

201 detained in Saudi anti-graft swoop

Afp, Rymah

Saudi Arabia said yesterday 201 people are being held for questioning in a massive anti-graft swoop on the elite, with at least \$100 billion estimated to have been lost through corruption and embezzlement over several decades.

"A total of 208 individuals have been called in for questioning so far. Of those 208 individuals, seven have been released without charge," the information ministry said in a statement.

Billionaire tycoon Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, dubbed Saudi Arabia's Warren Buffet, was among dozens of high-profile figures arrested or sacked last weekend, in the biggest purge of the kingdom's elite in its modern history.

Authorities have frozen the bank accounts of the accused and warned that assets related to the corruption cases would be seized as state property, as the government appears set to widen the crackdown.

"The potential scale of corrupt practices which have been uncovered is very large," the ministry said.

"Based on our investigations over the past three years, we estimate that at least USD 100 billion has been misused through systematic corruption and embezzlement over several decades."

The purge came just after an anti-graft commission headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was established on Saturday.

With the purge, which analysts describe as a bold but risky power play, Prince Mohammed has centralized power to a degree that is unprecedented in recent Saudi history.

Robbers kill

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people. Sazid died on the spot and Senu succumbed to his injuries later at Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Two others were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Faridpur Medical College Hospital's Ward Master Sazid Hossain said, "Sazid and Semmestha wounds on their chested are checked."

Officer-in-Charge of Charbhadrasan Police Station Rampurash Bhakta confirmed the incident.

In the other incident one Abdul Malek died after robbers opened fire on villagers of Sotihanki village under Dheukhali Union of Sadarup Upazila.

Witnesses said, "A gang of 16-17 robbers stormed into the house of Rejaul Karim around 3:30 am on Thursday. The family raised a hue and cry and locals rushed to their help prompting the robbers to open fire on the villagers. Malek died instantly."

Officer-in-charge of Sadarup Police Station said the police are trying to arrest the robbers.

Missing boy

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Police said the trio admitted to strangling Jahid to death in an empty building in Dhalupur area last Saturday and dumping his body in the sewer tank of his school, Rasul shah, officer-in-charge of Homna Police Station, said.

He added that a fourth person was involved in the crime and that the motive was being investigated.

Quoting family members, the OC said Jahid received a call on his phone on Saturday afternoon and left his home in Sapeli village for Dhalupur Bazar but never returned.

His father Akhtaranuzzaman lodged a general diary with Homna Police Station the next day.

Jahid's body was sent to Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added.

HC verdict

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The bench of Justice Md Shawkat Hossain, Justice Md Abu Zafar Sidiq and Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder had heard arguments on the death reference and appeals for 370 days.

Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were massacred during the BDR mutiny on February 25-26 in 2009 in the Pilkhana headquarters of the paramilitary force, later renamed as Comilla Cantonment, Bangladesh.

The death reference and the appeals were filed with the HC months after a Dhaka court announced the verdict on November 5, 2013, nearly five years after the brutal mutiny.

The trial court gave death sentences to 150 BDR soldiers and two civilians, and jailed 160 others for life for their roles and involvement in the carnage.

It also handed down rigorous imprisonment to 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers. The court acquitted the remaining 272 accused, but the government later appealed against the acquittal of 69 of them. The HC started hearing the death reference and appeals of the convicts in January, 2015.

"Although our judiciary is

This time, no trace of book importer

FROM PAGE 1
make any comment without going through the GD.

Tanvir's family members went to the offices of the Detective Branch of police and Rab, but couldn't get any information about him, said a source.

WAR HERO PICKED UP BY RAB

Yesterday, Rab members picked up Liberation War hero Habibul Alam from the capital's Eskaton and interrogated him for around seven hours over what the elite force claimed was his alleged communication with a gang of fraudsters.

The freedom fighter, who had been confined to the Rab-1 office since 1:30pm, was released around 8:30pm.

Asked, Mufi Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said Rab personnel identifying themselves as members of the elite force picked him up from his Eskaton office and took him to Rab-1 office for interrogation after they found his "communication" with a gang of fraudsters.

"He himself might be a victim of the game. It will be clear after investigation," he said.

However, Habibul's family members said his office staff informed them in the afternoon that he was picked up by "people from the administration."

Around 7:00pm, they learnt from news reports on TV channels that Bir Pratik Habibul was actually in Rab custody.

"They could have done this in a proper way. They could have informed us where they were taking my father. We were in fear and uncertainty," Habibul's daughter Tahseen Alam told The Daily Star last night.

The way the hero was picked up raised questions among people as incidents of disappearance continue to take place across the country.

Only a couple of days ago, Mubashar Hasan, assistant professor of North South University, who had gone missing in the capital, and last known to be at the Hotel Inter-Continental [now Hotel Sheraton] in the heart of Dhaka city by the Shukti Bahini.

MSUITKU STILL TRACELESS

Law enforcement were yet to trace Mubashar Hasan, assistant professor of political science at North South University, even almost three days after he had gone missing.

Habibul was a member of the special squad "Crack Platoon" that shook the confidence of the Pakistan occupation army and unmasked them by commanding attacks during the 1971 Liberation War.

About Habibul's bravery during the Liberation War, he said, "Habibul was one of the key men in the very first guerrilla operation carried out at the Hotel Inter-Continental [now Hotel Sheraton] in the heart of Dhaka city by the Shukti Bahini."

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"We haven't been able to find him. We are trying our best," said Moshinul Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station. He also said detectives and members of other police units were working to trace the teacher.

Habibul has been missing since Tuesday evening. Police said he last talked to someone on his mobile phone at 6:41pm. He was near Lien Eye Hospital at Agraon at that time.

He reportedly became worried about his security after a man, identifying himself as a student, went to his house on October 25 and searched for him.

According to this correspondent yesterday, he is the son of Motahar Hossain, sought the intervention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government in ensuring the safe return of his son.

"We are scared. We want him back unharmed," he said.

Meanwhile, the families of Mithun Chowdhury, president of newly-formed Bangladesh Janata Party, and his associate Ashit Ghosh demanded the safe return of the two. They went missing after some men impersonating law enforcers picked them up in the city's Sutrapur area on October 27.

"It has been 13 days and we don't have any idea about their whereabouts. Please bring them back at any cost," Sumona Chowdhury Sima, wife of

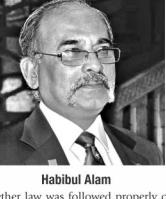
from the administration."

Human rights activist Nur Khan Liton said no law enforcement agency has any legal authority to pick up any citizen in such a way, let alone a freedom fighter.

"But we are noticing that such incidents are recurring. So law enforcers must identify themselves properly and have some witnesses if they have to pick up someone like him," he said.

Rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Joyntima Barua said that if law enforcement agencies pick up a person on certain grounds or as part of regular policing, they have to inform that person's family.

Talking to this newspaper over the phone, he said it has to be looked into



Habibul Alam

whether law was followed properly or Habibul was deprived of his due rights while he was picked up.

Habibul's fellow scout Shariful Islam, who knew the war hero for more than 35 years, said Habibul is a very honest man who even sold his own property to run his business.

"We were shocked by the news," said Shariful, who works at a multinational company in the capital.

About Habibul's bravery during the Liberation War, he said, "Habibul was one of the key men in the very first guerrilla operation carried out at the Hotel Inter-Continental [now Hotel Sheraton] in the heart of Dhaka city by the Shukti Bahini."

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claimed to be fully independent, some recent incidents are questioning this claim... it will be proved whether the judges are allowed to carry out judicial activities independently, lawfully and following their conscience."

Saying that the national leaders like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman, Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and others were sent to jail following court verdicts, the BNP chief said those who had convicted the innocent people were the real criminals.

"But everyone knows how this genocide was taken... there is no democracy in the country, no effective parliament, election system has been turned into a farce," she added.

Khaleda said they have always proposed resolving different issues through dialogue.

Portraying a gloomy picture of the country's law and order, the BNP chief alleged that the country's prisons have been filled up with political leaders and activists and people of different opinion to that of the government.

Alleging that hundreds of crores of country, Khaleda said not a single sector was free from corruption.

Regarding the corruption case filed against her, Khaleda said, "A verdict will be given against us as per the will of the ruling quarter. But I want to believe that you will do justice with courage and honesty as per the law and being free from the influence of the government."

"Although our judiciary is

lower court concerned to run trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The apex court dismissed a leave to appeal petition filed by Khaleda

seeking stay on the trial proceedings and to allow her lawyer to cross examine its nine prosecution witnesses and further cross examine two prosecution witnesses.

claiming that the Awami League assumed power through backdoor negotiations with the army-backed caretaker government, Khaleda said, "Even after that we accepted the election results for the sake of the constitution and democracy. We spoke for cooperation with the government. But how they behaved in return to our calls is known to all."

"We must act fast. And hopefully China will act faster and more effectively on this problem than anyone," Trump said.

"China has this problem easily and quickly, and I am calling on China and your great president to hopefully work on it very hard," the US leader said.

"I know one thing about your president: If he works on it, it will happen. There's no doubt about it," he said, while thanking Xi for his efforts to restrict trade with Pyongyang.

The US administration thinks China's economic leverage over North Korea is the key to strong-arming Pyongyang into halting its nuclear weapons and missile programmes.

Mithun, told a press conference at the office of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh in the city.

"We have the right to know whether they were picked up by law enforcers."

Mithun and Ashit are among the 11 people, who have gone missing or got abducted in the capital since August 22. Only two of them returned.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Asia's first Commission on Human Rights, Shahid Kendra and Sushasone Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), yesterday expressed deep concern at the NSU teacher going missing.

They also demanded investigation into the recent incidents of disappearance in the country.

In a statement, NHRC Chairman Kazi Rezaul Hoque demanded proper steps to find out Mubashar and hand him over to his family.

He also asked the government to take appropriate measures to stop recurrence of such incidents.

In another statement, Sujan Secretary Badul Alam Majumder urged the government to find out those involved in forced disappearances of others and ensure the culprit [s] exemplary punishment.

There's a dead

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see across the tiny dried, brown carcass in the lower foreground while studying the painting of olive groves.

"I was not able to understand the different layers of the painting and how it was constructed, and that's how I came upon the body of this little grasshopper," she told AFP.

"The fact that we have little surprise of a grasshopper is a fun way to have a new look at Van Gogh."

The find, announced this week, reflects the artist's practice of painting in the outdoors, where it was often windy enough to send dust, grass and insects flying.

"I must have picked up a good hundred flies and more off the four canvases that you'll be getting, not to mention dust and sand," van Gogh mused in an 1885 letter to his brother Theo.

"When one carries them across the heath and through hedgerows for a few hours, the odd branch or two scrapes across them."

Van Gogh was no bug killer.

Paleo-entomologist Michael Engel of the University of Kansas told the museum's team that the grasshopper's thorax and abdomen were missing, and no sign of movement was evident in the paint around the insect, indicating it was already dead when it landed on van Gogh's canvas.

"Olive Trees" is part of a series of some 18 paintings Van Gogh completed on the subject in 1889 in Saint-Remy-de-Provence, France, where he had checked himself into an asylum. He died the following year.

Sand also was found "Seascape near Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer" (1888), a work he is believed to have painted from the beach on the Mediterranean. It is now held at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

The Nelson-Atkins museum made its own find as part of an effort involving curators, conservators and outside scientists to take a fresh look at its collection of 104 French paintings and pastels using a variety of tools, including x-rays, ultraviolet light, the microscope and taking minuscule samples of the work.

Sewage taints rivers

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people connect the pits to the storm drains. Some do not even bother setting up tanks or pits and dump the faeces directly to the storm drains.

Recently, the ministry of Tk 50,000 or cancel the building's approval for violating the 1984 rules.

Shah Alam Chowdhury, a Rajuk director, said, adding that they have been able to do that as they are overwhelmed with other work.

Rajuk Chairman Md Abdur Rahman could not cite an example of a building owner being penalised for the offence.

"I don't know why it was not done in the past but now we along with Dhaka Wasa should go for legal action."

Rajuk has started putting a seal on the building permit stamping the septic tank was mandatory, he added.

A number of city dwellers said they had no clue as to where the faecal waste went and what it meant to public health and environment.

"We have never thought of how it should have been managed," said Shirin Sultan, a resident of Bailey Road.

Abdur Rashid, caretaker of a building in Gulshan, said that waste disposal pipes in his building first release the sewage into a pit which is connected to roadside surface drains of the neighbourhood.

The surface drains that are connected to the roadside larger storm drains, ultimately take the matter flushed down the toilet, to canals, wetlands and rivers.

Was a official, seeking anonymity, said in most cases they cannot detect the illegal connections to storm drains because the pipes are under the ground.

But Kazi Golam Nasir, chief architect of the Department of Architecture, said, the irregularities could have been easily detected if Rajuk strictly inspected and issued occupancy certificates before releasing the new buildings in the new buildings.

Engagement with Rajuk, the director of Practical Action, an international NGO that works on urban waste, water and sanitation, said the conventional methods of managing sewage at a far-away treatment plant would not work in Dhaka due to unplanned urbanisation.

Moreover, the faecal sludge would not automatically move in a certain direction on a plain surface, she said.

Septic tanks or soak pits at every house and localised treatment plants for cluster neighbourhoods might help, she said, adding that the Rajuk, Wasa and city corporations would have to coordinate work to make that possible.

According to experts, the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Balo and Chittagong rivers are the source of fresh water around the capital are becoming highly contaminated by human waste and industrial effluents causing public health hazards.

Prof Merejina Sabrina Flora, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said direct consumption and other uses of contaminated water can cause diarrhoea, deadly Hepatitis-A and E and typhoid through the feco-oral route (fecal contamination through mouth).

"We have found faecal contamination in water through tests. At times, sewage lines are found connected with even water supply lines. There are chances that polluted water would contaminate food and it is an enormous concern for public health."

Under his guidance, Bangladesh partially gained substantial ground in ODI competition in the 2015 World Cup and semi-final of 2017 Champions Trophy. The Tigers also won their ODI home series against India, Pakistan and South Africa and climbed up the ODI rankings as a result.

According to experts, Bangladesh's first-ever Test wins against England and Australia at home and the highlight of the team's stay in the country.

Under his guidance, Bangladesh won six, lost 9 and drew 4 out of 19 Tests in addition to 25 wins and 18 losses in ODI. There were also 10 wins and 6 losses in 2018/2019.

Interestingly since December 26 last year, his success rate began to stumble as the team won 2 and lost 7 in 9 Tests and collected 4 wins against 10 losses from 17 ODIs to go along with one win and 6 losses in 72 ODIs.

Summit Power Limited

Summit Centre, 18, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all stakeholders, including creditors of the Company, that the Board of Directors of Summit Power Limited in its meeting held 09th November 2017 at 4.00 p.m. has decided, among others, to convene its 16th Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Shareholders on Wednesday, 27th December 2017 at 11 a.m. at Krishibid Institution Complex Bangladesh (KIB), Krishibid, Kamrul Sarak, (Kamarbari) Farmgate, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh to transact the following business:

(a) To replace existing sub-clause 1 and 13 of clause iii of the Company's Memorandum of Association (MA) in the manner as under:

"(1) To design, finance, insure, build, own, operate and maintain power plants using reciprocating engines for generation of electricity at different sites for Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) as well as for others in Bangladesh and abroad and to acquire every sort of fuel required for such power generation in home and abroad and for that purpose, to acquire land by purchase, lease or otherwise to build, erect, install, maintain, reservoirs and any other storing facilities, subject to permission from the concerned authority where necessary and to sell electricity to the respective contracting party.

And

(13) To purchase or otherwise acquire and undertake all or any part of the business properties, liabilities and assets of any persons or company engaged in any business, which the company is authorised to carry on, including by way of entering into an arrangement or compromise in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1994 (or any succeeding or subsequent enactment) or possess property suitable for the purpose of the company."

(b) The Record Date for the 16th EGM shall be 30th November 2017. The shareholders whose names will appear in the Depository/Share Register on the Record Date will be entitled to attend the meeting.

By order of the Board
S/d-
(Swapan Kumar Pal, ACA)
Company Secretary

Dhaka, 09 November 2017