

See whether central bank violated rules

HC asks ACC over rescheduling of Tk 199cr defaulted loan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to examine whether Bangladesh Bank breached the rules by allowing an alleged money launderer to reschedule a defaulted loan of Tk 199 crore taken through forged documents.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo passed the order on a suo motu (voluntary) move following a report published in The Daily Star yesterday under the headline “Tk 199cr defaulted loan: BB allows ‘launderer’ to reschedule it”.

During the hearing on the issue, the HC judges wanted to know the opinion of the ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan about the news report.

Khurshid replied that according to The Daily Star report, the BB apparently violated the rules by letting a money launderer reschedule a defaulted loan of Tk 199 crore taken from Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd (BCBL) through forged documents.

The lawyer also said the ACC informed him yesterday morning that the commission is conducting an enquiry into the allegation.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik requested the HC bench to issue a suo motu rule on the issue.

The HC bench then said Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and the ACC are there to look into this matter.

According to The Daily Star report, the BB also gave the BCBL permission to waive interest of Tk 71 crore on the defaulted loan of SB Exim owned by Shahjahan.

As per the BB rules, no bank is allowed to reschedule any defaulted loans that have been secured through forgery. In such a case, a bank must file a lawsuit with a court to recover the embezzled fund, the report said.

Erdogan to meet Biden for crunch Nato talks

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said he would meet US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the Nato summit in Madrid for talks on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Analysts believe the meeting could play a crucial role in lifting Turkey's resistance to bids by Sweden and Finland to join the Western defence alliance in response to the war.



Twelve-year-old Noman, who works as a bus helper, running to catch his bus at Science Laboratory intersection in the capital yesterday. As per the child labour laws, children cannot be employed in such risky jobs.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Russia demands Ukraine surrender

G7 vows to make Moscow pay as death toll from strike on shopping mall rises to 18, dozens still missing

AGENCIES

Russia vowed yesterday its assault on Ukraine would continue until Kyiv surrenders, as world leaders warned that Moscow would pay for its aggression.

The G7 group of the world's most powerful democracies met in Germany to send a message that they remain united behind Ukraine's embattled government.

And, ahead of a key meeting of the Nato allies, US President Joe Biden and fellow leaders pledged military aid for Kyiv and economic pain for Moscow.

But President Vladimir Putin's Kremlin was unmoved, warning that Ukraine's forces' only option was to lay down their arms in the face of the Russian invasion.

“The Ukrainian side can stop everything before the end of today,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

“An order for the nationalist units to lay down their arms is necessary,” he said, adding that Kyiv had to fulfil a list of Moscow's demands.

The consequences of Russia's four-

month-old invasion were on display in the central Ukrainian city of Kremenchuk, where shaken civilians recounted Monday's missile strike on a shopping mall.

“Everything burned, really everything, like a spark to a touchpaper. I heard people screaming. It was horror,” witness Polina Puchintseva told AFP.

All that was left of the shopping centre -- scene of at least 18 deaths and 36 missing -- was charred debris, chunks of blackened walls and green lettering from a smashed store front.

Russia claims its missile salvo was aimed at an arms depot -- but none of the civilians who talked to AFP knew of any weapons store in the neighbourhood.

“Indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians constitute a war crime,” the G7 leaders said in a statement, condemning the “abominable attack”.

At their summit in the German Alps, the leaders did not go so far as to brand Putin a terrorist -- but they vowed that Russia, already under tough sanctions, would face more

economic pain.

“The G7 stands united in its support for Ukraine,” German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told reporters. “We will continue to keep up and drive up the economic and political costs of this war for President Putin and his regime.”

British military leaders warned yesterday that UK armed forces must “mobilise” in response to the threat posed by Russia, with the army's new chief invoking the Allies' struggle against Nazi Germany.

Meanwhile, Moscow has stepped up shelling of Kharkiv, where Russian troops were pushed back in a counter-offensive in May.

Russian forces are also trying to storm Lysychansk, across the Siverskyi Donets River from Severodonetsk, which would complete their capture of Luhansk province, one of two eastern regions Moscow aims to conquer on behalf of separatist proxies.

The United Nations said that 6.2 million people are now estimated to have been displaced within Ukraine, in addition to 5.26 million who have fled abroad.

PADMA BRIDGE

Decision on ‘motorbike’ after CCTV installation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Decisions on whether motorbikes will ply the Padma Bridge only after CCTV's are installed and the use of speed guns begin there, said Khalid Mahmud, state minister for shipping.

He said this to reporters after the Annual Performance Agreement and an award ceremony at the ministry.

The government temporarily banned motorcycles on the Padma Bridge on June 27 -- two days after opening the bridge to transport.

The minister said ferries from the Mawa terminal will be operated as per the people's demand.

Woman murdered; husband, his first wife detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police yesterday recovered the body of a woman, allegedly murdered by her husband in Tangail's Madhupur upazila.

The dead was identified as Shefali Begum, 45, the second wife of one Golap Hossain.

Police detained Golap, his first wife Hasna Begum, 48, and their son Hasan, 25, in connection with the incident.

According to locals, after a dispute between the two wives, Golap got angry and hacked Shefali to death.

A police team recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy.

Murad Hasan, inspector (investigation) of Madhupur Police Station, said a case was being filed and necessary legal steps will be taken after investigation.

Dhaka Tokyo ink loan and grant deeds

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Japan have signed a loan and grant agreement worth \$1.23 billion for projects including the northern route of Mass Rapid Transit Line 5.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki and Economic Relations Division Secretary Fatima Yasmin signed the Exchange of Notes of the 43rd Official Development Assistance (ODA) Yen Loan and Grant Aid of Japan to Bangladesh.

The first batch of the 43rd round of yen loans includes two projects in the package.

One is to develop roads, drainage and water supply facilities, agriculture-related facilities, and waste management facilities in the southern Chattogram area, according to a statement of the Japan embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Opposition to EVM hardens

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Several pollical parties made a few suggestions, saying those need to be implemented before using EVM in the general election.

At yesterday's talks, the ruling party came up with a demand for appointing public servants as presiding officers and polling officials instead of non-government officials.

Prior to the talks at the EC office, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habiburul Awal said, “We are hearing a lot of discussions on the use of EVM [in election] since we took charge. Some were in favour of it while the majority is against it.”

He said they don't have that much knowledge about EVM. But as they are holding discussions and working on EVM, they have gained some knowledge about it.

“During the discussions, some said they would not take part in the election if it's held using EVM.”

The CEC further said they are yet to make the final decision on whether to use EVMs or ballot papers in the next polls.

Many political and election analysts are of the view that the PM's comment on EVM put pressure on the EC, the sole authority to decide on the matter.

Such a remark would increase the existing distrust among political parties which, according to them, would be an obstacle to holding a free, fair and inclusive election.

Talking to The Daily

Star, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said the EC has the absolute discretion to decide whether EVMs will be used or not in the polls.

“But the commission is now under pressure as the prime minister and a senior cabinet member said the Awami League wants EVMs in all constituencies in the polls.

“It seems the EC may opt to use EVMs in the election,” he said.

In recent talks organised by the EC, several civil society members and eminent citizens also advised against using EVMs unless there is a national consensus.

If the EC decides to use EVMs in all 300 constituencies in the next polls, it will need around 4.5 lakh machines. But it now has around 1.5 lakh EVMs.

TALKS WITH EC

Apart from BNP, 10 other parties that skipped talks with the EC are Krishak Samik Janata League, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob), Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Muslim League, Liberal Democratic Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Socialist Party of Bangladesh and Revolutionary Workers Party.

JSD-Rob, an ally of the BNP; the CPB; Revolutionary Workers Party; and Socialist Party of Bangladesh opposed the

use of EVM.

Talking to this newspaper on June 21, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said there was no question of joining the talks with the EC.

“It is an illegal Election Commission, and it is just carrying out whatever the government instructs it,” he said.

During the talks with the EC, the JP (Ershad), Gono Forum and Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bangladesh Nap) said they are against the use of EVM in the election.

The JP (Ershad) is a member of the election-time grand alliance led by the AL, while Gono Forum is a major component of opposition alliance Jatiya Oikya Front. Bangladesh Nap recently left the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

The AL along with its alliance partners Workers Party of Bangladesh, Samyabadi Dal and Ganatantrik Party told the EC that they are in favour of EVM.

The 12 parties that raised questions about the use of EVM are Bangladesh Congress, Gana Front, Jatiyatabadi Ganotantrik Front, Bangladesh Muslim League, National People's Party, Jatiya Party (Manju), Jamiote Ulamaye Islam Bangladesh, Islamic Front Bangladesh, Islami Oikya Jote, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Biklapadhara Bangladesh and Bangladesh Sangskritik Muktiyote, according to EC officials who were present

at the talks.

AL FOR ALL-EVM JS POLLS

Following yesterday's talks with the EC, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said they are in favour of use of EVMs in all 300 constituencies in the next polls.

In reply to a query, Quader, the road transport and bridges minister, said he believes the BNP will eventually join the polls.

“We want the BNP to contest the polls. We want a competitive election. That's why we don't want a big party like the BNP to be left out...” he told reporters.

Earlier at the talks, Quader proposed that public servants be made presiding officers and polling officials in place of non-government officials.

Gono Forum representatives said that if the election is held using EVMs, the results could be changed through some mechanisms.

A leader of Bangladesh NAP said, “EVM is a reliable tool for vote rigging.”

The representatives of Tarikat Federation told the EC that EVMs should be used in 150 constituencies.

Cops arrest 3

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Monirul Islam, 28, a madrasa teacher, were sent to jail via court, the OC said.

The incident reportedly happened in the presence of police at the Mirzapur United College in Narail Sadar Upazila on June 18 on the college campus.

An appeal

FROM PAGE 1

and unrelenting rise of newsprint price in the global market over the last year which doubled in the last few months due to the production and supply disruptions caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In addition, the higher exchange rate of dollars, and the rising printing and distribution expenses have caused the cost of production of our newspaper to nearly double.

Permit us to point out that during the pandemic, whose impact still affects us severely, we did not increase our cover price and absorbed the total shock of massive advertisement and circulation drop keeping in mind the interest of our readers.

In view of all the above factors, we are forced, at this crisis point, to raise the cover price of this paper to Tk 15 daily from July 1, 2022.

We appreciate the understanding and firmly believe that your support for independent journalism will remain unabated so that we can continue with renewed vigour our “Journalism Without Fear or Favour”.

Editor & Publisher
The Daily Star

Floodwaters

FROM PAGE 12

danger level yesterday.

Of them, the Surma was flowing 63cm above the danger level at Kanaighat in Sylhet, while Kushiyara was flowing 134cm above the danger level at Amolshid in Sylhet's Zakiganj and 45cm above the danger level at Sheola in Beanibazar upazila, the report added.

Build no new roads in haor areas: PM

FROM PAGE 1

Planning Minister MA Mannan told The Daily Star.

The PM said flyovers would be kept in mind that such damages are not caused to haors.”

Mannan said special projects would be undertaken for rehabilitation of the flood victims of the Sylhet region.

Hasina, also the Ecneec chairperson, directed the authorities concerned to find out places where construction of underpasses and overpasses is needed, reports BSS.

Yesterday's meeting

approved a total of 10 projects with an overall

estimated cost of Tk 2,216.75 crore, including one to

widen the Cox's Bazar-

Teknaf Marine Drive at a cost

of Tk 1,092.35 crore, aimed

at flourishing tourism and

improving socio-economic

flow of water there, the minister said.

“While implementing any plan in future, it should be kept in mind that such damages are not caused to haors.”

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conditions there.

Six out of the 10 projects are new ones while the rest are revised schemes. Of the total project cost, Tk 1,875.57 crore will come from the government while the rest as project assistance.

Referring to the approval of a Tk 119.50 crore project on the expansion of improved variety of spices and farming technology, Mannan said the domestic and global demand for

spices is growing day by day and its prices are also higher than other crops.

The minister said some seven types of spices are produced in the country now, although 50 types of spices are consumed.

“As a result, most of the domestic demand is being met through imports. So, there is a need to produce more spices to reduce import dependency.”

**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, INC.**
(Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)
Bid NOTICE

The International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC) is a private International, nonsectarian, voluntary organization providing relief, protection and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. In partnership with various donors, the IRC is undertaking a Rohingya Emergency Response Programme in Cox's Bazar and has a requirement for the following service:

BID Reference No	Description of Service	Offer submission deadline
IRC/BD/RFP/67/2021-2022	Request for Proposal (RFP) National / International Consultancy Service for Evaluation of Provision of IRC Bangladesh Country Program	July 13, 2022 (by 10:00 AM)

Interested bidders are requested to download the complete tender/Request for proposal (RFP) documents visiting the web link: <https://rescue.bbox.com/v/RFP-67-2021-22-SAP>

Online submission over the email (BD.tenders2@rescue.org) or, Hard copy sealed offer (separate envelop for technical and financial) will be acceptable by IRC within by July 13, 2022, at 10:00 am (BD time). Bid offers will not be accepted after close of business as mentioned in above table.

Bid document submission Address:
The Procurement Committee
International Rescue Committee, Bangladesh
3rd floor, Sayeman Heritage Residence,
Baharchora, Cox's Bazar