



BASIC BANK LOAN SCAMS ACC approves charge sheet against Bacchu

146 others also included in it over
embezzlement of Tk 2,265cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has finally approved the charge sheet against former BASIC Bank Chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu and 146 others in connection with 59 cases filed over embezzlement of Tk 2,265 crore.

The commission, however, did not implicate the then board members who were at the helm of the bank when the massive embezzlement took place between 2009 and 2013.

At that time, there were about 10 to 11 members on the board of the BASIC Bank and most of them were either running or former government employees.

Between 2009 and 2013, Tk 4,500 crore was swindled out of BASIC, once a healthy public bank. Of the sum, more than 95 percent was sanctioned by the board.

In 2015, the ACC filed 56 cases in connection with the scam, but curiously neither Bacchu nor any of the board members were named as accused although multiple probes indicated their involvement. Later, four cases were filed.

However, the charge sheet against Bacchu, a former member of the parliament, took eight years to come by.



Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu

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The High Court on several occasions expressed its disappointment over the delay in completing probes into the cases.

The cases were probed by Mohammad Morshed Alam, a director of ACC; and Mohammad Ibrahim, Monaem Hossain, Mohammad Sirajul Haque, and Gulshan Anwar Prodhan, all deputy directors of ACC.

Of the 59 cases, Bacchu was made accused in 58 cases, according to officials with knowledge of the proceedings. The ACC implicated 101 clients and 45 bank officials in the cases.

Among the bank officials, Kazi Faqurul Islam, former managing director of BASIC Bank, and Shah Alam Bhuiyan, company secretary, were also accused in the cases.

The ACC quizzed Bacchu five times. The commission also questioned all the directors of the then board.

Asked why the other board members were not implicated, one of the investigating officers said: "Bacchu with the help of the then managing director and company secretary created fake documents and sanctioned a loan while keeping the board in the dark."

On July 14, 2014, Bangladesh Bank sent a 47-page report on the BASIC Bank scam to the ACC detailing how people embezzled money through shell companies and dubious accounts.

The report, which included a list of borrowers, gave a detailed account of how the loans were approved and the amounts were subsequently withdrawn in clear violations of the rules.

The board and its credit committee disregarded the negative observations made by the branches for several loan proposals and went on to approve those, the BB report said.

B'BARIA CHHATRA DAL New committee members attacked by 'rival faction'

Crude bombs go off on
Cumilla-Sylhet highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Leaders and activists of the newly-formed committee of Brahmanbaria district Chhatra Dal were attacked yesterday allegedly by their rivals who did not get any position in the committee.

The attack occurred when the new committee leaders and activists brought out a procession in the morning.

Witnesses said multiple crude bombs were detonated during the incident on the Cumilla-Sylhet highway in the district's Shohortoli area.

Md Emranul Islam, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station, said that following the formation of the new Chhatra Dal committee the situation in the area was tense, which culminated in a clash.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by firing tear gas shells.

Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Selim Sheikh said, "Law enforcement agencies are at the spot to deal with any situation. All legal measures will be taken to protect lives and property."



Two groups of Chhatra Dal leaders and activists clash in Brahmanbaria town's Birasar Bus Stand area yesterday over the formation of the new committee of the student body's district unit. The clash ensued when Chhatra Dal men, who have been denied posts in the new committee, attacked a procession of the new leaders and their supporters.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Covering her nose, a woman wading through stinking water at Barai Para in Chattogram city's Bahaddarhat. Due to a lack of proper drainage system, the area has remained flooded for around a month now. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Ukraine retakes fourth village from Russia

Soldiers lift flag in Storozheve

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday its troops had recaptured a fourth village from Russian forces in a cluster of settlements in the southeast, where its forces have at last claimed gains in its long-anticipated counteroffensive.

The task of ending Moscow's occupation of southern and eastern Ukraine is daunting, given Russia's numerical superiority in men, ammunition and air power, and the many months it has had to build deep defensive fortifications.

Yesterday, soldiers were seen in video holding the Ukrainian flag in the village of Storozheve, along the Mokri Yaly river which flows northward out of Russian-held territory. Reuters confirmed the location.

A day earlier Kyiv said its forces heading south had liberated three other nearby villages: Blahodatne, Neskuchne and Makarivka.

The push is already Ukraine's most rapid advance for seven months, though still short of a major breakthrough, with Russia believed to have a strong line of fortifications further south.

At the furthest claimed by Kyiv, it adds up to five km (three miles) in total, still some 90 km (55 miles) from the Azov Sea coast and the prize of cutting Russia's "land bridge" to Crimea, the peninsula Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014.

A Ukrainian defence spokesman said Russia had blown up a dam on the Mokri Yaly to make it harder for Ukrainian forces to push farther south. That came less than a week after a huge dam was destroyed on the much larger Dniro River, causing a humanitarian catastrophe in a swathe of the south.

Kyiv has also launched assaults at other locations along the huge front line, probing for Russian weaknesses, though it has given few details so far.

5 more lives lost on roads

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed in separate road accidents in Sylhet and Chapainawabganj yesterday.

In Sylhet, three people were killed after a truck hit another that was parked on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Osmaninagar upazila.

One of the deceased was identified as Jashim Miah, 35, reports our local correspondent, quoting Abul Qasem, officer-in-charge of Osmaninagar Police Station.

One truck hit another, which had been parked on the road due to a punctured tire around 7:00am in the Soargaon area, the OC said.

The road accident occurred just four days after a fatal road accident left 15 dead and 10 injured in the same upazila.

Meanwhile, in Chapainawabganj, two people were killed in two separate accidents Nachole upazila.

The deceased are Zillur Rahman, 80, and Mojibur Rahman, 45, reports our local correspondent, quoting Nachole Police Station OC Mintu Rahman.

Zillur died on the spot when a motorcycle hit him while he was crossing the road at Uttar Mollickpur around 7:30am, the OC said.

Later in the day, Mojibur was also killed on the spot when a truck hit his motorcycle at the Chandona area around 10:30am, he added.

The bodies were sent to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

World's first manned flying saucer takes to the skies

MAIL ONLINE

At first glance at this image, you'd be forgiven for mistaking it as still from the latest science fiction blockbuster.



But the image is very much real and was snapped as the world's first manned flying saucer took to the skies over Shenzhen, China this month.

The futuristic vehicle looks just like a cartoon UFO, although it won't take you to another planet. Instead, the vehicle is designed to take off and touch back down on either land or water here on Earth.

Incredible footage shows the flying saucer soaring over a lake in Shenzhen with a pilot on board, although it remains unclear when or if it will be ready to accept other passengers.

Chinese news site, Shenzhen Pages, shared images of the donut-shaped aircraft on Twitter this week.

"After more than three years of research and development, Shenzhen UFO Flying Saucer Technology has manufactured the world's first electric vertical take-off manned flying saucer," it wrote.

28-STOREY BUILDING Collect dues from real estate within 2 months HC asks DNCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Dhaka North City Corporation to collect the dues in two months from Borak Real Estate Ltd and others involved in the construction of a 28-storey building on DNCC land in Banani.

It asked the DNCC to follow the terms and conditions of the agreement and the principle of equity of law.

The city corporation has also been ordered to submit a report to the HC after complying with the directives in three months.

In response to a writ petition, the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu issued the rule.

The court said if it finds any element of corruption after receiving the compliance report, it will order the ACC to conduct an enquiry.

LGRD secretary, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission chairman, director general of Department of Environment, DNCC mayor and Borak Real Estate Ltd have made respondents.

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