OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

laundering, officials said.

Palaniappan Chidambaram, a former

finance minister of India and also a

senior Congress leader, was arrested

last night in New Delhi by the Central

Bureau of Investigation in connection

with INX media case of alleged money

Chidambaram, who made a

national headquarters here, was

locality of south Delhi, they said.

Earlier in the day, the CBI and

the Enforcement Directorate, which

handles cases pertaining to foreign

A team of about 30 CBI members,

residence and knocked at the main gate

accompanied by Delhi police officials,

exchange rules violations, issued

separate lookout notices against

reached Chidambaram's Jor Bagh

for a few minutes before scaling the

boundary wall to enter the premises.

He was then taken to the CBI

The INX media case relates to

alleged irregularities in the Foreign

Investment Promotion Board's

receiving overseas funds to the

tune of Rs 307 crore at a time

minister in 2007-08.

Court sells

plea in the case.

FROM PAGE 16

clearance to the media group for

Chidambaram was India's finance

Chidambaram's arrest came a

day after the Delhi High Court on

Tuesday rejected his anticipatory bail

Guo, who claims to be a corruption

whistle-blower and has lived in the

authorities on a series of charges,

US since 2014, is wanted by Chinese

including fraud and bribery. Many of

his assets in China have been frozen

According to the online listing, only

or repossessed by the government.

two bidders signed up to participate

in the auction, though more than

150,000 people registered to watch

The property eventually sold

for just under 5.19 billion yuan

building made in that time.

the sale online. Bidding was open for

24 hours, with only two offers for the

(\$734 million), only 5 million yuan

(\$708,000) above the opening bid.

The buyer has been identified as

Beijing property firm Yucheng Zhiye,

have secured something of a bargain:

is worth over 7.4 billion yuan (\$1.05

billion) -- more than 40% above the

uploaded to YouTube on Wednesday,

Guo claims that the property

he said the winning bid was only

The government could either amend

the act or remove the ambiguity and

gazette notification, the court added.

The HC bench came up with the

inconsistency over it by issuing a

remarks while delivering the full

involved a child accused.

text of a murder case's verdict that

The HC bench also issued seven

courts until the law is amended or

to send copies of the verdict, along

with the directives, to lower courts,

concerned tribunals, social welfare

DIRECTIVES FOR CONCERNED

The magistrates concerned would

proceedings in cases related to the

Remand related orders must be

During the investigation, children

involved in conflicts can be acquitted

from attendance in the magistrate

The juvenile courts will resolve

issues regarding remand, bail or age

In case of filing any petition before

determination of children in such

magistrate courts, the magistrate

courts will send the petitions to

only supervise the investigation

resolved in juvenile courts.

courts on fixed dates.

matter.

ministry and other concerned.

AUTHORITIES

gazette notification is issued.

directives for magistrates and children

The bench ordered the authorities

is worth even more. In a video

10% of its estimated value.

The auction listing claims the tower

according to a statement released

Corporation. And the group may

by its parent company, BBMG

selling price.

Remove

FROM PAGE 16

Chidambaram.

surprise appearance at the Congress'

arrested by a CBI team soon after he

reached his home in Jor Bagh, a posh

Bolsonaro says without giving any evidence

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

INX MEDIA SCAM CASE Brazil's right-wing President Jair Chidambaram Bolsonaro on Wednesday accused organizations non-governmental arrested in of setting wildfires in the Amazon rainforest to damage his government's image after he cut their funding. New Delhi

Bolsonaro, who has shocked environmentalists with plans to open the Amazon to business interests, said NGOs could be behind the record number of wildfires this year, although he presented no evidence to backup his claim. Bolsonaro said "everything

indicates" that NGOs are going to the Amazon to "set fire" to the forest. When asked if he had evidence to back up his claims, he said he had "no writtenplan," adding "that's not how it's done." Bolsonaro said the slashing of

NGO funding by his government could be a motive for them burning down the forest as they seek to bring his government into disrepute. "Crime exists," he said during

a Facebook Live broadcast. "These

people are missing the money." Bolsonaro's latest comments enraged environmentalists, are increasingly concerned by his administration's attitudes toward

the world's largest rainforest, a vital

bulwark against climate change. Brazil

is home to more than half of the

headquarters for questioning, officials Amazon. "This is a sick statement, a pitiful statement," said Marcio Astrini, Greenpeace Brazil's public policy coordinator." Increased deforestation and burning are the result of his anti-

> environmental policy." of environmental concerns, wants to open the Amazon to more agriculture and mining, and has told other countries worried about rising deforestation since he took office to



A man works in a burning tract of Amazon jungle as it is being cleared by loggers and farmers in Iranduba, Amazonas state, Brazil yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

mind their own business.

Congressman Nilto Tatto, leader of the lower house environment caucus, said Bolsonaro's "stunning" attack on the NGOs was a smoke screen to hide his dismantling of Brazil's environmental protections built up over 30 years.

Bolsonaro on Wednesday said the administration is working to control fires currently raging in the Amazon Bolsonaro, a longtime skeptic rainforest, which have reached a record number this year. Brazil's space research center, INPE, has detected 72,843 fires so far in 2019. When asked about the spread of

uncontrolled fires, Bolsonarohas

brushed off criticism, saying it is the time of the year of the "queimada" or burn, when farmers use fire to clear "I used to be called Captain

the queimada," he told reporters. Former presidential candidate and environment minister Marina Silva

Chainsaw. Now I am Nero, setting the

Amazon aflame. But it is the season of

took to Twitter to criticize Bolsonaro. "The Amazon is on fire," she wrote. "The president says NGOs may be

behind this. The lack of commitment to the truth is achronic pathology. This irresponsible attitude only aggravates an environmental disaster in Brazil."

Bolsonaro also took aim at theParis climate accord, saying that if it were so good, the United States would have stayed in it. But he added that for the time being, Brazil would remain in the pact. President Emmanuel French

Speaking later on Wednesday,

Macron warned in June he would not sign the EU-Mercosur trade treaty if Bolsonaro pulled Brazil out of the Paris accord.

Earlier this month, Norway and Germany suspended funding for projects to curb deforestation in Brazil after becoming alarmed by rising deforestation under Bolsonaro.

ACC still promoted eight investigators

FROM PAGE 1

released on February 4 after serving three years in Kashimpur jail.

During investigation, none of these officials visited Jaha Alam's house to confirm his identity, the report said, adding that some bank officials and introducers of Abu Salek's bank accounts misled the investigators.

"But it is the duty of the investigation officials to unearth the truth and present it before the court. There is no scope for shifting this duty to bank officials or someone else," the report further said.

Under section 40 of the ACC Service Rule of 2008, these officials could face several penalties, including demotion, postponement of their promotion, forced retirement and even termination.

The eight officials are Selina Akhtar Moni, Masudur Rahman, Debrata Mandal, Meftahul Jannat, Silvia Ferdous, Muhammad Joynal Abedin, Rafi Md Nazmus Sadat and Saiduzzaman.

After promotion, Selina, Masudur and Debrata became deputy directors while Meftahul, Silvia, Joynal, Sadat and Saiduzzaman became assistant

directors. All of them have been tasked with important departments such as money laundering and special investigation. Saiduzzaman was later suspended

over negligence and misconduct in a separate investigation. Two other officials -- Deputy

Director Shekh Mesbah Uddin and Assistant Director Sumitra Sen -- hold the same post. Their elevation to higher positions,

although it was part of their regular promotion, has breed discontent and resentment within the ACC. "This sets a bad example. It shows

how someone can get away with such blunders and even be rewarded after that," said an ACC official, asking to remain unnamed.

ACC Chairman Igbal Mahmood declined to comment on the matter, only saying, "We will go by the rules and court's decision."

Contacted, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "Such rewards to inefficient officials send signal of a bad precedence."

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday

sought to know the names and other Cantonment branch. particulars of these 11 officials. The ACC will have to furnish the

details and place a report before the court by August 28, the HC said in a suo moto order after the antigraft body informed the court that departmental proceedings underway against them.

ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan later told The Daily Star that the commission had issued show-cause notices to these officials, but their replies were unsatisfactory.

This is why the commission has filed departmental cases against them, he said, adding that they can still hold their posts while the proceedings are underway.

HOW DID HE LAND IN JAIL?

The matter came to light in February last year after a private television ran a report on the plight of Jaha Alam, now 34. He was finally released on February 4 this year following an HC order.

The whole saga began in September 2010, when a money laundering case was filed with the Motijheel police against one Abu Salek and his associates over misappropriation of Tk 18.5 crore from Sonali Bank's According to the case statement, the

laundered money was then transacted to different accounts of 33 branches in 18 public and private banks. In 2012, the ACC filed 33 cases

over the incident after it took charge for further investigation. A total of 12 ACC officials were appointed as investigation officers of the cases. Of the 33 cases, Abu Salek was

named in 30. Later, his name was dropped from four more cases. In the end, he faced 26 cases that were investigated by 10 ACC officials.

Taking charge as investigation officer for two of the 26 cases, Selina Akhtar Moni asked the bank officials to produce Abu Salek before her. In December 2014, bank officials

produced Alam as Salek before Selina. Without any field visits or crosschecking the authenticity, Selina pressed charges against Alam, identifying him as Salek.

The other investigating officers did the same and placed charge sheet against him in the rest 24 cases.

Jaha Alam was eventually arrested in 2016 and sent to jail.

Indian gangs smuggling

FROM PAGE 16

Contacted, Lt Col Nazrul Islam, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion-35, which maintain security at the border point, said they arrested many with yaba pills, but were yet not sure about the origin of the drugs. Additional

Commissioner Junayed Alam Sharker, who is coordinating the investigation of a case over the arrest of the Indian national, said the arrestee's passport showed he was from Assam.

involved in yaba trade three to four months ago to earn easy money, he said.

"Sabur buys each pill for Tk 45 to Tk 50 and sells it for Tk 65 to Bangladeshi yaba dealers," Junayed

said, adding that yaba prices go up as the pills make their way to Bangladesh from Myanmar through the two Indian states.

The ADC said Sabur, using his own carriers, had earlier sent three other yaba shipments, each of 10,000 pieces. He arrived in Bangladesh for Deputy the first time on July 26 to observe the market here and establish a stronger network with Bangladeshi yaba dealers.

The local yaba dealers sold each pill for Tk 130 to Tk 140 in the wholesale Sabur was a vendor and got markets and Tk 300 to Tk 350 in the yaba traders, he said. local markets, the DB official said.

Of the two other arrestees, Jakir, also a cattle smuggler, has been involved in narcotics trade for years. He was earlier arrested in 2017 and stayed behind bars for six months,

Junayed said.

The other arrestee, Shamsul, had not been facing any cases and he used to work for Jakir, he said.

Jakir said he had bought yaba pills

from another Indian in Kurigram, said DB officials without elaborating. "We have come to know that several yaba syndicates are active in Kurigram.

Those have joined hands with their Indian associates," the ADC said. Based on information gleaned

from the arrestees, law enforcers were raiding several places to arrest other

Abu Mohammad Delwar Hasan Imam, officer-in-charge of Rowmari Police Station, said they had arrested many with yaba. Most of them were carriers of the drugs, he added.

"We heard that some yaba pills

came from India, but we are yet to get any specific information about their origin," he said, adding that they were investigating the matter as a priority.

This is not the first time law enforcers said yaba was coming into Bangladesh via India.

In July last year, they said yaba smugglers were using Mizoram, Meghalaya and Assam to bring in yaba from Myanmar.

The crazy medicine first enters Mizoram, a northeastern state of India, through hill roads and then makes its way to Assam and Meghalaya states in cars, buses or motorbikes.

Besides, the smugglers were found to be using the Bay of Bengal to smuggle the pills into Bangladesh using southern districts, including Patuakhali, added the law enforcers.

J&K tensions spike FROM PAGE 16

Highlighting

growing official, who has just returned from a visit to the region, called on India Tuesday to quickly release detainees and restore basic liberties. "We continue to be very concerned

by reports of detentions, and continued restrictions on the residents of the region," the State Department official told reporters. "We urge respect for individual

rights, compliance with legal procedures and an inclusive dialogue," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Officials in France said that

President Emmanuel Macron would bring up Kashmir with Modi when the two meet in Paris ahead of the G7 on police reports under the act.

the charges, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal will act as a juvenile court. The magistrates concerned will take cognizance of the charges based

juvenile courts which will resolve the

Before taking the cognizance of

over the region after a militant attack in Indian-held Kashmir in February was claimed by a group based in Pakistan, sparking tit-for-tat air strikes.

India has bristled at any suggestion of foreign mediation and strenuously denied a claim by Trump last month that Modi had invited him to act a peacebroker.

It was also left seething when the UN Security Council held its first formal meeting on Kashmir in nearly half a century last week, saying it would not accept "international

busybodies... tell(ing) us how to run our lives." British Prime Minister Boris adding to public resentment towards Johnson told Modi in a phone call New Delhi.

on Tuesday that the Kashmir dispute Earlier this year India and Pakistan must be resolved between India and north Kashmir's Baramulla district, international concern, a senior US again came close to all-out conflict Pakistan alone, Downing Street said. An Indian statement said Modi had

> raised with Johnson the "violence and vandalism perpetrated by a large mob against the High Commission of India in London" on August 15. Several thousand people had

protested in London that day over India's Kashmir move. Police separated them from a smaller pro-Indian counter-demonstration and

made at least one arrest. Clashes are common between Indian security forces and militants opposed to Indian rule, with tens of thousands of people killed in the past 30 years, most of them civilians,

But the latest gun battle in the

reported by Kashmir police yesterday,

id the first since the August 5 move.

"One terrorist killed... Arms and ammunition recovered. Our colleague SPO (special police officer) Billal attained martyrdom. SI (subinspector) Amardeep Parihar injured in the incident is being treated at Army Hospital," Kashmir Zone Police said on Twitter.

A later tweet said that the dead militant was identified as a local man "affiliated" with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

attacks in 2008.

LeT is a UN-listed militant organisation based in Pakistan and is accused by India and Washington of masterminding the four-day Mumbai

One held for raping fifth grader

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested a man for allegedly raping a fifth grader in Mymensingh, while another was sued for attempted rape in Jashore. The arrestee is Zilhaj Mia alias

Dilu, 30, of Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh. The 13-year-old girl was alone at

her home on Monday evening when Dilu forcibly entered the house, tied her hands and legs, and then raped her, police quoted the victim's family as saying. When the girl started screaming, her neighbours rushed there and

rescued her. But Dilu managed to flee. Later that night, the victim's mother filed a rape case against Dilu with Pagla Police Station of Gafargaon. Police held Dilu around 11:00am

yesterday and the girl was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical tests, said Md Shahinuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Pagla Police Station. In Jashore's Sharsha, the father of

a nine-year-old girl yesterday lodged a case against his neighbour for attempting to rape his daughter. The accused is Abdul Hamid, 40. The girl's mother said her daughter was playing in front of their home on

Tuesday afternoon. Hamid, luring her

with sweets, took her to his home and

tried to violate her in his empty house.

When the girl started screaming, her family members rushed there and rescued her. But Hamid fled. Talking to The Daily Star, Sukhdeb

Roy, officer-in-charge of Bagachhra police outpost, said they were trying to arrest Hamid.

Our Mymensingh and Benapole correspondents contributed to this report.

Trump accuses Jewish Democratic voters of 'great disloyalty'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday Jewish Americans who vote for Democrats display "either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty," sparking accusations that he is promoting and politicizing anti-

Semitism. His comments, which drew fierce rebuke from Jewish groups, came amid his ongoing dispute with Democratic Muslim congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, both of whom support a boycott of the Jewish state for its

treatment of the Palestinians. "Five years ago, the concept of even talking about this -- even three years ago -- of cutting off aid to Israel because of two people that hate Israel and hate Jewish people -- I can't believe we're even having this conversation. Where has the Democratic party gone?" Trump told

reporters in the Oval Office. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

Over 100

FROM PAGE 16

134 people while about 115 were missing, bringing the death toll of Mediterranean migrants to over 600 this year.

That put 2019 on course to be the sixth year in a row with more than 1,000 deaths, UNHCR spokesman Charlie Yaxley said at the time.

Ex-Goalanda OC

FROM PAGE 16

Besides, the court fined Zakia Tk 1 lakh, in default of which she will have to suffer three-month more in prison. After the placing the verdict, the

court cancelled the duo's bail and sent them to prison with conviction warrant to serve jail term. To add to this, the court directed

the concerned authorities to confiscate wealth of the duo that include 186.25 decimals of land in Dhaka's Rampura and Narayanganj's Bandar upazila, a flat in Dhaka's Gulshan and a deposit of Tk 25,000 with Gulshan branch of Standard Chartered Bank. According to prosecution, Saiful

acquired the illegal wealth during his deployment at different police stations across the country and his wife assisted him to do so. On August 4, 2009, the ACC served

a notice asking Saiful to submit his and his family members' wealth statement. Receiving the notice, Saiful

submitted a wealth statement of Tk 52,423,350 on September 29 the same year. During investigation, the ACC

found that the ex-OC concealed wealth from the statement. On top of that, the couple set up two filling stations, a Chinese

with the illegal money, the ACC added. The ACC pressed charges against the couple on January 20, 2011.

restaurant and bought a microbus

The charges were framed against them on August 4, 2011.