

# AMENDMENT TO ICT ACT It's applicable to Mollah's case

*Says Rokanuddin but TH Khan differs it*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent lawyer Rokanuddin Mahmud yesterday told the Supreme Court that the amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, clearing the way for challenging inadequate sentences of convicts, is applicable to the case of Abdul Quader Mollah.

However, another senior counsel, TH Khan, said it was not applicable since the amendment was brought after the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 had delivered a verdict against Mollah.

Then again, if there is any contradiction between the act and customary international laws, the former would get priority while trying those who committed crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, he added.

The two gave the opinions as amici curiae (friends of court) before the SC's Appellate Division during the hearing on appeals against the verdict in the war crimes trial of Jamaat leader Mollah.

Rokanuddin said the amendment was valid since the constitution protected the act and customary international laws supported it while the SC has inherent powers to enhance or reduce punishment given by any other court to a convict.

Earlier, four amici curiae -- Mahmudul Islam, Rafique-Ul-Huq, M Amir-Ul-Islam and Ajmalul Hossain -- opined that the amendment is applicable.

The SC earlier questioned whether the amendment is applicable to Mollah's case and whether the customary international laws are applicable to the International Crimes Tribunals, constituted under the act. On February 5, ICT-2 jailed Mollah for life for committing five crimes during the Liberation War. The government filed the appeal on March 3 seeking death penalty and the convict filed another the next day seeking acquittal.

# Two workers die in crane fall in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two workers of a steel rolling factory died as a crane broke down and fell on them at their workplace in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday morning.

The deceased Atik, 35, and Jalal, 25, worked at Shahriar Steel Mill.

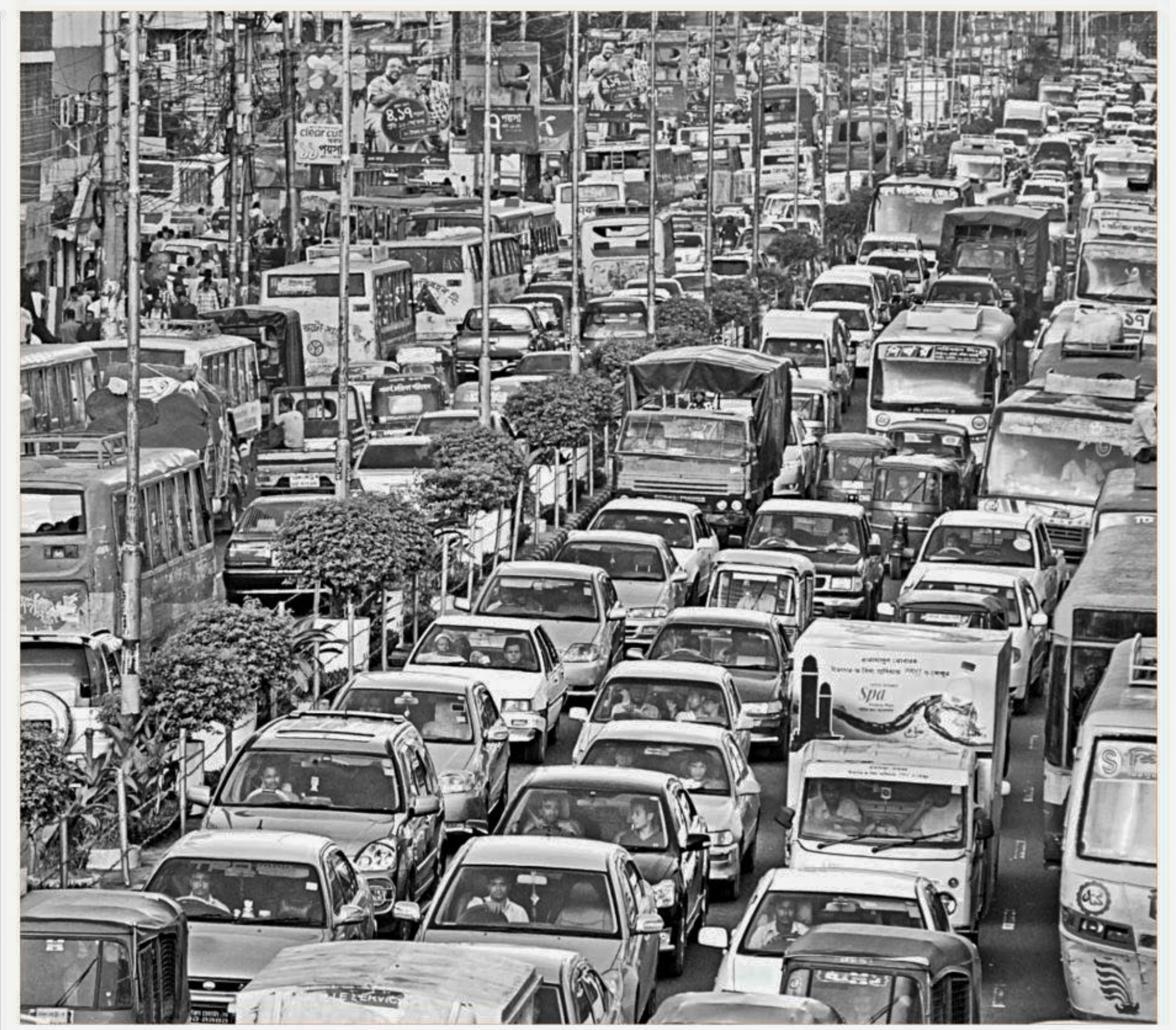
Jatrabari police Sub-inspector Abdullah Biswas said the crane fell down when a cable tore, crushing Atik to death instantly, and hitting Jalal in the head.

Jalal was rushed to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, the SI added.

"The weight of the crane was approximately one tonne," said Abdullah.

Jatrabari police said the victims' families refused to press charges against the factory owners, but the police was preparing to lodge a case.

The bodies were sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue.



Traffic, as in other days, clogs Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

# DU students beat up shop staff as he assaults their female mate

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some students of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts yesterday beat up a shop staff as he assaulted its female student.

Asif Rayhan, an employee of Nabani Fashion in Aziz Supermarket, was given first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Employees of the shop later damaged several vehicles.

Witnesses said Asif made some lewd comments when the female student went to the market for shopping on Saturday.

When he tugged her sleeve, she slapped Asif. Enraged, Asif severely beat her that left her unconscious for a while, they added. The matter settled after intervention from nearby shop owners.

However, when she told her friends about the matter, they went to the shop, beat Asif up and then handed over him to Shahbagh police.

# Try Col Taher's murderers Colonel Taher Sangsad discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded trial of the murderers of Col Abu Taher who was tried under an illegal military tribunal and subsequently executed in 1976.

After the trials of the murderers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and war criminals, it is the authority's responsibility to try Col Taher's murderers and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, they said.

Colonel Taher Sangsad organised the discussion in the Teacher-Student Centre auditorium at Dhaka University marking 37 years past the execution.

The High Court, in the full text of a verdict released on May 20, termed the execution a "cold-blooded murder". The verdict was delivered on March 22, 2011 in response to

# ZIA CHARITABLE GRAFT CASE Court asks Khaleda to face it Aug 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and seven others "for the last time" to appear before it in Zia orphanage trust and Zia charitable trust graft case.

Judge Md Motahar Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 asked Khaleda, Tarique and four others to appear before it on September 5 in Zia orphanage trust graft case.

On the other hand, the BNP chief and three others were asked to appear before it on August 18 in Zia charitable trust graft case. The court passed the order after deferring the charge framing hearings in the two cases till September 5 and August 18 respectively.

The court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon submitted two time petitions saying that Khaleda could not appear before it as the parliament session was going on.

Earlier Khaleda were absent from the court on different dates on different excuses. According to the rules, Khaleda as a lawmaker cannot be even summoned for seven days before and after the session, Khokon said.

ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE  
Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Ramna Police Station on July 3, 2009 on charge of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" trust.

The four other accused are: Former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque, businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed, former principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Momenur Rahman, nephew of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

ZIA CHARITABLE TRUST GRAFT CASE  
The ACC filed the case on August 8 in 2011 with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda and three others for abusing power in setting up the charity named after late president Ziaur Rahman.

# EXTORTION CASE 5 cops' bail plea rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of five policemen who were arrested on charges of detaining three rickshaw-pullers and realising Tk 23,000 from their family members through bKash, a subsidiary of Brac Bank that provides mobile banking service, on July 17.

The accused are Sub-Inspector Akhter Hossain, Assistant Sub-Inspector Zahidul Islam and constables -- Ekramul Huq, Zahirul Islam and Abdullah.

Deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Tejgaon division caught the five of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station red-handed in the capital's Agargaon bazar as they had unlawfully detained the rickshaw-pullers from Dhanmondi for money.

Later, Ujjal Tikader, one of the detainees from whom the policemen took Tk 2,803 filed a case with the police station. Inspector Maruf Hasan is investigating the case.

# BISHWAJIT MURDER 2 PWs give statements

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more prosecution witnesses (PWs) yesterday gave their statements before a Dhaka court in connection with Bishwajit Das murder case.

The witnesses are Mohammad Saleque, an employee of QG Shamdani Petrol Pump in Old Dhaka, and Sumon Khan, proprietor of Atithi Tailors' in Laxmibazar.

Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) allegedly stabbed Biswajit, 24, proprietor of Amantron Tailors, to death during a road blockade programme of BNP-led 18-party alliance on December 9 last year.

Earlier on July 14, Md Jalal Uddin, a sub-inspector of Sutrapur Police Station and also the complainant of the Bishwajit Das killing case, gave his statement before the same court.

In his statement, Saleque yesterday told the court that he was on duty at the petrol pump on December 9 last year and saw a procession at about 9:15am on that day. Several of the protestors chased Bishwajit and stabbed him. But he did not recognise the attackers.

Witness Sumon said on the day Bishwajit went to his tailoring shop and left after fifteen minutes. Later he saw on television that several people were stabbing the victim. But he did not know them, the witness said.

Defence lawyers declined to cross-examine the witnesses as they did not mention any names of the accused.

Judge (in-charge) Dewan Md Shafiqullah of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 fixed July 25 for next hearing of the case.

The sessions judge's court framed charges against 21 activists of Jagannath University unit of BCL in the case on June 2.

Inspector Tajul Islam of Detective Branch of police, who is investigating the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on March 5.

# PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS Govt aims to end it by 2035

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday declared its objectives to end preventable child deaths in the country by 2035.

"The country is determined to give an all-out effort to reduce under-five mortality to 20 per 1,000 live births by 2035," said Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque while reading out a declaration in this regard.

The minister disclosed this at a programme titled "Ending Preventable Child Deaths by 2035: Bangladesh Call for Action" organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

The minister also announced a set of activities and strategies that should be undertaken to achieve the goal.

The activities include ensuring newborn care with neonatal resuscitation, introducing antenatal steroid for premature labour, and establishing specialised newborn care unit at sub-district and district level.

Pascal Villeneuve, country representative of Unicef, said the target is to prevent an estimated 108,000 child deaths every year.

"This means that approximately 300 child deaths will be averted every day," he said.

US Ambassador Dan mozena and Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare MM Neazuddin, among others, were present.

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