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## Nafeez Sarafat manipulated stock market

Finds CID's primary probe

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat, chairman of RACE Asset Management, has manipulated the stock prices of many companies for financial gain and caused losses of crores of taka to general shareholders, found a primary investigation of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

An investigation has already started and a case will be filed under the money laundering act soon, said Kusum Dewan, deputy inspector general (organised crime) of the CID.



A nexus led by Sarafat, also the former chairman of Padma Bank, his wife, Anjuman Ara Shahid, and Hasan Taher Imam, managing director of RACE, were involved in the organised financial crimes, which also include money laundering, fraud, forgery and over-invoicing.

In 2008, Sarafat and Imam took the

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Workers sort flood-damaged furniture at Fazilpur Walia Madrasa in Feni town. The recent floods inundated the classrooms on the ground floor. The water was five feet deep inside.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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## Floods leave thousands homeless in 11 districts

STAR REPORT

Although waters have receded from majority areas in the 11 flood-hit districts, the suffering of the affected people continues, as the disaster has left many homeless.

On top of losing their houses, people from low-income groups, particularly farmers, have also lost their livelihoods after the deluge ravaged vast tracts of croplands and a great number of ponds.

"Floodwaters swept away my mud house. It's all I had in this world. Now, I have no place to live," said a devastated Nurun Begum, 65, of Mierpara village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

"I've had to taken shelter on the front porch of one of my neighbour's house," she explained in a helpless voice.

Sujan Mia, an autorickshaw driver from the same village, said, "My house quickly went underwater after the embankment along the Manu river got breached on August 22. Even though the floodwater has receded, I cannot return home as my house has been damaged."

Sujan said he was staying at one of his

## Drive begins to recover illegal arms on Sept 4

Cops cannot arrest without identifying themselves: home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All firearms and ammunition issued over the last 15 years will be considered illegal if these are not submitted to police stations by tomorrow.

The government has decided to conduct a joint operation, comprising the members of armed forces, BGB, Coast Guard, police, Rab, and Ansar, across the country from September 4 to recover the illegal firearms, including those with suspended licences.

The home ministry issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

For conducting drives, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury in a press statement yesterday said, "Law enforcers will have to identify themselves during any drive and arrest, and under no circumstances, they can make any arrest without showing their identities."

The home ministry instructed all the district magistrates to hold a core committee meeting today, comprised of superintendents of police, representatives of the armed forces, intelligence agencies, and other members, read the circular.

The meeting will review the list of suspended licences.

On August 25, the ministry suspended

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## Outcry in West after deaths of Israeli hostages in Gaza

Israel PM vows 'to settle the score' with Hamas; three Israeli cops killed in West Bank

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israel yesterday announced its troops had found six dead hostages in a Gaza tunnel, as Israeli police said a "shooting attack" in the occupied West Bank killed three officers.

The deadly shooting near Hebron added to surging violence in the West Bank, which is separated from Gaza by Israeli territory and where Israel has since Wednesday carried out a large-scale military operation that has sparked international concern.

In the besieged Gaza Strip, "humanitarian pauses" in the nearly 11-month war between Israel and Hamas were set to take place to facilitate a massive polio vaccination drive which a health official told AFP had begun.

Israel's military said the remains of six hostages were recovered Saturday "from an underground tunnel in the Rafah area" in southern Gaza and formally identified in Israel. They were named as Carmel Gat, who was

taken from a kibbutz community near the Gaza border, as well as Eden Yerushalmi, Almog Sarusi, Ori Danino, US-Israeli Hersch Goldberg-Polin and Russian-Israeli Alexander Lobanov, who were seized by Palestinian militants from a music festival site.

Military spokesman Daniel Hagari said all six "were abducted alive on the morning of October 7" and "brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists shortly before we reached them".

US President Joe Biden said he was "devastated and outraged" by their deaths, but told reporters he was "still optimistic" a Gaza truce and hostage release deal can be reached.

"It's time this war ended," said Biden, whose administration has been involved in ceasefire mediation efforts along with Qatar and Egypt.

EU top diplomat Josep Borrell said he was "horrified at the murder" of the hostages, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed shock at their "senseless" killing.

- » Biden 'devastated and outraged' by hostage deaths
- » Families of hostages call for strike, demand Gaza deal
- » Gaza death toll rises to 40,738

## BSEC to investigate Beximco's two bonds

CSR deal with Bashundhara will also be probed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The stock market regulator yesterday formed a five-member investigation committee to examine whether there were any irregularities in the issuance of two bonds related to Beximco and in the selection of Bashundhara Group's ABG as the strategic partner of the Chittagong Stock Exchange.

Beximco, whose vice-chairman Salman F Rahman was the private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, raised Tk 3,000 crore from the stock market through the Beximco Green Sukuk Al Istisna.

A sukuk is a Shariah-compliant bond.

On the other hand, the little-known Sreepur Township Company raised Tk 1,000 crore through the

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## Dhaka may review MoUs signed with Delhi in June

Says foreign affairs adviser; govt may seek Hasina's extradition if court asks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka may review the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) signed with New Delhi during former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in June this year.

"MoUs are not the final agreements. We can definitely review these if our interests were not protected. We will sign agreements on the issues that protect our interests," Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

During Hasina's visit to India, the two countries signed seven new MoUs that include on maritime cooperation, joint research on oceanography, rail connectivity, and on two separate shared visions of digital partnership and green partnership.

The MoUs also includes collaboration for Joint Small Satellite Project. One of the most discussed MoUs was on providing rail transit to India through Bangladesh.

"Before reaching the level of agreements, MoUs are always reviewed. So, those can definitely be reviewed," Touhid said.

He rejoined the office yesterday after a visit to Cameron where he attended a meeting of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation on August 29-30. Before that, he was in the US for a pre-scheduled private visit.

Bangladesh has been implementing some projects under the Indian Line of Credit, but the work of the projects remains suspended as the Indian contractors have gone to India amid the recent students-led movement that led to

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## SC to hear Jamaat's plea for registration on Oct 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court set October 21 as the date to hear a petition filed by the Jamaat-e-Islami seeking restoration of an appeal challenging a High Court verdict that scrapped its registration with the Election Commission as a political party.

Justice Md Ashfaque Islam, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, fixed the date after holding a hearing on the petition yesterday.

A full bench of the Appellate Division will hear the petition on October 21, according to the apex court chamber judge's order.

Earlier in the day, Jamaat's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir submitted the petition to the SC on behalf of the party's Secretary General Miah Golam Parwar seeking necessary directives.

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To pay homage, BNP leaders and activists gather at the grave of party founder and late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Chandrima Udyan on its 46th founding anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: PRESS WING OF BNP

## Discovery of bridge rewrites history of Mediterranean

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A submerged bridge made by ancient humans has been discovered in a Spanish cave, revealing human colonisation of the western Mediterranean happened much earlier than previously thought.

Archaeologists unearthed the 25-foot submerged bridge at a cave on the Spanish island of Mallorca, providing the earliest uncontested evidence of human activity in the region.

Mallorca, the sixth largest island in the Mediterranean, was among the last to be colonised by humans.

The most solid research analysing archaeological finds like charcoal, ash and bones on the island suggested a timeline of human settlement on the island beginning only about 4,400 years ago. Other studies have claimed evidence of human presence on Mallorca as far back as 9,000 years, but their findings have been debated due to several inconsistencies.

Now a cave discovered near the coast of the island was found to have passages that had flooded due to rising sea levels, with distinct calcium-rich deposits forming on it during periods of high sea level.