

US law

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Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates - Skadden in short. The deal was made around three months ago.

The firm has to be paid \$50,000 in retainer payment and hourly fees for two of its lawyers - Gregory B Craig and Alex Haskell - \$1,275 and \$700 respectively, they said.

The officials, however, could not say specifically the period for the retainer payment. In 2011, the government had appointed Canadian law firm Toys LLP to help the government bring back Nur Chowdhury.

But the firm failed to do that since the Canadian government had refused to deport him to Bangladesh as Canada doesn't send any convict to a country that has the death penalty, a law ministry official said.

The fugitive killers are now in the USA, Canada, Libya and Pakistan, he said, adding that the foreign ministry would now do the needful as the government would bear the expenses for the law firm.

The absconding killers of Bangabandhu are Khandaker Abdul Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, Nur Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury, Abdul Mazed and Moslehuddin Khan.

A few years ago, the Interpol had issued warrants of arrest for the killers who had reportedly been changing location to evade arrest.

The government had earlier thought both Mazed and Moslehuddin had been hiding in India, but the Indian government could not trace them. Rashid was reportedly running a construction business in Libya and Dalim had been living in Pakistan.

The trial in Bangabandhu assassination case started in Dhaka in 1997, 22 years after disgruntled army men mowed down him and most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on November 19, 2009, upheld the death penalty of 12 convicted ex-army officers for the assassination.

Five of the convicts - Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, and Mohiuddin Ahmed - were hanged on January 27, 2010, while a sixth convict, Aziz Pasha, died in Zimbabwe in 2001.

Drug rehab staff

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The body, found with the hands and legs tied with towels, was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Police detained the remaining three who had been locked inside.

Bashir's father Nasiruddin accuses the nine and mismanagement at the centre. Khilgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mustafiz Bhuiyan says police believe the murder resulted from torture inflicted on patients.

Sons in election

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The electoral code of conduct does not allow the prime minister and ministers to take part in electioneering.

The EC yesterday allocated hilsa to Khokon as his electoral symbol. His father Haniif had contested the 2004 polls with the same symbol. Khokon requested other mayor hopefuls not to seek the electoral symbol as he has personal memory of it.

Tabith's electoral symbol is a bus.

Hanging anytime

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also restricted. Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Mofiz Uddin Ahmed of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Lalbagh Division) said the steps were taken upon orders from higher authorities.

However, the security was relaxed around 9:00pm. Talking to The Daily Star around 10:00pm, the state minister said, "Preparations are being made for the execution. But there is little possibility that he [Kamaruzzaman] would be hanged tonight."

There are some formalities before executing a death row convict, the minister said, adding that Kamaruzzaman's family members might be allowed to meet him in jail tomorrow (today). "Once his family members meet him, he might be executed."

Contacted, family members said they were not officially informed whether they would be allowed to meet him. Earlier around 10:00am yesterday, two magistrates met the condemned war criminal in Dhaka Central Jail reportedly to ask whether he would beg for presidential mercy in a last-ditch bid to evade the capital punishment.

They left the prison premises after about an hour without talking to journalists waiting outside. "Two magistrates came to the jail for official purpose," Farman Ali, senior jail superintendent, told The Daily Star. He did not say if it was related to Kamaruzzaman.

Around 12:15pm, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told this correspondent that he didn't know what Kamaruzzaman had told the magistrates. However, the state minister told the BBC Bangla around 7:30pm that Kamaruzzaman, most possibly, had not sought presidential mercy.

According to prison sources, preparations for the execution started soon after Farman Ali entered the Dhaka Central

11 Bangladeshis return

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State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam in his Facebook status thanked the Indian government for rescuing the stranded Bangladeshis from Yemen.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set up a "Repatriation Control Room" in Djibouti to carry out the repatriation of the Bangladeshis. The Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait is leading the effort.

It is expected that more Bangladeshis would be evacuated to Djibouti, said a foreign ministry press release. Meanwhile, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday tweeted: "The evacuation operation from Yemen is over. Minister of State for External Affairs General (ret) Vijay Kumar Singh is returning tonight [Friday night]. We are closing our embassy there."

Sources said the closure of the Indian embassy in Yemen had left the Bangladeshis, wanting to return home, in a state of uncertainty. However, International Organisation

HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 Bangladeshis return from Yemen via Djibouti
Till yesterday, 304 Bangladeshis evacuated from Yemen
Of them, 272 rescued from Hodeida by Indian naval ship
20 evacuated from Sana'a by Air India
8 Bangladeshis still in Djibouti
'Repatriation Control Room' set up by foreign ministry in Djibouti
1,500-3,000 Bangladeshis in Yemen
Crisis began in Yemen March 26

for Migration officials in Dhaka said the IOM was expected to help rescue some 16,000 foreign nationals, including Bangladeshis, from Yemen.

Yemen has been in turmoil for months since the rebels took over the capital, Sana'a, after bursting out of their northern stronghold, according to international media.

Nasir plans big for Ctg

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2010 CCC polls. But he did nothing in this regard after becoming the mayor," he alleged.

"Even during the tenures of ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the city earned praises from the outsiders for its cleanliness. But in the last few years, the situation became really deplorable," said Nasir.

If he gets the mandate, he would take a combined approach to address the city-dwellers' problems by engaging town planners and experts. Chittagong Development Authority and other government agencies in a well-coordinated and planned way, Nasir went on.

Creating water-bodies, recovering encroached canals and widening drains and canals are some of the steps he would take to mitigate waterlogging, he said.

In a political career that spans over four decades, Nasir has always been overshadowed by AL stalwarts like late Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and Mohiuddin Chowdhury until 2013 when, to the surprise of many, he was made the general secretary of the ruling party's Chittagong city unit.

Already a well-known organiser engaged with 18 different social and sports bodies, he now sets his eyes on the CCC mayor's chair. Elections to the CCC and the two city corporations in the capital will be held on April 28.

However, it was not an easy job for him to get the green light from the party high-ups as a number of local AL-heavyweights -- including three-time CCC mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Nurul Islam BSc and Abdus Salam -- were also in the race.

Now that he has been able to outmanoeuvre them, has this created any sort of frustration or rift within the party's local unit? "It is true that there were many party leaders who wished for contesting the mayor polls, and they have the capabilities as well. But once the party high command's decision came in my favour, everyone in Chittagong rallied behind me," Nasir said.

Apart from promises, what else may turn voters to him? "My party is now in power. It would be easy for me to get cooperation from the government to carry out development work for the city," he replied.

Malaysia PM under fire over tough sedition laws

AFP, Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia's parliament yesterday approved tougher penalties for sedition in a move criticised by the United Nations and described by the opposition as "a black day" for democracy and free expression.

Prime Minister Najib Razak defended the amendments -- which extend the maximum jail term to 20 years from three years and establish a minimum three-year jail term for certain cases -- as essential to maintaining stability.

But rights groups said the revised act could be used to censor the Internet by making it illegal to propagate sedition online, and the hazy definition of "sedition" remains open to abuse by the government.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein called Thursday for the law to be repealed, saying that "it is very disappointing that the Malaysian government is now proposing to make a bad law worse".

Malaysia's ruling coalition had already sparked outcry on Tuesday when it passed an anti-terrorism law that allows authorities to detain people indefinitely without charge.

If he does not seek the clemency, the government can execute him, the attorney general added. He also said the government can wait for several days if it wants, as per the International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973 under which the war crimes accused are tried and punished.

Kamaruzzaman's son Hasan told this correspondent that they feel the jail authorities will allow them to meet his father for the last time. "It's a matter of my father's personal decision whether he will seek presidential mercy," he added.

The execution of the Jamaat assistant secretary general has been the matter of discussion for the last five days. Many, especially people of Sherpur, where he had committed crimes against humanity in 1971, expressed dissatisfaction over the "delay" in his execution.

Kamaruzzaman, a key organiser of infamous Al-Badr force in greater Mymensingh, was sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in May 2013, for war crimes, including mass killings in Sohagpur of Sherpur.

The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence awarded to him for mass killing in Sohagpur. The convict sought review of the judgment but was rejected on April 6 by a four-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

On Thursday, five counsels for Kamaruzzaman met him in Dhaka Central Jail. Coming out of the jail, Shishir Manir, one of the lawyers, said their client wanted to know about the provisions of relevant laws over seeking clemency and informed them that he would decide after giving it more thought.

On Wednesday evening, receiving the copy of the SC verdict on Kamaruzzaman's review petition, Farman Ali read it out to the Jamaat leader and wanted to know whether he would seek president's mercy, according to jail sources.

Two Shibir men

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The law enforcers held the two and recovered the bomb-making items, including some petrol and empty bottles, from there.

Rezaul said after primary interrogation, police produced the arrestees before a Rangpur court which later sent them to Rangpur Central Jail yesterday.

A case has been filed.

Richie Benaud

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unable to take his spot behind the microphone in the summer of 2013/14 after crashing his vintage car near his home in Sydney's beachside suburb of Coogee.

Flags flew at half-mast at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Benaud's home as a first-class cricketer for New South Wales, and flowers were laid at his statue at the venue.

His family were offered a state funeral by the country's Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Wildlife crimes

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these crimes as minor offenses and also the Wildlife (Preservation & Security) Act, 2012 is too weak to book the offenders.

Official data shows that a total of 43 cases were registered in Khulna circle of the Forest Department over the last seven years. The offenders were convicted in only one case while 21 of these cases are still pending and the offenders in the remaining cases were let go after giving undertakings.

In Dhaka circle, some 142 cases were filed during the same period. Of the cases, 31 have been disposed of while two cases are still pending. Three cases were filed in Chittagong circle and all the cases remain pending.

Plucking hairs

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California were investigating how hair follicles communicate with each other to decide on the scale of repair job needed.

In a series of experiments, they removed 200 hair follicles from a circular patch of skin in mice. A low-density pluck - removing follicles from a patch 6mm in diameter - led to no regeneration at all.

A medium-density pluck, with 200 removed from a 5mm circle, led to 1,300 new hairs.

A higher-density effort, with the same number of hairs but from a 4mm diameter circle, led to 780 new hairs.

Pulling every hair out led to every hair coming back, but no extra regeneration. The researchers showed that the level of inflammation under the skin was finely tuned to the scale of the damage.

And through a cascade of chemical signalling and immune responses, this controlled the amount of regeneration.

The team say it is like each hair gets a vote about what happens next and when it reaches a critical threshold it can trigger regeneration. They call the concept "quorum sensing".

Lead researcher Dr Cheng-Ming Chuong said: "It is a good example of how basic research can lead to work with potential translational value.

"The work leads to potential new targets for treating alopecia, a form of hair loss." But it is not known whether it will cure human baldness.

Health status in slums

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The Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) is organising the three-day event on Universal Health Coverage on April 9-11.

Bangladesh Health Watch Report is a civil society advocacy and monitoring initiative dedicated to improving the country's health system through critical review of policies and programmes.

Bangladesh has made a slow progress in reaching universal access to safe water and sanitation due to growing poverty in the urban areas, insufficient infrastructure and inadequate institutional responsibility, said Dr Malabika Sarkar.

"Life in urban areas, especially in big cities like Dhaka and Chittagong, in Bangladesh is marred with air, noise and water pollution," she observed. It was giving rise to health hazards directly besides leaving indirect impacts on health due to largely unplanned use of land and water bodies, road-traffic and high population density, she added.

The report says ischemic heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, acute lower respiratory infections in children, cardiovascular diseases, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, diarrhoea, jaundice, enteric fever may be caused by such pollution.

Due to poor planning, it is very common to find a residential zone or health and education facilities right next to a factory or a commercial hub. Also, housing in urban areas is featured by high population density, poor ventilation, and lack of open space for leisure or children's playgrounds, it reads.

"Large gaps exist regarding our knowledge of health hazards due to the effects

Health status in slums

of urbanisation, which need urgent attention," Malabika said. The report says the health ministry is responsible for providing secondary and tertiary healthcare services in urban areas, while the local government ministry is responsible for primary healthcare there.

However, the health needs of people, especially the urban poor, remain largely unmet due to communication gap between the two ministries and lack of financial as well as human resources.

Taking part in the discussion, urban expert Prof Nazrul Islam said Bangladesh needed urban-rural mix development planning given the country's rapid urbanisation.

"If we talk about health, we must have open space, playgrounds and open water bodies in the cities," he said, adding that all city planning must consider health, environment and cultural options.

PPRC Executive Chairman Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said the rural poor migrated to the cities looking for employment opportunities. Once they were in the cities, their income rose, but the social indicators -- health and education -- did not improve much, he added.

"Urban poverty, therefore, must be an important agenda [for the policymakers]," he noted. Dhiraj Kumar Nath, former adviser to a caretaker government, and Syed Masud Ahmed of BRAC University also spoke.

In an earlier discussion, health experts presented findings on various health insurance schemes in India and Bangladesh and discussed various aspects of such schemes. They emphasised reducing pocket health expenditures and improving healthcare qualities.

Pakistan stays out

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But it said Pakistan should play a mediating role and not get involved in fighting in Yemen -- turning down longstanding ally Riyadh's request for troops, ships and warplanes.

Friday's resolution urged the government to begin work in the UN Security Council and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation bloc to bring about a ceasefire. But analyst Hasan Askari said Pakistan's historic closeness to Saudi Arabia -- and that of Sharif, sheltered by Riyadh when he was overthrown in 1999 -- made a peace-making role problematic.

"Pakistan cannot play the role of mediator or moderator in this conflict because Pakistan is still partisan and supporting Saudi Arabia," Askari told AFP. "Nawaz Sharif is facing a dilemma because he is under a personal obligation to the Saudis."

On Wednesday Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif and his Pakistani counterpart Sartaj Aziz pledged to work for a peaceful end to the fighting, which has cost hundreds of lives since the Saudi offensive began last month.

Zarif laid out a four-stage plan for talks, calling for an immediate ceasefire followed by humanitarian assistance, dialogue among Yemenis and the formation of an "all-inclusive government".

Aziz appeared cool on Iran's idea of an immediate ceasefire, saying it "would consolidate the existing ground position", which currently has Huthis in control of large parts of Yemen, including the capital Sanaa.

Instead he called for "a more comprehensive resolution on facilitating an intra-Yemeni dialogue to create the possibility of some kind of negotiated solution".

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
Local Government Division
Urban Public and Environmental Health Sector Development Project, Nagar Bhaban, Level-11, Dhaka
Memo. No.: UPEHSDP/UPEHU/2015/253/459 Date: 09.04.2015
Corrigendum
This is to notify all concerned that following amendment has been made in the Invitation for Bid (Revised) for "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Infrastructure for National Urban Data Centre (NUDC) and Two Piloting City Corporations (CCs), and Software Development for Modernizing and Computerizing in 7CCs' Municipal Financial and Revenue Management System" under Package No. 12A vide Invitation for Bid Ref. No. UPEHSDP/UPEHU/2015/253/269, Dated: 25/02/2015 that appeared in the daily newspapers, CPTU and ADB's websites.
Table with 3 columns: SI. No., As per invitation for bid notice, Amendment.
Other conditions in the original invitation for bid will remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall be treated as part and parcel of the original IFB of the said bid.
Project Director UPEHSDP