

Anomalies rife in BPC

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(The IMF released the \$136 million instalment in June.)
The audit report said the three marketing companies of the BPC had been keeping the money in their banks and earning interests, thus making profits at the expense of taxpayers' money.
The three companies then distributed the profits among their officials and employees as incentive bonus and dividends, according to the report.
The audit also found that the main depot of Padma Oil in Chittagong did not send petroleum products to Baghabari depot directly. Instead, Godnail station, a midway depot, received the products first and later sent those to Baghabari.
As a result, the BPC had to bear an additional Tk 3.17 crore in transport cost in 2010-11 and 2011-12.
In the same way, it counted Tk 1.51 crore as

Padma Oil did not transport petroleum products directly to Parbatipur from its main depot in the port city. It sent the products via Doulatpur station.
The BPC pays its subsidiary marketing companies for their transport and marketing costs.
The government had to pay Tk 50 crore in demurrage over the same period as the BPC could not unload petroleum products from ships due to its inadequate storage capacity.
The BPC lost another Tk 19.89 crore as incentive for product improvement was raised from 15 percent to 25 percent for Eastern Refinery Ltd, even though the processing fee of the refinery company more than doubled in the last two decades.
Surprisingly, the state-run company did not compare shipping charges among different companies and opted for higher charges for importing diesel from

different oil suppliers. It cost the country an additional Tk 23.84 crore.
The public exchequer also lost Tk 73.72 crore in revenue in the two financial years as some depots of Padma Oil sold excess oil totalling 1.2 crore litres to dealers and agents mainly in the bordering areas, said the report.
Allegations are rife that petroleum products are smuggled through the border into some neighbouring countries, causing a huge a loss every year.
"If excess oil was not sold, it could be used to meet the local demand and the government would not have to import more oil. Then the subsidies would have been lower," said the report.
This, however, is not the first that the audit department has found irregularities at the BPC and at its subsidiary companies.
The public exchequer

lost Tk 730.33 crore in 2007-08 and 2009-10 due to irregularities at the state-run companies, according to the audit department.
Contacted, BPC Chairman Eunusur Rahman said the efficiency audit mainly looked at deficiencies and faults that held back any organisation to better perform.
He added that the audit did not look at the financial irregularities and corruptions.
"We have already discussed some of the objections among ourselves and made some decisions so we can correct our mistakes and overcome the deficiencies," he told The Daily Star last week.
He said some objections were made also in the past. "Nothing can be done about them overnight. But there are some areas where we can improve in a short time if we try."

Gang rape fuels

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with a belt while the woman was raped repeatedly nearby, Mumbai's police commissioner Satyapal Singh told reporters.
"It is a shameful and extremely disturbing event," he said.
One man in his early 20s has been arrested while the hunt is on for his four alleged accomplices, who have been identified by police. Sketches of the accused have been released.
The victim, reportedly an intern, is undergoing treatment at Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital and preliminary reports suggest multiple internal injuries, a police officer told AFP. A hospital statement said she was "stable".
The attack, which shocked a city seen as far safer for women than the capital, happened in an abandoned mill compound next to an area of upscale apartment blocks, shops

and restaurants.
"We are 100 percent confident of cracking the case," Singh said, adding that 20 police teams have been formed as part of the investigation.
The incident comes eight months after another 23-year-old woman was gang-raped by five men in a moving bus in New Delhi, while her male companion was beaten up. She died two weeks later from severe injuries.
A trial is in its final stages in that case, which sparked massive protests and led to a tougher anti-rape law.
The new measures increased punishment for sex offenders, which now include the death penalty if a victim dies, and broadened the definition of sexual assault.
Sex crimes have continued across India since the December 16 gang-rape, and Thursday's attack once again captured the attention

of the media and public.
"Women need to be vigilant and aware of themselves and the surroundings. There is no solution, no cure," Swati Pillai, who works in south Mumbai with an advertising firm, told AFP.
Thursday's attack sparked anger on social media websites, and journalist groups protested in Mumbai yesterday afternoon, with many holding signs which read "Mumbai: India's New Rape Capital" and "Bring Rapists To Book!".
India's parliament in New Delhi also erupted in anger.
India's Law Minister Kapil Sibal said sex assaults must be dealt with "in the most severe fashion".
"This country cannot afford to have our women (and) children insecure in the hands of those who attack them," he told reporters.

Special ID cards
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costs due to exploitation by middlemen. But now they can settle the amount in just two months," he noted.
Contacted, labour counsellor at Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia Mantu Kumar Biswas said the minister also met the Malaysian human resources minister and some other government officials to discuss employment of Bangladeshis there.
ILLEGAL WORKERS FACE ACTION
Zahid Hamidi yesterday said a massive operation will be launched from September 1 against the foreign workers without valid permits.
The action was to ensure compliance with the law and regulations regarding foreign workers in Malaysia, he added.
"We don't want employers hire foreign workers without permits. At the same time, we also want to see that employers provide housing and medical facilities to the workers, as well as look after their welfare," mentioned the minister.

New militant group follows JMB style

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"BEM's documentation and file maintenance systems are similar to that of JMB, so we suspect the new organisation is formed by JMB members," Wing Commander Habibur Rahman, director of legal and media wing of Rab, told The Daily Star.
"Members of the new outfit may have a few groups in other parts of the country like the one we have busted in Bogra," said Special Company Commander of Bogra Squadron Leader Mohammed Miran Hossain.
He said going through the books and seized documents it seemed to them that each group had around 18 members who worked in two shifts. While some men in their shift study, exercise, pray or train on arms, others remain on guard, he added.
Rab personnel on Thursday afternoon raided a house in Thanthania of Bogra town and seized a

China-made AK-22 semi-automatic rifle and a magazine with 15 bullets, a Germany-made GSG-522 sports rifle and a magazine with 22 bullets, a US-made pistol with a magazine and 35 bullets and five US-made Saber knives, which are usually used by commandos, special forces and hunters.
They also seized one rifle target scope, two bayonets, three daggers, a hammer, two axes, one cleaver, 29 iron rods, a toolkit for repairing weapons alongside several Jihadi books, leaflets and notes.
According to wikipedia, the German sports rifle GSG-522 is a semi-automatic weapon widely used for sports like target-shooting and hunting. The semi-automatic AK-22, similar to the vastly popular AK-47 assault rifle, is also built for sports, or military training. Both use the same calibre bullets.
"The chilling recovery suggested how organised

the group was -- having training and preparing for massive attacks," Habibur said, adding that professional hunters use the weapons.
During the operation, Rab personnel arrested madrasa teacher Md Sanaullah, 35, of Bogra, Md Nahid, 22, of Dhaka and which is Akidah and another is on judges and what to do against a judge if he or she was not appointed following Islamic laws.
They were also given lessons on dos and don'ts of law enforcers and cabinet members. The books also contain lessons on war strategy and military tactics,

The arms and ammo Rab seized from BEM den in Bogra on Thursday.
PHOTO: STAR

electrician Barha Sheikh Babu, 21, of Gaibandha.
Rab officials said the group studied several Islamic subjects, one of administrative systems and file maintenance.
Replying to a query, the Rab Media Wing director said the seized books

showed the formation and organisation of infantry, tactical, intelligence, investigation and communication wings.
The director said the arrestees were recruited for the infantry.
He said they were yet to know about the finances of the militant group or whether they had any links to any political party.
He said it was a matter of serious concern how the group got such weapons which Bangladesh armed forces do not use and, to his knowledge, neither do the forces of any neighbouring country.
Three cases had been filed against the arrestees and 15 unidentified others with Bogra Police Station, reports our Bogra correspondent.
One case was lodged in connection with assaulting Rab personnel, one under the Arms Act and the other under the Anti-Terrorism Act.
The arrestees might be

produced before a Bogra court with prayers for remand today (Saturday), police said.
The strength of JMB, which grabbed the spotlight through synchronised bomb attacks on 63 districts on August 17, 2005, was believed to have waned after the arrest of almost all its top leaders. JMB had also launched a series of suicide bomb attacks, which killed at least 30 people in 2005.
In one of the cases filed in connection with the killing of two Jhalakathi judges in November, 2005, the then JMB chief Abdur Rahman, second-in-command Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and four other top militant leaders were sentenced to death. They were executed in 2007.
Saidur Rahman then took charge of the ameer (chief) of the banned militant group. Police arrested him in May, 2010.

Rony's men

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the room. But they did not comply.
Md Mainul Islam Rono, chairman of the school managing committee, told The Daily Star "We received the key of the room from the party men in the morning. We also prepared a list of goods found there."
"We will hand over these goods to the party men later," he said.
The Daily Star printed a photo of the classroom being used as a party office on its August 20 issue.
Soon after getting the key, the authorities started renovation work to make the room ready for holding classes.
Md Rezaul Karim, president of the pro-Rony faction, said they had returned the room on the request of the headmaster, and considering the interest of the pupils' education.
Earlier, Harun-ur-Rashid, a leader of the anti-Rony faction, filed a complaint with the Directorate General (DG) of Secondary and

Higher Education office in Dhaka, saying Rony and his men forcibly occupied the classroom to carry out their illegal activities.
The DG office, after an investigation, issued a letter to the school headmaster and its managing committee chairman on February 1, 2011, asking them to make the classroom available for students.
As per the directive, Headmaster Shah Alam served a notice on Rezaul Karim and Shahidul Alam, leaders of the Rony-backed AL faction, on February 26, 2011 to remove their office from school premises.
Nasir Uddin, a former member of the school managing committee, and the headmaster told The Daily Star that they had bowed down to the pressure from Rony's men and rented the room.
An agreement to this effect was signed between the school authority and the faction before the directive from the DG office was issued, they added.

Rights body demands

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In a letter to New Delhi-based National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Kirity Roy, Secretary of Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), alleged the 30-year-old woman was raped by a BSF jawan in front of her 6-year old son while she was trying to cross over to Bangladesh along with her son and husband.
The woman had come from Mumbai where her husband worked as mason's helper. They are from Marolia village of Bangladesh's Narail district, according to the letter a copy of which is available with The Daily Star.
The incident had occurred on July 11, 2013 at around 11 am at the village Khedapara

under Gaighata police station in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.
MASUM in its letter to NHRC said that after the incident the victim was produced before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's court by the police, from where she was sent to correctional home with her minor son and husband in violation of the Indian Home Ministry's office memorandum which clearly stated that "if a woman or a child is found to be a victim, the victim should not be prosecuted under the Foreigners Act.
The victim woman also lodged a complaint against the BSF constable, which was

also registered by the police.
Roy said "we have unconfirmed report that BSF higher ups suspended the accused BSF man but he was not arrested or remanded till date".
The MASUM demanded a probe into the incident by an independent agency and adequate compensation for the victim.
"The victim woman with her minor son must be transferred to any care home from the correctional home (prison), her safety and security must be ensured and any interference by police and BSF must be checked during the whole investigation process", the letter demanded.

New bird

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An international team led by Yi Guan, a flu specialist at the University of Hong Kong, took samples from chickens and other birds at markets in Shandong and Zhejiang provinces to the north and south of Shanghai, and further samples from markets in Guangdong.
They found H7N9 in chickens in Rizhao, Shandong, and the new H7N7 in Wenzhou, Zhejiang of China.
Guan's study confirms the virus is still circulating in birds, alongside related viruses that may also be a danger to people.

Nizami's trial at snail's pace

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send Nizami to Chittagong almost twice a month so that he could appear before a Chittagong court dealing with the arms case.
On top of this, change of the conducting prosecutor twice, poor preparatory work of the prosecution, its failure to produce witnesses, and the array of time petitions from the defence have caused further delays.
Besides, the senior defence lawyers usually do not show up before the court during hartals, which leads to adjournments and delays.
Prosecutor Zead Al Malum, however, said Nizami's case proceedings fell behind as the court gave

higher priority to other cases.
Refuting his claims, lawyer Manzur Ahmed Ansari, who is defending Nizami against the 16 war crimes charges, said it was the prosecution who is to be blamed for the delays.
The prosecution produced their first witness in Nizami's case on August 26, 2012, but in almost a year they had only managed to bring in 15 other witnesses.
Altam Uddin Ahmed was the conducting prosecutor of the case and he was replaced by Prosecutor Mir Iqbal Hossain last year. Iqbal was replaced by Mohammad Ali on May 12 after a prosecution witness

turned hostile.
In March, the court had even asked the prosecution to be better prepared as it faced difficulties in recording the deposition of a prosecution witness.
The tribunal had asked the prosecution to bring in the 16th witness on August 1. When the prosecution failed to produce a witness on that date, the court asked it to bring the witness in on August 11. The prosecution failed on that day too.
The 16th prosecution witness finally testified on August 19. Following his cross-examination, defence counsel Mizanul Islam told the tribunal that Nizami needed to attend the pro-

ceeding of 10-truck arms haul case on August 21 and 22 and for that reason he would be taken to Chittagong from Dhaka on August 20.
The tribunal adjourned the case proceedings until tomorrow.
Much to the discontent of the tribunal, the state side on several occasions earlier had failed to produce witnesses.
The progress of all cases at the Tribunal-1, including Nizami's case, had stalled for a couple of weeks in December, 2012, following the "Skype scandal". The defence had filed petitions for a retrial but it was rejected on January 3, 2013.

15 Shibir men held

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15 Shibir activists suspecting their involvement in the brutal attack on the leaders of BCL, the pro-Awami League student body, reports our RU correspondent.
SM Abdus Sobhan, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, said they detained the Shibir members at different messes in Binodpur Bazar area near the university.
Legal action will be taken against the detainees if they are found guilty of carrying out the attack on the BCL leaders, he added.
Witnesses said a group of Shibir cadres swooped on some BCL leaders on the RU campus around 9:30pm on Thursday when they were returning to Madar Box Hall after attending a party programme at Syed Amir Ali Hall.
Around 15 Shibir men attacked Tuhin while some 30 others took position nearby, said BCL activist Md Mamun of ward-26 of Rajshahi city.
As another group of BCL men, led by its RU unit President Mizanur Rahman,

rushed to the spot upon hearing the news, the attackers blasted several cocktails and fired gunshots before fleeing the scene.
Shawen was caught in the line of fire, added Mamun, who was with the BCL men.
The two injured were rushed to RMCH for treatment. Later, Tuhin was shifted to Pongu Hospital around 6:00am yesterday.
"Tuhin was out of danger now. But his right hand and right leg will never be normal again," said Farid Uddin Ahmed, registrar of the hospital and a member of the surgery team.
The BCL leader sustained cuts in the head. The index finger of the right hand was chopped off and tendons of other fingers of the right hand were cut, mentioned the physician.
On the way to Dhaka, Tuhin told his elder brother Shahriar Hossain that he could not identify the attackers as it was dark at night, but said that they were Shibir men.

Talking to The Daily Star, his mother Delowara Yeasmin said Tuhin was to take his father to a hospital in the capital on August 25 for cardiac treatment. He came under attack when he was talking with her about his father's treatment over the phone.
"Suddenly, I heard several loud sounds and immediately after that, I heard him crying-- Mother, save me. They are killing me," she said in tears.
Blaming the Shibir men for the attack, Tuhin's father Hossain Ali Sheikh demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers.
RU unit BCL president Mizanur Rahman said they were preparing to file a case with Motihar Police Station in connection with the attack on their leaders.
In a press release yesterday, the RU unit of Shibir, however, denied the allegation of attacking the BCL men. The pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body demanded strict punishment to the attackers of the BCL leaders.

Saudi executes Syrian for drug smuggling

AFP, Riyadh
The Saudi authorities executed a Syrian national yesterday after he was convicted of smuggling drugs, the interior ministry said.
Ahmed al-Onayzi was found guilty of trafficking "a large amount of banned capsules," the ministry said in a statement carried by SPA state news agency.
His execution in the northwestern city of Tabuk brought to 62 the number of people executed in Saudi Arabia this year, according to an AFP count.
In 2012, the Gulf country executed 76 people, according to a tally based on official figures. Human Rights Watch has put the number at 69.
Rape, murder, apostasy, armed robbery and drug trafficking are all punishable by death under Saudi Arabia's strict version of sharia, or Islamic law.

JU stalemate continues

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solution through the talks.
Students, however, are demanding immediate end to the deadlock.
The left students' organisations at the university have been reported to be preparing to stage demonstrations to have the classes and exams resumed.
Since July last year, academic activities of the university remained suspended for 34 days. Of those, 24 days were lost due to the movement of JU Teachers' Association, according to the university administration.
The administrative activities of the university also remained suspended for 43 days due to the association's sit-in in front of the administrative building.
Owing to the agitations, the university also could not hold the annual

senate meeting, where the yearly budget is approved; four syndicate meetings; and two academic council meetings.
Meanwhile, Ayesha Akhter, wife of VC Prof Anwar, alleged that a teacher had misbehaved with her yesterday when she went to the VC office to meet her husband.
Saidur Rashid, the teacher who allegedly misbehaved with her, told reporters that he had only asked Ayesha Akhter to follow the proper procedure as a movement was going on.
The forum teachers also restricted the media from meeting the VC.
Hanif Ali, convener of the forum, at a press conference held on the campus in the evening told reporters that the media could meet the VC thrice a day and that they had made the decision consid-

ering his health.
In the press conference, the forum teachers claimed that about 370 more teachers had expressed solidarity with them.
Kamrul Ahsan, secretary of the forum, said they would soon inform the education minister about their allegations against the VC.
"We hope he [the minister] will realise that removing the VC is the only way to solve the crisis," he added.
Meanwhile, Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday once again termed the teachers' demand baseless and illogical. He told The Daily Star that the matter was now in the hands of the chancellor and the education minister.
The ongoing teachers' movement began on April 6 this year, when JU unit

Chhatra League general secretary Rajib Ahmed Rasel had physically assaulted a teacher.
The teachers then met the VC and demanded trial of the BCL leader. The VC then assured the teachers of expelling the BCL activist, but later backtracked from his stance and took no step against the student.
On April 14, the teachers started a movement under the JU Teachers Association. On April 27, the association went for work abstention with one-point demand, the VC's removal.
University insiders say the teachers started movement against the VC soon after the VC panel election on July 20 2012. "Most of the teachers did not accept Prof Anwar warmly, as he is an outsider," said a source.