MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

3 Faridpur AL men remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three Awami League leaders of Faridpur unit on three-day remand each in a Tk 2,000 crore money laundering case.

The accused are -- Mahfuzur Rahman Mamun, Faridpur town AL joint general secretary, Md Moniruzzaman, Faridpur Pourasava extended ward 25 AL general secretary, and Sumon Saha, an AL activist.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain passed the order after Uttam Kumar Biswas, assistant superintendent of police of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and also investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Earlier in the day, they were shown arrested in the same case following a petition submitted by the IO on July 30.

In yesterday's remand prayer, the IO said the three were directly involved in laundering money. Moreover, two other accused had earlier confessed to a magistrate where they said the three were involved in money laundering. So, they need to be remanded to know the role of the others in the offences, the IO added.

The defence submitted a petition seeking bail along with cancellation of the remand prayer, saying that their names were not included in the FIR.

The three were arrested on the basis of confessional statements of two brothers -- Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat, former unit Awami League general secretary; and Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur Press Club -- who were earlier arrested from Faridpur.

Replying to a question, Moniruzzaman and Suman told the court that they were not involved with the money laundering and they are employees of Barkat and Rubel, prime accused in the case.

Another Dhaka court fixed August 12 for hearing on a petition to show Nazmul Islam Khandakar (61), president of Faridpur town unit of AL; Billal Hossain (54), former treasurer of Faridpur Sramik League; and Arifur Rahman (40), general secretary of Faridpur town unit Jubo League, arrested in the same case.

A worker of Dhaka South City Corporation sprays insecticide in Modinabagh of Mughda area as part of the authorities' ongoing anti-mosquito drive. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

EC mulls

FROM PAGE 3

Dhaka-18 and Pabna-4 seats of parliament fell vacant in recent times after the demise of lawmakers Sahara Khatun and Shamsur Rahman Sherif.

Regarding Chattogram City Corporation election, Alamgir said the EC would hold the polls before the end of CCC administrator's tenure.

EC on march 21 postponed the CCC election scheduled for March 29 for an indefinite period due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The government on August 4 appointed Khorshed Alam Sujon as the administrator of the city coporation with a tenure of 180 days.

The government has appointed an administrator as AJM Nasir Uddin's five-year term as CCC mayor ended.

Since the detection of the first coronavirus case on March 8, the EC has so far held several elections.

On March 21, it held by-polls to Dhaka-10, Gaibandha-3, and Bagerhat-4. A fre months later, by-elections to Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 constituencies were held on July 14.

The EC will need to hold by-election to Sirajganj-1, Dhaka-5 and Naogoan-6 seats, which fell vacant recently after the demise of lawmakers Mohammad Nasim, Habibur Rahman Mollah and Israfil Alam respectively.

Most rawhide remains unsold in Mymensingh

A huge quantity of rawhide still remains unsold at Shambhuganj Rawhide Market in Mymensingh city. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

MD AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

Seasonal rawhide traders in Mymensingh region are in deep crisis as they cannot sell the skins at expected prices with buyers offering them lower amount.

Skins of the sacrificed animals are not being bought at government-set prices even though they were lowered by 30 percent than that of last year, mainly to create a demand at the field level.

The traders alleged that a syndicate is behind it, saying that most of the raw hides remained unsold or are being sold at throwaway prices.

Abdul Motalab, one of the lease holders of Shambhuganj Rawhide Market in the city, said the availability of rawhide at the market this year is around 50 percent less than last year's.

As of August 8, only 15,000 pieces of rawhide out of total 70,000 were sold, he said.

Many traders expressed frustration during a recent visit to the market, which is the largest in the region. Many of them were yet to get any customers.

Tota Mia, a trader from Netrakona, said he bought 612 pieces of rawhide from different villages in Sadar upazila. Only to reach those to the market, he had to spend Tk 480 for each piece, he said.

"But I was forced to sell each of them only at Tk 500 as the buyers were not offering more than that," he said.

"If they offered government-set rate, the price of every piece would be Tk 800- 1,000," said Tota Mia.

The trader said he had incurred loss last year too and the amount was Tk 1.2 lakh.

Similarly, Abul Bashar from the same district said he had to sell out each of 110 skins at Tk 550 on an average but he had to spend some Tk 600 for every piece. "I had to incur Tk 8,000 loss in per piece," lamented Bashar.

Phul Kumar from Mymensingh Sadar was yet to sell any of his 1,000 pieces he bought this year at Tk 6 lakh. "I will have to incur a huge loss as the market situation is not favourable," he said.

Similar things happened to Shaheed Mia who bought 2,000 pieces of rawhide by investing Tk 12 lakh. He said representatives from three tanneries of Dhaka came to the market and they did not want to buy skins without throwaway prices.

Talking to The Daily Star, Swapan Rabi Das from Char Nilaxia village in Mymensingh Sadar said he sold 160 pieces of goat skin out of 200 at low prices. "Now I am not getting any customers for the rest pieces," he said.

The government has fixed the prices of salt applied rawhide of cows and buffaloes for outside Dhaka between Tk 28 and Tk 32 per square ft, which is also 20 percent lower than the prices of last year.

The prices of goat skin were set between Tk 13 and Tk 15 per square ft which is 27 percent less than last year and the prices of female goat skin were fixed between Tk 10 and Tk 12 per square ft which is 23 percent less than the prices of last year.

Mizan Mia, an official of Reliance Tannery in Dhaka, said he bought some 3,500 hides from the bazar on August 8. The price is comparatively lower than the last year's, he added.

He said there is no scope for formation of syndicate by tannery owners or rawhide wholesalers.

Mohammad Dulal, chairman of Raisa Leather in Dhaka, said he bought 2,100 pieces of rawhide this year. "Normally, I purchase its three folds," he said.

"A large number of hides remained unsold in my stock previously, due to coronavirus pandemic," said Dulal. Once the situation improves, the prices will go up, he said.

More than 1,500 traders -- who came to the market with sacrificial animals' skins this year – are disappointed by the low price, said the lease holder, Abdul Motalab.

NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

Law ministry plans countrywide events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry has decided to organise several programmes at the district judgeships and upazila sub-registry offices across the country in order to observe National Mourning Day on August 15.

The programmes include paying homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, who had been assassinated on August 15, 1975, praying for salvation and eternal peace of the departed souls, distributing food among the orphans, and holding virtual discussions in their memory.

The ministry took the decision at a virtual meeting with Law Minister Anisul Huq in the chair on August 6, a law ministry press release said yesterday.

Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar moderated the meeting.

At the meeting, Anisul directed all the sub-registrar offices at the district and upazila levels to organise and hold the programmes in order to observe the day on August 15.

This is for the first time, the law ministry has organised programmes at upazila level on the occasion of National Mourning Day, said a ministry official.

HC to resume regular functions tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After five months, the regular functions of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court will resume tomorrow strictly following the health guidelines.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday constituted 18 regular benches and 35 virtual benches of the HC for hearing and disposing of cases.

Among the regular benches, 15 are division (two judges) benches and three are single (one judge) benches.

Among the 35 virtual benches, 24 are division benches and 11 are single benches, according to two separate notifications issued by the SC administration yesterday.

Both the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC went on a two-week annual vacation on March 13 this year. The courts were scheduled to reopen on March 28. But the chief justice declared general holiday for all courts across the country from March 26 in order to contain the spread of coronavirus.

On August 6, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain decided to run both regular and virtual proceedings of the High Court from the current week in the interest of lawyers and litigants.

He took the decision at a full court meeting with judges from both Appellate and High Court Divisions of SC present. It was said in the meeting that the lawyers will be able to move cases before the physical or virtual HC benches after the court functions resume.

The full court meeting did not discuss the functions of the Appellate Division as all judges of this division are continuing to run virtual proceedings led by the chief justice.

The virtual court functions started on May 11 after a gap of 46 days in order to deal with urgent cases.

JP lawmaker

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Later in 1970, the authorities concerned gave approval to hand over the land to inheritors of Ali -- his second wife, son and daughter -- and mutation of the land was made to their names. On May 22, 1970, the ministry concerned also gave approval to hand over the land to them.

But, according to the FIR, Kazi Firoz grabbed the land (Road No 2, House No-65) in August 1979 preparing fake documents. In August 2015, the ACC initiated a probe against Kazi Firoz and interrogated him on August 13, 2015.

Followingit , Firoz Rashid secured bail from the High Court. He is now on bail.

Shahed

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former audit committee of Farmers Bank Ltd (now Padma Bank Ltd), his son Rashedul Haque Chisty, and Regent Hospital MD Ibrahim Khalil -- who is on the run.

According to the case statement, the accused in collusion with each other, embezzled Tk 2.71 crore from the bank abusing their power in 2015.

Shahed was arrested on July 15 from Satkhira, as he was trying to leave the country on a boat.

Earlier, Shahed was placed on a 28-day remand in four cases filed with Uttara Paschim and Purba police stations.

They have

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the current chief election commissioner (CEC) and other commissioners have "become servants of the government" and have ruined their independent entity.

According to media reports, EC has taken a move to rename local government bodies -- like city corporation, municipality and union parishad -- and their posts -- such as mayor and chairman -- in Bangla by amending existing laws.

The commission also published a proposal in this regard on its website last month, seeking views on the amendment.

About coronavirus, Rizvi said people are being pushed towards death, as they are not getting treatment in rural areas after getting infected.

Stating that he visited some northern districts over the last few days, the BNP leader said people are dying in those areas without treatment, as the entire health system has collapsed.

"There's no treatment in rural hospitals. Going to the hospitals there means carrying a sure death certificate in the pocket,he said."

"This government has not only introduced an inhumane-political culture by resorting to crossfire, enforced disappearance, and killing, they have also taken all measures to push people towards death," Rizvi observed.

He also alleged that the government has long been taking mega projects, creating scopes for ruling party men to plunder public money, but it did not develop the health sector.

Opportunities

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However, it is still too early to come up with such a remarks, he told this correspondent via WhatsApp.

He said construction and cleaning are the sectors where maximum Bangladeshi workers are employed.

About 70 percent of Bangladeshi workers in Bahrain are low-paid workers in the construction sector, according to the Bangladesh mission.

The official said around 5,000-10,000 Bangladeshis had been involved in the hospitality industry. Most of them faced the coronavirus fallout since there was no activity in the sector in past few months.

Currently, all kinds of worker recruitment from foreign countries remain halted in Bahrain due to the pandemic, while recruitment of workers from Bangladesh has remained suspended for more than two years, said the embassy official.

As per Bahrain government's estimate, the country hosts around 55,000 undocumented workers. Of them, more than 80 percent are estimated to be Bangladeshis.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
রাজস্ব ভবন
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা
[বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩ (যানবাহন) শাখা]

নথি নং-০৮.০১.০০০০.০০৩.৩৬.০২৫.১৭/৭৪৮

তারিখঃ ২৫ শ্রাবণ, ১৪২৭ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৯ আগস্ট, ২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

পুনঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগের নাম : অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. স্থান : জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের পার্কিং স্থানে গাড়িটি যে অবস্থায় রক্ষিত আছে ঠিক অবস্থাতে বিক্রয় হবে।
৩. কাজের নাম : ০১ (এক)টি অকেজো ঘোষিত মাইক্রোবাস নিলামে বিক্রয়।
৪. যানবাহনের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ : মাইক্রোবাস ঢাকা-মেট্রো-ঙ-০২-৩৭৪৯, ১৫৯১ সিসি, ১৯৯৩ইং মিটসুবিশি মডেলের।
৫. সরবরাহ যোগ্যতা : নিজের/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামে মালিকানা সম্পর্কিত কাগজপত্র অবশ্যই থাকতে হবে।
৬. দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য : ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র) অফেরতযোগ্য।
৭. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় পদ্ধতি : (ক) দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণেচ্ছু আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তাদের নিজস্ব প্যাডে নিম্নলিখিত দলিলপত্রাদিসহ দ্বিতীয় সচিব (বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩), জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা বরাবর লিখিতভাবে আবেদন করতে হবে;
(খ) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি (গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক);
(গ) আয়কর/ভ্যাট পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি (গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক)।
৮. টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি : দরদাতা কর্তৃক জমাদান বাবদ দ্বিতীয় সচিব (বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩), জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, রাজস্ব ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকার অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অথবা পে-অর্ডার মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
৯. দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান : ২৩/০৮/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়, দ্বিতীয় সচিব (বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩), রুম নং-৪০১, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
১০. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান : ২৫/০৮/২০২০খ্রিঃ ১.০০টা পর্যন্ত। দ্বিতীয় সচিব (বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩), রুম নং-৪০১, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
১১. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান : ২৫/০৮/২০২০খ্রিঃ ২.০০টা পর্যন্ত। দ্বিতীয় সচিব (বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩), রুম নং-৪০১, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
১২. দরপত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী : দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।
১৩. কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ এই নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ নুরুল আমীন
দ্বিতীয় সচিব (বোর্ড প্রশাসন-৩)
ফোন: ৯৩৫৪৫২৪

জিডি-১২৪২

Primary education

FROM PAGE

"We are introducing radio education considering the issue of inclusiveness and reaching all children," he said.

"We conduct some online education through social media sites. Teachers are giving lessons through phones."

"So, we can assume that around 76 percent of primary students are engaged with teachers," he continued.

"Using radio will bring more students under the coverage, as 95 percent of the population have either smartphones or feature phones. They can easily access radio and arrange for education," Akram said.

Directorate of Primary Education yesterday, through an order, said one can listen to the radio by just connecting an earphone to their feature phone. It urged all to download radio apps or Bangladesh Betar app from the Google Play Store.

It also asked all upazila primary education officers to inform people about the government's initiatives.

All educational institutions have remained closed since March 17, and the closure was stretched to August 31 to stem coronavirus transmission. As a result, educational activities of about 1.3 crore primary students are being hampered.

On April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said all educational institutions may stay closed until September if the situation does not improve.

Finally

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said, "After the given period, we'll arrange public hearings..."

After Sylhet municipality was upgraded to a city corporation, a masterplan for the divisional town was gazetted in 2010.

But the current expansion plan does not correspond with it and the proposal given to the ministry, Sylhet City Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury told this correspondent yesterday.

He said, "It should be expanded as per the gazetted masterplan, otherwise it would not be wise. It took so long for this... and may not be easier to expand the city again in recent decades. So, the plan has to be perfect."

Sylhet Metropolitan Police extended its area to the maximum and they are covering it well, the mayor added.

"The city should be extended as per the masterplan, and only then the city might flourish. Many advanced community services such as playgrounds, open spaces, waterbodies and various development works are not possible to ensure in a smaller city," he said.

Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), Sylhet chapter, said, "We strongly advise that the expansion must be done as per the city's masterplan, otherwise, we will have an unplanned city and suburbs like we do now."

The deputy commissioner could not be contacted, despite repeated attempts.

Asked, the deputy director of the local government said they are open to suggestions and will hold public hearings in this regard.

High risk

FROM PAGE

They do have an association to look out for their interests.

Still in its growing phase, Bangladesh Ambulance Malik Kallyan Samity has 450 ambulances affiliated with it. Most of the ambulance owners are the drivers themselves.

The society has activities at different districts, including Narsingdi, Magura and Faridpur. It was registered in 2018.

"This is a hazardous time for ambulance service providers. We have heard of at least 15 drivers who got infected with coronavirus on the job," said Golam Mostafa, elected president of the samity.

"This was inevitable as we don't have enough safety gears. We have pulled our funds and provided 500 PPE to member ambulances, but this is nowhere near enough. We need more support from the government," he urged.

"Drivers used to get 2-3 calls per day, which has now come down drastically. Sometimes, they have to wait 3-4 days for one call," he said.

"We also urge the government to arrange proper medical training for ambulance drivers and assistants, which would not only benefit our operations, but also help emergency patients," said Mostafa.