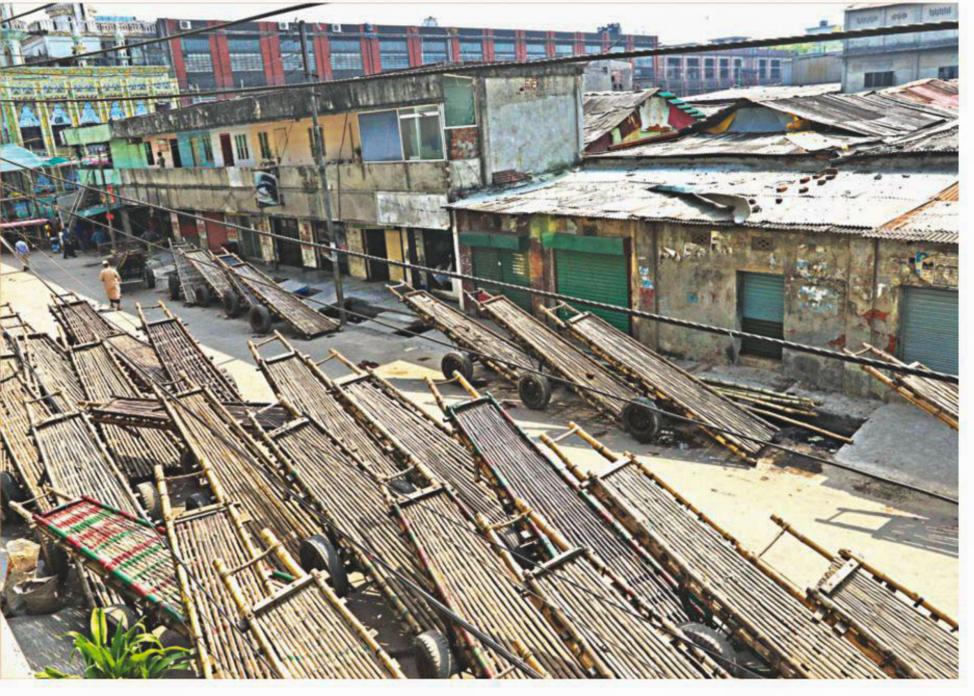
Dhaka and New Delhi are focusing on expansion of trade in "a more open, beneficial and balanced manner by addressing the issues of trade barriers, harmonisation of standards, development of trade infrastructures and mutual recognition of certification, Hasina said.

"To address the trade deficit, we are also working on getting more investment from India, particularly in the Special Economic Zones in Bangladesh. Already, we are seeing great interest from the biggest business houses in India."

The Bangladesh premier said connectivity holds the key to the two countries' collective and inclusive development, and "in our endeavour to integrate the two economies and the region, we are enhancing our connectivity in many ways leading ultimately to multi-modal connectivity."

"And we are being innovative enough to develop new modes of connectivity," she added.

The PM will brief the media at the Gono Bhaban at 4:30pm today on the outcome of her visit.



Pushcarts lying idle at Hazaribagh, centre of the polluting tannery business in the city. Pushcarts workers are now jobless as most of the tanneries there are not running after the government cut off power, gas and water connections to the factories on Saturday following a High Court order.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Workers face uncertainty

FROM PAGE 1

Those who have the promise of a factory job in Savar now have to figure out how they would survive until then. Those who worked as supporting service providers do not even have that promise.

At least 1,200 pushcarts used to carry raw hide and leather goods in Hazaribagh area and the number of pushcart labourers was a few thousand, said pushcart labourer Mohammad Waliuddin sitting in the office of Hazaribagh Thelagari Bahomukhi Samabaya Samity, a platform of pushcart labourers.

"I used to earn Tk 15,000 a month. I cannot earn this now," said Waliuddin, father of three. He is worried how he would make rent, Tk 3,600.

The pushcart labourers worked with the factories on daily contracts. The labourers were hired only if there was production.

Waliuddin said the severing of utility services put many workers who lived in the factories in trouble.

The workers are eating in nearby restaurants as they cannot cook without gas. They cannot have a shower even. This is a problem especially for women and children, he said.

Mohammad Sohag, a grocer in the area, said his sales dropped to Tk 1,000 from Tk 5,000 a day. "Like me, hundreds of grocers will close due to the factories moving," he said. "I bought some lanterns as there is no power," said Abdur Rahman,

owner of Rahman Leather Products, a factory on Sher-e-Bangla Road in Hazaribagh. He said before closure, nearly 15,000 pieces of goat hides were supposed to be tanned at his factory.

Shahin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Tanners Association, said the number of registered workers in the tanneries was about 25,000 and there were about 30,000 more unregistered workers.

"If any worker goes to Savar we will hire them or we will terminate them paying four months' salaries," he said.

Meanwhile, the tanners yesterday threatened to go for a massive movement if utilities and other facilities in Savar were not ensured as per the order of the High Court.

I married

FROM PAGE 1

The sudden revelation has caught the people and those in the film industry completely off-guard.



Like many celebrities, Apu also keeps a high-profile and the media and paparazzi follow her almost everywhere. However, she disappeared last year, leaving everyone baffled as to why she left her flourishing career and took a break from the silver screen.

The actress suddenly returned from her seemingly self-imposed exile, and yesterday in an exclusive live interview with a television channel, Apu disclosed that she was married to the highest-paid Dhallywood actor Shakib in 2008 and that they have a baby son.

The news spread like wildfire. Their wedding took place at Shakib's Gulshan house in Dhaka, Apu said. Their son, Abraham Khan Joy, was born on September 27, 2016, at a Kolkata clinic, she added.

The actress broke down in tears as she alleged that her husband Shakib had compelled her to remain silent about their marriage and their son for a long time.

"I demanded respect from him, but I didn't get it... I have been made to suffer for long," she said.

Contacted, Shakib Khan confirmed his marriage to the actress and having a baby boy with her.

However, he alleged that Apu was trying to destroy his career by disclosing all these to the media through a live TV show.

"I will accept my son, not Apu," Shakib told The Daily Star.

He termed Apu's disclosure a "conspiracy" to destroy his career. "You'll get to know in two days who is behind the conspiracy," Shakib claimed.

After making her acting debut in 2006, Apu started working with Shakib in the film Koti Takar Kabin. The movie made her popular among movie-goers.

Father sues classmate

FROM PAGE 1

After the case was filed, Athif walked out of the court premises, holding a placard that read, "I appeal for a fair investigation and justice for my daughter Raudha Athif's death."

Raudha, an MBBS second-year student of Islami Bank Medical College in the city's Nawdapara area, was found dead in her college dormitory room on March 29.

Later in the day, the college authorities filed an unnatural death case with Shah Makhdam Police Station, claiming the 21-year-old committed suicide by hanging herself.

The autopsy report said the same. However, her family rejected the report and kept insisting that she was murdered.

Mohamed Athif, who has been in Rajshahi since March 30, alleged in his case statement that the accused strangled Raudha to death in or outside the room and later kept the body on the bed. He claimed he saw finger marks on Raudha's neck.

The college authorities claimed Raudha had locked her room before hanging herself and the accused brought the body down, breaking into the room.

In the case statement, Athif said none but the accused saw Raudha hanging from the ceiling and he "can't understand how anyone could break into the room without leaving any sign of forced entry."

A week before her death, Raudha

complained to her mother that the accused had mixed sedatives with her juice. The accused and Raudha had also exchanged text messages which revealed a bitter relation between the two girls, Athif alleged.

Athif further alleged that the accused misused Raudha's social media accounts after her death as she knew the passwords. The girl also knew the passport of Raudha's phone which was later seized by police.

The accused could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts yesterday.

Talking to this correspondent earlier, she had claimed that she along with several other female students and hostel staff discovered Raudha hanging from the ceiling. Later, she brought the body down, thinking Raudha was still alive.

Meanwhile, Detective Branch of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police was investigating the unnatural death case.

Alamin Hossain, assistant commissioner of DB in the district, said, they were investigating the case giving due importance on it. "We don't know why the victim's father was still aggrieved and filed the murder case."

The unnatural death case was produced before an executive magistrate court in Rajshahi yesterday for a second time for registering it and the court fixed today for deciding on it.

The court also did not pass any order on the police's petition for sending Raudha's laptop and mobile phone to the CID's forensic laboratory for extracting their contents.



Mohamed Athif, father of dead Maldivian student and model Raudha Athif, holds up a piece of paper asking for fair investigation and justice at the Rajshahi court yesterday. His brother Hasan Athif, on his right, and lawyer, Abdul Malek, on his left, accompanied him.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI