

# ACC for revival of Gatco case against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday prayed to the High Court for reviving the Gatco graft case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia filed in 2007.

The anti-graft watchdog urged the court to initiate a hearing on a HC rule that had questioned the legality of filing the case under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), 2007.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan appealed to the HC bench of Justice Md Moinal Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan to include the matter in its today's cause-list for fixing a date for the hearing.

The move comes at a time when several lawmakers inside and outside of parliament are demanding legal steps be taken against Khaleda, describing her as the "mastermind" behind the ongoing 20-party blockade violence.

The case was filed against the BNP chief, her son Arafat Rahman Koko, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Matiuir Rahman Nizami, and 21 others with Tejgaon Police Station on charges of corruption in awarding Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) a contract for container management at inland container depots in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The graft caused the state exchequer a loss of over Tk 1,000 crore. Later, the case was brought under the EPR.

On September 30, 2007, the HC granted Khaleda bail in the case and issued a rule upon the government and ACC to explain why bringing the charges under the EPR should not be declared illegal.

Following another petition, the court on July 15, 2008 stayed the proceedings of the case against her and issued another rule upon the government and anti-graft watchdog to explain why the proceedings should not be quashed.

The ACC lawyer yesterday told The Daily Star that he was unaware of any reply to the rule.

# Egypt's top Muslim cleric backs Brotherhood arrests

AFP, Singapore

Egypt's top Islamic cleric yesterday backed the arrest of more than 500 supporters of the blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood following clashes over the weekend on the anniversary of the country's 2011 uprising.

"I am not sad for this outcome as such criminals ought to be prosecuted," Egypt's Grand Mufti Sheikh Shawky Allam told reporters in Singapore.

"I strongly condemn their actions as they are crimes that breach the laws of our country," said Sheikh Allam during a four-day visit to the Southeast Asian city-state at the invitation of the local Islamic Religious Council.

"Those that have been arrested will be prosecuted legally. The reason they have been arrested is not political because they have transgressed the law."

Egypt's Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim on Monday said Egyptian security forces had arrested 516 "elements" of the Muslim Brotherhood, who were "involved in firing ammunition, planting explosives and bombing some facilities".

# Speedy power

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power and energy sector through research and development. Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, moved the bills in the House which were passed by voice votes.

He had placed the BEPRC bill in the JS on September 3 which was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry for scrutiny.

The bill will pave the way for setting up Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council in Dhaka, which will have a 10-member governing body and an advisory council headed by the minister or state minister of the ministry.

# None held yet

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Institute sources said around 100 people, mostly outsiders, stay at the 50-seat hostel. On Sunday night, over a 100 BCL men vandalised Basu's residence and five other residential buildings on the campus after he refused to pay them Tk 20,000 as extortion money on the occasion of Saraswati Puja.

# NCC, DoE

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taken by the government, he added. Meanwhile, NCC urban planner Moyeenul Islam said they have not paid the fine as the mayor is now travelling abroad on one-month leave.

The decision would be taken after the mayor's return, he added.

# Hartal, blockade main obstacles to 7pc growth

Muhith tells Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led alliance's hartals and blockades are the main obstacles to achieve a 7 percent GDP growth rate, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told parliament yesterday.

Bangladesh saw a 6.1 percent GDP growth in 2014 and six percent in 2013, according to the World Bank data.

Speaking during a discussion on the thanksgiving motion on the president's address, Muhith hoped there would be no poverty in the country by 2018 as all the people have been working now and are contributing to the country's economy.

He said due to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's able leadership, the country's poverty rate would come down to 12 percent by 2018. The standard poverty rate of a country is between 10 percent and 14 percent, he added.

Muhith said 22.5 percent people lived below the poverty line and nine percent under the "extreme poverty line" in 2013.

The situation has improved a lot now. Increasing the internal demand has contributed to reducing the poverty rate substantially, he pointed out.

The minister underscored the importance of taking special measures for improving the condition of the extreme poor.

He blasted Khaleda for "hampering economic activities" by enforcing blockades and hartals.

# Big borrowers

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The BB official said they studied the policies of India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam before formulating the restructuring policy.

Talking to The Daily Star, Zahid Hussain, lead economist at World Bank's Dhaka office, said, "As banks implement this new policy, they will have to make sure that the root cause requiring restructuring is addressed."

"In other words, debt restructuring must come with appropriate corporate reforms or else a floodgate of demand for large loan restructuring may open, leading to abuse of the policy and threatening the solvency of the banking system."

For restructuring a loan below Tk 1,000 crore, a borrower must make down payment of at least 2 percent of the loan. If the amount is more than Tk 1,000 crore, the down payment will be one percent of the loan.

If a borrower fails to repay two instalments consecutively, he will forfeit the facility, and his fate will be decided in line with the bankruptcy law.

Though interest rate on the restructured loan would be fixed by the bank,

it has to be more than the aggregate amount of the bank's cost of funds and one percent interest rate.

Under the new framework, if a borrower has multiple loans with more than one bank, the banks concerned may approach the BB separately or together for its consent to loan restructuring.

The banks will have to publish details of the restructured loans in their annual reports.

According to the existing policy, a borrower can have his loans rescheduled thrice for a maximum of eight years. To get the facility, he must make a down payment of 10 percent of the loan for the first time, 15 percent for the second time and 30 percent for the third time.

He has to pay interest in line with market rate of 13-14 percent.

The need for a new policy to restructure large loans came to the fore after Beximco Group appealed to the central bank for rescheduling its loans of Tk 5,269 crore.

The conglomerate sought a lengthy duration to repay the loans, along with relaxed conditions and low interest rates.

# Tragic tale of a trucker

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was 19. He started empty-handed, but with honesty and hard labour he became solvent recently. How can I accept such death?" Bakul's elder brother Rantu Devnath told this correspondent at the DMCH.

Apart from his own family, Bakul was also taking care of Rantu's three daughters, said the victim's brother.

Bakul suffered burns when suspected blockaders hurled petrol bombs at his stone-laden truck on Sylhet-Tamabil highway at Goainghat in the early hours of January 21.

He then lost control of the vehicle, and it hit a roadside tree. He broke his left leg, said his helper Kibria, who was also in the truck.

With 25 percent burns on his body, Bakul was taken to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

As his condition worsened, he was shifted to the DMCH burn unit on January 23, and died around 7:00am yesterday, said hospital

sources. Bakul couldn't utter a word while being treated at the ICU. His wife Nilima Rani couldn't visit him as she is six months' pregnant, said Rantu.

Victim's partner Swapan said, "Bakul was extremely cautious while driving vehicles amid the blockade. Yet he couldn't escape political violence."

# Liberia closes Ebola centre at epicentre of outbreak

AFP, Monrovia

Liberia's president on Monday announced the closure of an Ebola treatment facility which lay at the epicentre of the virus's worst outbreak in history, as the disease's spread has slowed in the country.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf warned Liberians that while they could not yet afford to relax, the country had made significant progress in the fight against Ebola, and thanked states who helped Monrovia combat the virus.

"Lofa, the epicentre of the virus, has had no new cases for over 70 days," she said in the speech at the national parliament.

"The Ebola Treatment Unit in Foya is closed," she said, referring to an area in the north of the country near its border with Guinea, where the virus hit Liberia for the first time.

"Today we take pride that 13 of 15... counties have not reported new cases for 21 days," she said, referring to the virus's maximum incubation period.

# Nasa plans

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stages of development of the helicopters. The biggest challenge for those behind the plan is making a helicopter that can take off and land safely on the planet, where the atmosphere is vastly different from that on Earth.

While helicopters might seem to be easier to fly on Mars, given the planet has three-eighths of the gravity of Earth, it is actually much harder since the atmosphere is around 100 times less dense.

Helicopter blades work using the density of the atmosphere -- so one on Mars would have to spin much faster, or use bigger rotor blades.

Nasa has been testing prototype machines in a big vacuum chamber, where scientists can change the atmospheric density so that it's like that on Mars. They have built scale models of the helicopters, which must spin at around 2400 revolutions per minute to be able to take off.

The system is designed to fly for about two or three minutes per day. The rest of the time will be spent charging the helicopter using onboard solar panels, which will keep it warm as well as providing energy for the flights.

# Prothom Alo

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published on September 17 in 2007, and another on March 11 in 2013, and a picture of last year's January 5 election, carried by the online version of the daily.

Matiur Rahman claimed that all the allegations against him are false. On January 21, Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Arifuzzaman issued arrest warrant against Rahman after he failed to appear before the court on three summonses.

# Arson claims 2 more lives

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Rajshahi division, both beginning tomorrow, in protest against filing "false" cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

At least five vehicles were torched in the capital, Chittagong, Comilla, Kushtia and Feni yesterday, according to fire service officials.

The trucker from Sylhet, Bokul Debnath, 35, who was critically injured in a petrol bomb attack a week ago, died at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at 7:00am yesterday.

Hailing from Goalabazar under Osmaniganj, Bokul along with his helper Kibria was going to Sylhet from Jaintapur with his sand-laden truck on January 19 midnight. Miscreants hurled a petrol bomb on their truck around 1:30am near Bagher Sarak area on Sylhet-Tamabil Highway, police said.

The duo were whisked off to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Bokul was shifted to the DMCH on January 20 as his condition deteriorated.

In Rangpur, Abdur Rashid, 38, helper of a truck who suffered burns in another arson attack in Chirirbandar upazila early Saturday, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at 10:30am yesterday, reports our Rangpur correspondent.

Son of Meher Ali, he hailed from Mahmudpur in Dinajpur Sadar upazila. Rashid suffered severe burns when some alleged blockaders set fire to his truck around 2:30am near Bhusirbandar area, leaving truck driver Hamidur Rahman also injured. The attack left the truck completely burned, said police.

Both were admitted to the burn unit of RMCH that day. Rashid was later transferred to the ICU as his condition

was stated to be critical. In Chittagong, truck driver Azizur Rahman, 35, and his helper Md Shamim, 23, suffered burns as alleged blockaders hurled a petrol bomb at their vehicle at Sitakunda upazila on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at 7:00am, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

Both the victims hailed from Keshabpur in Jessore. Iftekhar Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda police, said three to four youths hurled the bomb at the onion-laden truck from Sona Masjid of Bogra on its way to Katunganj in the port city.

The injured were rushed to the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Dr Rezina Islam of the unit said the condition of Azizur was critical.

Helper Shahin was burnt after blockaders hurled a petrol bomb on his truck near Islamic University in Kushtia around 10:00pm yesterday. He was admitted to a local hospital.

Meanwhile in Dhaka, a pedestrian was injured as alleged blockaders exploded several crude bombs near Sundarban Super Market at Gulistan last night.

In Habiganj, at least 20 people including three policemen were injured in a clash between law enforcers and BNP-Shibir men in College Road area in Chunarughat upazila headquarters on Monday night.

In Chandpur, pickets torched an auto-rickshaw in front of the deputy commissioner's residence on Monday night. No casualty was reported.

In Chapainawabganj, police arrested Sohrab Ali, 55, a district unit Jamaat leader and vice-chairman of sadar upazila parishad, at the parishad premises yesterday afternoon on charge of conducting subversive activities.

# Fakhrul on remand

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remand prayers, and allowed police to quiz Fakhrul at the jail gate. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Masud Sheikh yesterday passed the remand order after Sub-Inspector of Paltan Police Station Enayet Karim produced Fakhrul before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, Karim, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said Fakhrul was accused of leading, ordering and advising party activists to carry out the arson attack with intent to deteriorate the law and order on the eve of a nationwide hartal called by the alliance.

So he needs to be remanded to find out vital clues about the incident, said the IO.

The defence submitted petitions seeking Fakhrul's bail and cancellation of the remand prayer, saying he was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically.

So they prayed for granting the bail to their client and cancelling the remand prayer.

After hearing both the defence and prosecution, the magistrate rejected the bail petition and granted three-day remand for Fakhrul.

A bus carrying staff of the public administration ministry was set ablaze at the Purana Paltan intersection around 6:00pm on December 28 last year.

Following the incident, Abdul Malek Hawlader, assistant sub-inspector of Paltan police, filed a case accusing 43 named including Fakhrul and 20 to 25 unnamed people.

In the case statement, the opposition leaders were accused of leading, ordering and advising party activists to carry out the arson attack with intent to deteriorate the law and order on the eve of a nationwide hartal called by the alliance.

ASI Malek in the case statement mentioned that at least two homemade bombs had been exploded to kill the driver and helper of the bus.

On January 6, detectives picked up Fakhrul as he came out of the Jatiya Press Club with pro-government journalists protesting his stay there. The BNP leader had been at the press club for around 24 hours.

Immediately after his detention, he was shown arrested in cases filed for instigating the December 24 clash at the capital's Bakshibazar, torching a lawmaker's vehicle and countryside blasts and vandalism on January 4-5.

Earlier, Fakhrul was arrested thrice and was implicated in more than 70 cases.

**Bangladesh Tourism Board**  
(National Tourism Organisation)  
BHBFC Bhaban (7<sup>th</sup> Floor), 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For International Tourism Consulting Firm**

Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism
Agency	Bangladesh Tourism Board
Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Tourism Board
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
Invitation For	Selection of International Tourism Consulting Firm
Invitation Ref. No.:	BTB (Marketing)/TMP/2014
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
Budget and Source of Funds	Budget of GOB
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
EOI Publication Date	January 28, 2015
Last Date & Time of Submission of EOI	February 22, 2015 02.30 PM
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>	
Brief Description of the Assignment	The services include not limited to a) Sector analysis highlighting micro and macro trends b) Identify the strengths, weaknesses, resources, circuits, connectivity, prime product c) Backward and Forward Linkages of the industry d) Identify Infrastructural issues for development e) Detailed Master Plan Development f) Investments & Business Opportunities
Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity required to	a) Brochures submitted by the applicants summarizing their facilities and areas of expertise in developing Tourism Master Plan. b) Descriptions of similar assignments c) Experience in similar operating environments and conditions; d) Availability of appropriate experience and professional qualifications among applicant's staff and adequate resources to carry out the assignment; e) Managerial strength and financial capacity
Association with Local Firm	a) The International Tourism Consulting Firm may associate with local firm and can submit EOI as the Joint Venture as per the Public Procurement Rules-2008 b) In terms of Joint Venture, one firm must have proven experience in tourism consulting services.
Name of Official Inviting Tender	Akhtaruz Zaman Khan Kabir
Designation of Official Inviting tender	Chief Executive Officer
Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Tourism Board, BHBFC Bhaban(7th floor), 22 Purana Paltan,Dhaka-1000.
Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone : 951 3328 Fax: 9511900

The sealed envelope marked as 'Expression of Interest' should be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Tourism Board, BHBFC Bhaban (7<sup>th</sup> Floor), 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000. Short list shall comprise minimum 4 or maximum 7 Consulting Firms who will be requested to submit the Technical and Financial proposal. Bangladesh Tourism Board shall reserve the right to cancel or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason.