

HC upholds

FROM PAGE 16
correspondent that the HC yesterday affirmed the trial court verdict as the allegations of corruption against Nasir and Helal, who were on bail, had been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Their bail has been cancelled following the HC verdict.

On July 4, 2007, an anti-graft tribunal sentenced Nasir to 13 years for committing two corruption offences and his son Helal to three years for abetting his father.

The Special Court-2 set up at the MP Hostel in the parliament complex also fined Nasir Tk 50 lakh and said in default, he would have to spend another two years in prison.

Nasir was handed 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for illegally accumulating wealth and three years' simple jail for concealing information of wealth worth Tk 6,72,68,000 in the report he had submitted to the ACC.

Helal was jailed for three years and fined Tk one lakh for trying to withdraw and transfer about Tk 5.64 crore from their family joint accounts to the accounts of his wife and mother-in-law to help his father conceal property information, the ACC lawyer said.

The special court also directed the government to confiscate their wealth worth Tk 27,94,91,000 which is disproportionate to the known sources of income of Nasir and his son.

On March 6, 2007, ACC Deputy Director Sharmin Ferdous filed a graft case against Nasir with Gulshan Police Station for amassing properties illegally.

According to the charge sheet, Nasir, his wife late Dalia Naznin Nasir, their daughter and son have wealth worth Tk 29.22 crore. But they showed properties worth about Tk 22.50 crore in the wealth statement, hiding information of properties worth Tk 6.72 crore.

Lanka's new leader

FROM PAGE 16
(Rajapaksa) has accepted PM @ narendramodi's invitation to visit India on 29th November," Jaishankar said on Twitter.

It is most likely to be Rajapaksa's first official visit abroad after winning a landslide in Saturday's polls.

The Indian minister said he conveyed Modi's message "of a partnership for shared peace, progress, prosperity and security" to Rajapaksa in Colombo.

India's foreign minister became the first foreign dignitary to call on Rajapaksa who on Monday vowed to steer a "neutral" course in international politics as analysts warned the new president's election could re-boot the country's controversial ties with China.

Rajapaksa is following in the footsteps of his older brother, former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, whose decade in power up to 2015 was known for the government's close ties to China and caused concern in New Delhi.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's victory also caught international attention as he was a defence chief when his brother ordered the campaign that brutally ended a Tamil separatist war 10 years ago.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reminded Sri Lanka about the need to ensure accountability for alleged war crimes during the conflict.

"We call on President Rajapaksa to uphold Sri Lanka's commitments to security sector reform, accountability, respect for human rights and non-recurrence of violence," Pompeo said in a statement released late Monday.

The previous Rajapaksa government resisted international calls to investigate allegations of war crimes when troops stormed Tamil rebel bastions.

During the election campaign, Rajapaksa reiterated his position that he will not allow an international probe into charges Sri Lankan troops killed at least 40,000 Tamil civilians in the closing stages of the 37-year separatist war.

Qatar signs up

FROM PAGE 16
country keen to offer sustainable solutions for the month-long tournament, which will kick-off on November 21, 2022."

British tabloids have speculated that alcohol could be permitted onboard despite Qatar's strict Islamic rules governing alcohol consumption, leading to headlines encouraging "booze cruise for fans".

Under the agreement, the value of which was not given, the MSC Europa and MSC Poesia will be used to accommodate fans.

The MSC Europa will be delivered in 2022 and is due to be powered by liquefied natural gas, the statement said. The MSC Poesia features three swimming pools, 14 bars and a waterfall, according to the ship map.

Gas-rich Qatar opened a new temporary passenger terminal at Doha Port in October as it seeks to increase the number of cruise ships calling in the Gulf state.

Authorities said the terminal will serve until the completion of a port expansion plan due in 2022.

Qatar expects to host some 1.5 million visitors during world football's premier event.

Shahadat banned for five years

FROM PAGE 16
Naser Stadium in Knulna on Sunday. After the altercation, match referee Akhtar Ahmed had initially banned Shahadat for the remaining two days of the four-day first-class match. Shahadat's actions in Khulna amounted to a Level 4 offence under the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) code of conduct, which carries a minimum punishment of a one-year ban and a maximum penalty of five-year ban from all forms of cricket.

Following a technical committee meeting yesterday, BCB chief selector Minhajul Abedin informed that they have taken the decision considering the serious nature of the offence.

"Shahadat has had disciplinary issues in the past and we have taken that into consideration. It is a very serious offence when a player hits his own teammate and everyone in the

technical committee was convinced about the punishment against him.

"We hope that this will be an example for the other cricketers as well as it is unpleasant for any cricketer to get involved in disciplinary issues again and again. No one will be spared if they breach the rules and we want to give this message to everyone," Minhajul told reporters yesterday.

Shahadat was arrested in 2015 for assaulting his domestic help. The cricketer was then handed a lifetime suspension byt the BCB, but the board lifted the ban the following year after Shahadat displayed contrition and apologised.

This time too the cricketer said that he has realised his mistakes and will appeal for a reduction of the punishment over the next few days.

"I have made a mistake and I realise that. Sunny and I later resolved the

US backs Israel on settlements

FROM PAGE 16
law with the 'law of the jungle.'"

Palestinians argued the US stance flouted international law. The international community views the transfer of any country's civilians to occupied land as illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and UN Security Council resolutions.

"The United States is neither qualified nor is authorised to negate international legitimacy resolutions and it has no right to give any legitimacy to Israeli settlement," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The United States said its stance could prompt violence, warning Americans in the region to exercise greater vigilance because those opposing the move "may target" US government facilities, private interests and citizens.

Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, said the policy change would have "dangerous consequences" for the prospects of reviving peace talks and called settlements "a blatant violation of international law."

The UN human rights office said yesterday that Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory remain in breach of international law, rejecting the Trump administration's position that it now backed them.

"We continue to follow the long-standing position of the UN that Israeli settlements are in breach of international law," UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville told a

news briefing.

Pompeo said the move was not meant to prejudice the status of the West Bank, which the Palestinians hope will become part of an eventual Palestinian state as part of a wider resolution of the conflict.

"This is for the Israelis and the Palestinians to negotiate," he said, saying the US decision was not meant "to compel a particular outcome nor create any legal obstacle to a negotiated resolution."

While Pompeo said the administration was adopting Reagan's view that settlements were not intrinsically illegal, he dodged a question on whether he shared Reagan's view that they were ill-advised and an obstacle to peace.

Like many of the Trump administration's pro-Israeli moves, the settlements announcement is likely to appeal to evangelical Christians, an important part of Trump's political base that he is counting on to help him win re-election in 2020.

The timing suggested the White House may believe it could help Netanyahu withstand a challenge from his leading domestic rival Benny Gantz two days before Gantz faces a deadline to form a government after an inconclusive election.

'GRATUITOUS MOVE'
Analysts criticised the move, saying it would make it even harder to resolve the more than 70-year-old conflict.

"He can declare that night is day, but it will not change the fact that Israeli settlements are not only illegal

matter. I never imagined that I will get such harsh punishment and I am very disappointed. But I will definitely appeal against this and I am sure my punishment will be reduced if I am able to convince the board," Shahadat told reporters yesterday.

While Shahadat was the one who received the five-year ban for physically assaulting his teammate, it was learned that fellow pacer Mohammad Shahid was the one who started the argument. Shahid first pushed Sunny for not shining the ball properly and Shahadat later lashed out at his teammate and started slapping the cricketer.

The umpires noticed Shahid's involvement and they have already levied a fine of 50 per cent of his match fees for the Level 2 offence and reported the matter to the technical committee.

under international law, but are also a huge obstacle to peace and to the stability of our region," said Hagit Ofran of the Israeli anti-settlements group Peace Now.

The announcement marked the third major instance in which the Trump administration has sided with Israel and against Palestinians and Arab positions.

In 2017 Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and, in 2018, the United States formally opened an embassy there. US policy had previously been that Jerusalem's status was to be decided by the parties to the conflict.

And in March, Trump recognized Israel's 1981 annexation of the Golan Heights from Syria in a boost for Netanyahu that prompted a sharp response from Damascus.

As of late Monday, no other nations appeared to have followed the United States by declaring they had ceased to view the settlements as inconsistent with international law.

Trump's move may aim to help Netanyahu as he tries to stay in power. After two inconclusive elections this year, Netanyahu and rival Gantz have both struggled to forge a ruling coalition.

Ban Ki-moon

FROM PAGE 16
He previously visited the country in July and attended "Dhaka Meeting of the Global Commission on Adaptation". He is currently the chairman of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

100 still holed up at HK univ

FROM PAGE 16
police chief urged the support of all citizens to end more than five months of unrest triggered by fears that China's central government is stifling the former British colony's special autonomy and freedoms, including its independent judiciary.

Hundreds of them fled from the university or surrendered overnight and on Monday amid running battles on nearby streets where protesters threw petrol bombs and rocks at police.

Some made it out by rope and motorcycle.

"Some rioters were seen escaping by abseiling off a footbridge to getaway vehicles below," police said in a statement. "Our officers gave chase and were able to interrupt 37 of them including the drivers."

About a dozen tried and failed to flee through the university's sewers. A Reuters witness saw them wearing gas masks and plastic sheets, but the tunnel was too narrow.

Six protesters, led by a male in

full black body armour wielding a hammer, probed one of the exits yesterday, before deciding there were too many police around.

"We will keep trying," one of the group, dressed all in black, said without giving his name. "It's better than staying here."

On the sprawling campus in the Kowloon district, despair prevailed amid the shriek of fire alarms.

"I feel I'm in trouble," said a 22-year-old who gave his name as Marcus, sitting with two friends in the canteen at a table piled with dirty dishes and plastic cups.

"We keep trying to think how to escape, but every time we pick a spot we see many police nearby," Marcus said.

"But if we give up, we're finished."

COURT RULING
In the campus central square, a giant "SOS" call for help was spelled out in pink, blue and yellow bath towels.

The university is the last of five that protesters occupied to use as bases from which to disrupt the city, blocking the Cross-Harbour Tunnel

outside and other main roads.

In what many will see as an illustration of Beijing's tightening grip, China's legislature questioned the legality of a Monday Hong Kong court ruling that a ban on face masks worn by protesters was unlawful.

The National People's Congress (NPC) said Hong Kong courts had no power to rule on the constitutionality of city legislation, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Lam said her government was very much on the "reactive side" in dealing with the protests but she did not rule out more violence even as she urged peace. Lam said she had been shocked that campuses had been turned into "weapons factories".

Lam said 600 protesters had left the campus, including 200 below the age of 18.

Many protesters say they fear more bloodshed in a standoff that has seen some of the most intense violence in the worst crisis since Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

businessmen have cut short imports from the country, said ministry sources.

Market monitoring teams from the ministry and other divisions, and agencies of the government have recently punished 2,500 traders for their alleged involvement in manipulation of onion prices.

Every day, the teams have been imposing fines and handing down different jail terms to the offenders.

Regarding the sudden hike in salt prices, the minister said it was based on a rumour as the country had adequate supply of salt.

The monthly demand for salt is 1 lakh tonnes, but the country has a stock of 6.5 lakh tonnes, he said. TCB STARTS ONION SALE IN CTG
The TCB yesterday began sale of onions in the port city amid the high prices of the bulb.

The onions were sold in six points including near Kotwali, Pahartali, Bandar, Halishahar and Bayezid police stations.

Jamal Uddin Ahmed, regional head of TCB Chittagong, said they were selling each kg for Tk 45. The onions were imported from Myanmar.

Housewife gang-raped

FROM PAGE 16
confining her to Sanuar's room, said the statement.

She also alleged that they also murdered her husband.

The woman told journalists at the hospital on Monday night that when her husband rushed to Sanuar's home to rescue her, the three men allegedly killed him and hung his body to a tree. They then told the woman that her husband hung and killed himself.

Police on Saturday recovered the body and rescued the woman from a passage between Sanuar's house and another neighbouring house, said, Inspector Rashedul Hasan, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sadar police station and also investigation officer of the case.

He added that the criminals had fled when they sensed police presence.

The body was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy

and an unnatural death case was filed with the police station, said Inspector Rashedul.

Police told the media that the husband died by suicide after hearing that his wife was raped.

Meanwhile, Shaon was arrested early yesterday, the IO said.

Yesterday morning, a three-member body, headed by the hospital's gynaecologist Fakria Alam, conducted a medical test on the woman, said Prafulla Kumar Shaha, assistant director of the hospital.

"Injury marks were found in different parts of the victim's body," he added.

"The reason behind the [husband's] death will be known after the autopsy report is received," said Salemuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, adding, "We are investigating the incident and trying to arrest the two others accused."

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

FROM PAGE 1
15 to November 17.

Dr Manzoor Hasan, executive director of the Brac Centre for Peace and Justice, received the award on behalf of Sir Fazle Abed as he was unable to attend the award giving ceremony because of his health condition. Senior Minister of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam handed over the award on Friday.

Earlier, all the distinguished guests were welcomed by Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, the Chairman of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), a very prestigious and globally renowned think-tank located in Singapore.

Principal Research Fellow of ISAS, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, read out the citation on behalf of the organisers.

The citation for the award recognised Sir Fazle Abed as "a social worker with a humane heart". It recognised contemporary Bangladesh as "a country on the rise with its phenomenal progress being viewed as a remarkable achievement in all quarters".

Enayetullah Khan, chairman of Cosmos Foundation, addressed a very large gathering of a cross-section of the Singaporean community at a plenary session of the Convention titled "Business in South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges".

Khan laid out the manner in which the economy of Bangladesh had grown steadily and in a sustained fashion to become one of the fastest ones in the region and even in the

world through the mix of intense private initiatives and appropriate public policies.

He recognised that the issues of governance and climate change are often identified as "challenges", and stated measures are constantly being taken to address and surmount such problems.

In another session on "Women Empowerment in South Asia", which followed a keynote address by Minister Indraneel Rajah from the Singapore Prime Minister's Office, Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of the Campaign for Popular Education in Bangladesh, spoke of constraints such as the Rohingya refugee influx from Myanmar into Bangladesh, and a regional rise of "obscurantism", saying those notwithstanding, women's participation in all spheres of life in Bangladesh had not only become visible but also has gained wide recognition.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque participated in the final interactive session with Professor C Raja Mohan, director of ISAS.

Haque, who was earlier a ranking official of the International Organization of Migration (IOM), traced the evolution of the global migratory process and analysed how the Bangladeshi experience fitted into the process.

A prominent feature of this year's event was a recognition of the across the board role of Bangladesh and the Bangladeshis.

No headway in probe

FROM PAGE 16
Kayser said investigations into three cases were progressing slowly as they were working to identify the real culprits through analysing video footage.

"We don't want any innocent people to face harassment," he said. CASE AGAINST BIPOLOB

In a case filed by police under the Digital Security Act on the night of October 20, Biplob was named as the prime accused.

The case was lodged two days after Biplob filed a general diary with the same police station, complaining that his Facebook ID had been hacked and hate conversations were spread through it.

According to the case statement, Biplob was arrested from near his home in Kachia village of Borhanuddin on October 18. However, his family claimed he was taken into police custody after he went to the police station to file the GD.

Seven to eight unidentified people were also accused in the case.

On October 20, police claimed that they arrested the "hacker", Rafsan Islam Sharif, from Patuakhali and another man named Md Imon from Borhanuddin the previous day.

According to law enforcers, they picked up Sharif after he called Biplob from Patuakhali, and demanded Tk 2,000 for giving him back his Facebook account.

The investigators later told this newspaper that during probe they understood that Sharif didn't hack the FB account as he had no technical knowledge to do so.

Sharif told police that he called Biplob just to make fun of him after learning about the hacking, sources told this newspaper late last month.

Sub-Inspector Mohaiminul Islam of Borhanuddin police station, also the investigation officer of the case, said they picked up three people in connection with the case. The three -- Biplob, Rafsan and Imon -- are now behind bars.

"We remanded the trio and gleaned some information from them. The Police Headquarters in Dhaka is working to identify the hacker," he added. CASE OVER ATTACK ON POLICE

Police had filed another case on October 20, accusing several hundred

unnamed people of attacking law enforcers. So far, nine have been arrested in connection with the case.

"We picked up the nine after examining video footage and receiving information from different sources. Five of them gave confessional statements to the court," said Abdul Kader, investigation officer of the case and also an inspector of Borhanuddin police.

He said they were verifying information to identify the perpetrators of the attack and ascertain their motive.

All the nine arrestees are now in jail.

CASE OVER ATTACK ON HINDU HOUSES

A victim of the arson attack, Satya Prashad Das had filed the case with Borhanuddin police station on October 23.

Police have shown four people arrested in the case lodged over the attacks on homes of Hindus and a temple, said SI Shariful Islam of Borhanuddin police, also the IO of the case.

The arrestees were remanded for five days each, he said.

"It's difficult to probe the case promptly as the accused are unidentified. The arrestees have given some information about the other attackers and we are working on it," the IO said.

Shariful expressed optimism that the perpetrators would be held very soon.

Meanwhile, the horrifying memories of the October 20 mayhem were still haunting the Hindu families in Borhanuddin as they fear fresh attacks.

"We live in fear as the Hindu community of the upazila witnessed violence in 1992 after the demolition of Babri Mosque in India and also after the 2001 national election," said Anil Das, president of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad's upazila unit.

Meanwhile, the district administration's one-month ban on meetings and processions ends today, said Bhola Deputy Commissioner Masud Alam Siddique.

"We have talked separately with the leaders of the Muslim and Hindu communities for building trust between them. We will sit in a joint meeting with them very soon," he added.