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Tk 353cr anomalies found at Sonali Life Insurance

BFIU points finger at ex-chairman Mostafa Golam Quddus, his family

SUKANTA HALDER

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has discovered anomalies worth Tk 353 crore at Sonali Life Insurance Company, accusing its former chairman Mostafa Golam Quddus and his family members of irregularities, fraud, and money laundering.

The family, however, blames Quddus's former son-in-law Mir Rashed Bin Aman, who had also worked as the company's chief executive officer (CEO), for the "misappropriation" of Tk 192 crore funds.

A BFIU team submitted a report on September 22, detailing the evidence of irregularities at Sonali Life. The agency sent it to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police and the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) for further steps.

The alleged irregularities reported by BFIU include the "sale" of a mortgaged building owned by Quddus to Sonali Life for over Tk 139 crore without the approval of the board of directors and IDRA.

Payments were made for the purchase of luxurious cars, flats, birthday and marriage anniversary gifts, overseas treatment costs and other items for the family members' personal use in clear violation of rules related to managing the funds of a public limited company, the anti-money laundering agency said.

The findings have come at a time when Sonali Life needs to start repayment significantly as many of the decade-old company's early life

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Floodwater has inundated the playground of Ramnathpur Government Primary School in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila. Flash floods hit three upazilas of the district on Sunday following downpours and onrush of water from upstream.

Govt cancels LNG terminal deal with Summit

BFIU asks banks to freeze accounts of Summit boss, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled its deal with Summit Group on the second Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU).

The deal was terminated upon instruction from the power, energy, and mineral resources ministry, Petrobangla Chairman Zanendra Nath Sarker told The Daily Star yesterday.

Summit Group, in a statement, confirmed that it has received a termination notice of the FSRU's terminal use agreement.

"We believe this is unjustified and will appeal for review," it said, adding that the group has a proven track record of developing long-term infrastructure projects in Bangladesh in a responsible and transparent manner.

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Saber Hossain Chy assaulted at court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury was assaulted on the premises of a Dhaka court while he was being taken out of a remand hearing yesterday.

Witnesses said that as Saber was being taken to a lockup of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, at least three people were throwing punches at him.

E g g s were also hurled at the Awami League leader.

A video clip of the assault was also making the rounds in social media.

Several police personnel were seen pushing the attackers away.

During yesterday's hearing, pro-BNP lawyers resisted Saber's lawyer Ehsanul Haque Shomaji from defending him.

At one stage, Shomaji wanted to leave the courtroom, but then the pro-BNP lawyers urged him to defend his client.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbubul

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3 FLOOD-HIT DISTRICTS Relief hard to come by

Many affected people yet to get any govt aid; 2.8 lakh stranded

STAR REPORT

Flood victims in Mymensingh, Sherpur, and Netrakona are suffering due to insufficient relief supplies and a lack of drinking water.

Flash floods have marooned 2,80,000 people in the three districts, according to data from the district administrations.

The flooding has impacted the agriculture and fishing sectors in those districts.

In Sherpur, two more flood-related fatalities were reported yesterday, raising the district's death toll to nine since Friday.

The deceased are Jim, 6, of Chandernagar village under Sherpur Sadar upazila, and Abdur Razzak, 50, of Ghazaria village in Nakla upazila.

The overall flood situation in Netrakona's Purbadhala, Kalmakanda, and Durgapur upazilas improved yesterday as water started receding. However, the situation in Mymensingh remained unchanged.

Though the flood situation in Sherpur started improving on Sunday night, around 50,000 people still remain marooned in the district's Sadar, Jhenaigati, Sreebordi, Nalitabari, and Nakla upazilas, according to officials of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

Visiting some flood-hit areas in Mymensingh yesterday, The Daily Star found that people were suffering due to shortages of food and drinking water.

Many flood victims said that they were yet to receive any food or relief from the government or other sources.

Hamidur Rahman, a member of Beeldora Union in Mymensingh's Haluaghat upazila, said nearly half of the 200 families in his union were facing shortages of food and drinking water.

He said that some 250 people of the Barman

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Harassment of women in public spaces on rise

Activists question govt's silence

NILIMA JAHAN

Aparajita Sangita, a young filmmaker and advocate for women's rights, is still trying to overcome the shock of a traumatic encounter at the Panthapath signal in Dhaka last week.

As she waited in her car at the signal, an elderly man suddenly approached her vehicle and berated her for not wearing a scarf.

While he went on and on, she rolled up her window to avoid further confrontation, which seemed to have intensified the man's rage and the level of his verbal abuse.

"He was so aggressive, I was afraid he would break the car window," she recounted, still shaken from the experience. "That's when I started recording him on my phone. At that, he spat at my window and walked away."

"I never thought I would be treated this way just for not wearing a scarf, that too while sitting in my own car. I felt like the spit had landed directly on my face,"

she said, describing how she later felt compelled to stop her car and wash her face.

Several interviews and posts on social media indicate a rise in harassment of women in public spaces as part of the social unrest following August 5.

Activists have said that as police presence on the streets remain thin, there is a sense of lawlessness, emboldening certain groups and individuals to make their own rules without the fear of consequences. For them, women are easy targets.

Multiple reports have been made by women from various parts of the country of being harassed on the streets, in markets and in tourist areas. The harassment has been in the form of derogatory or sexist comments, restrictions on movement and, in some cases, physical and sexual violence.

Last month, Shaila Bithi, a prominent Bangladesh mountaineer, was physically attacked by a group of men in broad

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Full commission on constitutional reforms formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a full commission to make recommendations on constitutional reforms.

The commission was constituted after Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus approved it, according to a gazette notification.

Prof Ali Riaz leads the commission. Eight other members include Dhaka University law professors Sumaiya Khair and Muhammad Ekramul Haque; lawyers Imran Siddique, Sharif Bhuiyan, and Moin Alam Ferozi; writer Firoz Ahmed; rights activist Mustain Billah; and student

The commission was constituted after Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus approved it, according to a gazette notification.

representative Mahfuj Alam, who is also the special assistant to the chief adviser.

In his speech to the nation on 11 September, Prof Yunus announced the formation of six commissions to reform the electoral system, police, judiciary, public administration, the constitution, and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Initially, prominent lawyer Shahdeen Malik was named as the head of the Constitutional Reform Commission, but later he was replaced by Prof Ali Riaz.

On October 3, the government formed five commissions to reform the public administration, ACC, judiciary, police, and the electoral system.

WORK ON MICRORNA Nobel prize for medicine goes to US duo

REUTERS, Stockholm

US scientists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Medicine yesterday for the discovery of microRNA and its crucial role in how multicellular organisms grow and live.

Their work helped explain how cells specialise and develop into different types, such as muscle and nerve cells, even though all the cells in an individual contain the same set of genes and instructions for growing and staying alive.

"The Nobel's, you know, there's a word we use for Major League Baseball, it's called 'The Show'. Which means it's not any show, it's THE show," Ruvkun told Reuters, describing what it was like being thrust into the global spotlight.

He joked that collaborating with Ambros and receiving

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Gary Ruvkun

Victor Ambros

Nat Sciver-Brunt pulls one powerfully during her unbeaten 48-run knock, which saw England cruise to a seven-wicket victory against South Africa in their Group B fixture of the Women's T20 World Cup in Sharjah yesterday. Batting first South Africa posted 124 for six, which England chased down with four balls to spare.

PHOTO: ICC



আমরা শোকাহত

এনসিসি ব্যাংক পি.এলসি. এর সন্মানিত সাবেক পরিচালক ও চেয়ারম্যান এবং দেশের শীর্ষস্থানীয় শিল্পপতি ও সমাজ সেবক এস. এম. আবু মহসীন সোমবার (০৭/১০/২০২৪) বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকার সময় হৃদরোগে আক্রান্ত হয়ে চট্টগ্রামের অ্যাপোলো ইমপেরিয়াল হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন। (ইন্সাল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

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এনসিসি ব্যাংক