

Prison preparing

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law minister skirted the question whether Kamaruzzaman could file a review appeal.

But Attorney General Mahbub Alam asserted that a war crimes convict had no such right, though the defence insisted they would move a review petition.

"It will be illegal if Kamaruzzaman is executed before the Supreme Court disposes of his review plea," said Khandker Mahbub Hossain, a senior defence lawyer.

Shishir Manir, another defence counsel, said they submitted an application to the prison authorities yesterday for allowing them to meet Kamaruzzaman for his instructions on the review petition.

The prison authorities fixed 10:00am today for the meeting.

At a press briefing at his Gulshan residence in the evening, the law minister said the apex court had rejected the review appeal of Abdul Quader Mollah, who was charged on December 12 last year for war crimes.

"It [the appeal] is hereby dismissed," he quoted the short SC order on the review petition.

The minister added, "In this context, it seems to us that there is no opportunity for filing a review petition before the full judgment is released."

But it is a different matter altogether if the SC verdict says otherwise (on Quader Mollah's review petition), Anisul said, without explaining what he meant by "otherwise" and "a different matter".

The apex court is yet to release its full judgment on Quader Mollah's review petition. Once released, it will be clear if war crimes convicts can file for reviews.

On international communities' concern over death sentence, the minister said, "We will not compromise on the matter of capital punishment for war criminals."

The attorney general said Kamaruzzaman's execution was just a matter of time, and it depended on the government.

There is no law that says the jail authorities have to get the full judgment to execute a convict, he added.

Earlier in the day, the AG told reporters at his office, "I do not agree that the prison authorities cannot do anything before getting the full verdict."

Quader Mollah was hanged 82 days after the SC sentenced him to death.

Meanwhile, Kamaruzzaman's lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain told a press conference at the Supreme Court Bar Association that he hoped the government would not execute his client until the disposal of his review petition.

He said Kamaruzzaman would file for a review upon getting the certified copy of the full verdict.

One judge of the four-member SC bench disagreed with the capital punishment order on charges of mass killing at Sohagpur village in Sherpur. Kamaruzzaman may get justice on this dissenting point, he added.

According to him, the war crimes tribunals have tried the cases in such a manner that they have become controversial at home and abroad.

FAMILY MEMBERS MEET KAMARUZZAMAN

Family members met Kamaruzzaman at Dhaka Central Jail yesterday morning.

"His physical condition is good and he is not worried about the verdict...I have not seen a strong person like him," Hasan Iqbal, eldest son of Kamaruzzaman, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Kamaruzzaman's wife Nurunnahar, sons Hasan Ahmed, Hasan Ikram and Hasan Imam, daughter Atia Nur, brothers Naziruzzaman and Abdullah Al Mahadi, sister Mohsina Begum, and nephew Abdul Alim also met him.

Asked if Kamaruzzaman would seek presidential mercy, Iqbal said, "He will make the decision after the disposal of the review petition, which will be submitted after receiving the full verdict."

Defence lawyer Shishir Manir said, "The jail authorities did not call the family members. They went to see him on their own."

Normally, the prison authorities call family members before executing a convict.

Obama doing 'insipid job'

China paper says ahead of visit

AFP, Beijing

China's state-run media yesterday decried Barack Obama as a banal leader who has done an "insipid job", days ahead of a visit by the US president.

The editorial in the Global Times, which has close ties to China's ruling Communist Party, came as the Republicans took control of the US Senate from Obama's Democrats.

"Obama always utters 'Yes, we can,' which led to the high expectations people had for him," the Global Times wrote, referring to Obama's 2008 campaign-trail mantra.

"But he has done an insipid job, offering nearly nothing to his supporters."

"US society has grown tired of his banality," it added.

Although the US economy has improved gradually since the 2008 recession, the national mood is far from buoyant, with a CNN exit poll on Tuesday showing 54 percent of voters disapproved of how Obama was handling his job.

The US president will be in China from November 10 to 12 for a two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, followed by a state visit.

Georgia foreign minister resigns amid political crisis

AFP, Tbilisi

Georgia's Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze resigned yesterday amid a political crisis that has gripped the ex-Soviet republic following the prime-minister's decision to sack his pro-Western defence minister.

Panjikidze and her four deputies have resigned "to show what threats the country is facing," she told a press-conference.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili sacked defence minister Irakli Alasania after a raft of corruption charges were brought against high-ranking defence ministry officials.

Alasania, who has pushed for the former Soviet state to join NATO and the EU, described the charges as "groundless and politically motivated" and "an attack on Georgia's Euro-Atlantic choice".

The scandal risks dismantling the country's ruling Georgian Dream coalition as more government members have threatened to quit and politicians go into opposition.

Alexi Petriashvili, the minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and a close ally of Alasania, resigned in protest.

Deputy Prime Minister Kakhi Kaladze said that other members of Alasania's Free Democrats party, including the justice minister, are expected to follow suit.

Jolie: From silver

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be considered," she told Vanity Fair in a cover story.

"Because if you really want to make an extreme change, then you have a responsibility," she added, before saying: "But I honestly don't know in what role I would be more useful -- I am conscious of what I do for a living, and that (could) make it less possible."

Asked directly if she could pursue a life in politics, diplomacy or public service, she replied: "I am open." She gave no more details.

Since 2012 Jolie has traveled on more than 40 missions around the world as a special envoy for the United Nations Refugee Agency. Last year Jolie was awarded an honorary Oscar for her humanitarian work.

Last month the star of such Hollywood films as "Tomb Raider" and "Maleficent" was made an honorary dame for her work combating sexual violence. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II presented the award at London's Buckingham Palace.

Jolie's directorial debut feature, 2011's Golden Globe-nominated "In the Land of Blood and Honey," was set against the background of the early 1990s Bosnian war.

Her upcoming film, "Unbroken," is about Olympian and World War II POW survivor Louis Zamperini. It will be released on December 25 in the United States.

Jolie will next direct a "sweeping epic" film about veteran Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey's fight with ivory poachers, the studio behind the movie announced in September.

High hope on solar

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facility to three million more families over the next three years through Idcol," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said while inaugurating the celebration programme at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka, reports UNB.

The PM said Idcol's Solar Home System is one of the largest and fastest growing off-grid renewable energy programmes in the world.

The primary objective is to supply clean electricity in the energy-starved off-grid rural areas of Bangladesh and hence, supplementing the government's vision of ensuring access to electricity for all by 2021.

During the last 15 years, Idcol has been playing a significant role in infrastructure development and generation of renewable energy and emerged as the biggest partner in financing these sectors, she added.

There is huge potential of solar-based irrigation pumps in the country, the PM said, as quoted by UNB.

At present, the number of diesel-run irrigation pumps in the country is 14 lakh, "For these, we've to import a huge quantity of diesel spending our valuable foreign exchange."

Besides, she said, to run the 150,000 electricity-run irrigation pumps, the power grid has to bear an immense pressure. "If a portion of these pumps can be put under the solar-based irrigation system, the import of diesel will decrease significantly and the pressure on the national grid will ease."

As part of the celebration, Idcol is organising a two-day fair on renewable energy at Sonargaon Hotel that

begins today.

The Idcol Green Energy Expo will accommodate 50 stalls including 47 national and three international participants, Idcol said in a statement.

Idcol started financing SHSs in January 2003 with support from the World Bank and Global Environment Facility. The initial target was to finance 50,000 SHSs by June 2008, which was achieved three years ahead of schedule and with \$2 million less than the projected cost, it said.

Following the success of the programme, ADB, KfW, GIZ, IDB, GPOBA, USAID, DFID and Jica extended support for rapid expansion of the programme. Idcol's SHS programme is now considered the largest off-grid renewable energy programme in the world.

The company provides grants and soft loans to village people through its 47 partner organisations, which has made the system affordable for the customers. At present, more than 60,000 SHSs are being installed each month under the programme, according to Idcol.

To make electricity facility available for all by 2021, the PM said, her government wants to enhance the electricity generation to 24,000 mw of which 10 percent would come from the renewable energy, according to UNB Report.

Later at the event, the premier talked to a beneficiary of solar energy at Char Janazat of Shibchar upazila in Madaripur district through videoconferencing.

Turkey prosecutors seek life jail for eight over mining disaster

AFP, Istanbul

Prosecutors have demanded life imprisonment for eight executives of a coal mine company in Turkey operating a facility where 301 workers were killed in May in the country's worst mining accident, media reported yesterday.

Prosecutors in the western city of Manisa are seeking life terms on a record 301 counts of manslaughter against the suspects, who were arrested and placed in pre-trial detention in May.

Twenty-nine other employees of the Soma Mining company have also been charged with involuntary manslaughter and face between two to 15 years in prison if found guilty, news agency Dogan reported.

A trial is expected to begin in the coming weeks. Those facing life imprisonment include the chief executive of Soma Mining, Can Gurkan, who is also the son of the company's owner.

NBR forms

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the four-member committee to submit its work plans in a month on ways to identify the people who bought properties in Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and other countries by siphoned off money.

The tax administrator formed the panel after Finance Minister AMA Muhith last week said the NBR was set to prepare a list of individuals who had been laundering money abroad.

Before Muhith, the plan was also unveiled by NBR Chairman Md Ghulam Hussain.

The decision was taken to check whether the individuals have paid an appropriate amount of taxes to the state coffers, he told at a programme earlier.

The NBR's initiative came following reports of siphoning off funds to different countries, including Malaysia, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Australia and the US, through legal and illegal means to purchase properties.

According to the data of the Malaysian government, 2,874 Bangladeshis had enrolled for the Malaysia My Second Home programme as of April this year, meaning at least Tk 3,506 crore was taken away from Bangladesh.

The capital flight is also reflected in the amounts deposited in Swiss banks. Deposits by Bangladeshi citizens at various Swiss banks rose 62 percent year-on-year in 2013 to Tk 3,236 crore, according to the data from the Swiss National Bank, the country's central bank.

Insiders said the committee may work to detect those who have bought homes in Malaysia, and those who have been laundering money abroad.

Under the scheme, the NBR will examine ways to seek info from countries with which it has agreements on avoidance of double taxation. Bangladesh has such agreements with 33 countries.

The tax authority may also consider revisiting existing agreements if the current deals do not provide scope for exchange of information of Bangladeshi nationals investing in those countries, officials said.

Injured Rana Plaza

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them buy medicines but they are suffering now, they said.

The deadly collapse left at least 1,138 people dead and more than 2,000 injured.

According to the Rana Plaza Trust Fund managed by the International Labor Organization, 2,848 victims were identified for compensation, which needs \$40 million. The fund has recently distributed Tk 12.7 crore to 1,496 victims.

Taslina Akter, coordinator of Bangladesh Garment Workers' Solidarity, said that while workers were suffering, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the government were trying to pass donations off as compensation.

Economist Prof MM Akash, a leader of the committee formed on the directive of the HC, said they had recommended Tk 4.5 lakh for each injured worker needing long-term treatment, Tk 7.5 lakh for each who lost one limb, Tk 11.25 lakh for each who lost two limbs, and a maximum of Tk 15 lakh for an injured person, which is equivalent to the amount to be paid to each of the deceased.

He said he had submitted the recommendations to the HC but there was no response yet.

Hi-tech

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of the Zia Hall BCL -- for their alleged involvement with the gang.

The university formed a four-member committee to look into the incident, and decided not to allow any electronic devices in the subsequent admission tests.

Rejoinder, our reply

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heading 'Death shrouded in questions' & 'Asma was strong, healthy' is not fact.

On this issue the opinion of Dhaka Medical College Hospital authority is Asma got admitted in to DMCH on 10/10/2014 at 4-15 pm with 40 weeks pregnancy with history of 2 previous caesarean operation with scar pain. She underwent caesarean operation on 11/10/2014 at 5-30 am, giving birth to a male child and Asma expired on 13/10/2014 at 9 pm, due to Septicaemia and Hypoxic Encephalopathy.

It is not true that there were bruises, cuts and blister on Asma's body, but the truth is - there was old healed cut marks at the front of her left fore arm, and bruises like perpuric spots developed on the parts of Asma's body, as a consequence DIC (bleeding disorder). Asma was not tortured but all life saving measures were adopted to save her life, in spite of that Asma expired. There was not cut-marks on the head of Asma. The comment of Doctor Ahmed Faruque of Capital Care Hospital published in Daily Star on 22/10/2014 is not authentic as he did not even see the patient. As the patient was very much restless disoriented, & attempting to remove the medical fittings from her body & there is chance of falling from bed. So finding no other alternative she was tied with the bed for her safety. It is not true that a blow by blunt object or even punches any cause fatal renal failure.

As per opinion of the Medical Board the patient developed Multiorgan failure with septicaemia and hypoxic Encephalopathy. The board advised to transfer the patient ICU. As per advice the patient is transferred to ICU.

Patient was kept in ward No-212, air conditioned postoperative ward and lastly ICU room, which are rent free. Financial assistance is provided by the Social Welfare Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital for poor patient if need arises. So questions for paying Hospital bills is baseless. As the patient was very much poor so the transport was arranged for carrying Asma's dead body on request of attendant by the donation of Social Welfare Department of Dhaka Medical Hospital.

It is not true that DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Mustafizur Rahman flew into a rage and pushed the Correspondent in the chest towards the exit. The fact is this - on Friday 17th October at 11-30 am when the Director DMCH visiting Causality department the correspondent asked about Asma, Director DMCH requested him to wait in his office, but the correspondent tried to enter the operation theatre again and again. Director, DMCH requested him no to enter in to the operation theatre, in presence of his other staff."

The Daily Star report was based on testimonies separately taken from four women who had given Asma the burial bath. Their description of Asma's injuries, including the one in the back of her head, was graphic and identical. Our report focused on the injuries noticed by all of them.

The first point to note is that the reply did not address the question: How a caesarian section patient, who had been well enough to attempt an escape the previous day, could die overnight? The reply did not explain why the hospital authorities suppressed the fact in the case statement that Sumi was Asma's sister. It also fell short of explaining why an autopsy was not done on Asma's body given that she had been tied to a hospital bed against her will before she died. Asma's family took her body to their Tongi's Arizpur village home within three hours of her death as the DMCH promptly provided them with a vehicle for transporting the body. The unusual haste with which Asma's body was released and the way her attendants were provided with free transportation to send the body back home speak of measures which are extremely unusual. The reply did not say anything about DMCH employee Lala Das, the case's complainant, who revealed that he was forced to file the case despite his complete ignorance of the matter. Nor did it attach any document to the rejoinder to prove its claim that multi-organ failure caused Asma's death. The reply even distorted facts to defend the DMCH Director against the allegation that he pushed the reporter in the chest towards the exit. The reporter never entered the operation theatre at DMCH. The reporter walked into the emergency's resuscitation room only after the director allowed him a minute to talk about the incident. We stand by our report.

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