

# ORIENTAL BANK SCAM

## Criminal case filed against Obaidul Karim, Koyes Sami

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Oriental Bank yesterday filed a criminal case against Orion Group chief Obaidul Karim, former managing director Chowdhury Koyes Sami, and 22 other present and former officials of the bank for embezzling Tk 596.44 crore.

Karim was made the chief accused in the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station at the directives of Bangladesh Bank (BB) that acted upon instructions from the government high-ups.

Meantime, the authorities yesterday stand-released Tejgaon PS Officer-in-Charge (OC) M Abul Kashem for not recording a case of Oriental Bank officials on Wednesday night.

The police said they launched an operation to arrest the accused immediately after filing of the case yesterday morning. But the law enforcers could not arrest anyone



Prime accused Obaidul Karim

as of yesterday evening.

Referring to recent investigations that found involvement of 24 officials of the bank and Obaidul Karim, its biggest shareholder, the BB sent a letter to the Oriental Bank chief executive officer (CEO) on Tuesday, asking him to file criminal cases against the guilty people.

After consulting with their lawyers, the bank's Senior Assistant Vice President and head of its Human Resources Department Kazi Monjur Hossain filed the case on

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### 6-month moratorium on Oriental functions

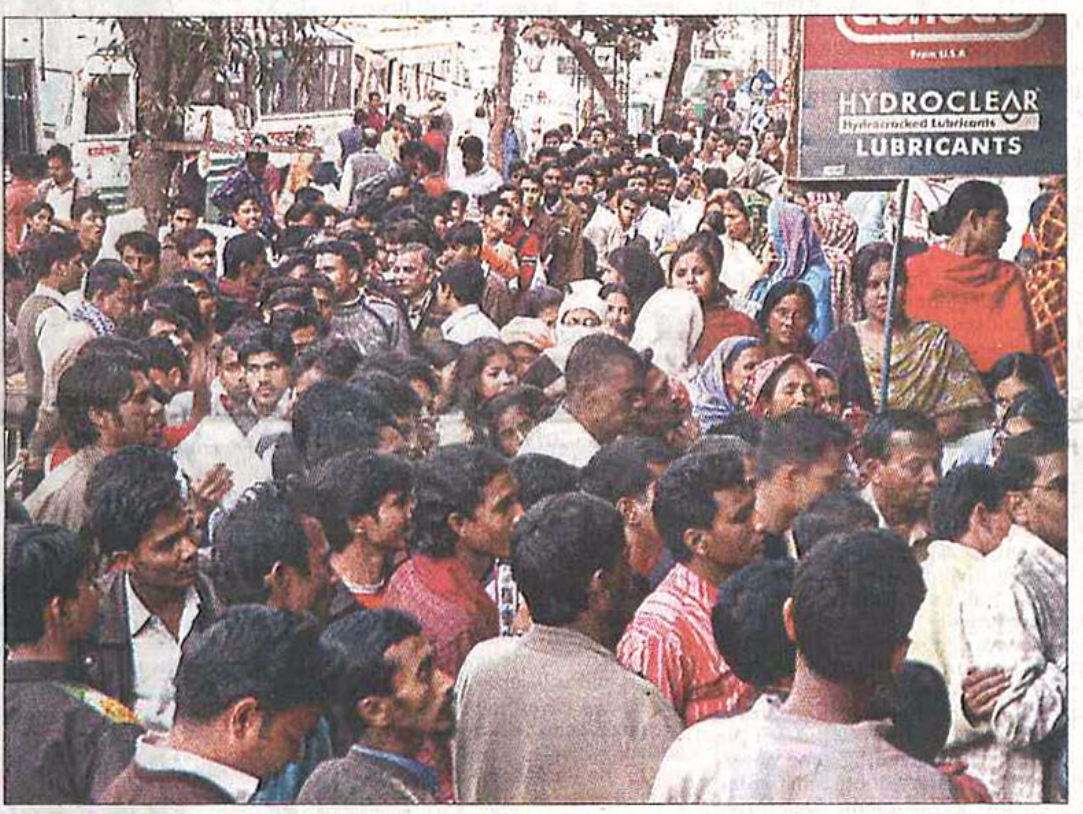
*Depositors can now withdraw maximum Tk 10,000 a month*

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

The finance ministry in a gazette notification said the decision was taken to ease depositors' plight and create a congenial atmosphere to recover its outstanding loans.

The total deposit of Oriental

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People gather at the Mirpur branch of Janata Bank yesterday to get television licences following a rumour in the capital that the authorities were seizing unlicensed TV sets.

**TV LICENCE**

### Govt warns against blackmailing

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Hundreds of television licence seekers were seen standing in long queues in front of different branches of Janata Bank yesterday, amid rumours that police and Rapid Action Battalion were seizing unlicensed television sets in the capital.

However, the government advised all to inform the police immediately if anyone attempts to blackmail them in the name of checking TV licences.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner denied conducting any such drive while Bangladesh Television (BTV) authorities said such moves should not take place as the last date for renewal of television licences has already been extended till February 28.

Many residents of Badda, Shyampur and Malibagh areas left home on Wednesday fearing arrest by the law enforcers for not having television licence.

Some people in the guise of law enforcers might have conducted the fraudulent drives, BTV officials said.

## TWO YEARS OF KIBRIA KILLING TOMORROW

### Family now hopes for fair investigation

#### Wants masterminds to be identified and caught

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK**

The mastermind behind the murder of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria remains undetected even after two years since the incident. Long frustrated with the previous government's meddling in the investigation, Kibria's family now hopes the interim administration will act to have a fair probe.

The government probe report and the charge sheets of two cases-one filed for the murder and the other under the explosives act-named 10 local BNP leaders and workers as the accused.

But they did not mention anything specific about the mastermind and the source of the grenade used in the gruesome attack that



Shah AMS Kibria

left the Awami League (AL) leader dead on January 27, 2005.

The trial that got underway in May 2006 despite an outcry over the controversial investigation came to a halt due to a High Court (HC) stay order.

The Kibria family has rejected the probe, as they believe the investigators did not work neutrally and influential individuals belonging to the then ruling party who might have a hand in the killing were spared from being grilled.

Complainant of the two cases, Advocate Majid Khan, too has demanded reinvestigation. But the trial court rejected his prayer for further investigation on May 3, 2006.

Majid, also organising secretary of Habiganj district AL, then moved to the HC challenging the rejection.

An HC bench on May 14, 2006 stayed the proceedings of Kibria murder case that is now pending at the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal.

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### Joint forces arrest 2,110 more people

*Tinku yet to be handed over to police*

**STAR REPORT**

The joint forces comprising army, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police arrested 2,110 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the 24 hours preceding 10:00pm yesterday.

Two close associates of ex-deputy minister Asadul Habib Dulu, a thana unit BNP leader and a district unit Jubo League leader are among the arrestees.

Meanwhile, detained former Jatiya Chhatra League president Jahangir Sattar Tinku, who is close to the Hawa Bhaban, and his business partner Abdur Razzak, were neither handed over to any police station nor sent to jail as of 8:00pm yesterday.

The joint forces picked up Tinku from his Maghbazar residence on Wednesday night while Razzak was

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## CPD reveals 12-point agenda for CG to hold credible polls

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The non-government think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday placed a 12-point election plus economic agenda to the caretaker government for holding a credible election free from black money and muscle power.

The present government should focus on three major areas, improving the environment, strengthening the efficiency of anti-corruption initiatives and supporting reform of political institutions, said CPD Executive Director (ED) Debapriya Bhattacharya while presenting the agenda at a press conference in the CPD conference room in Dhaka.

He said the caretaker government would have to take a number of structural and institutional measures to create an environment conducive to promoting participation of clean and competent candidates.

Election related corruptions are the most dangerous type in Bangladesh now, he added.

It is not required to take approval from any legal authorities to launch a political party in the country even though the approval is required to launch any sort of business or social organisation, he explained.

He said the lack of legal system for political parties often causes corruption in the elections and provokes political activists to indulge in various malpractices.

The major structural and institutional measures the CPD proposed include strengthening Anti-Money Laundering Act, redefining loan defaulters, Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report for election

- CPD'S 12-POINT AGENDA**
- Strengthening Money Laundering Act
  - Disclosure of names of those who whitened black money
  - Redefining loan defaulters
  - CIB reports for election candidates
  - Disclosure provisions under RPO 1972
  - Enactment of the Right to Information Act
  - Operationalisation of Public Procurement Act
  - Enactment of Promotion of Political Participation Act
  - Fiscal Responsibility Act
  - Restructuring of NCBs
  - Revitalising the power sector
  - Reviewing the FDI proposals

candidates, disclosure of provisions under Representation of the People Order (RPO), 1972, enactment of Right to Information Act, making Public Procurement Act operational, enactment of Promotion of Political Participation Act, Fiscal Responsibility Act, restructuring of nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), revitalising the power sector and the making of a committee to evaluate large foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals.

According to the CPD ED, the caretaker government can implement these by bringing

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## Khaleda hopes people's govt will govern state soon

**UNB, Dhaka**

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that the people's representatives would govern the state soon.

She advised Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal, the labour wing of the party, to remain prepared to play their part as an organised force in this regard.

The BNP chief expressed her views when a 28-member delegation of Samik Dal central committee led by its President Nazrul Islam Khan, who is also the BNP joint secretary general, and General Secretary Zafrul Hasan met

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### 5 more VoIP trade centres busted

*Equipment seized*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized a huge number of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment raiding five unscrupulous phone service centres at Mirpur in Dhaka and also in Chittagong.

However, Rab could not arrest anyone during the raids as the corrupt businessmen fled away sensing the presence of the elite force members.

Finding unusual gatherings, Rab-4 members raided Ahmednagar, Paikpara and Badda areas and found three offices operating such illegal business, Rab officials said.

Rab-7 members in Chittagong busted two VoIP business centres-one on the fifth floor of Nazir Ahmed Complex at Riazuddin Bazar and another at 58, Nalpara in Kotwali.

Yesterday's raids in Chittagong were conducted after a tip-off that

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## MANPOWER TRADE

### Baira chief's monopoly takes toll on workers

**PORIMOL PALMA**

Former BNP lawmaker and Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) President MAH Salim is monopolising the business of exporting manpower to Malaysia and extorting the emigrating workers, said an intelligence agency report.

Although the governments of both countries fixed the fee for migration at \$1200 or Tk 84,000, the intelligence agency reported that

Salim is charging an extra of Tk 40,000 or more from each emigrating worker hiking up the cost to Tk 1.25 lakh.

The workers however said they are paying Tk 1.50 lakh to Tk 2 lakh for going to the South East Asian country which withdrew restrictions on importing manpower from Bangladesh in July last year.

The report prepared by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) said Salim set up an office named 'Baira KL SDN BHD' in Kuala Lumpur illegally and is charging Tk 2000 or 100 Malaysian Ringgit from each worker in the name of service charge without giving any receipt.

"Salim and his men who run the Kuala Lumpur office never cares for the regulations of Baira and the interest of the country," said the report that was submitted to the ministries of home affairs, and expatriates' welfare and overseas employment in October last year.

The intelligence report mentioned that the Baira president

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A mobile court led by Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula, left, confiscates a dirty water-filler at Midnight Sun Fast Food & Chinese Restaurant in Bashundhara City shopping mall in Dhaka yesterday. The court fined the shop Tk 50,000.

## ACC should be made free of 'clowns'

### Says adviser Matin; ACC chief Sultan says he'd quit, if necessary

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Adviser to the Caretaker Government Major General (ret'd) Abdul Matin yesterday said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should be made "free of clowns" since most officials of the ACC are corrupt people as they were in the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

Meanwhile, responding to Matin's comments, ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan said if required, he would resign in the interest of the nation.

Matin said, "All these corrupt officials must be removed." Matin, who was the director general (DG) of Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC), was talking to journalists at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

The adviser, in charge of the Ministry of Communications, said the ACC officials are withdrawing salaries but they are failing to contribute to the nation, which is why they should resign.

"The previous government intentionally handicapped the

ACC. Bureau of Anti-Corruption was more active," he claimed, adding, that the BAC had to send all files of cases, investigations and charge sheets to the prime minister, which the ACC is not bound to do.

"Still there is no progress of the ACC," he said.

Matin claimed while he was the DG of BAC, Akiz Biri authorities wanted to bribe him Tk 300 crore so that they could evade Tk 580 crore tax, but he did not accept it.

The law ministry of the previous government cancelled 13 laws before the formation of ACC, which actually made the commission inactive, he added.

Asked if he would take actions against the corrupt people in the communication ministry, Matin said he has already directed the officials concerned to collect information on corrupt officials. No complaints, however, have been lodged yet, he noted.

ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan said, "I would not

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