

David Hasanat granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to garment exporter KM Rezaul Hasanat David, chairman and CEO of Viyellatex Group, in a case filed over vandalising and setting Setu Bhaban on fire on July 18.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim passed the order considering his health condition after his lawyer Sheikh Baharul Islam moved a petition on grounds that David was abroad during the time of occurrence.

During the hearing, the lawyer told the court that his client is a renowned businessman and was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him. The accused was abroad from July 13 to July 23.

Moreover, the accused has been suffering from different ailments. So, his client should be granted bail considering the depth of offences, said the lawyer.

While Sub-inspector Shah Alom opposed the bail petition saying that David was accused of financing the perpetrators.

Upon hearing both the sides, the magistrate granted David bail. The bail order will be valid until the submission of the probe report, said the magistrate.

PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



KURIGRAM, LALMONIRHAT Floodwater sweeps away fish worth Tk 6cr

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Recent floods have wreaked havoc on fish farms across Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, with floodwaters sweeping away fish and fish fries worth Tk 6 crore from 3,550 ponds and enclosures.

Approximately 2,000 individuals engaged in pisciculture have been severely affected, said officials.

According to the fisheries department in Kurigram, 210 tonnes of fish and fish fries from 3,100 ponds on 450 hectares of land along the banks of the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar, and Dharla rivers were washed away, leaving 1,600 fish farmers in dire straits with a total loss of Tk 5 crore.

In Lalmonirhat, the floodwaters washed away 50 tonnes of fish and fish fries from 450 ponds on 90 hectares of land in the Dharla and Teesta rivers'

shoal areas, causing a total loss of Tk 1 crore to 400 fish farmers.

"I had taken a Tk two lakh loan to rear fish in two leased ponds on four acres of land. All the fish were washed away by the floodwaters from the Brahmaputra. I don't know how I will repay the loan and raise capital to resume my venture," said Sudan Chandra Das, a fish farmer from Patrakhata village under Kurigram's Chilmari upazila.

Fish farmers Noor Islam from the Sardob area under Kurigram Sadar upazila and Dhiren Chandra Das of Kulaghat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila shared similar plights.

Moktadir Khan, district fisheries officer in Kurigram, said a list of flood-affected fish farmers has been prepared and sent to higher authorities, requesting government assistance for them.

'No shots were fired from Rab helicopters'

Says Rab HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion Headquarters yesterday in a statement once again said only teargas canisters and sound grenades were fired from their helicopters during the recent protests.

"No shots were fired from our helicopters. But a quarter is deliberately trying to make the use of helicopters controversial..." it said.

While explaining the death of 11-year-old Shafkat Samir during the ongoing violence on July 19, the Rab Headquarters said Samir was shot dead while closing the window of his house on the second floor of a four-storey building in Kafur.

"Propaganda is being spread that Samir was shot from the helicopter of Rab forces. However, the helicopter travels in an uninterrupted pace, and the bullets move in a straight line..." it said.

"Considering the overall situation... the speed of the bullet that hit his eye does not match in any way," the statement read.

Curfew to be lifted soon

Home minister tells UN resident coordinator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said the country's situation is gradually becoming normal and the curfew would be lifted soon.

He said this in response to a query of Gwyn Lewis, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh.

"We will be able to withdraw the curfew soon. The army will also go back to barracks," said the minister.

After a meeting with Lewis at the secretariat, the minister spoke to the media. He said the UN wanted to know about the detention of a teenager.

Asaduzzaman said the age of the said teen is yet to be known. They came to know from his school records that he was seventeen and a half years old. "He was involved in the crime of killing a cop in Jatrabari."

They have identified him through video evidence, said the minister. He said the boy is now in a correction centre as per the existing law.

Regarding the loss of lives, he said, "Our police and security forces were forced to fire to protect lives and property. The miscreants put forth children and stayed behind during the violence. As they [miscreants] started throwing bricks and blasting crude bombs, police were forced to use tear gas. When the violence escalated, police had to take other steps that left a number of people killed."

He said the UN resident coordinator also asked him about the use of armored personnel carriers (APC) with the UN insignia.

"I informed her that the army might have used the APCs with UN logo unintentionally, but when it came to light, those vehicles were not used anymore. No operational activities were conducted by those vehicles."

Govt takes measure to form public opinion against violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has directed all deputy commissioners and UNOs to create public opinion against terrorism and violence in their areas by forming a "Terrorism and Sabotage Prevention Committee" amid the ongoing situation.

The committee, comprising representatives of local dignitaries and social, cultural, religious, professional, and business organisations, will work to form public opinion through mass contact.

In a letter yesterday, the cabinet division instructed calling a meeting for each of such committees across all metropolitan, districts, upazilas, municipalities, wards, and unions.

In this regard, the cabinet division has directed the secretary of LGD, all divisional and deputy commissioners to take the necessary measures and to report to the division, said the letter.

A family left to navigate Count all the bodies

FROM PAGE 3

Around 5:30pm, Imran had asked Shanta to prepare dinner for his night shift. He said he would step out briefly to see what was going on outside. Tragedy struck as he walked towards the market. A sudden bullet ended his life. "My husband was not involved in politics. All he cared about was taking care of his family," Shanta wept.

While talking to Shanta, this correspondent saw Imran's parents, Nazrul

Islam, 68, and Selina Akhtar, 50, sitting in silence.

Nazrul recounted the moment he received a call from Imran's phone on Friday night. "It was not him speaking. Someone said he was at a hospital."

Shanta said she rushed to the hospital, only to find Imran's lifeless body among many others. "The doctor said a bullet had pierced through his body."

Imran was buried near his village home on July 21.

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"Almost every day, we see the prime minister visiting the injured in clashes in different hospitals. It's nothing but a farce," she said.

Rahnuma Ahmed, a writer and researcher, said the government, with its forces, not only killed the youth, but also killed the dreams and future of the country.

"Eliminating quota discrimination has now become a symbol. Young people are furious. They don't want to see such a country again. They want to rebuild the country, they want to dream anew. They want to live freely and with dignity. In doing so, they had to give their lives. What could be more shameful?"

Shireen Haque, a women's rights activist, said, "The courage of today's youth has overwhelmed us. Even after being attacked, they have developed resistance. However, from the events that have happened, it is easy to guess that our country will not go back to the previous place. But we all have to remember the fundamental rights of the constitution. Accordingly, the country should be run."

Writer and researcher Maha Mirza said, "What has happened in the last few days is genocide. What

is being done to cover it up is unimaginable. Students are being picked up from their homes, it is not possible to know where they are being taken. This is a clear violation of human rights. There has never been so many human rights violations in Bangladesh."

Environment Activist Sharmeen Morshed said, "What have we gone through in the last few days? The electricity was turned off, the internet was turned off and students were picked up from their homes. In 1971, Pakistan forces attacked the youth, today our own forces attacked them. But the young people did not lose courage. The new Liberation War of the youth has begun. We are with them in this fight."

Labour leader Taslima Akhter said that the quota reform protest has now brought the issue of protecting democracy and freedom of speech to the forefront. There is no scope to divide it with the spirit of the Liberation War or Razakars. Because there have not been these many killings in this country in recent memory.

Filmmaker Reetu Sattar read out a written statement at the press conference.

The speakers also put

forth six demands -- the nine-point demand of the anti-discrimination student movement must be accepted; all detained students must be released unconditionally; police killings must be investigated; curfew should be withdrawn, along with BGB and army; lives of ordinary people should be protected and general students should not be threatened through various agencies.

Such killings

FROM PAGE 3

MJF's Executive Director Shaheen Anam called for the protection of all individuals from violence, stating, "Such killings, especially of children, during protests are absolutely unacceptable and barbaric. We are extremely concerned about the high number of child fatalities. We want a safe environment for all children."

Shaheen Anam urged everyone to ensure that no child's safety is compromised and to keep children away from all political activities.

She strongly called on the government to conduct thorough and transparent investigations into each incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Bullet leaves newborn



A bullet pierced through this bar of the balcony grilles and struck Sumaiya. PHOTO: STAR

FROM PAGE 3

Said, "Since the morning of that day, helicopters were flying in the area."

Asma kept pointing to the bullet hole in the iron bar, saying, "This could not have happened unless the shot was fired from above. There were helicopters flying directly over our building. If the bullet had been fired from below, the hole wouldn't look like this. That's why we believe the shot came from a helicopter."

Mentionable, Rab in a press statement yesterday stated that no shots were fired from their helicopters.

Asma said they took

Sumaiya to a private hospital in the Signboard area, where doctors declared her dead. She was buried at a local graveyard.

Sumaiya was staying with her mother at Siddhirganj since May during her postpartum period. She was supposed to return to her in-law's house in Cumilla a week later.

Now, Asma is blaming herself for bringing her daughter to Narayanganj.

Asma said Sumaiya's father died during the pandemic. "She was my everything... now I lost her as well..."

Asma started crying. Her granddaughter, who was in her lap, began crying too.

Almost a terrorist

FROM PAGE 3

M Nayeemul Islam Khan briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina expressed sorrow for the loss of lives and destruction of properties in the carnage centring the students' protests.

Verma expressed condolence for the loss of lives during the recent violence. He welcomed the normalcy that is being restored steadily, and the gradual resumption of economic activities in Bangladesh.

Consultancy Opportunities

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites applications from interested consultant to **Support the private sector stream of work in the LAWC cluster by establishing connectivity with key stakeholders such as international buyers' organizations, global business associations, chambers, investors, multinational corporations (MNCs), and employers; and develop a comprehensive knowledge base and material on the private sector in Bangladesh.** The Terms of Reference (ToR) can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)** at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/241879>

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Sunday, August 25, 2024, by 04:30 PM (BST time).**

National Housing Finance PLC

Registered Office: National Plaza (7th & 8th Floor)
109, Bir Uttam C.R. Datta Road, Dhaka-1205

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of National Housing Finance PLC at its 257th Meeting held on 31 July 2024 at 4:00pm has approved the unaudited Financial Statements as at and for the 2nd Quarter ended June 30, 2024.

The performance highlights for the Half-Year ended June 30, 2024:

Particulars	January 01, to June 30, 2024	January 01, to June 30, 2023	April, 01 to June 30, 2024	April, 01 to June 30, 2023
Net profit After Tax (Million in Taka)	69.66	122.31	34.37	61.70
Earnings Per Share	0.60	1.05	0.29	0.53

Other performance highlights for the Half-Year ended June 30, 2024:

Particulars	January 01, to June 30, 2024	January 01, to June 30, 2023	As on December 31, 2023
Net Asset Value per share (NAV)	19.52	18.94	18.93
Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS)	(3.64)	20.13	25.20

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Md. Sarwar Kamal, FCS
Company Secretary

Dated: 31 July 2024

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Department of Public Health Engineering, Feni.
ee.feni@dphe.gov.bd, dphe.feni@gmail.com

Memo No. 46.203.3000.061.014.0014.24.100 Date:- 31/07/2024

Invitation for e-Tender notice-(2024/2025)

1 Ministry/Division	Local Government Division
2 Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering
3 Project/Program Name	Project for Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country
4 e-Tender ID	1003959, 1003960 & 1003961
5 Description of works:	Installation of Deep Tube well (100x38) mm with Submersible Pump at different Upzila of Feni District under Project for Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country (PSWSC) of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).
6 Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Shafiqul Haque, Executive Engineer DPHE, Feni District, Feni. Tel. No. 0331-74034
7 This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd .	

(Md. Shafiqul Haque)
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Feni District, Feni

GD-96

Jihad wanted

FROM PAGE 3

On July 19, while heading to a roadside hotel for lunch, Jihad was struck by a bullet that pierced his right thigh. He was declared dead at DMCH.

The news shattered his family. Jinnat Hossain, Jihad's elder brother, recounted the harrowing experience of receiving the devastating news and bringing his brother's body home. "He was not involved in any politics. His death is an irreparable loss to our family. We want justice for this murder," Jinnat said.

Nurul Amin and Shahanur Begum, Jihad's parents, are inconsolable. Shahanur clutches her son's photo, her tears unceasing, questioning the senseless violence that took her son away. "What was my son's offence? I want justice for my son's murder," she lamented.

Nurul Amin recounted their last phone conversation at 3:00pm on the day of the incident. Jihad had mentioned the tense situation in Dhaka, and Nurul had advised him to stay indoors.

But fate had other plans, and by 5:00pm, the devastating news of Jihad's death had reached him. The sorrow and disbelief are etched deeply in his heart.

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia PLC. in its 532nd meeting held at 2:35 p.m. on Wednesday, 31 July 2024, in the Bank's Board Room at Bank Asia Tower (Level-10), 32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, has approved the unaudited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on 30 June 2024 and disclosed the following financial indicators of the Bank:

Particulars	January to June 30, 2024		January to June 30, 2023	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Net Asset Value (NAV) (Crore)	3,095.52	3,090.55	3,025.02	3,008.26
Net Asset Value (NAV) per Share	26.55	26.51	25.95	25.80
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) *	28.87	28.95	14.29	14.43

Particulars	January to June 30, 2024		January to June 30, 2023		April to June 30, 2024		April to June 30, 2023	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Earnings per Share (EPS)**	2.43	2.65	2.86	2.88	1.82	1.98	1.79	1.81

*Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) increased mainly due to cash inflow by way of increase in Deposit.
**Earnings per Share (EPS) decreased mainly due to maintaining higher provision compared to same quarter of last year.

The details of unaudited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on 30 June 2024 will also be available on the website of the Bank at 'www.bankasia-bd.com'.

Dated: Dhaka
31 July 2024

Corporate Office
Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215