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LOAN DEFAULTERS Govt working on exit plan for them

Says Salman F Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working on an exit plan for genuine loan defaulters along the lines of India's amended Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, said Salman F Rahman, the prime minister's private industry and investment advisor.

"If someone defaults on their loan, they should be given an exit plan. In the US, they have Chapter 11 and India has recently introduced this," he said at a seminar organised yesterday by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

In the US, a company files Chapter 11 when its debt becomes unmanageable. The company stays in business while its debts and assets are reorganised to stage a return to normal business operations and sound financial health in the future.

Earlier this month, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India amended its regulations to fast-track

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Some fishermen in Chattogram's Jelepara returning from the Bay of Bengal with their catch yesterday. Most of the fishermen in the area are passing days with difficulties as they are yet to recover from the devastation caused by Sitrang. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Hilsa fishing resumes after 22-day ban

Catch aplenty in southwest

UNB, Dhaka

Hilsa catching, selling, and transportation resumed on Saturday after a 22-day government ban ended Friday.

The usual hustle and bustle returned to the wholesale market with the arrival of different types of fish netted from the Bay.

Fishermen set out for Hatia, Bhola, Charfasion, and other coastal areas Friday night and returned with trawlers loaded with hilsa in the morning.

They brought their haul straight to Chandpur's Bara Station Fish Ghat, the biggest hilsa market in the country yesterday, said Bari Jamadar Manik, president of the Chandpur Fisheries Association.

Besides, hilsa from the confluence of the Padma and the Meghna rivers in Chandpur also arrived at the market in small amounts.

Visiting the market yesterday, UNB found hilsa weighing between 800 and 900 grams were sold at Tk 9.00 each while hilsa weighing between one and two kilogrammes were sold at Tk 1,100-1,500 each.

Many traders were seen buying fresh hilsa and sending them off to different places across the country.

"I'm taking around 50-60 maunds of hilsa to Jamalpur via Karwan Bazar, Tongi, Baipail and

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Ranga may lose parliament membership

RASHIDUL HASAN

Uncertainty looms over Jatiya Party lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga's membership in parliament after he was expelled from the party.

Following the latest rift between JP Chairman GM Quader and the party's chief patron Raushan Ershad, Quader on Friday relieved Ranga, a lawmaker from Rangpur-1, from the party.

Amid this tension in JP, the parliament would go into its 20th sitting this afternoon.

Ranga was relieved of the post of opposition chief whip and his party's primary membership was revoked, meaning that he was no more in the main opposition party in parliament.

Questions have arisen whether Ranga's parliament membership will be revoked as he is no longer in JP.

Asked, GM Quader said, according to his understanding, Ranga will no longer remain a lawmaker when they ask the Election Commission and also inform the Speaker of parliament to revoke his membership.

JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said this was an extremely technical issue as there was no clear instruction in the constitution whether an MP will lose his membership in parliament once he was expelled from his party from which he was elected a lawmaker.

Sources in parliament said, the ruling Awami League, in October 2014, removed former minister Abdul Latif Siddique both from the cabinet and the party.

The party later informed the Speaker of the decision.

The Speaker later sought the Election Commission's opinion over the legality of Latif's parliamentary membership.

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UK blew up Nord Stream pipeline

Accuses Russia; London denies involvement

REUTERS, London

Russia's defence ministry yesterday said that British navy personnel blew up the Nord Stream gas pipelines last month, a claim that London said was false and designed to distract from Russian military failures in Ukraine.

Russia did not give evidence for its claim that a leading Nato member had sabotaged critical Russian infrastructure amid the worst crisis in relations between the West and Russia since the depths of the Cold War.

The Russian ministry said that "British specialists" from the same unit directed Ukrainian drone attacks on ships of Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea earlier yesterday that it said were largely repelled by Russian forces, with minor damage to a Russian minesweeper.

"According to available information, representatives of this unit of the British Navy took part in the planning, provision and implementation of a terrorist attack in the Baltic Sea on September 26 this year - blowing up the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines," the ministry said.

Britain denied the claim.

"To detract from their disastrous handling of the illegal invasion of

Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Defence is resorting to peddling false claims of an epic scale," the British defence ministry said.

"This invented story, says more about arguments going on inside the Russian government than it does about the West."

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for Russian foreign ministry, said Moscow will seek reaction from the UN Security

To detract from their disastrous handling of the illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Defence is resorting to peddling false claims of an epic scale."

Council saying on social media Moscow wanted to draw attention to "a series of terrorist attacks committed against the Russian Federation in the Black and Baltic Seas, including the involvement of Britain in them".

Russia, deeply isolated by Western nations since its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, has previously blamed the West for the explosions that ruptured the Russian-built

Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines on the bed of the Baltic Sea.

But it had not previously given specific details of who it thinks was responsible for the damage to the pipelines, previously the largest routes for Russian gas supplies to Europe.

A sharp drop in pressure on both pipelines was registered on Sept. 26 and seismologists detected explosions, triggering a wave of speculation about sabotage to one of Russia's most important energy corridors.

Reuters has not been able to immediately verify any of the conflicting claims about who was to blame for the damage.

Sweden and Denmark have both concluded that four leaks on Nord Stream 1 and 2 were caused by explosions, but have not said who might be responsible. Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has called the damage an act of sabotage.

Sweden has ordered additional investigations to be carried out into the damage done to the pipelines, the prosecutor in charge of the case said in a statement on Friday.

The Kremlin has repeatedly said allegations of Russian

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8-year-old boy climbs California's El Capitan

CNN ONLINE



An 8-year-old boy became the youngest person to finish climbing El Capitan in California's Yosemite National Park on Friday, according to his father, who has been by his side and cheering him on since the pair began their journey earlier this week.

Sam Adventure Baker achieved the feat Friday evening, his father said in a Facebook post.

"What an amazing week! I'm so proud of Sam," Joe Baker wrote in the post. "He completed the youngest rope ascent of ElCap!"

The duo have been scaling the rock since Tuesday as part of a four-person team, where one person climbs ahead of the crew and sets the ropes for others to follow.

Earlier Friday, the pair told CNN they would hang a banner on their way up that says, "I love you, Mom, almost there."

Rock climbing has long been a part of the family's activities - Sam was "in a harness before he could walk," his father said, adding that his wife is also in love with the sport.

Sam's mother, Ann Baker, told CNN they've been supportive of Sam's adventures.

"He seems really happy to be up there and spirits are high," she said.

After resting in a double sleeping bag, Joe

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Media jeopardised relations with US

Says Momen

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday came down hard on journalists for misquoting him and jeopardising diplomatic relations with the US.

Media outlets had published news quoting Momen as saying that the US is a "war-mongering country".

"I did not say this. Either these journalists didn't know Bangla properly, or they have done this for specific reasons," Momen told journalists after paying homage to the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday.

He went on to urge journalists to exercise sound judgement before publishing news.

"Through misrepresenting the facts, our journalists have tried to make the US our enemy. It is a matter of shame for those journalists who wrote those false stories. It's a thing to be sorry about."

Following a seminar on October 26 at the Jatiya Press Club, some media outlets ran news quoting Momen as saying: "The US economy cannot function without war. The US is a war-mongering country. War keeps the US economy going. Once the Ukraine war ends, Taiwan would be next for the US."

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bibi Mariam Cannon, an early modern artillery which is said to be of the Mughal era, has been on display in the capital's Osmani Udyan. For the last three years, Dhaka South City Corporation authorities put a fence around the ground for development work. Inside the fence, an area which is restricted to people, the cannon remains in sheer negligence. The photo was taken recently.



Bangladesh, Zimbabwe meet for first time at WC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even though it probably would be hard to believe for regular followers of Bangladesh cricket, the Tigers will be taking on a familiar foe, Zimbabwe, for the first time in a World Cup clash at the iconic Gabba on Sunday.

The Super 12 fixture of the ongoing T20 World Cup is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am (BST). The match will be telecast live on T Sports and GTV.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) have held plenty of bilateral series over the years which only makes it hard to fathom that these two sides have never met at either of the 50-over World Cup or the T20 World Cup.

The two sides head into the game on the back of contrasting

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