

## HC clears way for Moudud's graft case trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to continue trial proceedings against former BNP chief minister Khaleda Zia. Moudud Ahmed in a corruption case filed during the regime of military-backed caretaker government.

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishan Debnath passed the order rejecting a revision petition.

Moudud had filed the petition with the HC challenging the legality of the trial proceedings of the case.

He said that there is no provision in Anti-Corruption Case (ACC) law of including his expenditure in the case statement. He also prayed to the HC to stay the trial proceedings.

Contended, Barrister Moudud told The Daily Star that the ground on which the HC rejected the petition will be known once the full text of the order will be available.

He said he will move a petition before the Appellate Bench of the High Court against the HC order after receiving its full text.

ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan said there is no legal bar for the lower court to continue the trial proceedings following the HC order.

Special Judge's court-6 of Dhaka on July 12 rejected record statements from the witness on July 26, he added.

A Dhaka court on June 21 framed charges against Moudud in the case filed by the ACC on September 1, 2016, with Gulshan Police Station on charge of amassing wealth beyond his known means and of maintaining false information about his assets.

The FIR of the case said Moudud showed movable and immovable properties worth over Tk 13.23 crore in his wealth account submitted to the ACC on July 23, 2007.

On May 15, 2008, the ACC pressed charges against Moudud for the increased wealth worth over Tk 7.38 crore through illegal means and concealed information about wealth worth over Tk 4.40 crore from the commission.



**ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY...** The pitch-black substance getting spread on this road is sewage extracted from a sewer and left on the roadside by cleaners. Such irresponsible practice, seen all over in the city, does not only emit foul odour in the area, but also endanger public health. The photo was taken near the Mayor Hanif Flyover in the capital's Donia area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Banani rape: Ivan confesses at court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bahauddin Ivan, the lone accused in the latest Banani rape case, confessed to his involvement before a magistrate at Dhaka court yesterday.

In his confessional statement, Ivan told that he raped the college student after calling her at his Banani residence on July 5.

However, Ivan, 28, did not mention that it was his birthday, said a court official.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury recorded Ivan's statement after sub-inspector Sultana Akhter of Banani Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case, produced Ivan at his chamber around 1:00pm.

After recording his statement, Ivan was sent to jail. In the case filed with Banani Police Station on

Wednesday, the 21-year-old woman said Ivan invited her to his purported birthday party at his Banani home on that night and raped her.

As she started screaming, Ivan drove her out of his house, kept her bag, which contained three dresses, two pairs of jeans, a 'Kurti', three mobile phones and Tk 15,000, according to the FIR.

The complainant also said Ivan made her take some drugs and with the help of alcohol, she later said that Ivan had also raped her earlier, making promises of marriage.

The girl met Ivan on Facebook around 11 months ago, and they later started dating, she added.

After the incident on July 5, Ivan went into hiding. The next day, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Ivan from his aunt's home in Majdaif area of Narayanganj.

## Man 'kills' wife, granddaughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

A man allegedly killed his wife and three-month-old granddaughter over a family feud in Lohagara upazila of Chittagong on Tuesday night.

The victim is Puspure Bala, 55, and Ahana.

Relatives said Petan Shil, 60, had a feud with his wife over her visiting a relative with his permission around a week ago. The feud was resolved through a local arbitration.

Shilu Shil, son of Petan, said, "Tues night after they went to attend a marriage ceremony a relative informed him over the phone that his father hacked his mother and granddaughter to death and injured his sister-in-law Moni Shil. On returning home, I found my mother and my sister dead and my sister-in-law injured," said Ibhontu. Moni and her daughter Ahana were attacked as she tried to save her wife.

Police arrested Petan and a murder case against him was filed by his son Senthil Shil.

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## GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK

### Hasnat denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected a bail petition of Hasnat Karim in connection with the case filed over the Gulshan café attack.

After hearing the petition, Metropolitan Sessions Judge Kamruzzaman Hossain Molla passed the order considering the gravity of the issue and that an investigation is still on into the terror attack.

Earlier several metropolitan magistrates rejected his bail following different reasons.

A former teacher of North South University, Hasnat was shown arrested on August 13 last year in the case linked with the murders of 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, in the attack.

He was later remanded for 16 days in the case.

Hasnat along with Canadian university student Tahmid Hasib, two survivors of the July 1 attack, was taken on remand for eight days from August 4 after they were shown arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Hasnat was again remanded for eight days. Tahmid was sent to jail after he was grilled for 14 days in remand in two phases.

Tahmid was later released on bail in a case filed under section 54 of the CrPC as he was not shown arrested in the café attack case. He was later acquitted in the case filed over his suspicious involvement with concealing information about the attack.

On July 1, armed militants stormed Holey Artisan Bakery at the diplomatic zone in Dhaka's Gulshan area and killed nine Bangladeshis, one Indian and one Bangladeshi-born US citizen. Two police officers were also killed.

Police have so far arrested four other accused in the case.



A section of successful graduates of O-level examinations of Scholastica's Mirpur campus pose with their certificates at a ceremony on the campus yesterday. As many as 176 graduates of batch 2017 were awarded certificates. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, was present as the chief guest.

## Season's heaviest rain inundates Rajshahi city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Incessant rain, heaviest this monsoon season, inundated most parts of Rajshahi city yesterday.

Low-lying areas of the city including Shaheb Bazar, Upashahar, Gourhanga, Shalbagan, Tikapara and Terokhadi were affected the most.

The upscale Upashahar Housing Estate consisting around a thousand plots also went under knee-deep water.

A waterlogged street connecting Hospital Road and Hetemkhan Road at Barnali intersection was closed off by concerned citizens fearing serious accidents in large open drains and huge potholes there.

Consent of the local councillor was obtained prior to closing the road, locals told this correspondent.

Sheikh Mohamadul Mamut, a conservancy official at Rajshahi City Corporation, said drainage lines in various parts of the city were not connected with the main drainage network, resulting in the waterlogging.

Hoping that the water would recede within a few hours, he said clogging up of the drains with plastic waste in many parts of the city primarily caused the waterlogging.

"Workers have been deployed in the city to check and clear jams in the drains," he also said.

Within a span of 10.5 hours -- from 1:30am till 12 noon yesterday -- 144.4 millimetres of rainfall was the highest amount of rain that the met office recorded this monsoon season.



## Whose acquaintance is she?

The girl rescued from Dhaka hotel still senseless at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of the girl, who was rescued from a hotel in the capital's Shymoli on Saturday evening in a senseless state, remained the same and showed no sign of improvement till yesterday.

She has been kept under observation at neurosurgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Contacted, Dr Asit Chandra Sarkar, head of the department, last evening said the girl

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## Awareness must for eradicating terrorism Speakers tell Brussels seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar in Brussels on Tuesday emphasised the need for education and awareness building to eradicate terrorism.

They said terrorism was not a problem of any particular country, rather the world. They also called upon all to make coordinated efforts to curb it, said a press release.

The seminar was organised by European Bangladesh Forum.

Speakers, who are from different European countries and Bangladesh, praised the government of Bangladesh for its role in eradicating terrorism.

Among others, Chetan Bhattacharjee, professor of London School of Economics; Julie Pernet, a rights activist; Robert Bonaji, head of counterterrorism in Brussels; Amma Asante, former MP of Labour Party (Netherlands); Harry von Bommel, former MP of Socialist Party (Netherlands); Ansar Ahmed Ullah, president of European Bangladesh Forum; and Maj Gen (Retd) Abdur Rashid, security analyst, attended the seminar.

## ASSAULT ON DAILY STAR JOURNALIST RU sitting idle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi University authorities have not taken any action till yesterday over the assault of The Daily Star journalist and the institution's student Arafat Rahaman.

Bangladesh Chittagong League men beat up Arafat, a second-year student of Department of Communication and Journalism, on Monday when he was taking photographs of BCL activists vandalising a bus at the university main gate.

Four BCL leaders and their cohorts vandalised the coach of Desh Travels beat up the bus's staff because the crew asked a BCL leader, who was travelling from Chittagong, not to stop.

Arafat's colleagues and students of his department have demanded expulsion of the BCL men involved, said RU Proctor Prof Mujibul Haque Azad.

The university vice chancellor is sick. He is not coming to office for

three days. This is why we could not take any decision on the complaint," he said.

RU Registrar Prof Md Abdul Bari said he returned to Rajshahi a day ago after undergoing a major surgery in Dhaka. "I am sorry that I was not at office during this critical time. I would inquire about the matter," he told The Daily Star.

Most of the journalists and students staged a demonstration at Shabash Bangladesh, a Liberation War memorial, on the campus.

Covering their faces with black cloth, they stood there for half an hour to protest the attack on Arafat. They also urged the university authorities to take proper disciplinary actions and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Arafat was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with critical wounds. After initial recovery, he was released from the hospital and his relatives took him to his home in Jhenaidah on Tuesday night.



Covering their faces with black cloth, Rajshahi University-based journalists and students stage a demonstration at Shabash Bangladesh, a Liberation War memorial, on the campus yesterday, demanding justice for Bangladesh Chittagong

PHOTO: STAR



PM takes responsibility of Muktamoni's treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken responsibility of the treatment of 12-year-old Muktamoni, suffering from an 'unknown' disease.

She is now admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery of the DMCH, said, "An official from the Prime Minister's Office called and confirmed it."

The PMO officials will visit her today, he added.

Dr Sen said doctors may need to conduct four to five surgeries on her within five to six months.

Muktamoni, hailing from Satkhira, has been afflicted by the disease mainly in her right hand, the condition leading to her hand swelling up like a beehive.

Doctors suspect she has been suffering from blood deficiency and poor nutrition.