



YOUR RIGHT
TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXII No. 283

KARTIK 19, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABIOUS SANI 8, 1444 HJRI

28 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE : Tk 15.00

A BPC concern robs state coffers of Tk 472.7cr

Finds CAG compliance report

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The government has been deprived of Tk 472.7 crore for 21 counts of irregularities by Standard Asiatic Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, found an audit.

The disclosure comes after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) pored over the company's books from fiscal 2012-13 to 2019-20 and made field visits.

Standard Asiatic Oil Company (SAOCL), which is a 50-50 joint venture between the BPC and the Asiatic Industries, is involved in the blending and marketing of engine oil and lubricating oil for vehicles; the marketing of diesel oil; the marketing and distribution of bitumen, liquefied petroleum gas and furnace oil; and supplying jet fuel to aircraft at Cox's Bazar International Airport.

The anomalies include embezzlement by top officials, high rates, overtime, missing funds, irregularities in payment of litigation fees and violation of the Income Tax Ordinance and VAT Rules.

Moinuddin Ahmed, one of its five directors and the president of its management advisory committee, was found to be involved in the irregularities, according to the report.

For instance, the company has Tk 194.7 crore missing thanks to non-payment of dues for lubricating oil sold by SAOCL to Asiatic Oil Company, which is owned by Ahmed, from fiscals 2011-12 to 2013-14.

SACOL's books would show that AOCL had furnished cheques against the invoice amount but the cheques were not deposited in its bank accounts.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



NATURE RECLAIMS Due to a lack of care, plants colonise the buildings inside Old Dhaka Central Jail. These structures remain unoccupied since July 2016 when inmates from the 200-year-old jail on the capital's Nazimuddin Road were moved to the newly built central jail in Keraniganj. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Khaleda will be back in jail if BNP does excess: PM

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be sent back to jail if her party does excesses, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

"Suspending her [jail] sentence, we have given her [Khaleda] a scope to stay at home on humanitarian grounds. If the BNP does excesses, we will send her back to jail," she said.

She made the statements while addressing a programme arranged by the Awami League at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on the occasion of Jail Killing Day, reported UNB.

The day is observed to remember four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, Captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamaruzzaman -- who were assassinated inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3 in 1975.

Talking at another event, the prime

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Imran survives attempt on life

The ex-Pak PM shot in the shin while leading a long march demanding early polls; attacker arrested

REUTERS, Lahore

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was shot in the shin yesterday when his anti-government protest convoy came under attack in the east of the country in what his aides said was a clear assassination attempt.

Khan, ousted as prime minister in a parliamentary confidence vote in April, was six days into a protest procession bound for Islamabad, standing and waving to thousands of cheering supporters from the roof of a container truck when the shots rang out.

Several in his convoy were wounded in the attack in Wazirabad, nearly 200 km (120 miles) from the capital. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said a suspect had been arrested.

"It was a clear assassination attempt. Khan was hit but he's stable. There was a lot of bleeding," Fawad Chaudhry, a spokesperson for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, told Reuters.

"If the shooter had not been stopped by people there, the entire PTI leadership would have been wiped out."

In a statement, the military called the shooting "highly condemnable". Khan, 70, had accused the military of backing the plan to oust him from power. Last week, the military held a news conference to deny the claims.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



Imran Khan being assisted after the attack.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Barishal city almost cut off ahead of BNP rally

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Barishal is now almost cut off from the other districts as two-day transport strikes begin today ahead of the BNP's rally in the divisional city tomorrow.

Bus owners said they enforced the strike demanding removal of unauthorised three-wheelers from roads. Transport workers of three-wheelers, however, went on strike demanding an end to harassment by bus owners.

Launch operators said vessels continued operations on Dhaka-Barishal route till last night, but the services may be suspended anytime today without any announcement beforehand.

Launch services on Barishal-Bhola route remained suspended since Wednesday night after the Awami League and BNP men clashed at Bhola's Bheduria launch terminal.

The BNP claimed a party activist suffered bullet injuries in the incident. Police, however, denied the claim.

Microbuses were also taken off roads from midnight last night for two days, Farid, a member of Microbus Drivers Association in Barishal, told journalists.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Let Article 7 guide us in every way

Dr Kamal Hossain, chairman of the Constitution drafting committee, talks to The Daily Star's Ashutosh Sarkar on the occasion of Bangladesh Constitution Day. This year marks 50 years of adoption of the Constitution by then Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh in 1972.

ARTICLE 7(1): All powers in the Republic belong to the people, and their exercise on behalf of the people shall be effected only under, and by the authority of, this Constitution.



TDS: While working on the draft of the Constitution, what were the philosophies, principles and objectives that you sought to implement through the Constitution?

Dr Kamal: In the drafting

committee, we were clear about upholding four fundamental principles -- nationalism, socialism, secularism, and democracy. This was because we dreamed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

READ AN INTERVIEW WITH SHAHDEEN MALIK TOMORROW



Don't miss today's 8-page special

50 YEARS OF OUR CONSTITUTION: ORIGINAL IDEALS VS REALITY



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi and player-of-the-match Shadab Khan celebrate the key dismissal of Heinrich Klaasen (R) during their T20 World Cup Super 12 match against South Africa. Gutsy Pakistan kept their slim hopes alive with a 33-run win (D/L method) in a dramatic rain-affected match in Sydney yesterday. Story on page 15.

British International Investment
(the UK's development finance institution and impact investor)
has signed a USD 50 Million Loan Agreement
with
Pubali Bank Limited
(a leading Private Commercial Bank in Bangladesh)

The loan will facilitate for climate mitigation projects across Bangladesh.

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

