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# GATCO GRAFT CASE Khaleda has to surrender in two months

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday released the full text of its verdict that rejected the two petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of proceedings in Gatco corruption case.

Now, Khaleda will have to surrender before the trial court within two months after the full verdict reaches the court, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star, citing the verdict.

Meanwhile, Khaleda's lawyer AKM Ehsanur Rahman told this correspondent that they were yet to get the certified copy of the verdict. Upon receiving the certified copy, they would file a leave to appeal petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC verdict.

Ehsanur said his client would seek a stay on the HC verdict in the leave to appeal petition. If the apex court stays the HC judgment, the BNP chief would need not to surrender before the trial court.

On August 5 last year, the HC rejected Khaleda's two writ petitions that challenged the legality of filing the case and her trial in it, clearing the way for a lower court to resume her trial.

It had also directed her to surrender before that court within two months after the HC verdict was received by the court, the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka.



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In a unique form of protest against a local recruiting agency, a group of migrant workers, who were forced to return home from Iraq recently, took to the streets, holding bags on their heads. They demand compensation from the agency and arrest of its owner and officials. The photo was taken in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# More BRTC buses for school kids

Sangsad told

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government will introduce more BRTC buses on all routes in the capital for the school-goers, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told the House yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the minister also said the government has prepared a preliminary development project outline to upgrade Dhaka-Mawa-Khulna highway into four lanes on availability of foreign aid.

"The Feasibility Study and Detail Design under Technical Assistance for Sub-Regional Road Transport Project Preparatory Facility [SRTPPF] have already been finalised," he said.

Besides, the government would also upgrade into four lanes 55-kilometre roads from Jatrabari to Mawa approach road to the Padma Bridge and from the approach road on the other side of the river to Bhanga at

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# Mahmudul Islam passes away

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Constitution expert and former attorney general Mahmudul Islam passed away at a city hospital early today.

He was 79.

He died of old-age complications at the United Hospital, Barrister Manzurul-Matin, a junior assistant of the late lawyer told The Daily Star.

Mahmudul was suffering from lung and kidney diseases, he said.

The eminent legal expert had been at the hospital for the last two months.

He left behind his wife, two sons, relatives, colleagues, and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

His sons -- Asif Islam and Arif Islam -- are now in

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# Turkey renews shelling of Syria

**23 dead as missiles hit hospitals, school in rebel-held border town**

**AGENCIES**

Turkey defied international calls and shelled parts of northern Syria for a third day yesterday, insisting it would not allow Kurdish-led forces to seize key areas along the border.

The renewed shelling and fresh violence elsewhere in Syria -- including a suspected Russian air strike that killed 23 people at three hospitals and a school -- cast doubts on international efforts for a ceasefire to take hold this week.

The Turkish assault continued despite calls from its Western allies for restraint and drew fierce criticism yesterday from Russia, which said the "provocative" shelling was "creating a threat to peace and security in the Middle East and beyond."

The cross-border Turkish artillery fire, which began on Saturday, has added to an increasingly complex situation in Syria's northern Aleppo province just days before the ceasefire is due to begin.

Top diplomats from world powers agreed at talks in Munich last Friday on a "nationwide cessation of hostilities" within a week, in the latest bid to find an end to Syria's five-year conflict.

But advances in recent days by mainly Kurdish forces in Aleppo province have raised deep concern in Ankara, which accuses them of links to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), an outlawed movement that waged a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state.

Following similar fire on Saturday and Sunday, Turkish shelling again hit several parts of Aleppo province yesterday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

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# MIR QUASEM CASE Retired judge quits defence

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Retired High Court judge Nozrul Islam Chowdhury yesterday withdrew from the defence of war criminal Mir Quasem Ali.

During the hearing on an appeal by Quasem challenging his death penalty, Justice Nozrul informed the Appellate Division that he would no longer be part of the proceedings.

Later, he told reporters on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises that he had quit as Quasem's lawyer due to "serious adverse environment".

It is not unconstitutional and unethical for a retired HC judge to move cases before the apex court, he said.


Nozrul retired on December 12 last year and began appearing in the Appellate Division to move cases as a lawyer on January 3 this year.

He said he had been involved with two other cases, in which Attorney General Mahbubey Alam was on the opposite side. The attorney general questioned the legality and ethical grounds of his moving the case on behalf of Quasem but he did not have anything to protest in those two cases.

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# Digital makeover for Van Gogh's bedroom

**BBC ONLINE**



Scientists in Chicago have produced a visualisation of Van Gogh's Bedroom in Arles, showing what it would have looked like before its colours faded.

The artist painted three versions of this famous scene, using broadly the same colour scheme. But time and light degradation have taken their toll on the pigments.

Using a variety of techniques, the researchers have digitally restored the light blue walls and door to their original lilac and purple.

The computer visualisation is part of a major new exhibition at The Art Institute of Chicago, which brings together all three versions for only the second time since Van Gogh produced them.

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# TORTURED KIDS Families now threatened

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Families of the two tortured children received threats of "eviction" from their houses at Chowbaria village in Poba upazila two days after filing of a case over the torture.

Police could not arrest the main accused as of yesterday, raising concern among the victim families.

One of the victims, Emon

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 16  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Mahmudur won't be freed now

Shown arrested in another case

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, was shown arrested in a bomb blast case yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court upheld a High Court bail granted to him in a sedition case.

The former energy adviser to a BNP government was expecting to be released from jail as he secured bail in all 74 criminal cases filed against him with police stations and courts across the country since December 2012.

Meanwhile, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed yesterday alleged that the government was creating barriers to the release of Mahmudur. The BNP leader sought intervention from Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha for his immediate release.

Earlier in the day, Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi accepted a

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A part of a pavement on Green Road in the capital has been left in a dismal state for the last few months, making it impossible for pedestrians to cross it. The photo was taken recently.

# CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE Bangladesh 63rd in global ranking

Second in South Asia, after India

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh ranked 63rd among 197 countries in terms of providing court access to children to protect their rights, according to the first ever global ranking by the London-based Child Rights International Network (CRIN).

Among Bangladesh's South Asian neighbours, only India fared better securing the 43rd position. Nepal was ranked 78th, Bhutan 85th, Pakistan 119th, Sri Lanka 123rd, Afghanistan 149th and Maldives 189th.

Belgium, Portugal and Spain were the top three countries of the list, while Kenya was the only country outside Europe to make the top ten. Relegated to the bottom of the pile were Palestine, Eritrea and Equatorial Guinea.

"The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) does not take precedence over national law [Bangladesh], but national law is interpreted in a manner consistent with the CRC and other human rights obligations," said the CRIN report yesterday.

The CRC has not as yet been directly incorporated into national law, but some provisions have been incorporated in response to directions of the Supreme Court, added the report.

"Bangladeshi courts have regularly referenced the CRC and other international human rights conventions where relevant to a matter at hand."

The Children Act guarantees children's right to participate in all stages of court proceedings, said the report titled "Rights, Remedies and Representation".

Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National

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