

## Petition filed against Maya's holding office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya as a minister and a lawmaker.

Eunus Ali Akond, a Supreme Court lawyer, submitted the petition also seeking a HC rule upon Maya to explain under what authority he was holding the posts after the Supreme Court scrapped his acquittal in a corruption case.

The lawyer prayed to the court to direct the Awami League leader to refrain from functioning as a minister and a lawmaker until the HC disposes of the rule.

In the petition, Eunus said Maya could not serve as minister and a parliament member as per Article 66 (2)(D) of the constitution as he remained convicted in a graft case following the SC order.

The article says, "A person shall be disqualified for election as, or for being, a member of parliament who has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release".

Eunus yesterday told The Daily Star that a hearing on his petition could take place today.

On February 14, 2008, a special court sentenced Maya to 13 years in prison and Tk 5 crore in fine for amassing illegal property in the case filed the previous year.

In October 2010, the HC cleared the AL leader of the charges following an appeal by him.

But on June 14 this year, the apex court scrapped the HC judgment and directed it to hold further hearing, and dispose of Maya's appeal challenging the lower court verdict.

## Prothom Alo

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Agriculture Officer Sazzad Hossain filed a general dairy (GD) against the correspondent of the daily that published the report on May 27.

Jhenidah Press Club at a meeting yesterday termed the case and GD baseless. It protested the filing of the lawsuit and general dairy, and demanded that those be withdrawn immediately.

"Azad Rahman has filed an authentic report. But a false case and a baseless GD have been filed against him. He is getting death threats over the phone as well," said Mizanur Rahman, president of the press club.

The journalists of the press club would submit a memorandum to the deputy commissioner tomorrow, he said.

"Tougher programmes would be announced if our demands are not met," Mizanur said.

Bimal Shah, reporter of The Daily Ittefaq, MA Raian of The Daily Janakanto, Saiful Mabud of the daily Kalerkanto and Azibor Rahman of The Daily Star were present in the meeting yesterday.

## The mystery

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ages ranged from 28 to 61.

Expert created 18 measures to determine how quickly a person is ageing, including tests of kidney, liver, lung and immune system function as well as assessments of metabolism, cholesterol, heart health, lung function, and the length of telomeres - protective caps on the ends of chromosomes.

The study's 871 participants were previously enrolled in the Dunedin Study, which has documented the health of around 1,000 New Zealanders born between 1972 and 1973.

To study the pace at which participants aged, scientists measured the 18 biomarkers when the participants were 26, 32, and 38-years-old.

While the majority of participants had a biological aged that matched their chronological age, some aged three times faster while others did not age at all in the eight year period.

If a 38-year-old had a biological age of 40, this implied an ageing rate of 1.2 years per year over the 12 year study period, the scientists said.

The scientists wrote in the study that even before they were middle aged, individuals who aged rapidly "were less physically able, showed cognitive decline and brain ageing, self-reported worse health, and looked older."

However, they stressed that ageing is not dependent on genetics, as studies of twins had shown that around 20 percent of ageing can be attributed to genes.

Co-author Professor Terrie Moffitt, also from Duke University, said: "That gives us hope that medicine might be able to slow ageing and give people more healthy and active years."

## Enclave survey on

*More than a hundred women, children enlisted in Indian enclaves in Lalmonirhat*

STAR REPORT

Over a hundred women and children have been enlisted as residents of 59 Indian enclaves inside Lalmonirhat in the first two days of a 10-day joint survey by Bangladesh and India.

The women were Bangladeshis and married to residents of the enclaves after 2011, Kallol Sarker, an Indian survey team official, told our Lalmonirhat correspondent yesterday.

That year, a joint census was carried out in all the 162 enclaves -- 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in Indian Kooch Bihar district and 111 Indian ones in four districts of Bangladesh -- by the two neighbouring country.

Aklima Begum, 19, was one of the women who got registered with a survey team in Lalmonirhat yesterday. Her husband is Noor Hossain of Bhitarkuti, an Indian enclave, in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

She said she used to reside with her parents in Fulgachhi village of Lalmonirhat Sadar, some five kilometres off the enclave, before her marriage.

Sakhina Begum, 20, wife of one Hamidul Islam of the same enclave, had a similar story. A resident of Ulipur upazila in Kurigram, she had her marriage in 2012.

The survey officials said they were verifying the choice of citizenship by the enclave inhabitants and collecting their information, signatures and finger prints.

"From our teams working at other enclaves [in Lalmonirhat], we came to know that more than 100 women and children have registered their names," said the Indian official Kallol.

He said they were conducting the survey, basing on the records of the joint census in 2011.

Kallol said many, who failed to get

included in that population counting, were coming to the survey teams to get themselves registered.

Hazrat Ali, 56, an inhabitant of Bhitarkuti, said he was outside his home during the census. "Now, I want to be included in the new list," he said.

On Monday, Bangladesh and India jointly launched the survey in the 162 enclaves.

The enumerators will carry out the survey on the enclave population and land area and find out the residents' choice of nationality. The survey will continue till July 16 and the results will be published on July 20.

Among the enclaves in Bangladesh, 59 are in Lalmonirhat, 12 in Kurigram, 36 in Panchagarh and four in Nilphamari.

According to the 2011 census, the enclaves in Lalmonirhat have an area of around 7,560 acres with a population of 16,400.

Like the previous day, the enumerators yesterday found no one from at least 20 of the 59 enclaves who wanted to become Indian nationals, said Kallol.

At least 34 inhabitants of 30 out of 36 Indian enclaves inside Panchagarh expressed their desire to become Indian nationals during the survey, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent, quoting officials of the control room of Panchagarh deputy commissioner's office.

No one from six Indian enclaves in Debganj upazila wanted to be Indian nationals, Shahin Reza, executive magistrate and in-charge of the control room, told The Daily Star.

So far, 181 people have got their names registered during the survey in Panchagarh, said officials.

Eighteen camps have been set up for running the survey-related activities in 36 enclaves inside the district.

Paribahan Samiti, said the so-called protesters went to Saidabad to take hold of the area.

**EU's Juncker wants 'to avoid Grexit'**

AFP, Strasbourg

European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker yesterday said he was against an exit by Greece from the euro, even though Greeks massively rejected bailout terms in a referendum this weekend.

"My wish is that a 'Grexit' should be avoided," Juncker told the European Parliament in Strasbourg just hours before an emergency summit in Brussels on the crisis.

"There are those in the EU who openly or otherwise campaign for Greece to exit from the eurozone. My life tells me the simplistic answers are the wrong solutions," he said.

Finance ministers from the 19-nation eurozone meet in Brussels at 1100 GMT to review the situation before their leaders gather at 1600 GMT amid mounting concern that Greece could crash out of the single currency area and possibly even the European Union.

## Muhith for legal action

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involved in the scam.

During the meeting at the finance ministry, the board presented a dismal picture of the bank.

The board told the minister that a clear-cut robbery took place at the bank, not only in the case of loan disbursement, but also at many other levels, including recruitment, opening of new branches and renting offices from parties for the branches, said meeting sources.

The new board has already prepared a report identifying where and how corruption took place. The Anti-Corruption Commission will be asked to take necessary action on the basis of the report," he added.

The bank is riddled with problems because of the illegal non-banking activities by former chairman Abdul Hye Bacchu, said the minister. "We have evidence of many of his non-banking activities. So it won't be a problem to take action against him."

### MORE FUND SOUGHT

The BASIC Bank board in the meeting sought more fund from the government to meet its capital deficit, which was Tk 3,634 crore as of March.

The minister assured the board of giving it the money from the current fiscal year's budget.

The bank got Tk 1,200 crore in the last fiscal year to meet its capital deficit. It has the highest 57 percent of bad loans among all public banks.

The total outstanding loan of BASIC is Tk 8,964 crore, of which Tk 5,080 crore is defaulted.

The financial statement of the bank for 2014 said there were significant weaknesses in the documents of loans disbursed from 2010 to 2014. There was no internal control over granting loans.

Loans amounting to Tk 263 crore, including Tk 110 crore from classified borrowers, were realised since the new board took over.

## UN tribunal to begin South China Sea deliberation

BBC ONLINE

A United Nations tribunal is to begin deliberations on whether it can hear a legal challenge over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

In 2013, the Philippines asked the Permanent Court of Arbitration to declare invalid most of China's maritime claims in the disputed area.

China claims almost the whole of the South China Sea angering several Asian neighbours.

says the tribunal does not have the jurisdiction to hear the challenge.

If the tribunal decides it can rule on the case, the legal hearings will get under way.

The Philippines has sent a high-profile legal team to the proceedings by the five-member tribunal which will continue till 13 July.

## No unilateral

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But the entire system turned out to be a nightmare for more than 11 lakh admission seekers and their guardians for lack of adequate preparations on the part of the government.

Seeking anonymity, an education ministry official said there has been a rift between the minister and Education Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan over the college admission issue.

Before preparing the admission policy, Nahid had given written instructions to bring under the online admission system only those colleges that have over 300 seats, as many colleges were not technically equipped to cope with this digitisation.

But the secretary disregarded the minister's instructions and issued the admission guidelines in his absence, said the official.

Contacted, Nahid said the rules of business of the government clearly stated the authority of a minister. "I have to make all the important decisions and take responsibility for every move," he said.

## 92 freedom fighters

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They urged all to get united against any conspiracy to divide freedom fighters, said the press release, signed by freedom fighter Abdul Jabbar of Bhashani Anusari Parishad.

Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammed Ibrahim Protik, Col (retd) Monish Dewan, Faruk-E-Azam Bir Protik, Naim Jahangir, Mizanur Rahman Bir Protik, Maj (retd) Akter Ahmed Bir Protik, Maj (retd) Mizanur Rahman, Maj (retd) Manjur Ahmed Bir Protik, Maj (retd) Monibur Rahman, Fateh Ali Chowdhury, Dr Abdullah Al Mahmud Bir Protik, Habibul Alam Bir Protik, Iftiak Aziz Ulfat, and advocate Fazlur Rahman are among the signatories to the statement.

Five individuals on Monday filed the petition with the International Crimes Tribunal-2 for initiating contempt proceedings against Zafurullah for his comments on June 10 when the same tribunal found Zafurullah guilty of contempt and imprisoned him at the courtroom for an hour for criticising punishment of Bangladesh-based UK journalist David Bergman.

After hearing submission from petitioners' counsels, the tribunal yesterday fixed July 12 for passing an order in this regard.

The petitioners are freedom fighters Manoranjan Ghoshal, Ajgar Ali and Sheikh Nazrul Islam, and Gonjagor Mancha organisers Kamal Pasha Chowdhury and FM Shahin.

## Each MP

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According to the project proposal, development work will be carried out for 465 km road in upazilas, 1,430 km road in unions, 6,173 km roads in villages, 16,000 metre bridges and culverts, 111 rural markets and 64 river ghats (landing stations).

In 2010, a project of Tk 4,600-crore was taken up for lawmakers for the development of rural infrastructure in their constituencies.

Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) meeting also gave nod to another seven projects involving Tk 4,477 crore.

Of these, Tk 1,843-crore has been earmarked to purchase six new vessels for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation.

A planning ministry official said the vessels would be purchased from China and a Tk 1,448-crore loan will be given by the Chinese government.

The Ecnec also approved two projects involving Tk 131-crore for Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Under the projects, 60 border posts will be constructed.

The planning minister told reporters that 667 buildings had already been built in 883 BGB camps along the borders with India and Myanmar.

The meeting gave its nod to another project to modernise the old arsenals of the police force.

## Greece in make-or-break

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"I have the strong impression there were 18 ... ministers of finance who felt the urgency of the situation and there is one ... who doesn't feel the urgency of the situation," Belgian Finance Minister Johan Van Overtveldt said.

Greek officials said the leftist government broadly repeated a reform plan Tsipras sent to the euro zone last week before Greek voters, in a referendum on Sunday, overwhelmingly rejected the austerity terms previously offered for a bailout.

Finnish Finance Minister Alexander Stubb said Greece would submit a formal request for a loan from the European Stability Mechanism bailout fund within a few hours.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, chairman of the "Eurogroup" of common currency finance ministers, said the finance ministers would hold another conference call today to review the Greek request for a medium-term assistance programme.

Reflecting the irritation of several ministers, he said the Eurogroup was still awaiting a Greek letter with one clear set of proposals.

A Greek government official retorted: "Some are maintaining 'we don't have proposals'... Is it really that 'we don't have proposals' or is it that they don't like our proposals?"

Tsipras was to meet jointly with the leaders of Germany and France, the currency area's main powers, and European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker before the summit begins at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT).

Earlier Juncker, who has tried to broker a last-minute deal, told the European Parliament: "There are some in the European Union who openly or secretly are working to exclude Greece from the euro zone."

He did not name names but may have been referring to German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, who has made no secret of his scepticism about Greece's fitness to stay in the euro and last week suggested a possible "temporary" exit.

From the Greek side, the key to making any deal politically acceptable

will be to secure a stronger commitment from Merkel and other lenders to reschedule Greece's giant debt burden, which the International Monetary Fund says is unsustainable.

Without some firmer pledge of debt relief, neither Greece nor the IMF is likely to accept a