

Wrists against PSA case likely today

By Special Correspondent

A writ petition challenging filing of a case under Public Safety Act (PSA) against BNP lawmaker Manzoor Morshed Khan is likely to be filed with the High Court by his lawyers today.

Sources close to the lawyers said Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed will move the court on behalf of Khan who, along with 16 lawyers, has been implicated in a case filed under PSA for alleged vandalism at the Supreme Court on Thursday.

The case was filed on Monday by a pro-government lawyer.

Barrister Ishtiaque will certify that Khan was in the court on Thursday for the hearing on his writ challenging the constitutional validity of the PSA.

A case was filed under PSA against Morshed Khan in Chittagong for ransacking a sweetmeat shop and looting Tk 45,000 from the cash box on December 26.

Another writ on behalf of the

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Students staged demonstration in front of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board office yesterday at Motijheel in the city yesterday, demanding action against people involved in the textbook scandal. -- Star photo

Govt plea sent to Appellate Div

By Special Correspondent

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division (APD) Mainur Reza Choudhury yesterday sent the leave petition of the government to the full bench of the APD for hearing. The petition for leave was filed by the government to appeal against a High Court Division Bench order on the Public Safety Case (PSA) against BNP lawmaker and businessman Manzoor Morshed Khan and his son.

Justice Choudhury fixed Sunday for hearing on the petition. The petition was filed by the state immediately after the High Court Division Bench asked police not to arrest or disturb Khan and his son pending hearing on a rule challenging the validity of the PSA. The rule is returnable by January 30.

Justice Abu Saeed Ahmed and Justice Khademul Islam Choudhury gave the rule on Thursday. The order was given on Monday.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed appeared for Morshed Khan and Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam for the state.

Question raised over investigation into Rab murder case

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Jan 14: CID investigation into the sensational Rob murder case is being questioned by different quarters as the 'godfathers and killers' have so far escaped interrogation.

The complainant, Arifur Rahman Mithu, alleged that Investigation Officer (IO) ASP Khashru Huq and a top official of CID, influenced by some local leaders of ruling Awami League, are buying time to damage the merit of the case.

The fate of the case has become uncertain, he alleged.

The complainant is the eldest son of SMA Rob, the ruling party's mayoral candidate who was murdered on August 11 last year. Thirteen people were named in the FIR as accused.

Rob's aide Rangul was arrested before the FIR was lodged. Acting on his statement, police arrested two PBCP outlaws -- Bitu and Moyeen -- and recovered a sawn-off rifle and a home-made gun from their possession. The two confessed that the arms were used in the murder.

In his judicial confession recorded under Section 164, Rangul had also said that five

others -- Shanu, Choton, Shumon, Babul and Kamrul -- were among the gang of killers and that Jibio League activists Mota Selim, Bappi and Bipul carried the arms used in the murder.

The offer was made by Koji Nojima, Chairman of Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commerce and Economic Cooperation (JBCCEC), when he called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at the head of a big delegation at her official residence in the city yesterday evening.

Nojima told Khaleda that the Japanese Prime Minister was eager to spread Japanese information technology to countries like Bangladesh, BNP leader MM Rezaul Karim told newsmen after the meeting.

He said Nojima and some other Japanese visited India recently and finalised a number of steps for development of the IT sector there. Bangladesh has

also good prospects for development of the IT sector, Nojima told Khaleda.

Karim said Nojima suggested urgent steps to control the 'severe' air and water pollution in Dhaka and other big cities and offered Japanese technical assistance for this.

Welcoming the offer, the BNP chief said if her party goes to power in the next election, it would undertake projects in the three sectors with Japanese assistance. "Japan will be approached first to implement projects in the three sectors."

Lauding Japanese assistance, he said Japan is Bangladesh's biggest bilateral donor and development partner and has been assisting it in different sectors, especially in infrastructure development. She recalled Japanese assistance in building

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Bitu and Moyeen were interrogated by a joint interrogation cell (JIC) in Dhaka during their 12-day remand.

They were brought back to Khulna District Jail when they refused to give any further statement under Section 164 in the CMM's court, Dhaka.

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