

Pakistan's 'penniless billionaires' expose money laundering frenzy

AFP, Karachi

It took rickshaw driver Mohammad Rasheed a year to save 300 rupees to buy his daughter a bike, so when he found three billion rupees (\$22.5 million) had passed through an unused bank account in his name, he was stunned ... and scared.

"I started sweating and shivering," said the 43-year-old -- just the latest victim of a money laundering scheme that Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, has vowed to crush.

When he got a call from the Federal Investigation Agency, Rasheed's first inclination was to go into hiding, but friends and family members finally convinced him to cooperate with officials.

His case mirrors dozens of similar stories in recent weeks that have filled newspapers in Pakistan and riled a populace long accustomed to extravagant tales of corruption and theft.

The incidents follow a similar arc -- bank accounts in poor residents' names are flooded with cash, then suddenly emptied in a laundering scheme that has likely seen hundreds of millions of dollars moved out of the country.

Rasheed's name was eventually cleared, but his anxiety remained.

"I stopped driving my rented rickshaw on the roads because of the fear that some other investigating agencies might pick me up," he said.

"My wife fell sick because of the tension."

Only weeks before the fiasco he



Pakistani auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Rasheed plays with his daughter Nabeeha Rasheed in their home in Korangi, a slum area in eastern district of Karachi.

had finally been able to buy a 300-rupee bike with worn tyres for his daughter -- the fruit of a year's careful saving.

The revelation of the laundering frenzy comes as the newly elected Khan has vowed to squash rampant corruption and recover billions siphoned from the country as his government scrambles to shore up Pakistan's deteriorating finances.

"This is your stolen money," said the former cricketer during a televised address to the nation Wednesday.

"It was stolen on public contracts... and transferred into these accounts, then laundered abroad.

"I will spare no corrupt man in

this country," he promised.

But for victims like Mohammad Qadir the damage has already been done.

"I have never even seen a bank from the inside," said the 52-year-old ice cream vendor.

Transactions were nevertheless made in his name for 2.25 billion rupees.

Since news of the incident spread Qadir says he is regularly mocked by his neighbours and also fears being kidnapped by criminal elements who believe he has billions of rupees to spare for hefty ransoms.

"He is a penniless billionaire," one of Qadir's acquaintances laughed while driving past his ice

cream cart in the Karachi slum of Orangi town.

"People make fun of me, but I ended up with nothing at all from this situation," said Qadir. "It is such a tragedy."

Sarwat Zehra, a 56-year-old official, says she has suffered from high-blood pressure after being handed a bill for 13 million rupees in back taxes.

"I was told that a company had illegally passed 14 or 15 billion rupees through my account," she said.

Pakistan's poor have long been seen as fronts for the elite to dodge taxes and hide assets.

But the scale of the bank account scheme is unprecedented, with authorities pointing the finger at some of Karachi's wealthiest power brokers including figures with links to former president Asif Zardari.

In September, Pakistan's Supreme Court established a commission to investigate the scourge, finding that at least 400 million dollars had passed through "thousands of false accounts", using the names of impoverished people.

Some 600 companies and individuals "are associated with the scandal", the commission concluded.

It is all the more embarrassing for Khan as his administration scrambles to secure billions of dollars in foreign financial assistance, while also entering talks with the International Monetary Fund for a potential bailout amid a widening balance of payment crisis.



SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK
Md Towhidur Rahman, a director of Shahjalal Islami Bank, opens a branch relocated on Rajuk Avenue at Motijheel in Dhaka yesterday. M Shahidul Islam, CEO, was present.



JAMUNA BANK
Nur Mohammed, chairman of Jamuna Bank Foundation, opens the bank's 125th branch in Patuakhali recently.



Md Borhanuddin, managing director (current charge) of Bank Asia, and Syed Anisul Huq, former managing director, pose with its officials at a workshop on "Banking Company Act" organised by the bank at its training institute in Dhaka on Saturday.

Bangladesh to cancel tender to import 50,000 tonnes of wheat

REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is scrapping an international tender to import 50,000 tonnes of wheat, citing higher prices, two officials from the state grains procurement agency said on Sunday.

Agrocorp International made the lowest offer of \$297.20 a tonne, including CIF liner out, in the tender, which was issued late last month by the Directorate General of Food, the procurement agency.

"We are cancelling the tender as the offer is high considering global wheat prices," said a senior official at the Directorate General of Food.

Another official at the agency said the tender could be reissued within a short time, confirming the scrapping of the tender.

Three other trading houses competed for

the tender. SSOE offered \$297.96 a tonne, Aston \$297.89 and Phoenix Commodities \$308.43 a tonne.

The state grains buyer received the lowest offer of \$291.93 a tonne CIF liner out from trading house Swiss Singapore Overseas in its latest tender, closed last week.

Agrocorp International, however, secured a previous tender, quoting the lowest offer of \$270.89 a tonne C&F liner out, in which it is supplying Russian wheat.

Bangladesh has turned to the Black Sea region for wheat because supply from India has dwindled as it meets growing domestic demand.

The south Asian country imports around 6 million tonnes of wheat, making it one of the world's biggest importers of the grain. Bangladesh's output has stagnated at around 1 million tonnes.

Qatar easing of foreign worker exit system comes into force

AFP, Doha

Long-awaited reform of Qatar's controversial exit visa system, which requires foreign workers to obtain their bosses' permission to leave the country, came into force on Sunday, the government said.

"Law No. 13 of 2018... regulating the entry, exit and residency of expatriates is being implemented starting today," the interior ministry announced on Twitter.

Qatar announced in September it had approved legislation to scrap the visa system -- a lynchpin of the country's "kafala", or sponsorship, system which many liken to modern-day slavery.

Under the new law, all but five percent of a company's workforce -- reportedly those in the most senior positions -- can leave without prior permission from employers.

Those not allowed to leave Qatar "for any reason" can file a complaint to the Expatriate Exit Grievance Committee that will "take a decision within three working days", the ministry said.

Scraping the exit permit is the biggest announcement made so far since Qatar agreed last November to enter into a three-year agreement with the UN's International Labour Organization to oversee reform.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Stationery Office
Department of Printing & Publication
(Ministry of Public Administration)
Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208

Tender for Goods

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Public Administration.					
2. Agency/Department	Department of Printing & Publication, Dhaka.					
3. Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.					
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.					
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.					
6. Invitation for	Tender					
7. Invitation Ref. No.	05.04.0000.009.04.020.18/4595					
8. Date	28/10/2018					
9. Procurement method	ICT					
10. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)					
11. Development partner (if applicable)	Government					
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	BSO-17/2018-2019					
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Procurement of minimum 50% Rag, 90-95 GSM, Light Yellow Colour Security Plain Paper.					
14. Tender package No.	17/12/2018 (office working time).					
15. Tender package name	18/12/2018 Time: 1.00pm.					
16. Tender publication date	18/12/2018 Time: 3.30pm (Office of the Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.					
17. Tender last selling date	Dhaka.					
18. Tender closing date and time	Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.					
19. Tender opening date and time	14/11/2018 at 11.00am in the conference room (Padma).					
20. Name & addresses of offices: -Selling tender document (principal) -Selling tender document (other)	All qualified suppliers/contractors who fulfill the terms and conditions of schedule (other than blacklisted suppliers/contractors of this dept).					
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER						
23. i) Brief description of goods or works	i) Supply of Security Plain Paper, Light Yellow Colour, Minimum 50% Rag contents with water mark & secret code. Sheet size: 216mmx343mm-90-95 GSM, Quantity-350 (three hundred fifty) M. Tons. ±5%.					
ii) Packet specification	ii) Wrapping: Ream must be wrapped with best quality 80-85 GSM offset paper outside with polythene laminated colour deep blue and yellow (According to guide sample) containing. The following informations. a) Name of Goods, b) Size, c) Substance, d) Quantity of sheets in a ream/packet, e) Water mark & f) Name of manufacturer.					
iii) Packing & marking	iii) To be securely packed with sea worthy packing and clearly marked for safe transit by sea, rail & road marking should be as under: Gross weight : Measurement : Name of goods : Substance : Country of Origin : Name of manufacturer : Net weight : No. of package : Size : Sheet per Ream/Packet : L/C No:					
24. Brief description of related services:	Tk 4,000/- (four thousand) only.					
25. Price of tender document/ schedule (non-refundable):	In case of collecting schedule from website: www.dpp.gov.bd/bs0 the price of the schedule as Pay Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank must be submitted with the tender document in favour of Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.					
26. Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount in Taka	Completion time in weeks/months		
Single Lot	Supply of Security Plain Paper, Light Yellow Colour, Minimum 50% Rag contents with water mark & secret code. Sheet size: 216mmx343mm-90-95 GSM, Quantity-350 (three hundred fifty) M. Tons. ±5%	Dhaka	Tk 20,00,000/- (twenty lac) or USD 23,866.00 Bank Guarantee from any schedule bank of Bangladesh Bank	As per schedule		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS						
27. Name of official inviting tender	Md. Sarwar Hossain.					
28. Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director.					
29. Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.					
30. Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 02-8891718 (office working day).					
31. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject tenders.	N.B. Full specification and other terms and conditions are as per schedule.					
Special terms and conditions:						
a) In case of unavoidable circumstances, if the total transport and communication system disrupted on the date of receiving & opening the tender, the same will be received and opened on the next following office working day.						
b) The tenderers should quote their unit price (per metric ton) and total price in the schedule both in words and figures in USD or EURO or GBP.						
c) The tenderers should submit their offer in the letterhead pad duly filled & signed by the principal on every page of schedule in sealed envelope addressed to the Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. In every important event including submission of tender local agent should be involved.						
Website: www.dpp.gov.bd/bs0						

GD-2507

বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট		
স্বাধীনতা ভবন ৮৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০		
দৈনিক/মাসিক ভিত্তিতে ভাড়া প্রদান বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট-এর মালিকানাধীন ঢাকা, নারায়ণগঞ্চ ও চট্টগ্রাম নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রতিটানের জায়গায় স্থানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থায় ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের ভাড়ার সম্পর্কিত দরপত্র আয়ার্ডে স্বীকৃত ভাড়ার অযোগ্যাভাবে ০১ হতে		