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MONEY LAUNDERED ABROAD ACC ill-equipped to probe cases

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Money laundering cases are not making much headway for a lack of cooperation from foreign countries, bureaucratic complexities and a shortage of skilled lawyers, said officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

For example, since 2018 the ACC has made 34 requests for information on the wealth of 24 persons stashed abroad. To date, it has received no effective response to prosecute the offenders.

"The developed countries talk the talk but are reluctant in providing information on laundered money. They make unnecessary queries to delay the process," said Mahmudul Hossain Khan, ACC's director general for money laundering.

In its requests, the ACC asked the countries to give information on moveable and non-moveable assets worth about \$62.6 million, CAD 12.75 million, AUD 12.39 million, SGD 113.722 million, HKD 16 million, JPY 2.62 million, MYR 3.9 million, £59,341, THB 18,000 and Tk 16.8 million.

About Tk 5 lakh crore was laundered to different countries in five years from 2015, according to the Global Financial Integrity's report published in 2021.

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- ✓ About Tk 5 lakh crore was laundered to different countries in five years from 2015, according to the Global Financial Integrity's report published in 2021.
- ✓ Canada, the US, the UK, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and Thailand are identified as haven for Bangladeshi money launderers.

UPPER MIDDLE-INCOME
COUNTRY BY 2031
WB keen to help
Bangladesh in
its transition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has given the highest priority to helping Bangladesh reach the upper middle income status by 2031 in its new country partnership framework (CPF), said the lender's managing director of operations.



Trotsenburg

Axel van Trotsenburg, the WB's managing director of operations, conveyed the intent during his meeting with Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday, according to a finance ministry statement.

The Dutch-Austrian national is responsible for the WB's operations across the world, with a footprint spanning more than 140 offices. He is in Dhaka on a three-day visit to mark 50 years of partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank Group.

During the meeting, van Trotsenburg discussed different issues of the CPF in detail with Kamal.

The new CPF encompasses fiscal

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INFLATION IN DHAKA CITY Middle-income group most affected

Says CAB, its report puts inflation
at 11.08pc last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The middle-income group has suffered the most throughout 2022 as the average annual inflation rate was 11.08 percent in Dhaka city that year, according to the Consumer Association of Bangladesh.

Although the lower-income households faced comparatively less pressure, they had to compromise on their diet and living standards due to the increase in the prices of essential commodities and services.

The CAB, in a report, said the hiked prices of around 17 food and non-food products have directly contributed to the surge in the inflation rate last year.

The report was presented at a virtual press briefing by Mahfuz Kabir, research director of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, on behalf of the CAB.

It was prepared on the basis of monthly price data of 141 food items, 49 non-food products and 25 services, from 11 markets under Dhaka North and South City Corporations.

Of the items, those majorly included in the CAB price monitoring report were rice, flour, pulses, bakery products, sugar, fish, eggs, domestic poultry, edible oil, imported fruits, vegetables, spices, tea and coffee, local and imported milk, washing and personal hygiene items, and transport costs.

Speaking about the methodology, Kabir said they have used January 2022 as the base month to compare with the other months' inflation.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) calculates the inflation on a point-to-point basis, under which the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is estimated based on price changes the same month a year ago.

He added that they have used the data of the CPI of the BBS to understand the inflationary pressure on ordinary consumers in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Ex-GCC mayor
Jahangir now
un-expelled
from AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has withdrawn the expulsion order of disgraced Gazipur mayor Mohammad Jahangir Alam who was the general secretary of the party's Gazipur city unit.

Jahangir was expelled from the party in November 2021 after a video clip of him making derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and expressing doubts about the numbers of martyrs in the Liberation War went viral on social media.

An AL central committee member, requesting anonymity, said Jahangir was among the nearly 100 formerly expelled leaders who had been amnestied by the party.

A significant number of these individuals were expelled when they participated in different elections as independents

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Rab man, two
others held after
robbery attempt
They tried to rob people on
Mohakhali flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a Rab member on charges of being involved in an attempted robbery on Mohakhali flyover in the capital around 2:15am yesterday.

Police said the arrested law enforcer is Abdul Momen, 26, of Rab I, but did not reveal his designation in the force.

The incident happened when travel agent Shahidul Islam, 42, along with his nephew Muhammad Riaz, 20, was returning home in Manikgonj in a rented car after meeting his friend at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, said Noor e Azam Mia, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station.

On Mohakhali flyover, another car stopped their car and four men claiming to be Rab officers handcuffed Shahidul and Riaz and tried to rob them brandishing a toy pistol, he said, referring to the case filed by Shahidul.

As Shahidul and Riaz started crying for help, several other vehicles stopped there. The four men then tried to flee in their own car, but people present at the scene caught a 23-year-old man named Arian Ahmed Joy, who claimed to be a Rab informant.

In primary interrogation, Joy told police that the gang was led by a Rab member.

Within hours, police arrested two others including the Rab member Momen and Farhad Hossain, the driver of the rented car, OC told The Daily Star.

The OC said Farhad is a member of the gang.

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AL to have
special train
for Rajshahi
rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

A special train will take Awami League leaders and activists to Rajshahi where they will attend a rally on January 29.

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak made the announcement at a meeting in Natore yesterday.

The special train from Natore will be able to carry 8,000 to 10,000 people, he said, adding that the train will leave Madhabnagar station and stop at Naldanga, Basudevpur, Natore Sadar, and Yasinpur before reaching Rajshahi.

Asked whether a train can be arranged for a political event, Palak said, "We have hired the train. This special train will not affect the schedule of regular trains."

The AL men would pay for the ride, he said.

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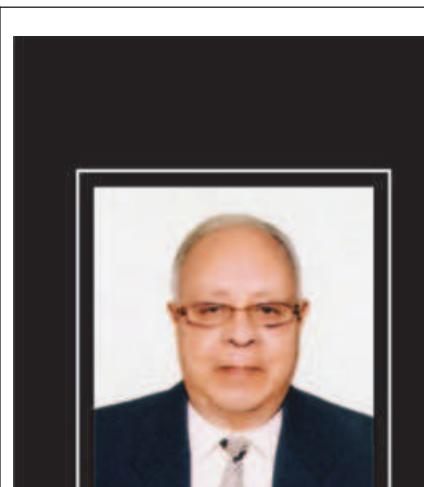
Children of a fishing family cuddling chickens on their boat on the Meghna in Nabipur area of Bhola. The family doesn't have a traditional home and live on the dinghy. Many families like this, locally known as Mangta people, can be seen in the district.

BUSINESS

State banks' lending suffers

Four state-run banks are struggling to generate revenue from their core business of lending due to voluminous non-performing loans and lending rate ceiling.

STORY ON B1



আহমদ সফি চৌধুরী

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড পরিচালনা পর্যবেক্ষণের পরিচালক
আহমদ সফি চৌধুরী

২০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৩ রাত ১১.৪৫ মিনিটে ঢাকার ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্সেক্ট করেন (ইয়া লিঙ্গারি ওয়া ট্রো ইলাইটি রাজিউন)। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড পরিচালনা পর্যবেক্ষণ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী গভীরভাবে মর্মাহত ও শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আত্মাহতায়ালা কাছে মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং মরহুমের শোক সঙ্গে পরিবার পরিজনের প্রতি সমবেদন জ্ঞাপন করছি।

মহান আত্মাহতায়ালা মেন তাঁর পরিবার পরিজনকে এই অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি সহ করার ক্ষমতা দান করেন।

পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED