

3 accused

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surrendered there following an SC order.

Khurshid Alam Khan represented the Anti-Corruption Commission in the case.

During hearing three other petitions filed by Faruque, Aurangzeb and Shawkat, the SC on November 11 ruled that they must surrender to the trial court concerned in seven days.

The HC on November 5 stayed lower court orders that granted bails to Faruque, Aurangzeb and Shawkat in the case and also directed them to surrender before the lower court concerned within seven days.

It also issued separate rules asking the accused and the government as to why the lower court orders should not be scrapped.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court gave bail to Faruque, Aurangzeb and Shawkat on August 20, September 1 and 5 respectively.

Mother

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then the mother and the son were only living by themselves."

He also said that the dead did not have any enmity or rivalry with anybody.

OC Arifur said the motive of the murder was not clear. Police started investigating the incident, he added.

BSF kills

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said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials.

Company Commander Khandakar Abdul Hai of Kornojhora BGB camp said they were shot dead by the members of Ringkhingpara BSF camp in India's Meghalaya state.

The body of Ukil was found in Panibari area around 8:00am, while Khokon's body was found floating in the Kornojhora river around 3:00pm, said the BGB official.

"They probably ran to save their lives after hearing the sound of firing," he said.

Meanwhile, BGB protested the killing and sat in a flag meeting with the company commander of Ringkhingpara BSF camp, he added.

Ruhul Amin, officer-in-charge of Sreebari Police Station, said the bodies were sent to Sherpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

A general diary was lodged with the police station in this connection, the OC said.

PBCP leader

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on them forcing them to retaliate, he said, adding that they found Badsha dead on the ground after the "gunfight".

The OC also said they recovered a firearm and bullets from the spot. Two policemen were also injured in the incident.

In Chattogram city's Khulshi area, Abdul Aziz, an alleged robber, was shot dead by police during a "gunfight".

Police said Aziz came out of prison about three months ago after serving a 12-year sentence in a case filed under the Public Safety Act.

OC Pranab Chowdhury of Khulshi Police Station said Aziz's name came up in the primary investigation of a robbery incident at Garibullah Shah Housing Society in the city on November 15.

A team of law enforcers conducted a drive at his home at Nasirabad area in the city to arrest him, said the OC, adding that sensing their presence, Aziz and his cohorts opened fire on the team forcing them to retaliate.

At one point, the criminals fled the scene and police spotted injured Aziz on the ground, Pranab said.

He was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

(Our Jhenidah and Chattogram correspondents contributed to the report)

New Mars rover

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evidence of Martian life - if it ever existed.

The rocks around Jezero show evidence of carbonate and hydrated silica - molecules that are known on Earth to help preserve microscopic fossils over billions of years.

"It's a big glaring road sign saying 'look here, look here,'" said Briony Horgan, a planetary scientist at Purdue University and the lead author of a study in the journal Icarus reporting the carbonate detection. "Jezero Crater is an incredibly mineralogically diverse place, with lots of paths forward to search for biosignatures, which means we have a lot of chances to understand exactly what happened with the history of life here."

The study published this week relied on the Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer (CRISM), an orbiting camera capable of scanning the Martian surface in infrared and visible light. From 250 miles high, CRISM produces colourful maps of minerals on the Red Planet.

Carbonates, which form when carbon dioxide interacts with rock and water, have been found all over Jezero Crater. But CRISM showed a particularly high concentration of the mineral along the crater's inner rim, right where the shoreline of the lake would have been over three billion years ago.

Gain China, India's support

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Contexts" at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Former ambassador Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury said the recent filing of a case against Myanmar over "genocide" with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court's (ICC) approval to conduct a probe against the Myanmar government were encouraging developments for Bangladesh.

However, China and Russia exercised their veto power in UN Security Council meeting over the Rohingya issue. There was no sign that they have changed minds, he said.

India also restrained itself from exercising a vote that would have gone in favour of Bangladesh, he added.

Shamsher said the government has to keep these in mind, suggesting it to take a diplomatic stance with "cautious optimism".

He said China was racing to be a world power, while its role in a "multi-polarised new Asia" was also robust.

"We have to wait and see whether China will have any role in their [Rohingya] repatriation," he added.

He said Bangladesh and India were enjoying a "golden era" of the bilateral relationship.

Yet, Bangladesh was not in a position to be "overwhelmingly

optimistic", he said, adding that Myanmar "played its game" over a repatriation process earlier that had failed.

Security analyst Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said that the failure in repatriation of the displaced Myanmar nationals will create "big trouble" for Bangladesh in a decade.

He said as Myanmar does not want to take Rohingyas back, engaging the UN in the process could be helpful for a solution.

On the ICC's investigation, Sakhawat, a former election commissioner, said as Myanmar is not a party to the ICC, the investigation is most likely to take place in Bangladesh.

The government has to cooperate with them fully, he said, terming the recent developments at the ICC and the ICJ as Bangladesh's "diplomatic victory".

"However, pressure should be continued," he said.

Sakhawat said China has been trying to increase its influence in the Indian Ocean and in such a context, Bangladesh needs to emphasise on its national interest by holding dialogues.

He urged the government to create "Rohingya voices" and take them to the international platform. Creating a taskforce to create opinions abroad over resolving the crisis was also

required, he said.

Brig Gen (retd) Mahbubul Haque, a former defence attaché in Myanmar, said countries like the US, China and India have good relations with Myanmar and they are in competition with each other to further strengthen the relationship.

The reasons were the geographical location and geopolitical importance of Myanmar, as well as to balance China's power in the region, he said.

Chairing the roundtable, former ambassador Mohammad Zamir said Canada has recently shown its willingness to be part of the justice process at the ICJ. It was an important development as well, he said.

Chief guest at the roundtable and State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam said although Myanmar is not an ICC member state, creating pressure on it would be possible with cooperation from international communities if the court's verdict goes against Myanmar.

He said as a UN state member and party to different international human rights instruments, Bangladesh will give all-out cooperation during the investigation.

The government is committed to continue its bilateral relationship with Myanmar, he said.

Bhorer Kagoj Editor Syamol Dutta moderated the roundtable.

escalation of the unrest that has plunged the Asian financial hub into chaos for almost six months.

Demonstrators are angry at what they see as Chinese meddling in Hong Kong's promised freedoms when the then British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. They say they are responding to excessive use of force by police.

China says it is committed to the "one country, two systems" formula granting Hong Kong autonomy, while the city's police deny accusations of brutality and say they show utmost restraint.

China's foreign ministry said yesterday no one should underestimate its will to protect its sovereignty.

Chinese soldiers in a base close to the university were seen on Sunday monitoring developments at the university with binoculars, some dressed in riot gear.

The unrest poses the gravest popular challenge to Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012. Beijing denies interfering in Hong Kong's affairs and has blamed Western countries for stirring up unrest.

HK protest intensifies

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They said "toxic and dangerous chemicals" had been stolen from the university laboratory.

"We must warn that the university campus has become a powder keg where danger is far beyond what we can estimate," police said.

Police arrested 154 people aged between 13 and 54 over the weekend.

Dan, a 19-year-old on the campus, burst into tears as he said the protesters had been trapped for too long.

"We need all Hong Kongers to know we need help," he said. "I don't know how much longer we can go on like this. We may need international help."

China's ambassador to London said yesterday foreign countries, including the United States and Britain, should stop interfering in Hong Kong's internal affairs.

"Some Western countries have publicly supported extreme violent offenders, the U.S. House of representatives adopted the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act to blatantly interfere in Hong Kong affairs, which are China's internal affairs," ambassador

Liu Xiaoming told reporters. **THIRTY-EIGHT HURT**
One 24-year-old protester, who gave his name as "Be Patient", said he nearly suffocated in the crush.

"We couldn't move at all. The police didn't stop ... they still used rubber bullet and sponge rounds to attack us. We're talking about a distance of one metre."

There were also running battles in the nearby commercial area of Nathan Road where activists stopped traffic and forced shopping malls and stores to shut.

Police said a car tried to hit an officer in the nearby Yau Ma Tei district on Sunday night, reversing and trying again. Police fired a shot and the driver fled.

Thirty-eight people were wounded overnight on Sunday, the Hospital Authority said. Reuters witnesses saw some protesters suffering from burns from chemicals in jets fired from police water cannons.

Police said they fired three live rounds when "rioters" attacked two officers who were attempting to arrest a woman. No one was wounded and the woman escaped amid a dramatic

Arrest order for four fugitives

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Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, was beaten to death by a group of BCL men at the university's Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

On November 13, Inspector Mohammad Wahiduzaman of Detective Branch, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

Of the 25 charge-sheeted accused, 17 are members of the Buet BCL unit. Most of them have been expelled by

the pro-Awami League student body. Buet suspended 19 of the accused.

Eleven of the 25 directly took part in the killing as they either hit Abrar with cricket stumps, skipping rope or slapped him for hours, leading to his death, according to investigators.

The 14 others abetted the killing either by instigating it or calling Abrar to the room where he was tortured or by carrying the unconscious victim to another room and finally to the staircase landing, they added.

The murder triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the

country. Many took to social media to demand justice for Abrar.

In the face of protests, the Buet authorities banned all political activities on the campus in October.

On October 7, Abrar's father Barkatullah filed a murder case against 19 Buet students with Chawkbazar Police Station. All are among the charge-sheeted accused.

Eight of the accused made confessional statements before magistrates narrating the horrifying torture. Sixty people are prosecution witnesses in the case.

Invest in Bangladesh

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The PM hoped that the close cooperation between Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and Economic Development Authority of UAE; and Bangladesh Economic Zone Authorities and Emirates Economic Zone authority would play an important role in promotion of business and investment between the two countries.

"I look forward to more visits of UAE high dignitaries and entrepreneurs to Bangladesh with a view to enhancing cooperation and engagements in the fields of business and investment."

She said relations between Bangladesh and UAE have developed significantly in the recent years and attained a new height.

Hasina said Bangladesh is now regarded as "wonder of development" in the international arena.

"Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. According to World Bank, Bangladesh is the second fastest growing economy in Asia and fifth in the world," she pointed out.

She recalled her visit to UAE in February this year when agreements were signed between the two countries on establishment of port, industrial park, setting up of power plants and LNG terminal, supply of LNG and investment in economic zones.

The premier said Bangladesh received a very positive response from the UAE side following her visit. UAE firms have come up with proposals of investment in Bangladesh's power and energy sector, she mentioned.

"They have also shown interest in establishing LNG terminal and port. We have received a proposal from Emirates Economic Zone to establish its ventures in Bangladesh Economic

Zone on G2G basis," she said. Hasina said Emirates Economic Zone would like to set up sustainable economic zone, halal food processing unit and certification centres. "We have welcomed the proposal since agriculture is our major economic foundation."

She said Bangladesh Economic Zone authority is offering one-stop services to the investors for more than 100 infrastructure-related and utility services.

"Bangladesh has the most liberal investment policy in South Asia. It includes protection of foreign investment by law, generous tax holiday, concessionary duty on import of machinery, unrestricted exit policy, full repatriation of dividend and capital on exit, to name a few."

She also announced that Bangladesh would participate in the Dubai Expo 2020 in a befitting manner.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen also spoke on the occasion.

Chairman and Managing Director of RELAM Investment Sultan Al Rashed Lootah, Chairman and Managing Director of Emirate Islamic Bank Hesham Abdullah Al Qassim and Managing Director (International Operations) of Malabar Gold Shamlal Ahamed, among other entrepreneurs, were present.

'LABOUR MARKET TO BE REOPENED'

Meanwhile, the UAE on Sunday hinted at reopening its labour market to Bangladeshi workers.

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan gave the hint to Sheikh Hasina at a meeting on the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow at the Dubai World Central (DWC).

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim

Caught in cycle

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discrimination, where children of sanitation workers often struggle to escape the vicious cycle of limited opportunities and sanitation work, it said.

The most undesirable and high-risk jobs are typically subcontracted to temporary, informal workers despite a substantial formal and permanent sanitation workforce being present in Bangladesh, with basic working conditions protected by law, the report highlighted.

"Furthermore, alcoholism and drug addiction to evade the working conditions are common among some sanitation workers," it said.

It also said several case examples found reports of sanitation workers maintaining a low profile and hiding their occupation from their communities to protect their families' safety and well-being.

The report, which was jointly authored by the International Labour Organization, WaterAid, World Bank, and WHO, features the plight and dehumanising working conditions of sanitation workers across nine lower and middle-income group countries -- India, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda.

While talking to Bangladesh Horijon Oikya Parishad, it was found that dozens of sewer cleaners in Bangladesh die every year as they dive into pools of human waste without any safety equipment. They use a stick or just their bare hands to clear blockages or septic tanks.

Members of the Parishad said the cleaners hold their breaths when they dive through human waste and must deal with poisonous fumes emitted by the sewage. The sewerage lines are acidic and poisonous due to rotten filth. Most of the time, they buy and drink some local liquor before starting work in the sewer.

Nirmal Chandra Das, general secretary of the Parishad, said the cleaners do not have any land of their own and are not even able to rent homes for themselves. They live in "colonies", which are in terrible states, scattered across the city. Recently, there was an attempt by some quarters to evict the workers from one of the colonies in Old Dhaka.

"Discrimination [against them] is increasing by the day," he said.

Around 15 lakh people from the Horijon community are in Bangladesh and most of them are employed in this profession.

They said the job is basically "inherited" from their forefathers and they have no other work skills which compels them to remain in this profession.

The report said sanitation workers across the developing world often

suffer because of weak legal protection and a lack of enforcement of existing rules.

The numerous operational activities along the sanitation chain -- emptying and conveying faecal sludge, sewer maintenance, treatment, and end use/disposal -- have often been invisible or at least disregarded in regulatory frameworks, it emphasised.

"Though it is said to be a formal job, it is still dominated by the people who are not involved in any formal job. Still, they work as a day-labourers and as they are out of any formal sector, they are deprived of basic rights that are ensured by labour laws. The dangerous part is that the workers in this sector still work without any safety equipment," Riad Arif, communication officer of OSHE, told The Daily Star.

The report said sanitation workers who are not protected by adequate health and safety measures risk injury, infection, disease, mental health issues, and even death.

The reported physical and medical conditions directly associated with sanitation work include headaches, dizziness, fever, fatigue, asthma, gastroenteritis, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, polio, cryptosporidiosis, schistosomiasis, eye and skin burn and other skin irritation, musculoskeletal disorders (including back pain), puncture wounds and cuts, blunt force, and trauma.

According to the WHO/Unicef (2019) Progress report on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2017, an estimated 85.6 million people in Bangladesh do not have a decent toilet of their own.

It also said since 2000, the number of people with a decent toilet have increased by 131 percent.

The report said significant progress has been made since 2000 in ending open defecation, but only 48 percent of the population have access to basic sanitation.

Girl dies, several feared missing as French river bridge collapses

AFP, Toulouse

A 15-year-old girl was killed after a suspension bridge over a river in southwest France collapsed yesterday, causing a car, a truck and possibly a third vehicle to plunge into the water, local authorities said.

Four people were rescued but several others were feared missing after the collapse of the bridge linking the towns of Mirepoix-sur-Tarn and Bessieres, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of the city of Toulouse, said fire service and local security chief Etienne Guyot.

ACC seeks

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receipts and liquor.

ACC sources said the graft watchdog sought information on four top Customs House ICD employees --

Additional Commissioner Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan, Assistant Commissioners Kaniz Farhana Shimu, Abul Kashem Chowdhury and Tuhinul Haque, according to the letter.

The other government officials include Chief Engineer of Public Works Department Sahadat Hossain, its former chief engineer Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Additional Chief Engineers Abdul Hye, Hafizur Rahman Munshi, Executive Engineers Fazlul Haque Madhu, Showkot Ullah, Fazlul Haque, Rakan Uddin, Afsar Uddin, Swapan Chakma, Ilias Ahmed and Superintendent Engineer Abdul Momin Chowdhury. Food Inspector Khorshed Alam is also among the officials.

The political leaders include immediate past Swetchhasebak League treasurer KS Masudur Rahman, Dhaka South City Awami Jubo League Vice-President Mursaliq Ahmed, Dhaka South City Corporation councillors Farid Uddin Ahmed and Moinal Haque Manju, suspended Jubo League leader Kamran Prince Mohabbat, Dhaka South City Jubo League Organising Secretary Maksudur Rahman, Jubo

League leader Atiar Rahman, central Jubo League Organising Secretary Emran Hossain Khan, member Helal Akbar Chowdhury, Jubo League central leaders Shofiqul Islam, Taslim Uddin, Kaysar Ahmed and Tajul Islam Chowdhury.

The ACC also sought banking information of some of the leaders' wives, parents and children.

Bandarban-based Sylvan Wye Resort and Spa Limited's Chairman Jashim Uddin, Directors Fazlul Karim Chowdhury, Jamil Uddin, SHM Mohsin, Umme Habiba Nasima, Zia Uddin Abir and Jawad Uddin Abrar are also under ACC scanner.

Sources also said as part of the graft watchdog's drive against corruption which led to the arrest of several people linked to casinos, the ACC has initiated an investigation into the wealth of Bangladeshis who had been casinos in Singapore in the last five years, said its sources.

Since September 30, the ACC filed 14 cases against ruling party's former leaders including Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan, and Mohammedan Sporting Club Director In-charge M Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

The graft watchdog claimed to have gleaned crucial information from GK Shamim, Khaled and Lokman during their interrogation on remand.

Brazil's freed leftist leader Lula calls to continue 'the fight'

AFP, Recife

Brazil's left-wing leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva urged his followers to continue "the fight" Sunday evening at his first major rally since his release from prison a week ago.

"The fight isn't over," the former president chanted to several tens of thousands of cheering supporters in the northeastern city of Recife.

"After seeing so many people mobilize across the country, I want to say: 'The fight is not over.' The fight cannot end because we still want more," Lula said, referring to the thousands of left-wing activists who mobilized across Brazil during his 580-day incarceration.

"The 'Free Lula' campaign must become something even bigger!" he added, as the crowd welcomed him with cries of, "Lula, warrior for the Brazilian people!"

Lula, who held presidential office from 2003-2010, was arrested in April 2018 for corruption, though he said he was innocent. He was sentenced to 8 years and 10 months in prison.

The 74-year-old was released on November 8 in a politically sensitive Supreme Court ruling that could free thousands of convicts.

On Sunday, he returned to Recife, the capital of his home state Pernambuco, to take part in a music festival organized in his honor.