

# The puzzle of Tk 10 crore

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"We have to show the cost in advance to get the budgetary allocation in the coming years. Actually, no money has been spent yet," he told The Daily Star.

Asked about the funds shown spent, Tuhin said they sent back the money to the state exchequer. He also claimed all the universities implement projects this way.

But a deputy registrar of Dhaka University, who was involved in various development projects at the DU over the last eight years, disagrees with Tuhin. "I do not know how they have done it. We never did so at Dhaka University. Showing expenditure without doing any work is a breach of rules."

Preferring anonymity, he further said, "We mentioned the actual progress in our development projects. We were always much ahead in our work against the money released."

Contacted yesterday, Ferdous Zaman, director (planning and development) of the University Grants Commission, said there was no scope for showing expenditure without doing any work. It goes against the rules and regulations of development planning. "It creates room for corruption," he said.

"We will write to the university authorities to know the progress of all the components of the development project. Then everything will be clear."

Several officials of the finance ministry echoed the views of the UGC director and the DU deputy registrar.

The Tk 105-crore development project, comprising 23 components,

was taken up in 2014 and was supposed to be completed last year. Later, the project was revised and the cost expanded to Tk 255.56 crore, setting a fresh deadline of June 2020.

"We would have floated tender for the construction of Bangabandhu Mural Complex and Shaheed Minar in a couple of days but movement is going on," Deputy Project Director Tuhin said on Sunday.

On Thursday, when several thousand students started pressing for the VC's resignation, the university authorities circulated a decision to begin the construction of Bangabandhu Mural Complex and Shaheed Minar in six months.

"It's a shame that the construction of Bangabandhu's Mural Complex or Shaheed Minar has not started even in over eight years of establishment of the university named after Bangabandhu. But the authorities are showing crores of taka spent for this purpose," said a student of law department.

The demonstrators demanded a fair investigation into all implemented and ongoing projects of the university.

## Trudeau returns to campaign

AFP, Montreal

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Sunday resumed his re-election campaign with a promise to lower taxes, but once again had to apologize for a photo showing him in blackface makeup.



Mothers with prams demonstrate in London, Britain yesterday ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. Some 60 world leaders convened for the summit on "climate emergency" aimed at reinvigorating the faltering Paris agreement, at a time when mankind is releasing more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than at any time in history.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 2 held

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in Kapashgola area and recovered a foreign pistol and three bullets from Tinu's possession and seven shotgun shells from Jasim.

Based on their information, Rab later raided Tinu's home and seized a shotgun and 60 shotgun shells and two bullets, said the Rab official.

The two were handed over to Panchlaish Police Station and a case was filed in this connection, said the DD.

Besides yesterday's case, Tinu was accused in four criminal cases, including extortion and arms cases, lodged with Panchlaish and Chawkbazar police stations, the Rab official claimed.

## Victim sues OC

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investigate the case.

On August 2, the accused policemen detained the woman from inside a train in Khulna's Phultala Railway Station and took her to an apartment where they allegedly raped her.

The next day, the alleged rapists filed a case against the victim for possessing five bottles of Phensedyl, after which a court sent her to jail.

On August 4, the victim filed a complaint against the policemen with a local court while seeking bail.

The woman was released on bail on August 28.

Police Headquarters and Pakshey Railway Police formed two separate probe bodies to investigate the matter a few days after the incident.

## JUBO LEAGUE LEADER HELD OVER RAPE

Meanwhile in Manikganj, a court on Sunday sent a Jubo League leader to jail on charges of raping a teenage girl and spreading video of the incident on the internet.

The accused is Kamrul Hassan Kamal, a member of the convening committee of Ghior upazlia Jubo League.

Quoting the case statement, police said Kamal gave marriage proposal to the victim's elder sister about two months ago. Since then, Kamal had been maintaining a good relationship with the family.

Taking advantage of the intimacy, Kamal often used to take the girl to excursion, said Ashraf Islam, OC of Ghior Police Station.

Around a month ago, he took the girl to a residential hotel in Dhaka and raped her, the OC said, adding that the perpetrator recorded the whole incident on his phone.

Later, he raped the girl multiple times with a threat to release the video online, OC Ashraf said.

On Saturday, the victim's father lodged a case against Kamal, and he was arrested on the same night, the OC said.

## One killed as fresh unrest erupts in Indonesia's Papua

AFP, Wamena

At least one person was killed as Indonesia's Papua region plunged into fresh unrest yesterday, the military said, as protesters burned down a government office and other buildings in Wamena city.

## Trump, Modi vow close alliance

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to the translation, Modi made clear reference to rival Pakistan, which controls part of Kashmir and has sought to rally international attention over the Himalayan territory.

Modi said he was seeking equal status and development for Kashmir, adding that his actions were "causing discomfort to some people unable to manage their own country" and who "nurture terrorism."

"These people have put their hatred of India at the centre of their political agenda," Modi said.

India accuses Pakistan of arming Islamic militants who have fought its rule in Kashmir.

But India has also faced strong criticism from human rights activists for shutting down virtually all internet and cellular communications across much of Kashmir.

Protesters gathered outside of the NRG Stadium with placards and shirts that said, "Free Kashmir" and accused Modi of violating religious freedom -- a cause frequently evoked by the Trump administration.

**SOME DEMOCRATS TAKE DISTANCE**

The event -- dubbed, with a Texan twang, "Howdy, Modi!" -- was billed as the largest gathering ever by a foreign leader other than the pope in the United States.

Hoping to ensure that it remains

bipartisan, organizers also invited prominent Democrats.

Steny Hoyer, the second-top Democrat in the House of Representatives, pledged that both major US parties wanted strong relations with India -- but gently voiced concern, pointing to India's historic "respect for secularism and human rights."

"Americans and Indians must strive to make our promises and aspirations a reality for all our citizens," he said with Modi at his side.

Presidential contender Bernie Sanders, who did not attend, was more direct, saying that Trump showed a "deafening silence" on the clampdown in Kashmir.

"I know that when a president stays silent in the face of religious persecution, repression and brutality, the dangerous message this sends to authoritarian leaders around the world is, 'Go ahead, you can get away with it,'" Sanders wrote in the Houston Chronicle.

**ELECTORAL PROSPECTS**

Trump grinned broadly while Modi heaped praise on him, complementing him on his wit and even invoking the president's "Make America Great Again" slogan as he hailed the state of the US economy.

But Indian-Americans voted overwhelmingly for his rival Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Houston, one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the United States, is ground zero in the Democratic Party's inroads in Texas, a must-win state for Trump next year.

Speaking of his record as if on the campaign trail, Trump made no mention of many Indians' concerns over US visa policy -- but highlighted his efforts to turn back undocumented immigrants from Central America.

"We are going to take care of our Indian-American citizens before we take care of illegal immigrants that want to pour into our country," Trump said.

Hardly known for his celebrations of ethnic diversity, Trump said to Indian-Americans, "We love you."

"You enrich our culture, you uphold our values, you uplift our communities and you are truly proud to be American -- and we are proud to have you as Americans," he said.

Sporting a vest in yellow embroidery from Modi's home state of Gujarat as well as a cap in the Indian tricolour, Bhavin Parikh of Sacramento, California said he wanted to show support for Modi and called the event "historic" due to Trump's presence.

But he demurred on whether the gathering indicated backing Trump.

"It is not a question of Democrat or Republican. It's the American president supporting the Indian prime minister," he said.

## 15 EC staffers involved

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The DG also said that those involved in providing NID cards to Rohingyas, who are Myanmar nationals, would be brought to book soon.

"The EC will do everything necessary to ensure their maximum punishment."

Saidul said the EC has started a drive against all irregularities within the commission and will take all necessary measures to protect the NID database.

"The chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda has instructed us to show zero tolerance against corruption. That's why we have started the drive... We will not spare anyone [involved in irregularities]," he said, adding, "We are verifying whether any existing or former EC officials are involved in it [providing NID cards to Rohingyas]."

Saidul also said that the EC, if necessary, will seek assistance from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and intelligence agencies, including the Anti-Counter Terrorism Unit,

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Special Branch (SB) of police to bring the culprits to book.

"So far, we've gotten a list of 61 Rohingyas who tried to be voters. We are examining their information on how they made the attempt and who assisted them," he said.

About the security of the EC's main NID server, he said the main server is well protected.

"Without knowing the real matter, many are saying that Rohingya voters were included in the EC's server. But there is no way to do that. The main EC server is completely protected," Saidul further said, adding, "There is no scope to do so [include anyone in the main NID server] before next January 24, because before inclusion of any information in the main server, the voter list draft is supposed to be published on January 1," he said.

"That's why, names of the Rohingyas were included in the temporary server when voter lists were being updated. And we have so far identified 61 Rohingyas."

## Fossil of 125m-yr-old

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The Isle of Wight is rich with fossils and is flocked to by dinosaur enthusiasts who comb the south side for remains.

Coram added: "We think this is one of the first superpterosaurs. The Isle of Wight is incredibly heavily prospected by people almost on a daily basis, so it's a matter of being able to spot the little things that they can't."

Equipped with an extended jaw, the giant pterosaur - which hunted dinosaurs - would snap up and kill its prey.

In a paper co-authored with Professor David Martill of Portsmouth University, he wrote: "A morphometric analysis suggests an original wing span of approximately 5.6m. With an early Barremian age, this pterosaur would have been a giant for its time."

Pterosaurs - sometimes known as pterodactyls - co-existed among at the

same time as, but were not classed as, dinosaurs.

Because of their mammoth size, paleobiologists have long wondered how the creatures managed to take off, as their mass would suggest generating enough momentum would be impossible.

But 3D modelling has now revealed that bulging leg muscles and flexible wing structure allowed the giant pterosaur to vault itself into the air.

Michael Habib, from the University of Southern California wrote: "Unlike birds, which walk and jump into the air using only their hind limbs, pterosaurs walked on all fours."

"Mathematical modelling indicates that launching from a quadrupedal stance -- pushing off first with the hind limbs and then with the forelimbs -- would have provided the leaping power giant pterosaurs required for take-off."

## Distraught

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bathroom. She locked from inside the door of a small room adjacent to the bathroom.

"After a while, the family members broke the door and found her body hanging from a bamboo structure inside the room," the SI said, quoting family members and other locals, who were present at the scene.

"We assume that she committed suicide after hearing about her husband's death," Nurul said, adding, "Police recovered her body and sent it to Sunamganj District Hospital for autopsy."

## Cops' access

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guilt was not only uncalled for but also was contradictory to the ethical practices and fair and impartial investigation.

"Whatever the situation was, such a statement from a responsible officer like the superintendent of police has raised different questions in people's mind. On one side his statement raised questions in people's mind and on other it put his responsibility and professionalism into question, which is regrettable and disappointing," the HC said.

Asked about the latest PHQ directive, a mid-ranked police official said, "This is nothing new. The Police Headquarters had earlier issued almost similar directives several times."

In the directive, the PHQ said only the unit in-charge or the spokespersons will talk to the media about sensitive and special drives. Police officials will refrain from giving information to journalists about any issue outside their jurisdiction.

It prohibited the police members from recording audio and video footage of an event without approval.

The PHQ order also instructed the force members not to behave in a way that might create distance between media personnel and police.

## BCL men 'attack'

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10:30am, but they had to leave as the BCL men chanted slogans against them.

Shyamol then moved to Hakim Chattar on the campus and was talking to several electronic media journalists.

Riding motorcycles, around 40 BCL men went there at that time and BCL DU unit President Sanjit Chandra Das, who was already present there, asked the JCD activists to leave the campus immediately, the witnesses said.

The JCD men left the spot and moved to Shoparjito Shadhinota premises around 12:30pm.

Some 50 to 60 BCL activists swopped on the JCD activists soon after its General Secretary Shyamol left the area, the witnesses said.

The attackers punched, kicked and beat up the JCD men with iron rods, cricket stamps and sticks, injuring nine JCD men.

The wounded are Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall unit JCD Joint Secretary Khorshed Alam Sohel, and organisation's activists Kamrul, Firoz, Shahin, Masum, Mahbub Shahin, Fahim, Shajal and Nayan.

They were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Of them, Sohel and Kamrul were in a critical condition, said central JCD President Fazlur Rahman Khokon.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shyamol said BCL activists attacked the JCD men without any provocation from their side. At least 30 activists were hurt in the attack, he claimed.

He also alleged that the BCL men snatched mobile phone and wallet from one of their activists.

He demanded the university administration ensure punishment of the attackers.

The three university reporters who came under the BCL attack were Rahatul Islam Rafi, of daily Protidiner Sangbad, Afsar Munna, of Business Bangla, and Anisur Rahman, of Student Journal.

Anisur sustained injuries to his left

ear and was undergoing treatment at the university medical centre. He took primary treatment at DMCH.

Expressing sorrow over the attack on the journalists, DU BCL President Sanjit claimed that there were no directives from them to launch any attack and some "overenthusiastic" BCL men might have carried out the attack.

Every student organisation has its right to run their activities on the campus in a democratic manner, he said, adding that they would identify the attackers soon and take organisational action in this regard.

Contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said they would take action if any written complaint was filed in connection with the attack.

Ducus Vice-President Nurul Haque Nur yesterday condemned the attack and urged the authorities to take action against the attackers.

The BCL attacked leaders and activists of different organisations and protests of students recently and damaged the democratic environment on the campus, he alleged in a written statement.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader asked BCL leaders and activists not to make headlines for any wrongdoing, reports BSS.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said they should be subjects for positive news items.

He was addressing a programme organised by the AL sub-committee on relief and social welfare at DU's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban to mark the 73th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

To mark the birthday, 73 students of DU Bangla department were given scholarships at the function. The PM is an alumnus of the department.

Quader asked the BCL men to do politics being imbued with the ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who dreamt of building a society free from corruption, deprivation and injustice.

## 'How dare you?'

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World leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were due to address the one-day gathering, alongside companies working to promote renewable energy.

US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, both climate change skeptics, had not been expected to attend, but Trump was seen in the audience as some leaders delivered their speeches after remarks by youth activists.

With climate impacts such as extreme weather, thawing permafrost and sea-level rise unfolding much faster than expected, scientists say the urgency of the crisis has intensified since the Paris accord was agreed.

The agreement will enter a crucial implementation phase next year after another round of negotiations in Chile in December. Pledges made so far under the agreement are nowhere near enough to avert catastrophic warming, scientists say, and last year carbon emissions hit a record high.

Over the past year, Guterres has called for no new coal plants to be built after 2020, urged a phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies and asked

countries to map out how to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

**CARBON NEUTRALITY**

While some countries have made progress, some of the biggest emitting countries remain far behind, even as wildfires, heat waves and record temperatures have provided glimpses of the devastation that could lie in store in a warmer world.

In a measure of the gap between government action and the ever-louder alarms sounded by climate scientists, the United Nations Development Programme said that 14 nations representing a quarter of global emissions have signalled that they do not intend to revise current climate plans by 2020.

Sixty-six countries have signalled their intent to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, the United Nations said yesterday, seen as a vital goal in preventing catastrophic longer term climate change, reported AFP.

"In terms of the 2050 group, 66 governments are joined by 10 regions, 102 cities, 93 businesses and 12 investors -- all committed to net zero CO2emissions by 2050," the office of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

"The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win," he said.