

No threat can

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Convention to see if these innocent Bangladeshs stranded in Pakistan committed any such crimes as Pakistani hoarders and their local collaborators did in Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

\$25M IDA CREDIT FOR BANGLADESH

The International Development Agency has extended 25 million dollars' credit to Bangladesh to finance its massive rehabilitation and cyclone protection programme in coastal areas. The main elements of the programme being financed by IDA are water transport, equipment, landing facilities to improve land water transportation, telecommunication and improved warning system.

SOURCES: December 11, 1972 issues of *Bangladesh Observer*, *Dainik Bangla* and *Dainik Ittefaq*.

24 more die

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Bangladesh reported its first case on March 8. The infection number reached the 300,000-mark on August 26.

The first death was reported on March 18 and the death toll exceeded 6,000 on November 4.

Until now, 2,911,666 tests have been carried out, including 16,972 new ones, and 16.63 percent of the patients turned out to be positive.

Bangladesh is seeing 2842.55 infections, 2383.74 recoveries, and 40.69 deaths per million.

Kamal Ibne Yusuf

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formation led by Ziaur Rahman. He was elected an MP the same year. In 1981, he became a minister in the government of Justice Abdus Sattar. In 1991, he was elected again and was made the minister for health.

He was elected again in the general elections in 1996 even though the BNP lost the national polls to the Awami League. He also won in the 2001 elections after which he was made minister for food and disaster management.

He lost his seat in the 2008 general elections.

Family members said Yusuf would be laid to rest in the family graveyard in Faridpur after his namaz-e-janaza at Rajendra College ground tomorrow.

His daughter Nayab Yusuf is a local BNP leader. She is contesting for the post of Faridpur municipality's chairman, which goes to polls today.

Yusuf was born on May 23, 1940, in Faridpur. His grandfather Chowdhury Moizuddin Biswas was a Jamindar. His father Chowdhury Yusuf Ali (Mohon Mia) was a central leader of Muslim League.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed deep shock at the death of Yusuf.

Hasina 39th most

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access to education, and health care during her fourth term, the Forbes listing said.

250kg bomb

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Ahsan told The Daily Star that as soon as the matter came to their notice, the authorities informed the bomb disposal unit of Bangladesh Air Force.

The bomb disposal unit of the Air Force's Bangabandhu Base rushed to the spot and defused the bomb, said Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR).

Later, the bomb was taken to Rasulpur Firing Range in Paharkanchanpur with the necessary precautions to destroy it in a safe place, ISPR said in a press release.

Bomb experts believe the bomb was dropped sometime during the Liberation War in 1971, it said.

US SC refuses

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supreme court, the plaintiffs turned to the national Supreme Court, asking it to freeze all electoral operations while they developed their arguments.

In dismissing the case, the Court put an end to the procedure and signalled that it was not inclined to get involved in post-election litigation.

Trump had hoped that the high court, whose bench he has tipped solidly to the right, would intervene in his favor.

In 2000, the Supreme Court halted a recount in Florida, where George W. Bush was only 537 votes ahead of Democrat Al Gore, allowing the Republican to win the election.

Nasa unveils plan

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by the end of the decade, located at the lunar south pole, as well as conducting experiments to understand the origin of the sun and our astronomical environment.

This could increase human understanding of how the moon formed and evolved, how it interacts with the Sun, and how water and other resources developed on the moon and are preserved.

"The moon holds vast scientific potential and astronauts are going to help us enable that science," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for Nasa's Science Mission Directorate.



A passenger (L) who just landed from New York on an Alitalia flight undergoes a rapid antigen swab test for Covid-19 yesterday at a testing station set up at Rome's Fiumicino airport, as part of Italy's first coronavirus-free corridor with the United States.

PHOTO: AFP

HC hearing on appeals may start soon

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documents and judgment reach the HC as death references from the lower court within seven days of delivery of the verdict.

On August 21, 2004, at least 24 people were killed and around 300 injured in the grisly attack on an Awami League rally at the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Sheikh Hasina, now prime minister and then the opposition leader in parliament, narrowly survived with

grenade attack.

HC sources said the authorities prepared the paper books in the first week of August this year and these finally reached the HC on August 16, clearing the way for the court to start a hearing on the death references and appeals of the cases.

The murder case filed over the attack has 585 paper books containing around 10,500 pages.

A total of 22 appeals have been filed by the convicts independently through lawyers while 12 jail appeals have been filed by convicts through jail authorities, in connection with the murder case.

Meanwhile, the case filed separately under the Explosives Substances Act, has 495 paper books containing around 10,000 pages.

A total of 17 appeals have been

filed by the convicts independently through lawyers while 12 jail appeals have been filed by convicts through jail authorities, in connection with the explosives-related case.

The death references on the August 21 cases reached the HC on November 27, 2018 for examination of the trial court's verdict.

On January 13 last year, the HC accepted the appeals filed by the convicts.

The same day, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman also stayed the part of the trial court verdict that found the convicts.

The bench passed the order as the appeals filed by the convicts, who are now in jail, were included in its cause list on that day.

Enforce zero tolerance to graft: HC

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steps taken for arresting him and bringing him back.

PK Halder is the former managing director of NRB Global Bank and Reliance Finance.

The court also allowed Uzzal Kumar Nandi, a former colleague of PK Halder, and Halder's cousin Amitabh Adhikary to submit their statements by the time in connection with the allegations against them of assisting PK Halder in embezzling a huge amount of public money.

The HC bench gave permission to Uzzal and Amitabh to submit their statements as they filed two separate applications through their lawyers with the court seeking permission to become a party in the case to place their statements.

The court said investigation in the corruption case against PK Halder will not be hampered after the two were made party in the suo moto rule.

It also fixed 12:00pm on January 3 for holding further hearing and passing an order on this issue.

During yesterday's hearing, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told the HC bench that the Senior Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka on November 25 issued an arrest warrant for PK Halder following an application from the

ACC and that the court sent the order of arrest warrant to the Interpol through the home ministry to arrest him.

The lawyer added that the authorities concerned confiscated 53 bank accounts and unmovable properties worth Tk 43 crore of PK Halder.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik, who represented the state, vigorously opposed the applications from Uzzal and Amitabh, saying that they submitted the applications with a view to hampering the probe and saving PK Halder.

Lawyers Mosharrif Hossain and Shah Monjurul Hoque appeared for the two respectively.

Issuing the suo moto rule, the HC bench on November 18 wanted to know what steps have been taken to arrest PK Halder, who fled the country after allegedly siphoning around Tk 10,200 crore from some non-banking financial institutions, and to bring him back to the country.

The court ordered the authorities concerned of the government and the ACC to explain the steps taken to arrest and bring PK Halder back home.

In the rule, the court also asked the authorities to show causes as to why their inaction and failure in arresting

and bringing PK Halder back home should not be declared illegal.

On October 21 this year, another HC bench directed the law enforcement authorities to arrest PK Halder immediately after his return home.

According to Canadian media reports, PK Halder is now staying in Toronto. He is director of P&L Hal Holding Inc, a Canadian corporation.

In an investigation, the central bank found that Tk 1,596 crore was transferred from International Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS) in violation of the rules through 48 accounts of various organisations related to the directors and shareholders of the firm, according to BB officials.

PK Halder came to the limelight during the anti-casino drives last year.

The ACC opened investigation into the involvement of 43 people, including PK Halder, in the illegal casino business.

The government issued a travel ban on him on October 3 last year. But he managed to flee the country.

On January 8 this year, the anti-graft body filed a case against PK Halder on charges of illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 275 crore.

Khaleda, Tarique, Babunagari

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been guaranteed in the constitution of Bangladesh.

The complainant did not mention any charges against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir even though they were accused in the case.

Therefore, it is the constitutional right and religious duty of the Alem community to give a correct explanation of religion and to call for the avoidance of misguidance, he said.

No individual, organisation or the government has the legitimacy to interfere in the performance of this duty by the Alems, he added.

Liberation War Minister AKM Mozammel Haque yesterday said there are sculptures in all the major Muslim countries of the world.

The minister said no one talked about the sculptures in Bangladesh. But suddenly, the anti-Liberation War elements are showing the audacity to speak against the sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the capital's Dholaiapar.

"Islamophobic groups" are persuading the government to engage in clashes with Islamic scholars or Alems, the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation said in a statement issued Tuesday.

Hefajat again urged the government to find a way in the light of Islam for the salvation and peace of the departed soul of Bangabandhu.

"The heroic freedom fighters will not tolerate such an audacity. At the call of Bangabandhu, the heroic freedom fighters surrendered their weapons, but did not surrender their training," he vowed.

The minister was speaking at a discussion held on the occasion of Kapilmuni Mukto Dibos in Khulna.

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No bar now to recovering

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Environment to cancel the clearance certificates of those companies," he said.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali also observed that the HC's 2009 directives in a case regarding four rivers around Dhaka had opened the eyes of all for protecting the water bodies.

The writ petition filed by three companies in September this year are not acceptable as their claims are disputed question of fact, and therefore, the petition is rejected, the HC bench said.

After the HC delivered the judgment, NRCC's lawyer Manzill Mursid told The Daily Star that the BIWTA must resume the eviction activists immediately to recover the land of the rivers from the illegal possession of the three companies of Aslamul.

In the petition, the companies prayed to the HC to direct the BIWTA to stop demolishing and damaging their structures, to order the authorities concerned to conduct a joint survey to determine their ownership and possession of the land and to pay them compensation for the eviction and demolition.

The companies claimed that they had all relevant documents over their possession of the land.

Following the same petition, the HC on October 22 issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why the BIWTA's action of demolishing and damaging structures of the companies should not be declared illegal. It also ordered to conduct a joint survey to determine the ownership and possession of the land in question.

In response to the rule, the NRCC on November 30 submitted a probe report to the HC through its lawyer Manzill Mursid saying that the companies

of Maisha Group owned by Aslamul filled up more than 54 acres from the Buriganga river and wetland to construct a power plant and a private economic zone in Basila.

Out of that 54 acres, at least 12.78 acres was part of the Buriganga, according to the oldest land record available, known as the Cadastral Survey (CS) record map. But later it was illegally recorded as a private property in the Revisional Survey (RS), says the NRCC report.

The rest of the 54 acres was wetland along the river and marked as flood-flow zone in the detailed area plan (DAP) of Dhaka city. The characteristics of the flood-flow zone cannot be changed without permission as per the Bangladesh Water Act-2013.

The NRCC prepared the report in line with the 2009 High Court verdict that directed the government to measure the river areas based on the CS record.

After holding hearing, the HC yesterday delivered the verdict rejecting the writ petition.

Lawyer Md Ozi Ullah appeared for the writ petitioner while lawyer Quamrunn Nahar Deepa represented the BIWTA.

Contacted, Aslamul's lawyer Ozi Ullah told The Daily Star that his client would move a petition before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

A lawyer has already been engaged in moving the stay petition before the apex court, he said.

Ozi Ullah added that the HC in its observation said the writ petitioner (Aslamul) could seek necessary remedy from the civil court concerned if his companies don't occupy and fill up the land of the river, and accordingly, he will move an application before the civil court for remedy in line with the HC observation.

Working hard for women's

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after the country's independence, had taken various measures such as reserving 10 percent quota of government jobs for women and that is why Bangladesh has made a huge progress in women empowerment today."

She said Awami League after forming the government took many initiatives to turn women into entrepreneurs as well as give them more opportunities so they can hold a position in the society with courage.

The government always wanted to develop the country's socioeconomic condition and that is why it has prioritised women education and their employment, she added.

The PM said the government has ensured strong presence of women in all types of jobs. "It would