

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban illuminated by the Ministry of Planning yesterday marking Victory Day today.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KUAKATA-DHAKA TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS SC upholds HC scrapping BTCL contract for TSS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld till further orders a High Court verdict declaring illegal the process through which Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) awarded Telephone Shilpa Sangsta Ltd (TSS) a contract to install transmission systems from Kuakata to Dhaka.

SC's Appellate Division Chamber Judge Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain also sent to the apex court's full bench for hearing on January 2 three petitions filed recently by BTCL, TSS and Turkish firm Netaf Telekomunikasyon seeking different orders over the verdict.

The December 12 verdict came following a writ petition filed by Netaf Telekomunikasyon challenging the legality of their tender's cancellation and the contract being awarded to TSS.

The international competitive tender was floated in May to install the equipment of 100 Gbps bandwidth to a second submarine cable, said the petition.

The petitioner's counsels argued before the court that TSS does not manufacture the 100 Gbps equipment and would procure it from Tejas India.

Neither TSS nor Tejas participated in the tender, said court sources. According to Central Procurement Technical Unit of the Ministry of Planning, such trading is not allowed in direct procurement.

For such a procurement process to be used, the equipment must be manufactured by a government-owned company, said the sources. BTCL illegally cancelled the whole tender process and, violating the public procurement act and rule, awarded the contract to TSS, said the sources.

Netaf Telekomunikasyon, which became technically and financially responsive, was scheduled to supply the

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Khadiza asked to testify Jan 8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday asked college student Khadiza Begum Nargis, who was brutally attacked on October 3, to appear before it on January 8 and give her statement.

Also, on the third day of the witness deposition, Dr AM Rezaus Sattar of Square Hospitals gave his statement before Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Saifuzzaman Hiru, said advocate Mahfuzur Rahman, additional public prosecutor.

The case has 37 witnesses including Khadiza; among them, 33 witnesses gave their statement on December 5 and December 11. The court set the date for next hearing on January 8, he said.

Road safety activist injured in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A road-safety activist was injured in a road crash on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Baro Daragarhat area of Chittagong early yesterday.

Md Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of the Passengers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh, was on his way to Chittagong from Dhaka by a bus of Shyamoli Paribahan, said Md Shamsuddin Chowdhury, general secretary of the organisation's Chittagong regional committee.

Due to a dense fog, the bus hit a road divider and at least four to five passengers including Chowdhury got hurt, said Sub-inspector Md Moniruzzaman of Kumira highway police, quoting passengers. Police seized the bus, but its driver fled, headed.

With injuries in head and chest, Chowdhury is now undergoing treatment at the Casualty Ward of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said Shamsuddin, adding, the rest sustained minor injuries and were released after giving primary treatment.

He is now out of danger, said Shamsuddin quoting the CMCH doctors.

The bus, he was onboard, hit the divider as the driver was driving the bus speedily despite the dense fog, Chowdhury wrote in a Facebook post.

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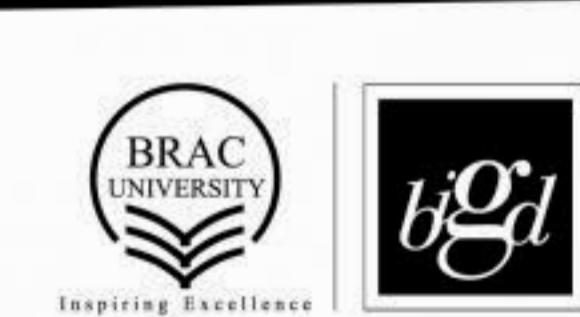
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Why 7 prisoners not granted bail

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain why seven under-trial persons in jail for 11 to 14 years should not be granted bail.

The court also directed the Kashimpur jail authorities to produce them on January 24 for hearing their statements.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice JBM Hassan came up with the order and rule following a report broadcast by private television Channel 24 on December 9.

The report said there was little progress in lower court trial proceedings of the criminal cases against the seven.

Russel Sheikh hails from Kushtia and has been in jail since December 4, 2004 in an arms case; Saidur Rahman from Badda from September 6, 2005 in a case filed under women and children repression prevention law, said court sources.

Moreover, Rajib Hossain from Dhaka's Keraniganj has been in jail since September 19, 2003 in a murder case, Mohammad Parvez from Brahmanbaria since July 2, 2004 in a case filed under women and children repression prevention law, they said.

Masud from Motijheel has been in jail since April 1, 2003; Babu from Gazipur's Joydevpur since December 11, 2003 in a case filed under women and children repression prevention law and Liton from Netrakona since January 23, 2005, they added.

Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee's panel lawyer Beheshti Marjan placed the report before the HC for necessary orders.

Babul Akther talks to CMP
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former police superintendent Babul Akther yesterday talked to Chittagong Metropolitan Police about issues concerning a case filed over the murder of his wife Mahmuda Khatun Mitu.

Mentioning that there was no significant headway in the investigation, the case's Investigation Officer Assistant Commissioner Kamruzzaman said they cannot certainly say when the charge sheet would be submitted.

Babul, however, could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

On June 5, assailants stabbed and shot dead Mitu after she left her OR Nizam Road house around 6:35am to put her son on a school bus at GEC Intersection in the port city.



Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed yesterday accorded a reception to the delegation of Liberation War veterans from Russia at the Naval Headquarters for their contributions during the war and removing mines from the Chittagong port after the war and making it operational. The delegation includes Kozhurin Victor Pavlovich, Karamyshev Vladimir Alexandrovich, Chukanin Alexander Kuzmich, Koloskov Nikolay Nilaievich, Moiyanov Vladimir Alexandrovich, and Molchanova Anna Mihaylovna.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA DHAKA

Tender for supply of Servers, Tape Drive, LSI PCs and Server Rack

High Commission of India, Dhaka invites sealed quotations from eligible firms for supply of Servers, Tape Drive, LSI PCs and Server Rack to High Commission of India, Dhaka.

Tender document can be obtained from the HCI, Dhaka on all working days on payment of BDT 500/- It may also be downloaded from the Mission's website www.hcidhaka.gov.in.

The last submission date of sealed quotations would be on 01 January 2017. The sealed quotations would be opened on 02 January 2017 at 3.30 p.m. HCI, Dhaka reserves the right to reject one or all of the bids without assigning any reasons.

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