

201 detained in Saudi anti-graft swoop

Saudi Arabia held yesterday 201 people being held for questioning in a massive anti-graft swoop on the kingdom's elite. The detainees were accused of having been lost through corruption and embezzlement over several decades.

"A total of 208 individuals have been called in for questioning so far. Of those who have been released, 100 have been released without charge," the information ministry said in a statement. Billionaire tycoon Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, dubbed Saudi Arabia's Warren Buffett, 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," the ministry said.

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 described as bold but risky power play, Prince Mohammed has centralised power to a degree that is unprecedented in recent Saudi history.

Robbers kill

People: Sazzad died on the spot and another was wounded in the attack.

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Faridpur Medical College Hospital's Ward Master Sazzad Hossain said, "The family raised a hue and cry and the lads rushed to their help prompting the robbers to open fire on the villagers. Malek died instantly."

Official-in-charge of Sadarap 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 Daulatpura area last Saturday and dumping his body in the septic tank of the school, Rasul Ahmed, official-in-charge of Homna Police Station, said.

He added that a fourth person was involved in the case and 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 Saplezi village for Daulatpura Bazar but never returned.

His father Akbar Hossain 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 and Justice Md Shawkat Hossain Talukder has heard arguments on the death reference and appeals for 370 days.

Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were massacred during the trial court on February 25-26 in 2009 at the Pikhana headquarters of the paramilitary force, later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh.

The death reference and the HC appeals were filed with the HC months after a Dhaka court acquitted the army officers on November 25, 2013, nearly five years after the bloody murder.

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 massacre.

This time, no trace of book importer

FROM PAGE 1

make any comment without going to the GD.

Several family members went to the office of the Detective Branch of police and Babu, but couldn't get any information about him, said the sources.

WAR HERO PICKED UP BY BABY

Liberation War members picked up Babu 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 Babu's office since 1:30pm, was released around 8:30pm.

Asked, Mufi Mahmud Khan, director of Babu's legal and media wing, said Babu personnel identifying themselves as members of high-profile figures arrested or sacked last weekend, in the biggest purge of the kingdom's elite in its modern history.

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Sewage taints rivers

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

faces directly to the storm drains. Rajuk can fine a minimum 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 not 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 Wassa should go for legal action."

Rajuk has started putting a seal on the construction permit stating that 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 Sultana, a resident of Bailey Road.

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

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

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Chandika

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"I received a letter from him saying that he was not going to continue. I cannot remember exactly when it was but it was definitely before the ODI series, before October 15," said Hassan while talking to the reporters.

"It is however very clear whether the Hathursingha regime with Bangladesh cricket is truly over as Hassan deemed it an emotional decision. 'He didn't give any reason for his decision, so it is difficult to talk about it, really until we talk with him. He just said he was not interested. After [the South Africa] series we got him over telephone once and we later this month and see if there will come after the 15th [of November]. Now we are trying to communicate with him. I cannot actually say anything until then," he said.

Hassan also reminded that Hathursingha had earlier (in October last year) tendered his resignation but the board convinced him otherwise and made him continue with the team.

"We cannot keep someone who does not want to play. Yes, we will talk to him later this month and see if there is something that can be done," he added.

Bangladesh made good progress under Hathursingha's tutelage but his decision to resign came at a time when the team have hit their lowest point in their tenure following a disastrous performance in South Africa.

The BCB had appointed Hathursingha as Bangladesh's head coach for a two-year period in May 2014 and in June 2016 the contract had been extended until the 2019 World Cup.

Under his guidance Bangladesh particularly gained substantial ground in ODI cricket and made the quarterfinal of the 2015 World Cup and the semifinal of the 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.

Bangladesh's first-ever Test wins against England and Australia at home, and against Sri Lanka away were the highlights of his tenure.

Under his guidance, Bangladesh won six Test and drew four out of 19 Tests in addition to 25 wins and 18 losses in 46 ODIs. There were also 10 wins and 17 losses in 28 T20s.

Interestingly since December 26 last year, his success rate began to tumble as Bangladesh won just 7 out of 19 Tests and collected 4 wins against 10 losses from 17 ODIs to go along with one win and 6 losses in 7 T20s.

