



"We should be prepared for a prolonged war, even if an early end would be desirable."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Russia's invasion of Ukraine



WR1 Sitakunda's curse of industrial accidents



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P6 Meta maps way to 'kill' online deception campaigns

Become smart citizens

PM tells children on Bangabandhu's birth anniversary

UNB, Tungipara

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged children to grow up to be smart citizens following the ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib is no longer with us, but he left his ideals for us to follow," she said at a National Children's Day programme.

"Every child will have to engage in sports and physical exercises, stay neat and clean, obey teachers and guardians..." she said.

The PM was addressing a discussion and cultural programme at Tungipara in Gopalganj, marking the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina interacts with children at a function organised yesterday at Bangabandhu's mausoleum in Gopalganj's Tungipara on the occasion of the 103rd birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day.

PHOTO: PID

DUBAI PROPERTIES OWNED BY 459 BANGLADESHIS

Govt agencies fail to launch investigation

Sit idle despite HC order

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Despite the High Court order on January 15 to probe the purchase of Dubai real estate by 459 Bangladeshi nationals, the investigating agencies are yet to take any action.

The property purchase in the Gulf state -- with presumably laundered money -- came to the fore after the Centre for Advanced Defence Studies (CADSD), a Washington DC based non-profit organisation, published a working paper in May last year.

A total of 459 Bangladeshis purchased 972 properties in Dubai worth \$315 million without disclosing information. Of the properties, 64 are located in Dubai Marina and 19 in Palm Jumeirah, both premium locations. There are 100 villas and less than five buildings whose owners were identified to be Bangladeshi nationals.

Four to five Bangladeshis own properties worth about \$44 million.

Researchers however did not disclose any individual's identity.

After the report was published in a Bengali daily, the HC on January 15 ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to initiate a probe on the matter and give a report within one month.

The agencies are yet to start the probe as no written order has arrived. However, there are instances when the investigation agencies launched probes based on media reports and without an HC order.

In 2020 and 2021, ACC went through 2,167 media reports as its primary source of information and picked some for investigations.

Similarly, the other agencies also conducted probes on graft allegations based on media reports, documents show.

But in this case, they remain uninterested. Humayun Kabir, senior superintendent of Police of CID, said they are yet to get any copy of the HC's order on 459 Bangladeshis' properties in Dubai.

"Once we get the order, we will begin our work," he said. An official of the BFIU echoed the same.

Khairul Islam, director general of the NBR's Central Intelligence Cell, said he took charge only a few days back and could not say anything immediately.

"I have seen the report in the media," said Jahurul Haque, ACC's commissioner, while referring the correspondent to the agency's secretary.

Contacted, Mahbub Hossain, ACC's secretary, said: "As per the decision of the commission, next measures will be taken."

"This is a weak reason and disappointing -- and more so if the foot dragging is explained on the ground of non-receipt of a written court order," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

The agencies are being asked to do something that they should have done proactively, regardless of the court's intervention, he said.

The inaction raises several concerns. "Is it a matter of lack of relevant professional expertise? Or is it too much of a task compared to their collective organisational capacity? Is it a matter of lack of coordination between themselves? Or is it because of

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WAR CRIMES IN UKRAINE

ICC issues arrest warrant against Putin

AGENCIES

The International Criminal Court (ICC) yesterday announced it had issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin over alleged war crimes in Ukraine, including "unlawful deportation" of Ukrainian children.

The Hague-based ICC said it had also issued a warrant against Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights, on similar charges.

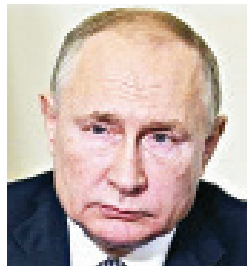
Russia is not a member of the ICC. It was unclear how the ICC planned to enforce the warrant. "Today, pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court issued warrants of arrest for two individuals in the context of the situation in Ukraine: Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Ms Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova," the ICC said in a statement.

Putin "is allegedly responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation."

The ICC said the crimes dated from February 24, 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Putin bears individual criminal responsibility for the aforementioned crimes," it said.

Putin was allegedly responsible both directly by



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Arav Khan's mysterious claims on Facebook

MUNTAKIM SAAD

For the last few days, the Facebook profile of Rabiul Islam AKA Arav Khan, which has now over 4.2 lakh followers, has been visited by many and scrutinised by some, which revealed some of the photos he posted were doctored.

Created on April 9, 2020, the profile was initially named Apon Arav before being changed to Arav Khan. His profile documents his journey from India to the UAE.

For example, a photo of him in front of London Bridge was found to be photoshopped, as was his another photo in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

He shared his photos taken in various locations around the world, including Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Australia. But some of these have also been found to be doctored. A photo of him on a private plane and another in Switzerland are among them.

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'He hooked me with promises of stardom'

Says young man who landed in jail pretending to be Rabiul

SHARIFUL ISLAM and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

Abu Yusuf Limon's dream since childhood was to be in the national cricket team. That's why when a man promised him a spot in the team if he did him a favour, he readily agreed.

A young Limon was in awe of the man's extravagant lifestyle and thought putting a cricketer in the national team should not be impossible for a man who had that level of success.

The man is Rabiul Islam, now better known as Arav Khan, and the favour he asked for is: Limon go to a court pretending to be Rabiul and surrender.

Limon yesterday told The Daily Star that he was a gullible 22-year-old desperately chasing his dream after months of lockdown in 2020. And on October 21 that year, he went to a Dhaka court, not knowing that that would be the beginning of what he said was a prolonged nightmare.

Assuming the identity of Rabiul, he surrendered to the court as the accused in a murder case. He was immediately sent to jail and was not



Yusuf Limon



Rabiul Islam

released until nine months later.

Rabiul, an accused in a case filed over the killing of a police officer in July 2018, came under the spotlight on March 15 when he invited cricket superstar Shakib Al Hasan to inaugurate his jewellery store in Dubai.

Shakib went to the Gold Souk in Dubai to join the inauguration in a luxury car accompanied by Rabiul.

Limon yesterday said, "Arav [Rabiul] promised me that he would get me out of jail after one and a half months. Then he would do everything needed to make my dream come true... I knew nothing about how the legal system worked."

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SCBA POLLS

Days ahead to be turbulent

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The one-sided election of the Supreme Court Bar Association is likely to keep fueling the tension between the pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers.

The pro-BNP lawyers, who did not cast votes, have already declared protest programmes and would continue their movement until their demand for a "fair SCBA election" is met.

At the same time, the pro-AL lawyers are getting ready to "politically and democratically resist any unrest or destabilising activities by pro-BNP lawyers on the Supreme Court premises".

The SCBA, the prime bar association of the country, which has been playing democratic and political roles since the anti-Ershad movement, witnessed the one-sided election for the first time amid police assault on journalists, lawyers, scuffles, violence and chaos on March 15 and 16.

Two separate criminal cases have already been filed against a number of pro-BNP lawyers following the incidents and one lawyer has been arrested.

In the election, the pro-Awami League lawyers' panel Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad won all the 14 executive posts of the SCBA.

Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAF), the pro-BNP lawyers' body, will hold meetings at the district bar association premises across the country tomorrow in protest against police's entrance into SCBA premises, torturing lawyers and journalists, forcing candidates and agents of pro-BNP lawyers' panel to go out from the polling centres and filing "false cases" against lawyers.

Candidates of the pro-BNP lawyers' panel will hold a press conference at the SCBA premises at noon tomorrow.

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This photo shows the receiving terminal of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline in Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila. The project will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi today.

PHOTO: STAR

Hasina, Modi to open Indo-Bangla oil pipeline today

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi is set to formally inaugurate the newly built Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline today through videoconferencing.

The two neighbours have built the 131.57 km cross-border pipeline through which Bangladesh will import petroleum, especially diesel from India, reports UNB.

The Bangladeshi part of the pipeline is 126.57 km long. The remaining 5 km part of the pipeline is in India.

"All necessary works of the pipeline project have been completed and it's now ready for inauguration," said ABM Azad, chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

The BPC, the state-

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