

## GRAMEEN BANK

# Govt eyes majority stake with new law

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The government plans to turn the Grameen Bank ordinance into a law to gain a controlling stake in the microcredit organisation.

A draft of the Grameen Bank Act 2013 has been sent to the finance ministry, a government official said.


The government wants to acquire the majority share -- at least 51 percent -- to have an influence over the organisation.

It formed the Grameen Bank Inquiry Commission in September last year to review the operation of GB and 48 other legally independent organisations founded by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus

### PURPOSE OF THE NEW GRAMEEN BANK LAW

To boost govt stake to at least **51**pc from **25**pc

To raise paid-up capital to **Tk 300**cr from Tk **60**cr



and to make recommendations about their future structures.

The commission plans to recommend bringing changes to the legal structure of Grameen Bank, which will allow the government to raise its share to at least 51 percent from 25 percent as mentioned in the Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983. The government is waiting for the commission's final report before finalising the draft law.

It says it has decided to transform the GB ordinance into a law along with other ordinances promulgated between 1982 and 1986 by a military government to prevent

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## Nine senators urge Obama to suspend GSP

REUTERS, Washington

Nine US senators on Tuesday urged President Barack Obama to suspend trade benefits for Bangladesh until the country where 1,129 people died in an April garment factory collapse improved its working conditions.

"We urge that the administration suspend Bangladesh's eligibility for GSP (Generalised System of Preferences), and establish a roadmap and timeline for reinstatement based upon tangible improvements in worker safety and related labour law reforms," the group of

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# AL looks for new faces in 150 seats

## Unhappy with the role of incumbent MPs, AL now focuses on clean image for next JS polls

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League is looking for new faces in at least 150 constituencies in the next general elections as party MPs from those seats have been mired in various controversies.

The party high command thinks new faces will have more chances of victory in the polls than the incumbent lawmakers who are faced with allegations of graft, lack of contact with locals and misbehaviour with many of them, according to party insiders.

AL high-ups have already prepared a list of lawmakers who would not get party nomination for contesting the election. The list is based on reports about them from different intelligence agencies, party sources and non-government organisations.

A top policymaker of the AL said nomination of new faces in 75 constituencies has already been decided. The number would increase gradually and might exceed 150.

Those who would be nominated again include a number of party stalwarts, ministers, state ministers and first-time lawmakers, said a senior leader of the party.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina is now making

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# Mueen, Ashraf indicted

## Face 11 charges for killing intellectuals in 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chowdhury Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan were among the "most wanted" after the Liberation War for killing intellectuals, and their pictures were published in newspapers soon after the victory with a call for their capture.

In 1997, a victim's family filed a criminal case against the duo for killing the brightest sons of the soon-to-be-independent Bangladesh, but it saw little progress due to "mistake of law" resulting in submission of the final report by investigator in 2002.

Bleeding inside for the loss of their dearest ones and also over the denial of justice for the gruesome offence, the families started dreaming anew in 2011 when a specialised investigation agency formed to probe 1971 war crimes had taken up the issue.

And finally, the trial proceedings start as "absconded" Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan were indicted on Monday.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 has framed 11 charges against the "Al-Badr leaders" for their alleged involvement in the killing of 18 intellectuals

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ASHRAF



MUEEN

**POSTS IN 1971**

Mueen: alleged operation in charge of Al-Badr

Ashraf: alleged chief executor of Al-Badr

**JAMAAT LINK**

They were central leaders of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing Jamaat

**VICTIMS**

Nine DU teachers, six journalists and three physicians

**CURRENT STATUS**

Mueen: Chairman of Tottenham Mosque, UK

Ashraf: Member of Islami Circle of North America

# Fight for tender proves fatal

## 52 BCL, Jubo League men held after a boy, Jubo League man killed in Ctg gunfight, 44 remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A day after two people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed in a gunfight in Chittagong, police since early yesterday have arrested 52 Jubo League and BCL men for their alleged involvement in the incident.

The gunfight took place between the activists of pro-Awami League organisations over the dropping of a railway tender worth Tk 1.5 crore at CRB in the port city on Monday noon.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Lutful Kabir granted a one-day remand for each of the 44 detainees after all the arrestees were produced in court yesterday.

The court also directed the law enforcers to quiz eight others at Chittagong Central



Amran Hossain



Saju Palit

Jail gate considering they were under age, said Rezaul Masud, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

Police produced all the arrestees before the court around 1:00 pm with a seven-day remand prayer, he added.

Monday's gunfight was led by Helal Akbar Chowdhury Babar, a member of Jubo League central committee, and Saiful Islam Limon, central assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The deceased in the gunfight were identified as Amran Hossain, 8, a slum dweller, and Saju Palit, 25, a Jubo League activist and

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