

BASIC BANK SCAM PROBE HC raps ACC

Says long delay indicates connivance of commission officials with the accused

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday expressed utmost dissatisfaction and disappointment with the Anti-Corruption Commission for the long delay in completing investigations in the cases over BASIC Bank loan scams.

"It seems from your [ACC officials] indifference and long delay in completing probes that you have connivance with the accused. If they [the accused] remain in jail for a long period of time, they get a strong ground for getting bail.

"We have to grant the accused bail due to the long delay in completing probe," said Justice M Enayetur Rahim, the presiding judge of the HC bench now dealing with a number of bail petitions in the loan scam cases.

"We have given so many directives and made observations on this issue. But those have not been implemented properly," the judge told the ACC lawyers.

"We have to cover our faces with black cloth in shame ... The commission could not submit charge sheet to the trial court in any of the 56 cases filed two and a half years back over the BASIC Bank loan scams."

The HC bench of Justice Enayetur and Justice Shahidul Karim was hearing several petitions filed by Fazlus Sobhan,

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A man sews up holes in his fishing net sitting under an umbrella in scorching heat at Fishery Ghat area by the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong. As the government imposed a ban on fishing in the region between May 20 and July 23, the fishermen have been whiling away the days taking care of their fishing gears. The photo was taken on Saturday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

President pardons top terror Joseph



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tofayel Ahmed Joseph, one of the top criminals in the police list of the 1990s, has been "secretly" freed from jail after a presidential clemency that cut short his life sentence for murder.

Joseph, brother of a former director general of Border Guard Bangladesh, on Sunday left Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he was "being treated".

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'Salah out for up to four weeks'

REUTERS, London

Egypt's Mohamed Salah's shoulder injury will keep him out of action for three to four weeks, Liverpool's club physio said, as the forward tries to recover in time for the World Cup.

The 25-year-old winger is desperate to play for Egypt in only their third World Cup and their first for 28 years.

"He is sad about what happened but is totally focused on recovery, seeing when he can be ready," physio Ruben Pons told

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No godfathers will be spared: PM

Warns of action if innocents victimised; says Dhaka expects nothing in return from Delhi

AGENCIES, Dhaka



"When I deal with something, I deal with it with an iron hand."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said steps would be taken if any innocent became a victim of the ongoing anti-narcotics drive.

If anyone committed anything wrong during the drive, he would surely be tried, she said.

"Please show us at least one incident from what happened so far whether any innocent became a victim of it."

Hasina was speaking at a press conference at the Gono Bhaban in the afternoon. The programme was organised to brief the media about her recent tour of West Bengal, reports UNB.

Mentioning that drug was like a disease in the society, she said more than 10,000 drug dealers and users were arrested in the drive, but no newspaper covered it properly.

While conducting the drive, the government did not consider whether a person was a "godfather" or a "don", the PM said.

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Drug purge on, so is killing

A record 14 killed in a single day; ASK decries shootout spree



STAR REPORT

A record 14 people were killed in so-called shootouts in a single day yesterday, taking the tally of those killed in such incidents to 122, amid the countrywide anti-narcotics drive which has been going on for the last 16 days.

The "gunfights" continue amid growing criticism and concern from rights bodies, opposition leaders and foreign diplomats over the "extrajudicial killings".

The ongoing drive already became the bloodiest anti-crime drive with death tolls surpassing that of the 2002 Operation Clean Heart (57 deaths) or even the anti-militant drive after the 2016 Gulshan attack (80 deaths).

Yesterday, nine were killed in "gunfights" with police and Rab while five others between rival gangs. All of the deceased were listed drug dealers, according to law enforcers.

The Daily Star could not independently verify their claims.

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A Rohingya boy carries everyday necessities he received as aid uphill in scorching heat in Balukhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. The photo was taken last month.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The International Criminal Court has sought to know Bangladesh's opinion on whether it can exercise jurisdiction over the deportation of Rohingyas from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

Considering the significance of the move, The Daily Star interviewed some international law experts to know their views on it. Today we are running the interview of Sir Geoffrey Nice, a former ICC prosecutor.

MYANMAR'S CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

ICC likely to allow investigation

Says former ICC prosecutor

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PORIMOL PALMA

"The application by the Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda] would look to me likely, or even very likely, to succeed, not least because the statute [Rome Statute] and all the law assembled in her Application make the necessary interpretation possible and because all moral right must be on the side of allowing the Prosecutor to go ahead and investigate," he said.

Even if the application to the president of the pre-trial division at the ICC did not succeed immediately, or was refused by her,



Sir Geoffrey Nice

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