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LAUNDERED MONEY

May take another 3-4 yrs to bring it back

Says BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recovering laundered money from abroad is likely to take three to five years, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday.

In its white paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy, the panel estimates that an average of \$16 billion was illicitly siphoned off from the country every year in the past 15 years.

The legal battle to bring back the money could take three to four years as the global standard for such recoveries is typically four to five years, he said while unveiling the monetary policy for the second half of the fiscal year.

"Our short-term goal is to identify and attach foreign-held assets within

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Ahsan H Mansur



A woman searching for anything left that could be salvaged after a devastating fire burnt hers and four other shanties at Jafar Colony in Chattogram city's Baluar Dighir Par area yesterday morning. A couple was killed, and three others were injured.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

PRIMARY EDUCATION

PECE, similar tests should be scrapped

Advisory committee suggests introducing a practical assessment system instead

ARAFAT RAHMAN

A government-appointed advisory committee yesterday recommended scrapping the Primary Education Completion Examination and similar tests.

The committee, formed to improve primary and non-formal education, instead proposed a more practical assessment system based on the National Student Assessment (NSA), focusing on fundamental skills surveys.

Under this system, schools will be categorised by performance, using green, yellow, and red classifications.

Prof Manzoor Ahmed, convener of the nine-member committee, presented these recommendations at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

The goal, he said, is to assess and improve schools' learning standards and hold them accountable at the upazila level.

Manzoor explained that schools in the yellow and red categories will need to develop action plans to improve, with headteachers and upazila authorities responsible for ensuring progress.

The committee's report stated, "Over the past three decades,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Asst Teacher designation should be abolished.
- Bangla and mathematics should be prioritised.
- Teacher-student ratio should not exceed 1:30 in a classroom.
- Primary education cadre service should be created.
- Education Consultative Council should be formed.

Touhid likely to meet Jaishankar in Oman

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar may meet in Oman, on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference slated for February 16-17.

This would be the second foreign minister-level meeting between the two. The first one was held in New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in September last year.

The New Delhi-based think tank, India Foundation, is organising the Indian Ocean Conference that has emerged as the flagship consultative forum for countries in the region over regional affairs.

The meeting between Touhid and Jaishankar in Oman could help ease the Indo-Bangla relations that remained strained since deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India on August 5 amid a mass uprising, said diplomatic sources.

"The meeting will be an occasion to ease the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Custodial torture, deaths continue

Says Odhikar, reports 12 extrajudicial killings between Aug 9 and Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While the faces of those perpetrating custodial deaths and custodial torture in Bangladesh have changed since Sheikh Hasina's ouster, these heinous crimes continue to occur, according to Odhikar, one of the leading human rights organisations in the country.

From January 1 to June 30, 2024, six people were subjected to extrajudicial killings. Among them, four died due to torture. Of the four who died from torture, three were killed by police and one by Rab. The two others, one of whom was shot and the other beaten to death, were also killed by police," said its annual human rights report released yesterday.

From January to July 2024, members of law enforcement agencies caused forcible disappearance of 20 people, the report reads.

Among them, allegedly, the Detective Branch (DB) of police were behind the disappearance of nine individuals, the police enforced the disappearance of five, members of other law enforcement agencies in plainclothes caused three enforced disappearances, Rab two, and Rab and DB were jointly behind the disappearance of one person.

One of these victims has not yet returned, said the report.

During the July uprising, 1,581 people, including children, were killed as per estimates by the Students Against Discrimination and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, while the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs verified 834 deaths as of January 15, 2025.

"From August 9 to December 31, 2024, 12 individuals were reported to have been subjected to extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies," the Odhikar report said.

"Of the 12 victims, six were tortured by joint forces, and one died due to police torture. Three people were shot by joint forces, and one was shot by the police. Additionally, one person was beaten and pushed off a bridge by the police," it added.

The report went on to say, "The joint forces consisting of security forces and law enforcement agencies face allegations of conducting operations in plainclothes and being involved in torture and



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Corruption pervades every level of admin

Says reform commission report, identifies politicisation as key reason for decline in efficiency

BAHARAM KHAN

Corruption has permeated every level of public administration, and as such, the provision of public services is hindered by bribery, favouritism, and nepotism, according to the Public Administration Reform Commission report.

The commission, in a section titled "eliminating corruption," underscored the need to depoliticise public services, emphasising that ensuring effective public service delivery requires eliminating "bias" and "partisan considerations."

"Due to the politicisation of the administration, the significance of merit and efficiency has diminished, and in many cases, recruitment, placement, and promotions are determined by political loyalty and flattery rather than competence," reads the report.

Led by Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, the reform commission submitted its full report to the Chief Adviser, Prof Muhammad Yunus, on February 8, outlining several recommendations to curb corruption in public administration.

The reform commission, however, does not specifically identify the reasons why corruption persists and why good governance has not yet been effectively established.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

OPERATION DEVIL HUNT 343 more held across country

Pistol, 11 bullets, 2 magazines recovered

STAR REPORT

Joint forces, as part of the ongoing Operation Devil Hunt, detained 343 more people across the country in the 24 hours between Sunday afternoon and yesterday afternoon, said Police Headquarters.

The government launched the operation on Saturday to restore law and order following Friday night's attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

On Sunday, 1,308 people were reported detained. The PHQ did not provide any breakdown of the arrests.

Meanwhile, a foreign pistol, two magazines, 11 bullets, and six shotgun cartridges were recovered during Operation Devil Hunt yesterday. Three knives, three swords, one axe, 10 crude bombs, and four machetes

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

TOMORROW OPENING

INTERNATIONAL PHARMA & LAB EXHIBITION

16th

asia PHARMA EXPO

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Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Center (BCFEC)
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Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity

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Tents sheltering displaced Palestinians are erected in the yard of a secondary school in the north of Gaza City, which has been devastated in the Israeli offensive on the territory. The Photo was taken yesterday.

PHQ warns of action against those issuing threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters in a statement issued yesterday warned of strict legal action against any anti-social force that threatens citizens.

Signed by Inamul Haque Sagar, AIG (Media & PR) of Bangladesh Police Headquarters, it said the police have noticed anti-social elements issuing various types of threats to people across the country.

"Issuing threats to any individual is a criminal offence under the law," the statement read.

If anyone is threatened, the police urge them to immediately dial 999 or report it to their police station.

The statement further added that Bangladesh Police is committed to ensuring the safety and security of every citizen and maintaining law and order in the country.

According to police sources, a group of leaders of Students Against Discrimination were threatened.

Instead of informing the police, they notified their top leaders, which resulted in disorder prompting the PHQ to issue the statement.