

# Give me a list of launderers

Says finance minister after being slammed by opposition MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday told parliament that he does not know who are laundering money abroad and called upon opposition MPs to provide him a list of money launderers.

“I don’t launder money abroad. I believe you [MPs] don’t as well. How will I know who are laundering money, if you don’t provide me with a list?” he asked after opposition MPs slammed him for failing to stop money laundering.

The minister claimed that the amount of defaulted loans is the lowest since the country’s birth.

In 2006, the percentage of defaulted loans stood at 13.15 percent. As of September, it is 8.12 percent, which is the lowest, he said.

The heated debate took place during the passing of The Bankers’ Book Evidence Bill-2021.

While participating in the discussion on the bill, several opposition MPs alleged that thousands of crores of taka were laundered abroad from the country.

They also said the amount of defaulted loans has exceeded Tk 1 lakh crore.

The opposition MPs demanded answers from Kamal and formation of a banking commission to look into these matters.

The way you’re speaking, it seems that there’s no economy in the country, there’s no banking sector... how are we improving? How are we growing without these?

MUSTAFA KAMAL  
Finance Minister

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It’s quite hard to wrap one’s head around why someone, instead of using the footbridge right above them, would take the massive trouble of contorting their body to get through the structures beneath. With both sides of the road full of cars and buses, it’s even more reasonable to not bother with weaving through the vehicles and just take the easy path. Ignoring traffic rules and risking one’s life is, like always, concerning issues. This photo was taken yesterday near the capital’s Ideal School and College in Motijheel.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## MUGDA FIRE Man succumbs to burn injuries after wife, son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, who suffered burns along with three other family members in a fire in Mugda on November 22, died at a city hospital yesterday morning.

Sudhanshu Boidya (35) breathed his last around 5:00am at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said SM Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon of the burn institute.

He had suffered 35 percent burn injuries in the fire, he added.

Earlier, his wife Priyanka Baroi (32) and their son Arup Boidya (5) died at the hospital after they were injured in the fire believed to have originated from a gas leak.

Priyanka’s mother Shefali Rani Baroi (55) is in a critical state at the hospital.

Palash Baroi, a brother of Priyanka, said his sister’s family came to his house in Dakshin Mugda area from Shariatpur for Sudhanshu’s treatment.

## ‘Enact law against the maligning of Islam’

Hefajat places demands in presence of home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat-e-Islam at an event yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for those who demean Islam.

At an “Ulama Mashayekh” conference organised by Hefajat at Jatitya Press Club, it made a four-point demand in presence of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, who was the chief guest.

The other demands are the state declaring “Qadianis” as non-Muslims, release of arrested Hefajat leaders and scholars, and withdrawal of cases against them.

They also demanded action against people of the government who commented against the state’s religion being Islam.

Starting the programme, Hefajat Secretary General Nurul Islam said he arranged the event after showing the demands to the home minister, who acknowledged that the demands are fine.

Hefajat held a public programme yesterday for the first time after nearly eight months, following the arrest of their leaders in an anti-Modi protest, which sparked violence in different parts of the country.

“In March, some unexpected events took

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# Dispose of cases quickly, protect survivors during trial

Speakers tell nat’l conference on violence against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding that the cases of violence against women and children be transferred to a speedy trial tribunal, Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot (We Can) made a nine-point demand at a conference in the capital yesterday.

The event -- “National Conference Against Violence Against Women 2021” -- was held at the Liberation War Museum in Agargaon.

To stop all forms of violence against women and girls, the organisation demanded that the cases should be disposed of within the stipulated time and the victims and their families must be provided with the required security, medical care and compensation during the trial procedure.

The nine-point demand also included formulating and implementing policies to



prevent sexual harassment, as per the directions of the HC, making the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 successful and amending all kinds of laws discriminatory

to women.

In addition, they also recommended adopting a zero-tolerance policy against rape, sexual violence, abuse of women and children, and suggested introducing special campaigns against abusers.

Demanding a violence-free nation, Shaheen Anam, co-chair of We Can, said in her welcoming speech that even after fifty years of independence, the freedom of the people of Bangladesh has been curtailed by gendered violence.

“The tendency to not accept diversities has led to widespread discrimination and violence, we don’t change ourselves, police or law and order alone cannot change anything,” she said.

Senior district judge and director (training) at the Judicial Administration Training Institute

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## Carry out more research on Liberation War

Speakers tell discussion on Crack Platoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a virtual discussion yesterday said more research, especially at the universities, on the country’s Liberation War should be carried out to enlighten future generations about the most significant event of the country’s history.

They also said disseminating authentic history among students is essential not only to uphold the spirit of the Liberation war, but for the country’s progress as well.

The speakers said this at the virtual discussion titled “Crack Platoon: Dhaka’s Freedom Fighters”, organised by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation.

Attended by freedom fighters, the

discussion was the fifth installment of the foundation’s initiative “Bidyapith Baitthaki: Ontorongo Alape Gunijan”.

Crack Platoon was a group that conducted major guerrilla operations in Dhaka against the Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

Addressing the session, freedom fighter Habibul Alam said there should be PhD level research works on the historic March 7 speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

It’s unfortunate that no major research work on the historic speech has been done in the 50 years of the country’s independence, he said, stressing that the

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## People call us AL agents due to overpraising

Says JP lawmaker Chunnu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Because of praising the government so much, people are calling opposition lawmakers “agents of ruling Awami League”, the main JP opposition lawmaker Mujibul Haque Chunnu told parliament yesterday.

Chunnu, also secretary general of JP, made the remarks after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader criticised opposition MPs for not praising the government for its various successes and development activities in the transport sector.

Earlier, several opposition MPs of BNP and JP came down heavily on the minister for anarchic situations, corruption in the transport sector and recent fatal accidents on roads.

Addressing Quader, BNP MP Rumeen Farhana said the government just wants to hear praises, adding that it is the opposition’s job to expose the government’s wrongdoings,

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## PARLIAMENT PANORAMA

### Highways bill passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Highways Bill, 2021 was passed in parliament yesterday to enact a comprehensive law, replacing a century-old one.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader placed the bill in the House, which was passed by voice vote.

The bill intends to replace the Highways Act, 1925, which has only five clauses. Those are inadequate to deal with maintenance, management and construction of highways.

It has the provision of punishment -- maximum two years’ jail or Tk 5,000 to Tk 5 lakh fine -- in case of violation of the proposed law.

As per the bill, the government will decide who can enter which roads, which roads will be declared as expressway and highways, how they will be operated, and from which roads tolls will be collected.

### Rawshan Ara, Masrafe made chairperson, member of JS bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party lawmaker from reserved seats for women in parliament Rowshan Ara Mannan was made chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on Road Transport and Bridges Ministry yesterday.

On the other hand, Cricketer Masrafe Bin Mortaza, ruling Awami League MP from Narail-2, was made member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on planning ministry.

Chief Whip of parliament Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury moved the two motions to reconstitute the two parliamentary standing committees. AL MP Akabbar Hossain, chairman of the parliamentary committee on the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges Ministry, died on November 16, leaving the post vacant.

With Rowshan Ara being made chairman, four JP MPs are now chiefs of parliamentary standing committees.

### Bills to raise judges’ allowance placed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two bills were placed in parliament yesterday to increase allowances of the chief justice, and judges of Appellate Division and High Court. They are Bangladesh Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) Act and Bangladesh SC Judges (Travelling Allowance) Act.

Law Minister Anisul Huq placed the bills. The SC Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) Act will replace the existing ordinance of 1978. The SC judges (travelling allowance) act will replace an ordinance of 1976.

# Port city to be rid of 37-year-old toxic pesticides

- 1,000 tonnes of hazardous DDT to be cleaned up; stored in Ctg depot for 37yrs
- Out-of-date chemical may lead to health, environmental hazard
- To be shipped to France for incineration; venture of FAO, DoE, environment ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international operation to remove approximately 1,000 tonnes of hazardous pesticide is set to begin next month.

Specialists from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the government have set their sights on the now-banned DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), which has been stored at a depot in Chattogram for 37 years.

The pesticide will then be shipped to Europe for safe incineration in specialised facilities.

Under strictly monitored conditions, a specialist company will take about three to four months to remove the DDT and ship the waste to France, sources said.

The work will be undertaken through FAO’s Pesticide Risk Reduction in Bangladesh project, jointly implemented by the Department of Environment (DoE) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

An inception workshop for the project took place yesterday. Stakeholders at the workshop were provided with an overview of the project and discussed suggestions

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Airport Road is one of the busiest roads in the port city. Thousands of people ply it every day, but never without suffering. The area is under risk of accidents almost year-round. In monsoon, puddles gather and make movement difficult, while in the dry season, it becomes shrouded in dust so thick that it makes it hard to see due to development work. This photo was taken from EPZ area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Mayor Hanif’s anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 15th death anniversary of



Mohammad Hanif, the first elected mayor of undivided Dhaka City Corporation and president of Dhaka city Awami League.

On the occasion, President M Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in separate messages recalled Hanif’s memories and contributions to the nation and AL.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif Memorial Foundation will offer prayers at his grave at Azimpur graveyard around 11:00am and hold special prayers at Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque in Azimpur, said a press release.

Members of AL and its associate bodies as well

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