



Over Tk 13,110cr anomalies in Janata Bank

Finds CAG audit from 2015 to 2020

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

State-owned Janata Bank indulged in 31 counts of "serious financial irregularities" from 2015 to 2020 involving Tk 13,110.8 crore, which is 22.85 percent of the lender's liabilities, found a recent audit.

The infamous AnonTex Group, which faces allegations of forgery and money laundering, accounts for 44.3 percent of the sum, found the audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh conducted over a two-and-a-half-month period.

The audit found serious weaknesses in the bank's internal control system and gross non-compliance with rules and regulations, according to the audit report, which was submitted to parliament last week.

The irregularities include non-compliance with the terms for loan sanctioning and collection, circulars from the Bangladesh Bank's Banking Regulation and Policy Department (BRPD), the Bank Company Act 1991 and the lender's own credit risk management and loan sanctioning policies.

Neither did it adhere to the guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transactions nor to the terms agreed for performance improvement in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with the BB.

The bank lent huge amounts without adequate collateral, increased

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Rickshaws in almost waist-deep water on Green Road in the capital. Many streets and alleys in the city went under water after heavy rain yesterday. Those who went out had to wade through dirty water.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Heavy rain inundates parts of city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different neighbourhoods in the capital went under knee- to waist-deep water after heavy rain yesterday.

Yesterday, the last day of the Eid holidays, started off with clear skies. But intermittent rain in the morning followed by an hour-long deluge in the afternoon flooded many streets.

Streets in Sayedabad, Panthapath, Rampura, Mirpur, Badda, Malibagh, Khilgaon and Rajarbagh went under knee-deep water.

The Meteorological Department reported that Dhaka received 91mm of rain in the last 24 hours.

Sofikul Islam, a resident of Sayedabad, said, "The Eid holidays are coming to an end, and offices will reopen tomorrow [Sunday]. Due to the rain, I couldn't take my children out for the last two days. The rain has somewhat dampened the joy of Eid for children this year."

Sultana Khatun of Rampura said there was knee-deep water in front of her house. "It's impossible to leave the house," she said.

Moqbul Hossain, public relations officer and spokesperson for Dhaka North City Corporation, said their quick response team helped drain water from the main roads since Wednesday. The DNCC has deployed five pumps in Kalyanpur, he said.

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Cast ballots for AL in next polls

PM urges people

UNB, Gopalganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought vote for "boat", the electoral symbol of the ruling Awami League, in the upcoming general election.

"Awami League earned the country's independence, ensured its economic emancipation and socio-economic development, and arranged food, clothes and accommodation for the people of the country. So, vote for 'boat' in the next election," she said.

The premier made the call while exchanging Eid greetings with the leaders of the AL and its associate bodies, and local public representatives at the office of the party's Kotalipara upazila unit in Gopalganj.

The next national election is likely to be held late this year or early next year.

Hasina, also the AL president, said her goal is to change the fate of the people of the country. "Our goals are to ensure education and healthcare services of the

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7 YEARS OF HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK

Revisiting the horror

WASIM BIN HABIB

It was just another Ramadan evening at the Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016.

The Western-style café in the posh neighbourhood of Gulshan-2 had a thin crowd after the break of the day's fast. But guests started arriving at the two-storey eatery, a favourite for expatriates and Bangladeshis alike.

The number kept rising as the diners ordered pizzas, pastries, and coffee. The restaurant became busier around 8:00pm. A group of Italians and another group of Japanese were among the foreigners who were seated at tables; a few Bangladeshis were also dining.

None, however, had any idea the horrors awaiting them.

The diners heard a loud noise that resembled a firecracker around 8:45pm. Five young people with weapons like

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Caught in the eye of the storm

Leader of a SWAT team recounts what transpired in the first phase of the rescue operation

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The silence was unusual for a place otherwise bustling with activities. It reminded one of the calm before a storm, of ominous signs of danger. Even then, nobody in their wildest imagination could measure the devastation and bloodshed it would lead to.

That's how SM Jahangir Hasan, team leader of a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit, describes the eerie atmosphere that reigned in the surrounding areas of Gulshan's Holey Artisan bakery on the evening of July 1.

After some armed men exchanged fires with a police patrol team, he was asked to lead



SM Jahangir Hasan

his seven-member team into the premises of the Gulshan restaurant. As the team's responsibility was to gather and relay information, he felt compelled to venture inside.

To the right stood the Lake View Clinic building while on the left was the Holey Artisan Bakery cafe. The only sound that broke the silence occasionally was a faint voice coming from the side of the clinic. "Please save me. Please take me from here," the voice whispered.

Jahangir was the first to step inside the Holey Artisan premises after armed militants carried out a brutal militant attack on the Gulshan

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Green chilli sells for Tk 700 a kg! Goes out of reach for many

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

When consumers are struggling to deal with the soaring prices of essentials, the retail price of green chilli has hit a record high of Tk 700 a kg in the capital's kitchen markets.

Wholesalers at Karwan Bazar sold chilli for Tk 500 a kg yesterday.

Just about a month ago, retailers in the capital sold green chilli for Tk 100 to Tk 120 a kg.

Traders blamed supply dearth and damage to crops from bad weather for the abnormal hike in prices.

To cool down the prices, the government permitted import of green chilli ahead of Eid. But the move is yet to make any impact on prices.

The Daily Star yesterday found that traders and vendors in some areas of the capital stopped selling green chilli to avoid altercations with consumers.

Expressing frustration, Md Russel, a vegetables vendor in Gulistan, said he had to visit Karwan Bazar yesterday only to purchase green chilli for his shop. Before that, he went to Shyambazar but could not buy chilli from wholesalers who asked Tk 700 for each kg.

"I bought five kgs of green chilli for Tk 2,500 at Karwan Bazar. To make a profit, I will have to sell it for at least Tk 700 per kg."

Suruzzaman, a restaurant owner at Banglamotor, said his eatery requires three kgs of green chilli every day. After hearing about acute shortage of supply in the capital, he bought half a kg of green chilli for Tk 400 from Murapara Bazar in Sonargaon while returning to the capital from his hometown Narayanganj yesterday.

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BUSINESS

NOTICE

Star Business has not been published today as economic activities are yet to gain momentum following Eid-ul-Azha holidays. Business pages will come out from tomorrow.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the Name of Allah,
The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

7th Death Anniversary
FARAAZ AYAAZ HOSSAIN
April 15, 1996 - July 1, 2016

Seven years have passed since you left us, and not a day has gone by that we haven't thought of you. Though you left us in grief when you chose to stand by your friends and sacrificed your life to protect them, we hold our heads high today knowing you were our own.

You make us immensely proud when we witness your powerful legacy of courage, friendship, and humanity for the world. You are no longer just our Chotoo, today you are Bangladesh's, and you are the world's.

You live on as a symbol of courage and continue to serve as our moral compass to this day.

Though you are no longer with us, your memory, and bravery live on to impact the world.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love, and support. Please keep our beloved Faraaz in your prayers and may Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

Shahnaz Rahman and Family

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the Name of Allah,
The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

3rd Death Anniversary
LATIFUR RAHMAN
28 August 1945 - 1 July 2020

Three years since you left us, and you remain as our guiding light. Your strong values of ethics and integrity are still woven into every moment.

You were the pillar of our family and to all those around you. You remain a shining example of honesty, patriotism, and excellence in every sphere of life. We may miss your physical presence, but you live on in all our hearts.

You live on in all your strength and as a symbol of ethics.

Though you are no longer with us, your memory, and glorious legacy continues.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love, and support. Please keep our beloved Latifur Rahman in your prayers and may Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

Shahnaz Rahman and Family