

# Khaleeda to face graft charge Amini calls

FROM PAGE 1  
An investigation that started from September into the case was completed.

"The investigation findings substantiate the allegation that money was collected using the influence of the then prime minister for setting up the organisation," an ACC official told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity as the service rule prohibits disclosing probe findings unless approved by the commission.

He, however, said the commission's decision based on the investigation would not be known before December 15 as until then its chairman Prof Ghulam Rahman would be staying abroad on an official tour.

The corruption case, filed on August 8, was the first against opposition leader Khaleeda Zia after the

Awami League-led grand alliance assumed office in January 2009.

The other accused are Abul Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to the then prime minister; his assistant personal secretary Ziaul Islam Munna; and Monirul Islam Khan, APS to the now defunct Dhaka City Corporation's mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

As per the first information report, a piece of 42-katha land had been purchased from Suraiya Khan for Tk 6.52 crore of the trust fund, but the land had not been registered under the name of the organisation. Moreover, sources of Tk 1.25 crore spent in purchasing the land is unknown.

Complainant ACC Assistant Director Harunur Rashid, immediately after filing the case, told reporters that Khaleeda's two sons

Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko, trustees of Zia Charitable Trust, might be accused in the charge sheet if their names would come up in the probe.

Harun, also investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star yesterday that the probe report was submitted last week.

According to ACC rules, the investigation report has to be approved by the commission prior to pressing charges against the accused.

Meanwhile, Director General of ACC (admin and establishment) Farrukh Ahmad said at the press briefing that the ACC had requested the organisations, which had participated in the tender process of Padma Bridge construction, to apprise it of the irregularities in the process, if any.

FROM PAGE 1  
the committee office in the city's Lalbagh Amini, "quoting" State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam's remark, said the minister claimed that Prophet Muhammad (SM) was a secular person. Reading out a statement, Amini said State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Shahjahan Miah had said Prophet Muhammad (SM) left half of the space of a mosque for Hindus and Jews while Director General of Islamic Foundation Shamim Md Afzal had recommended scrapping the ayats (verses) on jihad from the holy Quran.

The state ministers could not be reached yesterday for their response.

Talking to The Daily Star last night Islamic Foundation Director General Afzal said he uttered no such comments against the prophet. "Amini's allegation

is nothing but baseless and a total lie. None of us made such comments," he said.

He went on to say that Amini made the allegation to gain political leverage and to confuse Islamic scholars. "Now they are not getting undue opportunities from the foundation. That's why Amini and his followers have said such a blatant lie," he added.

In the statement, Amini also said, "I heard that Hasina [Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina] will divide the country in two like the Dhaka City Corporation and she and her sister Sheikh Shehena will become queens of the parts."

He said, "We have got this information from newspapers and from some persons."

He claimed that he has been under house arrest for the last eight months.

# Durban not total failure

FROM PAGE 20  
conference.

Briefing reporters in his ministry, he said the developed nations will cut carbon emission by 25 to 40 percent compared to the level of 1990 during the second commitment period of the protocol.

But Japan, Russia and Canada pulled themselves out of the process which is unfortunate, he said.

During the conference, an ad-hoc working group on the Durban Platform for Enhance Action was formed.

The working group will come up with an outcome of legally binding instrument for all countries, he told reporters.

"It will be too late if we have to wait till 2020 to implement the legally binding document and cap the temperature rise within two degree Celsius," the minister said.

The Green Climate Fund was created at the conference to help the vulnerable countries, which is another major achievement of the conference, Hasan said, adding that Bangladesh has got \$200 million as fast start funding out of \$3 billion raised in the UNFCCC.

The minister also reminded the developed nations of their responsibilities

for emission cuts as they are fully responsible for global warming.

About detailed outcome of the meet, Hasan said, the activities of the ad-hoc working group on long-term cooperation action (AWG-LCA) were increased by the meeting.

The AWG-LCA will formulate an outcome to implement the decision of the Bali Action Plan.

# Order on Ghulam Azam

FROM PAGE 20  
Barrister Abdur Razzak, the counsel of Ghulam Azam, earlier yesterday requested the tribunal not to take the formal charges against his client into cognisance between December 18 and 20.

He said he would not be able to appear before the court on those days due to "personal difficulties".

The tribunal, which sat around 10:50am, assured him of considering his request.

Meanwhile, the counsels for Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee yesterday continued its cross-examination of the first prosecution witness for the third day.

Witness Mahbubul Alam Hawlader told the tribunal that the freedom fighters were not afraid of the Pakistani army. But they were wary of the collaborators.

This is because all the murders, rapes, lootings and other atrocities committed during the war happened due to the collaborators, not the Pakistani army, he explained.

Hawlader said these while answering one among a long list of questions from the defence. The questions

ranged from past legal cases against him to his Urdu fluency.

At one stage of the cross-examination, defence counsel Mizanul Islam informed Hawlader that his birth date according to his Secondary School Certificate is March 20, 1959.

This means that he was 12 years old during the 1971 Liberation War, which contradicts with his testimony where he told the tribunal he was 20 years old during the war.

In response, Mahbubul Alam Hawlader told the tribunal that his birth date on the SSC certificate is not correct.

Answering another question, Hawlader told the tribunal that he was assigned to be a spy for the Sundarbans freedom fighters' camp after March 25 and he visited the camp at least 50 times during the war to deliver information to the freedom fighters.

The route to the camp from his home was dangerous not because of the Pakistani army but because of collaborators and members of the peace committee, he added.

The cross-examination of Hawlader will resume today.

# Time to redeem the old pledge

FROM PAGE 1  
war, were not willing to have the new nation of Bangladesh arise purposefully out of the ashes of what had turned out to be a tragic phase of history.

These dead were some of the best of our citizens. They were, in that coruscating sense, among the brightest of individuals in this land of ceaseless dreams. That they were killed with a purpose, that of maiming a nation at the threshold of freedom, was a truth not lost on observers of the history that was in the process of being made through the nine months of an intense and intensifying war of liberation between March and December 1971.

They were picked up by the Al-Badr and All Shams, both

goon squads of the Jamaat-e-Islami working in tandem with the Pakistan occupation forces. And then they were picked off, in slow but sure degrees.

If for Bangladesh the murder of these individuals was unmitigated tragedy, for Pakistan it was -- and is -- is a shame that cannot be washed away. And for those Bangalees who collaborated with the occupation forces, it was a scandal they would never be able to live down or turn away from. For these quislings, history would prove to be a hard taskmaster.

And yet history has been slow in ensuring justice for the victims of genocide we remember in a sad December every year. For a nation which resolutely

marched into a struggle for liberty and eventually forced a capitulation of the enemy, the expectation of a system of justice based on globally accepted standards where it came to a taking of the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to account was swiftly belied. Bangladesh's particular tragedy, unique in its features and rare in the annals of history, consisted in its inability not only to bring the men behind the murder of its leading intellectuals to account but also in being compelled to observe the anti-history forces, or call them reactionaries coming in the guise of military rule, rehabilitate them in a country they did not, perhaps do not even now, believe in. The

shame was and will always be ours that those who went out on a limb back in 1971 to prevent our emergence into freedom, who actively assisted the occupation forces in their genocide of three million Bangalees and in the rape of two hundred thousand Bangalee women were to find a coveted niche for themselves as powerful politicians in a land left increasingly mutilated by intrigue and untruth.

But, again, history has a way of getting back at those who seek to humiliate it at frequent intervals in time. It is that moment we perhaps are living through when those who escaped facing the wheels of justice must now confront the truth that the price for injustice and calculated murder must

finally be paid. As we observe once again, with due solemnity, with that old, never-ending cracking of the heart, the memory of the gloom which descended on us when we discovered, even as we sang of the joy which comes of liberation, the sad remains of our martyred intellectuals, we wait in the hope that the course of justice will finally go its full circle, that the International Crimes Tribunal, through plugging all the loopholes and answering every question to the satisfaction of people at home and abroad, will in the end inform us that justice has been done.

For forty years the widows and children of the martyrs of December 1971 have gone from door to

door, from government to government, asking that the souls of their loved ones be permitted to rest through their murderers being made to account for their ancient criminality.

This morning, two score years after those brave Bangalees were abducted, to be killed in medieval fashion by modern-day barbarians, it is time to redeem the old pledge: that the sacrifices of these compatriots of ours shall not have gone in vain, that as a nation humbled by their sacrifice we are today prepared to begin a new journey into the future. That journey is necessarily one undertaken through an expiation of guilt on our part, collectively as a people.

# 60pc households suffered last year

FROM PAGE 20  
James P Grant School of Public Health of Brac University, Helen Keller International (HKI) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with the support from the European Union conducted the survey among more than 23,000 households and 26,000 children.

The food minister agreed to the fact of widespread malnutrition in the country saying that cereal consumption has increased significantly over the time but the nutritious food-intake has not.

He identified rising population, declining farmland, disasters and shooting food prices as the major challenges to food security and nutrition.

He said the government in 2010-2011 distributed 2.29 million tonnes of food

grains among the low-income people and created employment in rural areas to mitigate the effect of rising food prices.

Food insecurity The survey found that over 80 percent households in the lowest-income bracket underwent food insecurity last year.

However, around 13 percent of the wealthiest group suffered malnutrition due to not taking balanced diet.

In the late 2010, prices of commodities hiked more in proportion compared to a day labourer's wage exacerbating food security and making the outcome of the government's safety net programmes less effective, said FSNP official Jillan Waid while presenting the survey report.

The report recommended targeted and timely

strategies for different seasons and regions.

Child health and nutrition

Bangladesh is having slow progress in alleviating the high rate of child malnutrition, said the report, adding that chronic child malnutrition is extremely high in the country, about 45 percent, and most of the children suffering from the condition are under the age of five years.

Community-based programmes to improve child feeding practices and treating moderate and acute malnutrition could help prevent the situation, the report recommended.

Maternal health

The number of women who completed antenatal check ups has increased four folds in the last 13 years. The current rate stands at 26 percent, which

is still very low, the report maintained.

In Rajshahi and Rangpur, more than 55 percent women received iron and folic acid tablets during pregnancy while only 38 percent received in Sylhet and 41 percent in Barisal. These rates are also unacceptably low, notes the report.

Health and nutrition experts observed that since malnutrition of a mother results in underweight babies and chronic diseases, multi-factorial investments are necessary to achieve maternal and child nutrition security.

In his keynote, Brac Executive Director Mahabub Hossain said surveillance is critical to help the authorities devise new strategies to ensure food security and nutrition.

## Request for Proposal for Supply of LP Gas Cylinder Manufacturing Plant on Turn-Key basis.

**Omera Petroleum Limited**, a safety, health & environment compliant organization & a sister concern of **MJL Bangladesh Limited** currently installing a state-of-the-art LPG terminal with import, storage, bottling & marketing facilities. The company has also taken initiative to manufacture high quality LPG cylinders. The particulars of the proposed LPG cylinder manufacturing plant shall be as follows:

Cylinder Sizes	✓ 12.5 kg cylinder -80% ✓ 5.5 kg cylinder -10% ✓ 35 kg cylinder -10%
Production Output	✓ 500,000 ~ 550,000 per Annum based on 12.5kg cylinder
Land Details	✓ Land is Ready at Mongla, Bagerhat
Delivery Schedule	✓ Six months
Type of Operation	✓ Fully Automatic
Scope of Work	✓ To supply, install, test & commission the plant on Turn-Key basis.

We are now requesting proposals from reputed LPG cylinder manufacturers/its associates with proven track record for installing the plant on turn-key basis. The proposal must reach the undersigned by **December 31, 2011.**

**Abdur Rahman**  
Project Manager  
**Omera Petroleum Limited**  
E-Mail: [abdur.rahman@fuelsbd.com](mailto:abdur.rahman@fuelsbd.com)

**Address: Mobil House**  
CWS(C) 9 Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212  
PABX: 880-2-8813597-8,  
Fax: 880-2-9885271, 9885269



**SWINBURNE**  
\* \* \*  
**NE**

SWINBURNE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY  
SARAWAK CAMPUS

# Explore Swinburne Sarawak

■ Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne has a campus in Malaysia. More than 3,500 students from over 50 countries are pursuing a range of studies at Swinburne Sarawak. To learn more about studying with Swinburne Sarawak, you're invited to meet our representative at the following information sessions.

Wednesday - Thursday  
14-15 December  
11am - 3pm



H & I Council  
145/1 Green Road (3rd Floor),  
Farmgate,  
Dhaka - 1205, Bangladesh

Scholarships are available for students who meet the academic criteria and cover only a percentage of their tuition fees.

Phone : (02) 8118180, 9117234  
Mobile : 01715564383  
Email : [hic\\_bd@yahoo.com](mailto:hic_bd@yahoo.com)

