

## 'MONEY LAUNDERING' HC grants bail to Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted permanent bail to BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain in a money laundering case. The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case on February 6 last year accusing the former health minister of amassing over Tk 9.53 crore between 2001 and 2006 and depositing that into a bank account in the United Kingdom.

The HC granted him bail on conditions that he has to deposit his passport to the lower court concerned and cannot go abroad without its permission, and he cannot withdraw the money deposited to the UK bank till disposal of the case, Mosharraf's lawyer Nitai Roy Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

The bench of Justice Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty gave the order after hearing an appeal filed by Mosharraf.

The bench also asked the Special Judge's Court-1 of Dhaka to hear and dispose of the case as early as possible, Nitai said.

ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent that his client will file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC order within few days.

## HC directs

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Hossain Leon said the jail authorities have to admit Rizvi to BSMMU after the copy of HC's order reaches the jail.

Rizvi, who is now in Kashimpur jail in Gazipur, has secured bail in 15 out of 19 criminal cases, he added.



A man with a little boy on a motorcycle, both without helmets, overtake a car on a busy road in the capital's Farmgate yesterday, putting both their lives at risk.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## AVIJIT MURDER CASE

# 3 held suspects remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday put three suspected militants on a seven-day remand each in connection with Avijit murder.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan granted the remand after police produced the tri before it, seeking a 10-day remand each.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Bangladesh-born UK citizen Touhidur Rahman, Sadeque Ali Mithu and Aminul Mallick recently over the killings of Avijit in Dhaka on February 26 and Ananta Bijoy Das in Sylhet on May 12.

They are suspected members of outlawed terror outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team which detectives say is responsible for the killings of four secularist bloggers this year alone. The other two slain bloggers are Oyasiquir Rahman and Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy. Rab claimed Touhidur, who has been a financier of ABT, planned the killings of Avijit and Ananta after being tasked by Abul Bashir, younger brother of Ansarullah chief Jasimuddin Rahmani, who took the helm of ABT after Rahmani's arrest in 2013.

Five killers including detained Sadeque took part in the killings and they did it in similar fashion, said Rab officials. The four others are on the run.

At the court yesterday, both Sadeque and Aminul denied their involvement. They, however, admitted that they got acquainted with some ABT men while working at a Nilkhet printing press, said court sources. Touhidur's lawyer pleaded bail for his client and also alleged that law enforcers in plain-clothes picked him up on May 25 from Dhanmondi.

# Primary terminal exams make class V education costlier

## Says Campe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private expenditure of class V students has increased after introduction of the Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) as the students became heavily dependent on coaching, private tuition and guidebooks, according to a report launched yesterday.

On an average, a household spends Tk 8,212 for an examinee of PECE, according to the report.

The report titled "Education Watch Report 2014: An assessment of Primary Education Completion Examination in Bangladesh" was launched by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) at the

LGED Auditorium. It was prepared on the basis of survey of 5,375 students from 578 educational institutions of 150 upazilas and municipalities.

According to the report, after introduction of the PECE, education at primary level turned exam-centric with rote memorisation and drilling becoming synonymous with studying, and guidebooks pushing out textbooks.

The report said out of the total expenditure of PECE, 58.7 percent was incurred for private tutoring, 17.4 percent for school-arranged coaching, 15 percent for guidebooks, suggestions and hand books, and 3.2 percent for transportation for examination,

among others. It continued that the private expenditure for education increased 2.96 times from 2000 to 2008, while expenditure for coaching and private tutoring increased 3.07 times during the same period. "Coaching was the main tool for schools to prepare PECE examinees. Overall, 86.3 percent of schools arranged coaching," the report said.

The report also analysed performance of the students. It said the overall performance of the examinees in English and Bangla was significantly worse than other subjects in 2014. In English, 42.8 percent of the examinees got grade C or D.

# Dhaka, Johannesburg agree on direct air link

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and South Africa have agreed to sign several deals, including one for establishing direct air connectivity between Dhaka and Johannesburg, and another for promoting trade and commerce between the two countries.

Bangladesh handed over a list of 206 potential exportable Bangladeshi products for duty free/quota free access or access at lower rate to the South African market during the third round of bilateral consultations held at the foreign ministry in the capital yesterday.

Additional Foreign Secretary Mizanur Rahman led the Bangladesh delegation, while his counterpart Dr A Sooklal, deputy director general of Asia and Middle East of Department

of International Relation and Cooperation, led the South African delegation.

Appreciating Bangladeshi delegation's proposal, the South African side assured that they would consider opening a resident mission in Dhaka.

Both the sides agreed on early finalisation of some draft agreements for mutual interest like protocol for regular diplomatic consultations, agreement on avoidance of double taxation, and agreement on visa waiver for diplomatic and official passport holders. Issues like cooperation between police services and mutual legal assistances and extradition treaties and migration were also discussed.

Nomandiya Mfeketo, deputy minister of the Department of International Relation and Cooperation of South Africa (DIRCO), paid a two-day visit to Bangladesh from Tuesday.



Soil test for constructing Dhaka Metro Rail continues at Agargaon yesterday as residents of the capital eagerly wait for it to become a reality.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## ASK worried at 'crossfire deaths'

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Hasan Ajibor of Magura, an accused over the July 23 shooting that left a mother and the baby in her womb wounded, was killed in a "gun battle" with police early Tuesday. Hazaribagh Thana unit President of BCL Arzu Miah, who allegedly tortured a boy to death, was also killed in another "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion on Monday. Awami League activist Zakir Hossain was killed in a "shootout" with police early yesterday. Zakir was allegedly involved in the August 15 infighting in Kushtia that left AL activist Sabuj dead.

## Govt high-ups for restorative justice

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assaults, theft, dowry, damage to crops and wealth, fraudulence, financial dispute and gambling.

Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said the method was extremely useful.

"The government is committed to reinforcing people's confidence in the criminal justice system. I believe there is an opportunity to look at the practice of restorative justice more widely," she added.

The statement quoted a Bangla daily report that Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, "The government has taken a strict stance. The action has already started." The statement said such actions against criminals belong to ruling party are positive but punishments through "extra-judicial killings" will not play a role in improving law and order situation rather it will be considered as a severe violation of human rights.

Such steps will also be considered as an attempt to protect influential people who aid criminals, read the statement.

The German embassy's charge d'affaires, Dr Ferdinand von Weyhe, said, "Looking at the huge amount of pending cases in courts it is necessary to think of new approaches."

Where possible and applicable, restorative justice might be one option to restore peace and justice in due course and not only after years, he said.

Senior Secretary Mozammel Haque Khan, DFID Country Representative Sarah Cooke and GIZ Bangladesh Country Director Tobias Becker also spoke.

## HC fixes

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Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) appointed the second investigation officer to probe into the case after the first IO had exempted her from it in June 2008.

The ACC filed the case on February 26, 2008 accusing Khaleda and 15 others of causing a loss of Tk 159 crore to the state exchequer by awarding a contract of operating Barapukuria coalmine to a Chinese company, abusing power.

Later, the HC stayed the case proceedings for several times and issued a rule on the government and the ACC to explain why the case against Khaleda should not be scrapped.

Raghib Rauf Chowdhury argued for Khaleda while ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan opposed the petitions.

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