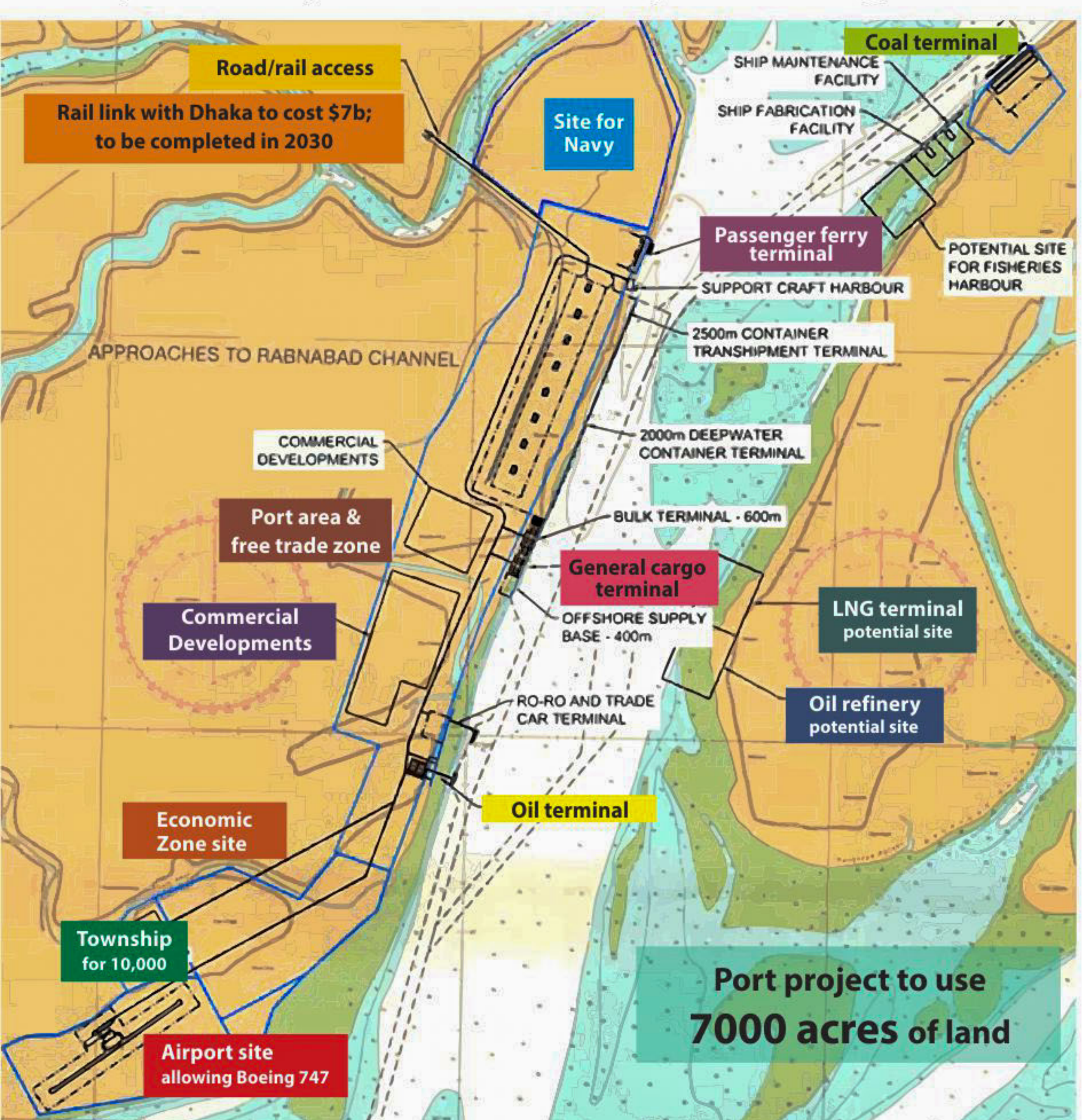


Payra Deep-sea Port Project at a glance



Deep-sea port beckons

FROM PAGE 1
Shipping ministry sources said the PPA is now scrutinising proposals of various governments and their companies for different components of the mega project. Further MoUs may roll out next month.

The Rabnabad channel is situated in Meghna Estuary on Tentulia River in Patuakhali. It is about 270km far from the Chittagong Port and 90km from Mongla Port. This site was chosen as it has available land along the channel with an average height of two metres above sea level. The land does not submerge during monsoon and it is well connected by road and river networks.

According to techno-feasibility study prepared by British firm HR Wallingford & consortium, the Payra port will require a total of 7,000 acres of land. Of this, 6,000 acres will be used for port development, 500 acres for coal terminal and the remaining for resettlement of people affected by construction of the port.

HR Wallingford has been carrying out a series of studies, including environment and resettlement, since January 2015.

The top component to be undertaken by the PPA itself with help of other nations is the conservancy and port management to ensure safe navigation of ships. This job includes planning and developing the port.

The PPA would also develop the core port infrastructure. This covers the essential infrastructure for the port estate as a whole, sewage, drainage,

services, road and railway access across the port estate.

Development work of this port will be done in three phases: the ongoing first phase will be followed by a five-year second phase from 2025, followed by a third phase from 2030.

OTHER FEATURES OF PAYRA PORT
The G2G contracts will be awarded for housing, education and health facilities of the port officials and developing port community.

A G2G or foreign direct investment contract will be awarded to develop an airport to connect with the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by 2019 so that Payra can receive passengers for a nearby resort, casino and visiting the Sundarbans.

The government also wants build railway lines to connect Payra port with Dhaka. This rail link is considered vital for the successful development of the port as it would make the port operations very efficient. Studies point out that the rail link would be complete by 2030.

A dedicated small power plant will be built soon so that Payra port can meet its own electricity demands without depending on other sources.

To promote tourism, the government seeks investors to build a monument or a sculpture of the Father of the Nation, a Liberation War museum complex building, a watch tower, an eco park, an exclusive tourist zone for foreigners, marine drive, marine park, sea aquarium, international-standard stadium, golf court, tennis court, convention centre, hotel-motel zone

and resort, shopping mall, picnic spot and other recreational facilities.

A multipurpose terminal, one kilometre in length, would be built by 2018 on the basis of G2G cooperation. This terminal will have cargo storage facilities and handle all cargoes.

A one-km long container terminal will be built by end of 2018 under FDI. This terminal must be able to handle containers that would be transhipped for onward movement by barge up to Dhaka or Mongla or Chittagong or moved by road or railway. A second terminal of same specification will be built later, but it would be run by private sector.

A dry bulk terminal on 500 acres of land will be developed by the end of 2018 to help import 40 million tonnes of coal per year for up to eight planned coal-fired power plants. This terminal will also facilitate import of limestone for de-sulphurisation. The facility will handle other dry bulk cargoes like cement clinker.

Payra will also host an LNG terminal to facilitate import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) that would be used for a gas-fired power plant or fertiliser factory and for national gas supplies.

The government is allocating 2,000 acres of land to develop an exclusive economic zone.

Besides, the port will have a liquid bulk terminal, an internal ferry terminal, shipyard and ship repair facilities.

The port will also offer transshipment links to the neighbouring seven sisters in India and Nepal and Bhutan.

Jurists, rights activists hail

FROM PAGE 1
The SC upheld a High Court verdict that was delivered in 2003 to bar law enforcement agencies from making arbitrary arrests on suspicion and torturing detainees on remand. It, however, said it would come up with some modifications to the HC judgment and guidelines in the full text of the order.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said, "This is truly a landmark judgment, since it will ensure protection of fundamental rights of citizens in relation to arrest, detention in custody, remand and interrogation, as well as assure protection against torture, and related abuse of these powers, by those who rely on outdated laws and practices, which are no longer valid under the constitution."

"Thus, this judgment will assure citizens of constitutional protection appropriate for the 21st century, and not allow unconstitutional practices such as arbitrary arrest, unlawful interrogation and detention and torture going back to the 19th century and colonial times..."

Dr Kamal, a lawyer for the petitioners, made the observations in a press statement.

M Amir-ul Islam, noted jurist and another lawyer for the petitioners, said since the Appellate Division dismissed the government's appeal challenging the HC verdict, the relevant laws must be amended.

Justice Md Awlad Ali, a former High Court judge and vice-chairman of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), one of the three organisations that filed a writ petition over the issue in 1998, said, "This is a landmark judgment. It will protect people's constitutional rights largely."

The petition was lodged following the death of Shamim Reza Rubel, a student of Independent University in Dhaka, due to brutal torture in police custody.

It was aimed to stop such deaths, said noted jurist Shahdeen Malik.

"Incidents of police torture have increased recently. However, it is a matter of hope that following the judgment, police torture will come down and we will move towards becoming a civilised nation," he said.

Rights activist Sara Hossain, also a lawyer for the petitioners, said, "This judgement is a big weapon. It proves that people's rights can be established through joint efforts by the court, lawyers, mass media and human rights and social activists."

Nur Khan Liton, acting executive director of rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, another petitioner, said the petition had been filed to stop arbitrary arrest of any suspect and torture in police custody.

He added, "With this verdict, our 18-year-long legal battle to protect human rights now reaches a significant level and with the full implementation of the guidelines [already set by the High Court], our victory will be achieved."

While there is a rising trend of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances in the country now, the full implementation of the guidelines will help curb the phenomena, he said.

MINISTERS' REACTION
Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government, if necessary, would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in the interest of the people. In that case, steps would be taken in line with the guidelines and observations of the top court.

There are some emergency provi-

sions in laws and section 54 of the CrPC is one of those, he said.

"Whether a section is good or bad depends on its application. So, it is hard to say that section 54 is bad."

The minister told reporters at his secretariat office that law enforcers should apply section 54 when they think the person they are going to arrest has intention to commit a crime.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said actions will be taken if any member of the law enforcement agencies abuses section 54.

Everyone has to follow the directives of the apex court. Members of the law enforcement agencies will also follow the directives, he added.

3 Sonali

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more in jail.

It acquitted another accused AKM Azizur Rahman of the charge as he died earlier.

The punishment of the fugitives would be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the judge said.

According to the case statement, it was alleged that the officials of the Paragon Knit Composite Ltd in collusion with some bank officials took a loan of Tk 2,22,78,623 from the bank for importing machineries for the company in 2012. But the accused embezzled all the money without importing the machineries.

On May 28, 2013, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case with Ramna Police Station, accusing them of misappropriating the money.

The ACC pressed charges against the three on June 11 in 2014 and the court framed charges against them on November 17 that year.

Mother killed

FROM PAGE 1
what death is. His mother Sakhina Begum, 45, will never use those sandals again.

Reckless driving of an illegal battery-run auto-rickshaw claimed her life just a couple of hours ago.

All this happened before the very eyes of Yusuf at Tin Rastar Mor in the city's Mohammadpur around 11:00am.

Sakhina along with her son was riding the three-wheeler on her way to her daughter Afsana's Mohammadpur home from South Keraniganj. The two were seated on one side of the auto-rickshaw which by design had no doors.

When they reached Tin Rastar Mor, the auto-rickshaw driver swerved to avoid a head-on collision with another vehicle. Within a blink of an eye, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit the battery-run three-wheeler, throwing the mother and son off the vehicle, according to witnesses.

With injuries to her head and face, Sakhina was taken to Zainul Haque Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital and later to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The child miraculously escaped unhurt.

Defying a ban, battery-run auto-rickshaws have been plying many roads across the country for years, largely due to lax enforcement of law. These three-wheelers often cause fatal accidents.

Rana Hasan, who took the two to the hospitals, said he saw the child kneeling beside the woman on the road and went to help them.

Sakhina's nephew Babul Mia said Yusuf is the youngest among the three daughters and two sons of the deceased. His father Babul died when his mother was pregnant with him.

Cameron buys

FROM PAGE 16
he was interested in the compact car was a "wind-up".

Cameron paid £1,495 for the Nissan Micra (March) in Minister Lovell, Oxfordshire, on Friday.

He said the blue car was "just the right colour" for the Tory leader.

Harris said he first heard of Cameron's interest in the car when he received a call to his office at Witney Used Car Centre, in the prime minister's constituency.

"I thought it was one of my mates having a wind-up and I was going to be sat here for half an hour on my own doing nothing - especially when he said it was for a Nissan Micra."

He explained that when he turned up for the appointment, Cameron asked his security detail to stand behind the car to make sure the back brake lights worked.

Harris said he could not resist quipping that it was lucky the car was not red - the colour of the Labour Party.

"Fortunately, it was just the right colour," he said.

Harris added: "It was a bit surreal, but likewise he was just a normal chap buying a car for his wife, a normal conversation, normal sort of deal and that was it."

UP polls violence

FROM PAGE 16
Ebaiddullah, 30, was a supporter of a member candidate in Hazipur union.

Ebaiddullah might have been killed following feud over the polls, said locals.

In Sylhet, Rokib Miah, 40, was killed over a silly matter in Goalabazar union of Osmaniganar on Monday night.

Member candidate Aftab Miah in Goalabazar union brought out an election procession on Monday afternoon and his men were distributing leaflets.

Six-year-old Marzana, a niece of Rokib, asked for a leaflet. But campaigner Jakir pushed the child aside. Seeing it, her father Dilbar Miah attacked Jakir and injured him.

Rokib along with others took Jakir to his house after his treatment.

While returning from the house, Jakir's relatives attacked and injured them, alleged Rokib's family.

Later, Rokib was taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where he died yesterday.

In Munshiganj, Mohammad Hanif, 30, was shot dead Monday night near an election camp of AL chairman candidate in Hosendi union.

Police, however, could not confirm whether the victim was a supporter of any political party or a candidate.

In Mymensingh, criminals opened fire on Jubo League activist Shafiqul Islam Sohag Fakir.

Sohag was campaigning at Charbaribazar for AL's chairman aspirant in Longair union of Gofargoan Monday night.

Elections to 725 UPs were held on March 22 in the first phase, 639 UPs on March 31 in the second phase, 615 UPs on April 23 in the third phase and 703 UPs on May 7 in the fourth phase.

Polls to 733 UPs are slated for May 28 in the fifth phase and 724 more UPs on June 4 in the sixth phase.

Our correspondents from Chittagong, Narsingdi, Sylhet, Munshiganj and Mymensingh have contributed to this report.

'A ploy to kill time'

Palestinian PM dismisses Netanyahu's direct talks proposal

AFP, Ramallah
Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah yesterday dismissed an Israeli proposal for direct negotiations instead of a French multilateral peace initiative, calling it an attempt to "buy time".

Hamdallah made the comments as he met French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who has held talks in Israel and the Palestinian territories this week to push Paris's peace initiative.

"Time is short," Hamdallah said. "(Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu is trying to buy time... but this time he will not escape the international community."

Netanyahu has rejected the plan and called for direct negotiations. Valls told Netanyahu when he met him on Monday that he would discuss his proposal with French President Francois Hollande, but he has insisted that Paris plans to stick with its approach.

The French initiative involves holding a meeting of foreign ministers from a range of countries on June 3, but without the Israelis and

Palestinians present.

An international conference would then be held in the autumn, with the Israelis and Palestinians in attendance. The goal is to eventually relaunch negotiations that would lead to a Palestinian state.

Negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians have been at a standstill since a US-led initiative collapsed in April 2014. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas has welcomed the French plan, but Netanyahu has repeatedly expressed his opposition while saying he is willing to meet Abbas at any time.

On Monday, he told Valls that France should host a summit between the two men in Paris.

Palestinian leaders say years of negotiations with Israel have not ended its occupation, and they have pursued a strategy of diplomacy at international bodies.

Valls has sought to address Israeli concerns over the French initiative, saying it would not try to impose a solution and that negotiations between the two sides would ultimately resolve the conflict.

He has called himself a "friend of Israel" during his trip, and said Israeli security must be guaranteed.

Govt to print

FROM PAGE 1
education life in their own tongues. Keeping this in mind, we have made the decision," the minister said.

The ministry started collecting data about the number of students speaking in the five languages. After getting the data, it would decide about the number of textbooks to be printed, said a source.

"Later on, we will publish books for the kids of all ethnic minorities," Nahid said.

The meeting also came to a decision to print some 9,066 Braille books for the visually-impaired students. The ministry would also publish around 1.32 crore teaching manuals for teachers of primary and high schools to help them teach the students properly.

The education minister said the number of free textbooks would be increased next year.

Over 36 crore copies of textbooks would be printed, he added.

Last year, the government distributed 33.38 crore books among the students of pre-primary, primary, secondary and technical education schools and ebtadai and dakhil madrasas.

To solve the long-standing textbook crisis, the government in 2009 decided to distribute textbooks among students free of cost. Since then, it has so far distributed more than 189.21 crore copies of textbooks among primary and secondary students.

'Chained' killer

FROM PAGE 16
stations, Faruq asked the policemen to take him to the toilet.

Police sources said Faruq walked towards the toilet and suddenly jumped off the running train and disappeared in the dark.

The other accused was handed over to Mymensingh jail authorities around 8:30pm the same night, jail sources said.

The policemen on duty claimed Faruq was in handcuffs and chains.

Nayek Shah Alam filed a case with Mymensingh railway police, said Abdul Ahad Khan, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"The accused were being taken on the train due to shortage of prison vans," said Trishal OCMoniruzzaman. "We will find out after an investigation if the accused were in chains properly," he added.

A police official said there was no prison carriage for trains and it should be introduced for safely carrying convicts and accused.

A three-member probe body headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Harun-or-Rashid was formed to investigate the incident and submit a report in one day, sources said.

The police could not arrest the convict as of filing this report yesterday evening.

Why he shouldn't

FROM PAGE 1
away 13 years of my life," he told reporters after the High Court yesterday issued a rule seeking explanations as to why he would not be compensated for languishing in jail.

Yesterday, the HC gave the government four weeks to explain as to why its negligence and failure to release Zobed would not be declared unconstitutional and why the victim would not be compensated with Tk 20 lakh.

The bench of Justice Moyoenu Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by rights organisation -- Children Charity Bangladesh Foundation.

The home secretary, law secretary, High Court registrar, the then judge of Satkhira's Additional Sessions Judge's Court-2, inspector general of prisons and jail superintendent of Satkhira have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC will deliver a final verdict on Zobed's compensation after holding a hearing on the rule, which could take several months, said lawyers.

Zobed was jailed for life in 2001 for poisoning his eight-year-old daughter Lily in 1994. He was acquitted in 2003 by the HC, petitioner's lawyer Abdul Alim told The Daily Star.

But the Satkhira's Additional Judge's Court-2 never sent the acquit-

tal order to the district jail.

The superior court's verdict was forwarded to the local court. However, the Satkhira court said to have ordered the officials concerned to keep the HC judgment in the record room and did not send it to the jail, Alim said.

Alim said Zobed was released from prison on March 2 this year and Children Charity Bangladesh Foundation then collected relevant documents and filed the writ petition with the HC on May 19 seeking necessary orders.

Zobed said he informed the jail authorities in 2005 about the HC verdict acquitting him.

"I sent eight letters to the Additional Sessions Judge's Court of Satkhira through jail authorities between 2005 and 2010 seeking information about the status of my appeal filed with the High Court...", he said.

"But I did not get any reply," said Zobed, adding that he is now leading a life like that of a helpless person.

On February 24 this year, additional public prosecutors of Satkhira court Zillur Rahman and Fahimul Haque prayed to the Additional Sessions Judge's Court-2 of Satkhira for the release of Zobed Ali.

The court on March 2 ordered his release.

Punjab wants award

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In the condemnation resolution, opposition leader Mehmoodur Rasheed demanded the government raise the issue before international human rights organisations. He argued against the executions stating that the Bangladesh government awarded "death penalties to Jamaat-e-Islami leaders for their love for Pakistan", reports dunyanews.

Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq claimed that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was working on instructions of the Indian government,

the TV station said on its website.

Sirajul had led funeral prayers in absentia of the Bangladesh chapter's leaders.

Diplomatic tension between Bangladesh and Pakistan rose significantly over the war crimes tribunal issue.

Bangladesh had asked Pakistan not to interfere in its internal affairs, like trials for crimes against humanity. The country had also asked Pakistan "to stop misinterpreting" the 1974 tripartite agreement signed by Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.