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LAUNDERING TK 95CR Arrest warrant issued against ex-Basic Bank boss Bachchu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bachchu and four of his family members in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over embezzling and laundering around Tk 95 crore.

Judge Mohammed Ash Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after taking cognisance of the charges brought against Bachchu and five others.

The judge directed the Banani Police Station OC to submit by November 4 the reports on the execution of the arrest warrants.

Bachchu and his family members are on the run. Another accused, Amin SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PHOTO: BCB

Fresh from their Test triumph against hosts Pakistan, Bangladesh cricket team players, coaching staff, and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials were accorded a reception at the office of Professor Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government, in Tejgaon yesterday.

‘Will consider polls after parties commit to state reforms’

Says Rizwana about interim govt’s stance after advisory council meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has said the interim government will think about holding the next election once the political parties commit to the reform proposals to be put forth by the newly formed commissions.

The interim government expects the six reform commissions to come up with their proposals in three months. The proposals will then be finalised through dialogue with the political parties, Rizwana told a press conference after an advisory council meeting yesterday.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday announced the formation of the Constitutional Reform Commission, Judicial Reform Commission, Election System Reform Commission, Public Administration Reform Commission, Police Reform Commission and the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

At yesterday’s press briefing, Rizwana said the commissions will start working on October 1.

“Implementation of the recommendations depends on whether we can reach a political consensus. We are soliciting politicians’ opinions on the reforms,” the environment adviser told the press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

The political parties are included in the reform process and “we will hold dialogues” to reach political consensus, she said.

“We will think about the next election after [we get their] definite commitment regarding the reforms and necessary amendments. Political parties made it clear that they want polls after reforms.”

Rizwana said the advisory council meeting decided that the finance SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

“Implementation of the recommendations depends on whether we can reach a political consensus.”

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan

India to work with interim govt

Says its external affairs ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday reiterated that it would continue to work with Bangladesh’s interim government to fulfil the “shared aspirations” of the peoples of the two countries.

Addressing the weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also responded to a series of questions relating to Sheikh Hasina’s extradition and her current status in India, saying that “this is a hypothetical question and we do not answer this type of hypothetical question.”

Jaiswal reiterated that Hasina came to India on August 5 on short notice and that he had nothing more to add to that at present.

Asked to comment on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus’s remarks during a recent interview with an Indian news agency that Hasina should remain silent when in India and that New Delhi should look beyond the narrative given by her, Jaiswal said, “The SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Carnage in Gaza must stop

Condemnations pour in as at least 18 people, including UN staffers, killed in Israeli strike on UN school

AGENCIES

Condemnation poured in as Israel bombed a school housing displaced Palestinians in central Gaza, which rescuers said killed 18 people, including UN staffers, while the Israeli army said it hit a Hamas control centre.

The Al Jawni school in Nuseirat had already been bombed several times over the course of the 11-month war in Gaza.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell have condemned the Israeli strike on the UN-run school.

The director-general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has condemned the Israeli strike, saying “the carnage in Gaza must stop”.

“No words can reflect the true horror and loss of life in Gaza,” he wrote on X. “Hospitals, schools and shelters have been repeatedly bombarded, resulting in deaths of civilians and humanitarianism.”

The strike on Wednesday flattened part of the UN-run facility where Gazans had sought shelter, leaving only a charred heap of rebar and concrete.

“For the fifth time, Israeli forces bombed the UNRWA-run Al-Jawni School, killing 18 citizens, including two UNRWA staff members, children, and women, and injuring more

than 18 others,” Gaza’s Civil Defence spokesperson Mahmud Bassal posted on Telegram, referring to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA later said six of its staffers had been killed in two Israeli air raids on the Nuseirat school and its surroundings, calling it the highest death toll among its team in a single incident.

At least 22,000 in Gaza suffering from ‘life-changing’ injuries: WHO

Israel arrests 40 in latest West Bank raids

Gaza death toll rises to 41,118

“Among those killed was the manager of the UNRWA shelter and other team members providing assistance to displaced people,” the UN agency posted on X.

“Schools and other civilian infrastructure must be protected at all times, they are not a target.”

Across the besieged strip, many school buildings have been repurposed

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

3 ex-DGs of DGFI sent into forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has sent Lt Gen Md Saiful Alam, Lt Gen Ahmed Tabrez Shams Chowdhury, and Major Gen Hamidul Haque into forced retirement. They were all former directors general of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI).

Besides, former director general of the Special Security Force (SSF) Lt Gen Mujibur Rahman was dismissed from the army.

The Ministry of Defence issued two separate notifications dated September 10 in this regard.

The sacking of Mujibur and sending of Saiful into forced retirement were done so under Section 289(A) of the Army Regulations, which pertains to removal for misconduct and inefficiency.

Saiful was commissioned into the army as a cadet of the 14th BMA

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Killer of Pathao founder gets 40 years in jail

AGENCIES

A personal assistant convicted of killing and dismembering his former tech entrepreneur boss Fahim Saleh was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison on Tuesday, Associated Press reports quoting Manhattan’s district attorney.

Saleh, the co-founder of the ride-sharing venture Pathao in Bangladesh and CEO of Nigeria-based motorbike startup Gokada, was found dead in his Manhattan apartment in New York City on July 13, 2020.

Tyrese Haspil, 25, was found guilty in June of murder, stealing about \$400,000 from Saleh, and other charges in the 2020 death of his former boss, according to AP.

Prosecutors said Haspil had been hired as an assistant for Saleh, who started to siphon money from Saleh’s businesses. Haspil resigned a year later but continued to steal money, even after Saleh discovered the theft and let Haspil repay him over two years to avoid criminal prosecution.

Haspil decided to kill Saleh over concerns that his former boss would discover he was continuing to steal from his companies, prosecutors said.

On July 13, 2020, Haspil, wearing a black suit and a mask, followed

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Fahim Saleh

Hasina, 25 journos sued for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A murder case has been filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, 25 journalists and 139 others over the death of a 31-year-old man in the capital’s Bhasantek during the mass uprising.

The journalists are Naem Nizam, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Shyamal Dutta, Farida Yasmin, Omar Faruque, Monzurul Islam, Monjurul Bari Nayan, Sohel Haider Chowdhury, Quddus Afrad, Arun Kumar Dey, Nurul Haque, Jihadur Rahman Jihad, Abdul Majid, Sajjad Alam Khan Topu, Syed Shukur Ali Shuvo, Haider Ali, Ashikur Rahman Srabon, Alamgir Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Mainul Alam, Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, Kabir Ahmed Khan, Abdullah Al Kafi, Nurul Islam Hasib and Shahnaz Sharmeen.

Mohammad Sabuj, 42, elder brother of the victim, identified as Mohammad Fazlu, filed the case at Bhasantek Police Station on Wednesday.

According to the complaint, of which a copy is with The Daily Star, Fazlu got shot around 7:00pm on August 5 when he was at a rally celebrating the fall of Hasina-led government in front of Diganta Filling Station in the Vasantek area.

“Fazlu was rushed to nearby Marks Medical College Hospital for treatment where the doctors declared him dead. He was later buried in his village in Bhola,” reads the case statement.

Along with Hasina, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former law minister Anisul Huq, former textiles minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and former state ministers Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Mohammad Ali Arafat, and Zunaid Ahmed Palak have also been accused in the case.



PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT ... A red scorpionfish camouflaging itself on a seabed around 20 feet under the Bay near Saint Martin’s Island. Also known as *Scorpaena scrofa*, this venomous marine species is found in the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean. Its colour ranges from brick red to a light pink, with dark-coloured blotches. It has long supraorbital tentacles and venomous spines. This fish, which can achieve a maximum weight of around three kilograms, hides in burrows and caves during the day, and ventures out for food -- crustaceans, molluscs and other fish -- at night. It lives in marine and brackish environments with rocky, sandy or muddy bottoms and is a sedentary and solitary fish.

B’BARIA BORDER Former MP Fazle Karim Chy arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, former Awami League lawmaker from Chattogram-6, and two others were arrested near Akhaura border in Brahmanbaria on Wednesday night.

He was wanted in several cases filed with different police stations in Chattogram, said police.



Two other arrestees are Abdul Hannan, general secretary of Swachhchasebak League’s Akhaura unit and former member of Akhaura South Union Parishad, and Naem Chowdhury, a human trafficker.

A BGB team held Fazle Karim as he was trying to cross the border illegally through Akhaura border, said Shariful Islam, public relations officer of BGB.

Hannan and Naem were accompanying him.