

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 has again denied bail to Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf, who is historically known as the founder of infamous Razakar force in 1971.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam yesterday rejected his bail petition as a report from Kashimpur Jail had said his health was “stable”.

The tribunal however directed the jail authorities to ensure the war accused's necessary medical checkup and treatment.

The 87-year-old Jamaat nayeb-e-ameer is facing 13 charges of crimes against humanity and genocide committed during the Liberation War.

Earlier, the tribunal on October 10 asked the jail authorities to submit the health report by October 22 and the authorities complied with the order on Monday.

The court in its yesterday's order said the jail authorities reported that the accused had already undergone necessary treatment and his physical condition was “stable”.

A three-member medical board has prepared Yusuf's health report.

Apart from his present physical condition, the court has also considered the magnitude of offences Yusuf has been charged with.

Arrested on May 12, Yusuf was denied bail two days later. The tribunal directed the jail authorities on July 24 to report on his health when he had sought bail again.

After the jail authorities then described his health as “stable”, the court on August 1 had neither granted nor denied him bail but kept his petition on record.

He again sought bail in the first week of October.

## Changed route gets

FROM PAGE 16  
traffic over the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover and end at Kutubkhali near the Dhaka-Chittagong highway to avoid traffic jam on the flyover.

Phase one of the three phase project will be completed in 2014.

Chaired by the finance minister, two meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and the Cabinet Committee on Purchase yesterday gave nod to 26 proposals, of which 20 were endorsed by the purchase committee.

So many projects, said Muhith, were never approved by the government on a single day in the past. It happened as there was a backlog of projects due to the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

The minister hoped that the last meeting of the purchase committee during the tenure of the present government will be held in the second week of November. More meetings could be held even after that, but those will deal only with some routine agenda, he added.

The economic affairs committee endorsed the appointment of a Thai-led joint venture company as the independent engineer for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project.

Thai firm MM Company Ltd, UK's Mott MacDonald Ltd and Euroconsult Mott MacDonald of the Netherlands will jointly work as the independent engineer of the project.

The committee also gave the go-ahead to the signing of a production sharing contract

Two prosecution witnesses have already testified against Yousuf.

#### TRIBUNAL-1

The defence of Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday declared their third witness' statement would be identical to that of their other witnesses who had already given deposition before the tribunal.

Third defence witness Abdus Salam Mukul yesterday took the oath and gave his brief introduction.

Earlier, two defence witnesses told the tribunal that they did not hear the name of Nizami in Pabna during the war.

Prosecutor Mohammad Ali declined to cross-examine the third witness.

The defence were allowed an adjournment for a day yesterday. The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir adjourned the proceeding until today.

Nizami's son is scheduled to give his deposition today. Nizami, facing 16 war crimes charges, was hauled before the tribunal.

The defence later placed submission on a petition filed for exonerating Jamaat leader Abdus Subhan from war crimes charges.

After hearing, the tribunal observed that the defence were making the submission similar to the arguments placed during hearing of discharge petition on ATM Azharul Islam.

Defence counsel SM Shahjahan argued that senior lawyer Abdur Razzaq had wanted to place the argument. He then sought an adjournment until November 3.

The tribunal adjourned the proceeding until October 31 for further hearing on charge framing.

The prosecution have brought nine charges against Subhan, who was produced before the tribunal yesterday.

(PSC) for a block in the shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal with two foreign oil companies.

Australian Santos and KrisEnergy of the Cayman Islands jointly won the bidding for SS-11 block in August.

The committee endorsed a telecom ministry project proposal for installation of a next-generation network (NGN) based telecommunication network for the state-run telecom company BTCL to provide seven lakh new landline connections and laying fibre optic cable across the country.

In the other meeting, the purchase committee approved proposals for appointment of contractors for two components of the Padma bridge project. Abdul Monem Ltd will be appointed as the contractor for the service area at a cost of around Tk 209 crore.

The committee acceded to another proposal of communications ministry for appointment of a Bangladesh-Malaysia joint venture (Abdul Monem Limited and HCM Engineering Sdn Bhd) for the construction of 11 km Mawa approach road at a cost of around Tk 1,934 crore.

A proposal for setting up a gas based 440-megawatt power plant at Ghorashal was also approved by the committee. Power Development Board (PDB) will purchase electricity from the plant at Tk 1.69 per kilowatt.

Besides, purchases of 94,000 electric poles, 50,000 metric tonnes (MT) of urea fertiliser and 50,000 MT wheat got approval of the committee.

when a large number of extrajudicial killings, torture and abuses of human rights were reported.

However, no government, including Awami League-led ones, made any move to enact any law to prevent such incidents.

Saber in a statement tagged with the bill had stressed the need for such a law, given the ruthless wanton practices of illegal arrests, detentions, torture, and extrajudicial killings in the country.

“The country must legislate urgently in order to criminalise custodial torture and deaths, and to avoid repetition of serious human rights violations -- a sad and unacceptable feature of our past," Saber added.

He was of the view that the legislation was imperative to ensure rule of law in the country.

The proposed legislation was expected to protect the people from abuse, and prevent recurrence of human rights violations.

In the bill torture means any act or omission that causes physical or mental pain to any person, for obtaining from that person or some other person, information or a confession, or for punishing that person for any act or omission, for which that person or some other person is responsible, or is suspected of being responsible, or for intimidating or coercing that person or some other person.

"Any person who tortures any other person shall be guilty of an offence, and any person who attempts to commit, aid and abet in committing, and conspires to commit an offence shall also be guilty of an offence," says the bill.

As per the Business Advisory Committee's decision, the House will pass another private member's bill today to enact a law ensuring allowances for parents. Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujibul Haq had placed the bill.

## BNP places formula at JS, faces AL flak

FROM PAGE 1

open talks on the BNP's proposal unveiled by Khaleda Zia the day before.

"I am placing the proposal for consideration of the prime minister to install the non-partisan caretaker government system through discussion," BNP lawmaker Jamiruddin Sircar told the House. Hasina was not present at the time, but joined the session later.

"We hope the prime minister will accept it for the sake of peace and stability, and take effective steps for discussions between the two sides. The opposition leader and opposition MPs are sincerely urging the prime minister to take steps for talks," said Sircar, a former Speaker of parliament.

AL leader Tofail Ahmed thanked the opposition for placing a specific proposal in the House, but said the BNP should place the proposal following House rules so that there can be a discussion on it.

In a long statement, he also criticised the opposition's proposal and defended Hasina's proposal for forming an all-party polls-time government.

Tofail said Khaleda did not study the issue properly before making the proposal for picking 10 advisers for the election-time non-partisan administration from the two previous caretaker governments of 1996 and 2001. He said some of the former advisers have already died while some others are unable to take up new responsibilities because of advanced age.

Sircar, in his response, criticised Tofail for rejecting the opposition proposal. "We placed the proposal for consideration by the prime minister. Let her decide on it."

BNP lawmaker MK Anwar defended his party's proposal.

After him, AL MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim launched a blistering attack on former president and BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, the opposition

lawmakers left the House, about 45 minutes after joining it.

Later, AL MP Suranjit Sengupta said the BNP's proposal was against the basic structure of the constitution.

"You came up with an obsolete thing. There is nothing to reach a consensus on about your proposals. Let's hold talks on the prime minister's proposal," he said.

In February 2006, Hasina, then opposition leader, herself placed the AL-led 14-party combine's electoral reform proposal in parliament.

Responding on Khaleda's behalf, the then LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan had said the government was ready to discuss ways to ensure that elections were free and fair.

"We are ready for discussion on any constructive suggestions as we too believe in striving for elections free from influence of black money and muscle power," Mannan had said.

At this point, AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim had said the opposition expected a response from the prime minister, not from Mannan Bhuiyan.

After a series of events, the AL and the BNP finally opened talks in October the same year. But several rounds parleys between the BNP's then secretary general, Mannan Bhuiyan, and AL's then general secretary, Abdul Jalil, failed to break the deadlock as both the sides stuck to their guns.

This time too the prospects for talks seem high, especially after BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir sent a letter to AL general secretary Syed Ashrafu Islam on Monday.

After receiving the letter, Ashraf thanked Fakhru over the phone, but the AL has yet to formally respond to the letter.

As it looks now, the ruling party may come up with the proposal for holding talks on Hasina's offer for forming an all-party election-time government headed by Hasina.

But the BNP has made it clear that it would not

participate in an election under any form of government headed by Hasina.

This means although the prospects for talks are bright, the prospects for a solution are not.

Amid such a situation, the two rival camps are preparing to face off on the streets in the coming days.

Alongside urging the government to hold talks, the opposition alliance has been readying itself for street agitation, including holding a rally tomorrow by defying a police ban on political programmes.

"We, on behalf of the 18-party alliance, will start the rally before the BNP Nayapaltan office at 2:00pm on October 25, where the opposition chief Khaleda Zia will be present and will address the rally," Fakhru said.

"We hope the government will lift the ban and cooperate with us in holding the rally peacefully," he told reporters at Khaleda's Gulshan office after a meeting with the general secretaries of the alliance components.

The meeting discussed ensuring a large gathering to make the rally a success. It also discussed the next course, sources said.

According to the sources, the opposition alliance may call a three-day hartal from October 27, if the government foils the rally.

Some leaders at the meeting, however, spoke in favour of going soft at the moment given the prospects of talks.

Meanwhile, following the walkout, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque told a press briefing that they were "disheartened" by the government's attitude.

He said that the prime minister and other top government figures had urged the BNP to place its proposal in parliament. But once it did, the ruling party MPs rejected it outright, thus proving that the AL wanted no consensus.

### Muhith slams

FROM PAGE 16

alleged the government was trying to grab the Grameen Bank of 84 lakh poor women.

To save the bank, he called upon all women to unite against the government move, and said: "You, all women, should raise your voice to protect the bank. You should say: 'Beware, do not try to grab Grameen Bank. We will break those hands that want to snatch it.'"

The comment drew widespread criticism.

The issue, however, was not discussed in the cabinet meeting, Muhith said.

He added that the draft Grameen Bank law, which the cabinet approved on October 3, might be placed in parliament on Sunday.

Muhith also said the Grameen Bank Board will be reconstituted after the rules for electing its directors are issued.

The draft rules are awaiting law ministry's vetting and are expected to be issued soon.

### AL, BNP MPs talk

FROM PAGE 2

He said, "If we can select the chief adviser on the basis of consensus it will not be difficult to find other advisers."

Taking the floor on a point of order, Fazlul Karim Selim blasted BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, saying that Zia had illegally grabbed power for five years, which was proved by a High Court ruling. His statement provoked the opposition walkout.

He said elections would be held as per the constitution and Hasina would be the chief.

Taking part in the debate, Awami League MP Suranjit Sengupta called upon the opposition to consider Hasina's proposal.

"Discussions may be held on who will get what ministry in the all-party polls-time government and how to strengthen the Election Commission," he said.

"There is no scope for compromise in your [Khaleda] formula. But the nation and civil society have accepted the prime minister's proposal," he claimed.

## WB sees economy

FROM PAGE 1

report of the global lender at its Dhaka office.

Bangladesh's GDP grew by 6.03 percent in the previous fiscal year and the government set an ambitious target of 7.2 percent for the current year.

Though the WB's GDP projection is significantly lower than the government's target of 7.2 percent, it is in line with the Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund's forecast of 5.8 percent and below six percent respectively. These agencies made lower projections for what they said are growing unrest and political uncertainty in the run-up to the coming elections.

The WB country director said political unrest put tremendous pressure on Bangladesh's economic growth and prospect.

Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the WB office, said overall the country's economy is moving into a more volatile phase centring on the elections. "The risks stemming from impeding the political transition have grown significantly."

Zahid said, "Growth outlook hinges primarily on internal stability and policy reforms. Policymaking is expected to improve if the transition to a new government in 2014 happens smoothly."

The WB report -- Bangladesh Development Update -- said real pri-

vate investment declined by 1.2 per-

cent in fiscal 2012-13 due to political turmoil and uncertainty, compliance failures and labour unrest in the readymade garment sector, banking scams and a lackluster global economy.

Inflation decelerated but remained high with annual average inflation declining from 8.7 percent in FY12 to 6.8 percent in FY13. This reflects a decline in both food and non-food prices. Softer international prices helped reduce food inflation, it said.

The financial system remains under stress and capital market activities have been weak. Several financial scams and resultant loan defaults in the state banks moved them into a position of insolvency, the WB said.

On higher foreign exchange reserve, Zahid said, "The country has crossed the \$17 billion mark on Tuesday. It is a satisfactory reserve, not excessive as the current reserve level constitutes 4-6 months of import cover, 11.8 percent of GDP and 20.1 percent of broad money."

The WB also said the country's fiscal policy is on the right track, but a host of domestic challenges remain. The conduct of fiscal policy in FY13 has been broadly in line with the original budget. The overall fiscal deficit (excluding grants) at 4.3 percent of GDP has been below the budget target of 5 percent.

## 14-party rejects

FROM PAGE 1

meeting of the alliance leaders at Gono Bhaban.

Chairing the meeting, AL chief Hasina said she would phone opposition leader Khaleda Zia within a couple of days to invite her for talks on the formation of an all-party polls-time government, said meeting sources.

Terming the BNP chief's proposal "unrealistic", she expressed her wonder at how unelected people could be elected in the way women lawmakers are elected for the reserved seats in parliament.

She raised a question about the rationality of the BNP's proposal. "Some of the former caretaker advisers are dead, while some others have been suffering from illness and a few are unwilling to take up the responsibility. How could they [opposition] make such a proposal?"

She hinted that the AL would not send any letter to the BNP regarding the dialogue as she thought that it would only kill time.

"I have decided to talk to the opposition leader. I will invite her to either Gono Bhaban or my parliament office for talks," said Hasina as quoted by an alliance leader.

The premier also noted that she wants participation of all political parties in the next general election.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, 14-party combine convenor Mohammad Nasim said the 14-party alliance would remain united. The next general polls will be held as per constitutional provisions with the participation of all parties, he added.

#### NO ASHRAF-TARANCO TALKS YET

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafu Islam yesterday said he had no talks with UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco over a possible dialogue with the main opposition BNP on polls-time government.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, the AL leader said he was in Dinajpur on Tuesday and that is why he could not talk to the UN official. "But I've received an email from the local UN office regarding conversation with him [Taranco]. I replied that I would discuss the matter with my party chief and in the party forum and then get back to you [UN office]."

Talking to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir over the phone on Tuesday, Taranco hoped that a suitable environment would be created through discussions between the government and the opposition for holding a credible and participatory election, Khaleda's press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan quoted Taranco as saying to Fakhru.



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(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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Memo No.: 07-PGCB/PROC/RTS-2013/465

Date : 22/10/2013

### International Tender Notice

1	Brief Description of Goods or Works	৳	Supply and Delivery of High Voltage Field & Laboratory Test Equipment.
2	Tender Security	৳	Taka 20,00,000/- only in the form of Pay order or Bank Draft in favour of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh.
3	Price of Tender Document	৳	Taka 5,000/- only in the form of Pay order or Bank Draft in favor of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh.
4	Place of Selling Tender Document	৳	i) Deputy General Manager (Procurement & store), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. IEB Bhaban(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000. ii) General Manager(Transmission-1), Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. Biddyt Bhaban(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Abdul goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
5	Eligibility of Tenderers	৳	In-case of Single Entity, the Bidder must have experience for successful completion. (Performance Certificate) of at least one contract as a prime contractor for supply and delivery of high voltage field test equipment of contract value minimum Taka One crore or an equipment amount under a single contract in the last Five of years as on the date of opening of technical proposals. In case of joint Venture, any partners of the Joint Venture who have at least 26% share in their Joint Venture must have successfully completed at least one contract as a prime Contractor for supply & delivery of high voltage field test equipment of contract value minimum Taka One crore or an equipment amount of US \$ under a single contract in the last Five years as on the date of opening of technical proposals. Joint Venture bidders are required to declare their respective percentage of share in joint venture Agreement in a format of "Joint Venture Agreement Form" given in the Bidding Document.
6	Tender last selling Date & Time	৳	9 December 2013, up to 5:00pm.
7	Place of Receiving Tender Document, Date & time	৳	Deputy General Manager(Procurement), IEB Bhaban(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000. 10 December 2013, 11.00 AM
8	Place of Tender opening, Date & time	৳	Deputy General Manager(Procurement), IEB Bhaban(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000. 10 December 2013, 11.15 AM
9	Completion time of the work	৳	8 Months
10	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders. Tendering procedure will be single stage two envelop. Others terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document are applicable for this tender.		

Md. Ashraf Hossain  
Company Secretary