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Confiscate all properties of Matiur, family

Court orders authorities

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered confiscation of all moveable and immovable properties of former NBR official Matiur Rahman and his family members in connection with corruption allegations.

The family members are Matiur's first wife Laila Kaniz Lucky, also the chairman of Narsingdi's Raipura upazila, their son Ahmed Taufiqur Rahman, and daughter Farzana Rahman Ipshita, and Matiur's second wife Shammi Akhter Shewly.

Their immovable properties include 2,212.35 decimals of land in Dhaka's Savar, Mymensingh's Bhaluka, Gazipur, Natore's Singra and Narsingdi's Shibpur, and four flats (total 7,248 square feet) in Dhaka's Mirpur.

They have Tk 13.44 crores in 116 bank accounts. The court also ordered freeze on the 116 bank accounts.

Judge Mohammad Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the orders after Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Md Anwar Hossain, also the investigation officer, filed a petition with the court in this regard.



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THE FINNED VAGABOND

An Indian vagabond butterflyfish looking for food in the corals of the Bay of Bengal in Saint Martin's Island. Found in the Indo-West Pacific region, this particular species of butterflyfish is distinguished by the intricate crisscross pattern on its body. There are over 100 species of butterflyfish across the world's oceans and the common name is owing to the bright colours and striking patterns. These fish are boundless and can be found on practically all coral reef frameworks and in every single tropical ocean. They spend their days tirelessly pecking at corals and rock formations, much like the one in the photograph, in search of coral polyps, worms and other small invertebrates. Alarminglly, at least five species of butterfly fish have been listed as "vulnerable to extinction" due to climate change, reef degradation, and coastal development.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

Stop 'judicial harassment' of Prof Yunus

Says Civicus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civicus, a global civil society alliance, and the Asian Human Rights Commission yesterday called on the Bangladeshi authorities to immediately end the ongoing "judicial harassment" of Prof Muhammad Yunus.

"Ahead of the Nobel laureate and social activist's upcoming trial this month, we call for his conviction to be quashed and all other charges dropped unconditionally," said a press release.

Prof Yunus is facing over 100 cases on allegations of corruption and labour law violations. He denied the charges, saying that the government was engaged in a judicial harassment



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GRAFT PROBE

Ctg police recommends dismissal of ADC Kamrul

Sends report to HQ

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Chattogram Metropolitan Police has recommended dismissal of its Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Kamrul Hasan after an internal probe found him guilty of misappropriating Tk 13.31 lakh.

The money was allocated for the food bills of the arrestees kept in the lockup of the metropolitan magistrate's court.

Kamrul, who served as ADC (prosecution) and ADC (crime) of CMP, is now attached to the CMP's Public Order Management Division.

Police sources said around Tk 13.31 lakh was withdrawn as food bills from the public exchequer from 2021 to June 2023 when Kamrul worked as ADC (prosecution).

On July 9, a Chattogram court ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate all movable and immovable assets, worth Tk 11.34 crore, of Kamrul and his wife following a petition filed



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Palestinians in Gaza City remain trapped

Says Hamas-run health ministry amid intense Israeli assault; 50 more Palestinians killed

REUTERS, Cairo

Residents of Gaza City were trapped in houses and bodies lay uncollected in the streets under an intense new Israeli assault yesterday, even as Washington pushed for a peace deal at talks in Egypt and Qatar.

Hamas said a massive Israeli assault on Gaza City this week could wreck efforts to finally end the offensive just as negotiations have entered the home stretch.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency was headed to Cairo for more ceasefire talks. US envoy Brett McGurk was in Israel, where he met Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

Home to more than a quarter of Gaza's residents before the offensive, Gaza City was destroyed during the first weeks of fighting last year, but hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have returned to homes in the ruins. They have now once again been ordered out by the Israeli military.

The Gaza health ministry said it had reports of people trapped and others killed inside their houses in the Tel Al Hawa and Sabra districts of Gaza City, and rescuers could not reach them.

The Civil Emergency Service said it estimated that at least 30 people had been killed in the

- Some Gaza City residents ignore order to head south
- Israeli army continues to blow up houses in Rafah
- Gaza death toll rises to 38,345

Tel Al-Hawa and Rimal areas and it could not recover bodies from the streets there.

Despite army instructions on Wednesday to residents of Gaza City that they can use two "safe routes" to head south, many residents refused to heed the order. Some posted a hashtag on social media: "We are not leaving".

"We will die but not leave to the south. We have tolerated starvation and bombs for nine months and we are ready to die as martyrs here," said Mohammad Ali, 30, reached by text message.

At least 38,345 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive in the enclave since October 7, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said yesterday. A total of 50 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israeli forces had quit the Shejaia suburb east of Gaza after over two weeks of a new military invasion, in which dozens of people were killed and residential districts were destroyed.

At the southern edge of the enclave in Rafah near the border with Egypt, where tanks have been operating in most of the city since May, residents said the army continued to blow up houses in the western and central areas, amid fighting with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other smaller factions.

Jubo League leader, two others sued under CSA

They 'insulted' state minister on Facebook

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case has been filed against Shamim Al Saiful Islam, organising secretary of Jubo League central committee, under the Cyber Security Act for allegedly insulting Mohibbur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, on Facebook.

Md Mohibullah, who identified himself as the personal assistant of the state minister, lodged the case with Barishal Cyber Tribunal on Wednesday.

Judge Md Golam Farooq ordered the officer-in-charge of Patuakhali's Mohipur Police Station to investigate and submit a report by August 29.

Mohibbur is the lawmaker of Patuakhali-4 (Kalapara and Rangabali).

Two general diaries have also been filed with Kalapara and Rangabali police stations of Patuakhali in this connection.

Two other accused in

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RE-ELECTION BID

Senators raise new doubts about Biden

AFP, Washington

A Democratic senator on Wednesday called on US President Joe Biden to ditch his re-election bid, capping a brutal day that saw mounting pressure from high-profile actor and donor George Clooney and party heavyweight Nancy Pelosi.

As the 81-year-old tried to show his leadership credentials at a Nato summit in Washington, domestic calls have been growing for Biden to quit following his disastrous debate performance against Republican challenger Donald Trump.

At least eight House Democrats have openly called on Biden to not seek re-election, but Peter Welch became the first in the Senate to explicitly do so as concerns rise over his age and fitness.

"For the good of the country, I'm calling on President Biden to withdraw from the race," the Vermont senator said in an opinion piece in the Washington Post.

News outlet Axios reported Wednesday that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer had also privately signaled to donors that he was open to replacing Biden on the Democratic ticket.

However, in a statement shared by his office Wednesday evening, Schumer said "I support President Biden and remain committed to ensuring Donald Trump is defeated in November."

Biden has been trying to stem a growing tide of Democrats saying that he cannot win in November, but a steady drip of public revolt is squashing efforts to turn the page on the crisis.



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'Hungry' Colombia up against the biggest beast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a long and challenging journey to reach another Copa America final, 2001 champions Colombia are now one hurdle away from adding the sweetest cherry on top after having achieved a record 28-match unbeaten run.

Los Cafeteros, however, are faced with the task of ousting holders and 15-time champions Argentina – the last team to beat Colombia when the two sides locked horns in a qualifying match for the 2022 World Cup, where Colombia did not qualify while Albiceleste went on to bag the most coveted prize in the sport.

In this edition, Colombia's path to the final has been defined by remarkable resilience and determination. After topping their group ahead of Brazil, they edged



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Spewing black smoke, an overloaded three-wheeler, locally known as Nasiman, plying a road in Khulna city's Boira Azizer Mor area yesterday. Such illegal vehicles contribute to air pollution and often lead to accidents.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

China a 'decisive enabler' of Russia's war in Ukraine

Say Nato leaders in stern rebuke

AFP, Washington

Nato leaders on Wednesday said China's deepening ties with Russia are a cause of "deep concern" and accused Beijing of playing a key role in helping Moscow's assault on Ukraine.

China "has become a decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine through its so-called 'no limits' partnership and its large-scale support for Russia's defense industrial base," Nato leaders said in a declaration from their summit in Washington.

Nato leaders urged China "to cease all material and political support to Russia's war effort."

"This includes the transfer of dual-use materials, such as weapons components, equipment, and raw materials that serve as inputs for Russia's defense sector," the declaration said.

China "cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation," the alliance said.

The statement came before the leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea were due to attend the Nato summit yesterday.

China yesterday warned Nato against "provoking confrontation" over its ties with Russia.

A spokesperson for Beijing's mission to the European Union said: "Nato should stop hyping up the so-called China threat and provoking confrontation and rivalry, and do more to contribute to world peace and stability."