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Where is Tk 4,500cr?

ACC yet to trace the money laundered from BASIC bank; probe remains incomplete

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobody “knows” where it is.

The 4,500 crore taka laundered from BASIC bank between 2009-13 has just disappeared.

This amount of money is large enough to have paid for the primary school education of 56 lakh students at the current government rate.

According to government data on age-old allowance, the safety net could have almost doubled to bring in around 75 lakh people per year, as opposed to the current 44 lakh, had the amount embezzled been used for the purpose.

But investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) are yet to even trace the whereabouts of the money or file any charge sheet regarding its disappearance.

Without these, the four-year long investigation of the 56 cases filed over it in 2015 remain stalled.

Pointing out the ACC's failure in implicating BASIC Bank former chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, ruling party lawmaker Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh on Monday said the ACC chairman should resign if he fails to discharge his responsibilities.

Taposh said even before the ACC's investigation had begun, the Parliamentary Standing Committee had held Bacchu responsible for the scam.

In the four years between 2009 and 2013, about Tk 4,500 crore was swindled out of BASIC, once a healthy

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Part of the Chandpur town protection embankment goes into the Meghna in Puran Bazar Harisava area yesterday, a day after erosion hit the area. Water Development Board is dumping sandbags to check further damage to the embankment. The authorities said strong currents at the confluence of the Meghna and Dakatia rivers near the area were causing the erosion.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

Release metro rail shares for public ownership

Says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister yesterday directed the authorities concerned to release shares of the metro rail company in the stock market to ensure public ownership, said Planning Minister Abdul Mannan.

She issued the directive at the Ecne meeting while approving proposals for two more metro rail projects in Dhaka with an estimated cost of Tk 93,800 crore, he said.

Mannan was briefing the press after the weekly meeting at the planning ministry.

As per the metro rail plan, the government would build five lines -- an elevated, an underground, and three elevated and underground -- in the capital and its adjacent areas by 2030, to ease traffic congestion and reduce pollution.

State-run Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd is implementing the projects.

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WAR CRIMES IN GAIBANDHA 5 sentenced to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday handed down death penalty to five Gaibandha men for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Members of local Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of Pakistani army, the convicts were involved in abduction, confinement, torture and killing of at least 22 people, including seven freedom fighters, in the district in 1971.

“It has been proved that the convicted accused persons were conscious and culpable part of the criminal enterprise. Their acts and conduct as have been found proved formed part of designed attack which was intended to liquidate the unarmed civilians,” the tribunal said.

Of the five, only Ranju Miah, 62, is in jail and was produced before the tribunal yesterday. The rest are on the run.

The four are Abdul Jabbar Mondal, 89, his two sons Jachijar Rahman alias Khoka, 67, and Abdul Wahed Mondal, 65, and Montaz Alia Bepari alias Momtaz, 71.

All of them are from Gaibandha Sadar upazila and were involved with Jamaat-e-Islami, an anti-liberation party, during the war, according to the case documents.

The three-member tribunal led by its

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ROHINGYAS FOR VERIFICATION Myanmar handed fresh list of 50,000

Says foreign minister; coastal surveillance won't hurt ties with China

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has handed over a new list of around 50,000 Rohingyas to the Myanmar authorities for verification and subsequently expediting their repatriation efforts.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said this to a small group of reporters at the ministry.

He said there are many stages of preparing a list and they are now expediting the process to facilitate the verification and repatriation process.

With this, Bangladesh has so far handed over names of over 1 lakh Rohingyas to the Myanmar authorities. with the previous number being 55,000.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas. Most of them entered the country since August 25, 2017 amid a military crackdown on them.

On January 16 last year, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a document on “Physical Arrangement”, which was supposed to facilitate the return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

The “Physical Arrangement” stipulates that the repatriation will be completed preferably within two years from the start.

Two attempts of Rohingya repatriation turned unsuccessful as the Myanmar authorities “failed to build confidence” among Rohingyas and their unwillingness to return for lack of a congenial environment in Rakhine.

On September 23 in New York, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar agreed to form a “tripartite joint working mechanism” to evaluate the situation

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TUHIN MURDER It was to frame rivals

Say uncle, cousin in confessional statements

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The brutal murder of five-year-old Tuhin Miah was executed by his uncle and cousin with his father's help to implicate their rivals.

The information was revealed as Sunamganj Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Khaled Miah recorded the confessional statements of Tuhin's uncle Nasir Miah and cousin Shahriar under section-164 of the Penal Code yesterday.

Mijanur Rahman, superintendent (acting) of Sunamganj police, said the court sent Nasir and Shahriar to jail after recording their statements.

Quoting the statements, the police official said Tuhin's father brought the boy out of home when he was sleeping.

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Thailand unveils puppies with royal pedigree



REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand has unveiled eight puppies related to the pet dog of late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, as the country observed the third anniversary of the monarch's death.

The black, brown and white puppies were born from two royal dogs artificially inseminated with semen from two male offspring of Khun Thong Daeng, the late king's pet.

The project was supported by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who was crowned this year after a mourning period for his father.

“King Maha Vajiralongkorn kindly wished that Khun Thong Daeng's lineage be extended so that

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FERRY DISRUPTION 200 vehicles stranded on both sides of Padma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

More than 200 vehicles especially goods-laden trucks remained stranded for the third consecutive day yesterday at Shimulia-Kathalbari terminals due to severe disruption in ferry services caused by poor navigability in a stretch of the Padma.

Officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said the situation would not get

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 16

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:38 7:15

JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:41 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BOOKER PRIZE 2019 Atwood and Evaristo joint winners



Evaristo Atwood

AFP, London

Judges tore up the rule book on Monday, awarding the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction jointly to Canadian author Margaret Atwood for “The Testaments” and Anglo-Nigerian author Bernardine Evaristo for “Girl, Woman, Other”.

Atwood becomes only the second female author to win the award twice, sharing the £50,000 (\$62,800, 60,000 euros) prize at the 50th anniversary ceremony at London's Guildhall.

The award has been shared twice before, in 1974 and 1997, when the rules were changed to supposedly prevent it from happening again.

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Illegally parked human hauliers, locally known as legunas, occupy part of the road adjacent to Osmani Udyan, leading to traffic jams in the capital's Gulistan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Turkey ignores US sanctions

Presses ahead with assault in Syria; Kurds defend key town

AFP, Near Ras Al-Ain

Kurdish fighters put up fierce resistance yesterday to Turkish forces battling to seize a key town in northeastern Syria, as the violence forced international aid organisations to halt their activities.

The United States slapped sanctions on its Nato ally in a bid to stop an assault that its own troop withdrawal triggered, but Ankara showed no sign of relenting.

Britain yesterday said it was suspending military exports to Turkey and China called on Ankara to stop its military action in northern Syria.

Syria's regime dispatched more troops to the northeast to contain Ankara's advance -- their most significant deployment in the Kurdish-controlled region since they

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