

## 9/11 victims not entitled to seize Afghan bank assets Rules US judge

REUTERS, New York

A US judge on Friday recommended that victims of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks not be allowed to seize billions of dollars of assets belonging to Afghanistan's central bank to satisfy court judgments they obtained against the Taliban.

US Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn in Manhattan said Da Afghanistan Bank was immune from jurisdiction, and that allowing the seizures would effectively acknowledge the Islamist militant group as the Afghan government, something only the US president can do.



"The Taliban's victims have fought for years for justice, accountability, and compensation. They are entitled to no less," Netburn wrote. "But the law limits what compensation the court may authorise and those limits put the DAB's assets beyond its authority."

Netburn's recommendation will be reviewed by US District Judge George Daniels in Manhattan, who also oversees the litigation and can decide whether to accept her recommendation.

The decision is a defeat for four groups of creditors that sued a variety of defendants, including al-Qaeda, they held responsible for the Sept 11 attacks, and obtained default judgments after the defendants failed to show up in court.

The groups have been trying to tap into some of the \$7 billion of Afghan central bank funds that are frozen at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. Other countries hold about \$2 billion of Afghan reserves.

## Bangladesh

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Bangladesh. The ministry official also informed Russia that Bangladesh has no capacity to refine Russian crude.

Bangladesh has been planning to import oil from India through a pipeline and the installation work of the pipeline was nearly complete, the energy ministry official said.

On Thursday, a cabinet meeting's assessment on trade with Russia found that under the current global situation, Bangladesh could not import oil from Russia but it could import food grains and fertiliser.

Meanwhile, a private fuel supplier from Russia sent a sample of Russian crude to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) on Wednesday.

The sample of about 50kg was supposed to be delivered to the Eastern Refinery for testing, sources said.

Preferring anonymity, a senior official in BPC had said that sample would be examined in Eastern Refinery.

## 5 held with 4 lakh

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Acting on a tip-off, the BGB raided the Hinala area near the Naf River in Teknaf upazila around 4:00am, said Lt Col Sheikh Khalid Mohammad Iftekhar, commanding officer of Cox's Bazar's BGB Battalion 2.

Seeing the BGB members arrive, two suspected drug traders fled the scene, leaving behind a bag full of the counterfeit drugs, he said.

A case has been filed with Teknaf Police Station in this regard, he added.

## রেজিস্ট্রার দণ্ডনি

যশোর বিভাগ ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

যশোর-৪৪০০, বালুচেশ্বর

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