

## Govt may relax freeze

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member of Hasina's family shows specific need for withdrawing money from the frozen accounts, the government will consider it.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Thursday asked all commercial banks to freeze the bank accounts of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and her five family members, Badiur Rahman, her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, and Sheikh Rehana's husband Dr Shafiq Siddique,

Hasina's lawyer raised questions about the government move claiming that it will hamper the medical treatment of Dr M Wazed Miah. The lawyer also expressed anxiety about running the operations of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, and the Welfare Trust for the Grenade Attack Victims, since the accounts of those non-profit organisations were also frozen.

Opportunities still remain to withdraw money from the frozen accounts in cases of emergencies, the finance adviser said adding that the government gave such chances earlier too.

If the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust authorities show valid documents proving that due to the government move the employees and scholarship recipients are being deprived of salaries and financial aid, the government will relax the regime, he said.

Similar relaxations will be allowed in the case of medical treatment of the former prime minister's husband, he said.

### NBR SEEKS ACCOUNT INFO

The NBR in a separate letter also asked commercial banks to provide it with the account information of some political and business leaders including former foreign affairs minister M Morshed Khan and his family members -- Nasrin Khan, his wife, Faria Haque, his daughter, Faisa Morshed Khan, his son, Shema Sejan Khan, wife of Faisal Morshed Khan, Fayaz Morshed Khan, Faraz Morshed Khan and Johnson Morshed Khan, sons of Faisal Morshed Khan.

The tax office simultaneously asked for the account information of Sheikh Hasina, her five family members, and the three AL affiliated non-profit organisations -- whose accounts are currently frozen.

It also sought the account information of 16 other people.

## DCC claims

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Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the NBR for withdrawing a greater sum for medical purposes.

The three organisations that also have their accounts frozen, may also withdraw money to run their operations, but the organisations will have to apply to CIC with necessary documents, Badiur told reporters at the inauguration of a training course for auditors in the capital yesterday.

The accounts of ex-BNP state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar, his wife Tahmina Zaman, daughters Faria Binte Zaman and Tasnia Binte Zaman, and son Labib Ibne Zaman and Ahnaf Ibne Zaman, were also frozen.

The NBR also asked banks to freeze the accounts of former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Hadi, former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo, and former CBA leader Mollah Abdul Kalam Azad.

Some other persons whose accounts were frozen are Mirza Obaidur Rahman, Md Golam Rahman, Dr Farida Binte Lutfar, Dr Latifa Binte Lutfar, Dr Afzalunnissa, Khaleda Rahman Payel, Shamsur Rahman, Nipa, Mithila, and Mitra all relatives of Babar.

Moreover, the accounts of Divisional Forest Officer of Sylhet Laskar Maksudur Rahman, his wife Mahfuza Sultana, his son Musfigur Rahman, and daughter Sabura Rahman were also frozen.

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## EC VOWS

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enumerators will be ensured during their appointment as the correctness of the particulars of prospective voters largely depends on their abilities," Sohul Hussain said.

The enumerators will collect particulars of voters by visiting door-to-door and will ask the prospective voters to visit voter registration centres to have their photographs and fingerprints taken.

The EC has yet to specify the remuneration of the enumerators and supervisors who will discharge the important tasks.

Officials in the EC Secretariat, however, said an enumerator, who will collect particulars of highest 300 prospective voters, will have only six taka per voters, the same amount of money given for preparing the voter list in 2000.

This time, one enumerator will get his remuneration only after completing his entire tasks, which include collection of particulars and bringing the prospective voters to voter registration centres.

Talking to The Daily Star, several district election officers said it will be difficult to get a large number of efficient manpower.

Conventionally schoolteachers were always recruited for the task.

"This time, the enumerators will have to write prospective voter's name both in Bangla and English in the prescribed forms. So, quality of enumerators will have to be ensured," Election Commissioner Sohul said.

He said the field level task for preparing the voter list with photographs would formally begin in Rajshahi and Khulna city corporations and eight other municipality areas in next week.

Asked whether the flood will affect the task for completion of voter listing in time as there is 18 months time as per the election roadmap, the election commissioner said the EC kept two months 'extra time' in the roadmap to make up for any possible loss of time due to natural disaster.

As we need to increase the supply of rice to the local market, the stocks should be strengthened by importing rice," he further said.

Besides, Tk 882 crore has been allocated in the budget for purchasing 450 lakh metric tons of rice in the current fiscal year.

The meeting also approved to purchasing a leased airbus for Biman Bangladesh Airlines. The government will have to pay an additional \$23 million within next three years for it.

The committee members decided to procure 1.86 lakh metric tons of urea fertiliser and also approved the proposal of appointing international consultant for Siddhiganj peaking power plant.

"They should be responsible to the subordinates, respectful to the seniors, restrained in their behaviour and pious. We want professional army and that is why we need professionalism," he said.

The president said army was developed in the process of the great Liberation War and it always played a strong role during all transition periods of the country.

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## Leaders ask party men

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forward to help the flood victims as it is not possible for the government alone to combat the natural disaster.

Meanwhile, different NGOs including Brac and Caritas have spearheaded their relief operations to help the flood-affected people across the country.

They also pleaded the government to take necessary steps so that people can take part in relief programmes carried out in the country.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan gave instructions to party activists to provide relief materials to the flood victims according to their ability.

"Everybody should help the flood-affected people. If the government does not allow relief operations under political banner it should be done personally," he told the reporters at his Gulshan residence yesterday.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged people of all walks of life to come forward to help millions of people marooned in different parts across the country.

He stressed the need for forging national unity irrespective of political ideologies and personal identity to tackle the situation.

As the chances of dengue fever increases in September, the ward commissioners could campaign with the help of school students in the areas, said experts present at the meeting. Even motivation programmes in schools and mosques can help to remove the cans, empty boxes, tyres, flower vases that contain clear water and help breeding of aedes mosquito.

Focusing on the flood situation in the country, the speakers said everybody should extend their helping hands to the flood-affected people.

The DCC ward commissioners were directed to make a list of the schools, colleges and community centres in their areas and make preparation for setting up camps if necessary.

Jamaat leaders yesterday directed party activists to carry out relief operation to save the flood-affected people.

In a joint statement, Jamaat Ameer Matur Rahman Nizam and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid expressed their concern over the present flood situation and urged party activists and countrymen to stand beside the floodvictims.

Workers Party yesterday formed 'people's relief committee' for conducting relief operation. As per the decision of party's relief section, the committee will coordinate relief activities across the country..

Caritas will distribute Tk 4 million among 7,500 flood-affected families, said a Caritas press release yesterday.

Each family will get 10 kg of rice, 2 kg of oil, 1 kg of salt and 1 litre of soya bean oil in the worst affected areas of Netrokona, Sherpur, Sunamganj, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Natore, Munshiganj and Manikganj.

It will also distribute non-food items worth Tk 8.2 million among 1,000 families affected by recent landslides in Chittagong, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. Besides, Caritas will spend Tk 47.8 million for providing complete shelter to 1,000 families affected by landslides and flash floods in the three districts.

Earlier, UK gave \$2.5 million (Tk 17 crore) of immediate aid to provide food, fresh water, shelter and medicines to 50,000 people in the ten worst affected districts and special assistance through the Chars Livelihoods Programme.

UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting government's ongoing relief work, channelling \$1.8 million (Taka 12 crore) aid through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has launched its relief operation and distributed relief materials among 50,000 people in eight flood-affected districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Faridpur, Tangail, Sylhet and Sunamganj.

Communist Party leaders led by its President Manjurul Ahsan Khan also distributed relief materials among the

## BB 'corrupt' list

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The new list also contains the names of the following people, whose bank account details were sought earlier too.

AL general secretary Abdul Jalil, former health minister and AL leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, former home minister and AL leader Mohammad Nasim, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former minister and AL joint secretary Obaidul Quader, Chittagong City Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former lawmaker and Juba League General Secretary Mirza Azam, businessman Salman F Rahman, former lawmaker and AL leader HBM Iqbal, former AL lawmakers Shamim Osman, Akhtarruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, AHM Mustafa Kamal, Jaijal Hazari, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, AL leader Pankaj Debnath, Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Haji Makbul, Haji Selim, and Rafiqul Anwar, Sheikh Hasina's APS Alaudin Nasim, former minister and Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, and Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Ziauddin Bablu.

The names of Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Mirza Abbas, Tarique Islam, Alauddin Quader Chowdhury, Lutfozzaman Babar, Mir Nasir Uddin, Ziaul Haq Zia, Shahjahan Siraj, Amanullah Aman, Mosaddak Ali Falu, Harris Chowdhury, former BNP lawmakers Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, M Rashiduzzaman Millat, Ali Asgar Lobi, MAH Selim, M Naser Rahman Babu, BNP leader Shishu Mohammad, Helaluzzaman Talukder Lalu, Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, AKM Anwarul Islam, Harunor Rashid, Hafiz Ibrahim, Monwar Hossain Dipjal and Abul Hashem, Islamic Oikya Jote leader Mufti Shahidul Islam are also on the list.

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Besides, Tk 882 crore has been allocated in the budget for purchasing 450 lakh metric tons of rice in the current fiscal year.

The meeting also approved to purchasing a leased airbus for Biman Bangladesh Airlines. The government will have to pay an additional \$23 million within next three years for it.

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## Rangs building

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chaired by secretary to the public works ministry, was held at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday afternoon.

Rajuk officials at the meeting informed the ministry about the current situation and development of the demolition work, meeting sources said. The Rajuk, however, is yet to finalise the strategy and method of carrying out the mammoth task.

"It was ordered to demolish the structure from the sixth floor upwards and we have demolished all internal things on three floors, from seventh to ninth. We have completed the work of making holes in eight floors," said Rajuk Magistrate ASM Emdadul Dastagir.

About 50 Rajuk workers started the demolition work around 9:00am yesterday and continued drilling through the ceilings and floors until 5:00pm. The holes are being made using five drillhammers so that rubbles could be dropped from upper floors to the lower floors and be removed from the building by a crane.

Brac, one of the largest NGOs in the country, has started massive relief operations in all the flood-affected regions. Over 5000 full-time Brac staffs are engaged in distributing relief materials in about 100 upazilas.

Brac has already earmarked Tk 5 crore from its own resources and expects to mobilise donors to get additional Tk 15 crore for the relief programmes, according to a press release issued yesterday.

Brac has engaged its staffs, doctors, teachers and health workers to distribute food items as well as emergency medicines for the affected people, in addition to providing fresh water and sanitation facilities.

A round-the-clock control room (phone: 9881265, Ext 2305) has been set up at Brac headquarters at the Brac Centre, Mohakhali, to monitor and coordinate relief activities across the country.

Brac made an appeal to all to contribute to its relief efforts. All the 92 Brac offices in the capital will collect cash and relief materials to distribute those among the affected people.

Shibir cadres from the room swooped on the journalists as photojournalist Iqbal took snaps of the posters without their permission.

Later, they took the journalists to the provost's room and kept them confined for three hours. They also snatched cameras, notebooks and mobile phones from the journalists.

When other journalists rushed to the scene hearing the news, Shibir cadres hurled abusive words at them and assaulted daily Samakal RU correspondent Meherul Hasan Sujon and Bhore Kagoj RU correspondent Salauddin Muhammad Sumon.

People sheltered in various educational institutions of Faridpur town alleged that the entire town was inundated almost all the roads of Chandpur town while Masum, a two-year boy, of Sadar upazila, drowned in floodwater.

Shibir cadres misbehaved with journalists in presence of the law enforcers. At one stage they chased the journalists while the policemen remained inactive, said eyewitnesses.

"RU administration is not aware of the fact that students are being registered in the voter roll at the Shibir president's room," said Hall Provost Prof Nurul Islam.

"We shall look into the matter and take proper steps in this regard," said RU Proctor Prof Dr Enamul Haque.

Nazim Uddin Ahmed, the assistant registration officer of ward no 30, confirmed that no RU student had been appointed as enumerator.

"Enumerators from outside are going to the halls for enrolling the students in the voter roll," he said.

Ferdous Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Motihari police station, said that the police are investigating the matter.

RU unit Shibir President Dewar Hossain Sayid told the journalists that Shibir has neither any connection with the posters on voter list nor the incidents involving the journalists.

On August 2, the SC in its orders overruled the High Court judgment given seven years ago that had declared valid the construction of the Rangs Bhaban.

The business men, whose bank account details have been sought are Ahmed Akbar Sobhan (Shah Alam) of Bashundhara Group, Nurul Islam Babu of Jamuna Group, Giridhara Lal Modi of Uttara Group, Obaidul Karim of Orion Group, former Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) president Abdul Awal Mintu, and Tarique Rahman's business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

Former power secretary ANM Akhter, former chief forest conservator Osman Gani, and former AIG of police Shahidullah Khan's bank account details have also been sought.

Information, police rushed to the spot and took the bodies to Jamuna Bridge Purbu Par Police Station.

Syed Ashiqur Rahman, second officer of the police station, told The Daily Star that all the killed were travelling aboard the passenger bus and most of them had fallen from different upazilas of Naogaon district.

Critically injured Abul Kalam Azad, 25, of Ashekpur in Tangail town and Abu Hanif, 30, were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while 11 other injured were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Seven of them were identified as Fazlur Rahman, 70, Shohag, 25, Biplob, 18, Abdul Jalil, 30, Nantu, 25, Munni, 33 and Suchona.

Police seized both the vehicles but the drivers managed to escape.

High officials from district administration