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ACC traces Javed’s assets in five more countries

Seizes 23 sacks of documents from Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has obtained information about the assets of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, who is on the run, in five other countries, including India, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Officials said the evidence of assets was found in a large number of documents seized from the house of his wife Rukmila Jamal’s driver in the Shikalbaha area of Chattogram’s Karnaphuli upazila early yesterday.

Akhতারul Islam, public relations officer of the ACC, said, “Our team raided the house of Ilias Talukdar, the personal driver of Rukmila, after the arrest of two employees of a company owned by Javed’s family.”

“A total of 23 sacks of documents were

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Artistes perform a piece on Goddess Durga's victory over demon king Mahishasura on the occasion of Mahalaya at the Sri Sri Radha Govinda temple in Barishal city yesterday. Mahalaya marks the beginning of Durga Puja -- the largest religious festival for the Hindu community. The day commemorates the mythical moment when Durga had descended on earth to vanquish Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

LDC GRADUATION BNP supports call for 3-yr deferment Party says after a meeting with business leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said the government should push for the deferment of Bangladesh's LDC graduation for at least three years.

He said this while talking to reporters at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office in Dhaka after a meeting with top trade representatives. “Business leaders gave their opinion that the interim government should send a letter to the UN about whether Bangladesh is truly ready for LDC graduation,” Khosru said.

Earlier, BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and 11 other business leaders, including Tapan Chowdhury, AK Azad and Syed Nasim Manzur, met BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Khosru.

Khosru said the discussions made it clear that immediate graduation from LDC status would not benefit Bangladesh's trade or investment. “The statistics that were given earlier about LDC graduation are questionable. At this moment, it is necessary to defer it for three years.”

BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan said, “We don't want to cancel LDC graduation; we want a three-year deferment because we are not ready yet. It was based on falsified data, and our infrastructure is still not prepared.”

He said business leaders also raised concerns over proposed labour law changes, particularly the provision allowing a trade union to be registered with applications from just 20 workers.

Business representatives hoped that the issue would be raised with the UN during the upcoming visit by the chief adviser and Fakhrul.

WB to give \$700m for 2 Rohingya projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank yesterday launched two new projects worth \$700 million to improve basic services, strengthen disaster resilience and expand human capital development for both the displaced Rohingya population and host communities in Bangladesh.

The two initiatives – the Host and Rohingya Enhancement of Lives Project (HELP) and the Inclusive Services and Opportunities Project (ISO) – each carry a commitment of \$350 million and will run until June 2028.

Together, they build on earlier WB-supported interventions that have provided over \$1 billion in financing since 2019.

“We want to see a multi-sectoral, comprehensive approach that improves the situation on the ground for both Rohingya and host communities, in the short and medium term,” said Jean Pesme, country director of the World Bank’s Bangladesh office, at the event.

All assistance to the Rohingya is in the form of grants; the projects are designed to build long term resilience in Cox’s Bazar, Bhasan Char and surrounding host areas.

“Until the conditions for safe, dignified and voluntary return are met, our focus remains on supporting



We want to see a multi-sectoral, comprehensive approach that improves the situation for both Rohingya and host communities.

Jean Pesme

WB country director

both the displaced Rohingya and host communities through a total of \$1.3 billion in financing.”

The support covers health, learning, basic services and social safety nets for both the Rohingya and host communities, he said.

HELP will focus on water and sanitation, climate-resilient infrastructure, renewable energy and disaster preparedness. It aims to provide services and livelihoods for 645,000 people, including 329,000 women.

The ISO project seeks to expand access to health, education, social protection and gender-based violence response services.

BB HEIST CASE Court orders confiscation of \$81m from Manila bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has ordered the confiscation of \$81 million from the Philippines’ Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) in the Bangladesh Bank (BB) reserve heist case.

The Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court issued the directive under Section 17(2)(7) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (as amended in 2015) on Thursday, following an application by the CID, the agency investigating the case.

At a press conference at the CID headquarters yesterday afternoon, the agency’s chief, Additional Inspector General of Police Md Sibgat Ullah, said investigations proved that RCBC’s then-president and CEO Lorenzo Tan, Jupiter branch manager Maia Santos Deguito, and several other bank officials were directly involved

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Teachers demand justice for ‘attack’ during Saturday’s scuffle with students

Students say strike to reduce turnout in Rucsu polls on Sept 25

brought to justice.”

During a campus visit yesterday morning, officers and staff were seen demonstrating at Buddijibi Chattar. Academic departments suspended classes, offices remained locked, and only a handful of Rucsu candidates campaigned.

The strike has raised concerns about the participation of the students in the Rucsu and hall union elections, scheduled for September 25.

Irfan Tamim, independent senate member candidate, said, “If the work abstention continues, a participatory election will not be possible. Without classes and exams, most students will return home. These are the students who would have voted regardless of political affiliations. Their absence will benefit those with group-based vote banks.”

Tasin Khan, vice-president candidate of the Sorbojonin Shikkharthi Parishad panel, said, “The environment for the election at the university has already been ruined. Students come here for classes and exams, not for elections. If a complete shutdown begins tomorrow, why will they stay on campus? I would say the administration should not hold this farcical election but rather ensure a proper one.”

Speaking on the matter, Prof Amirul Islam said, “We do not wish to comment on the Rucsu election at this time. When our safety remains uncertain, assuming responsibility for the election is out of the question. Unless and until the Election Commission guarantees our security, we will not consider participating.”

Contacted, RU Pro-VC Farid Uddin Khan said, “The strike will certainly have some impact on the election. But we cannot bring manpower from outside; our teachers, officers, and employees are our only workforce. We hope they will help us conduct the election properly.”

Sun is ‘waking up’ and Nasa doesn’t know why

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The sun’s activity is escalating far beyond scientist’s predictions, Nasa has warned, resulting in more solar storms, flares and space weather events.

Solar activity typically follows an 11-year cycle, with the cycle’s strength steadily decreasing between the 1980s and 2008.

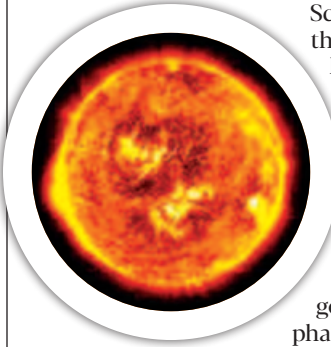
Scientists had expected this trend to continue with historically low activity for the latest cycle, however, a new study from the US space agency has shown the sun to be increasingly active since 2008.

“All signs were pointing to the sun going into a prolonged phase of low activity,” said Jamie Jasinski of Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in southern California, who led the study.

“So it was a surprise to see that trend reversed. The sun is slowly waking up.”

The findings were published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters in a study titled “The sun reversed its decades-long weakening trend in 2008”.

One of the biggest impacts of increased solar activity on Earth is disruption to communication systems, with coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and solar flares causing radio blackouts, damage to satellites, GPS errors, and even power grid failures.



India's Abhishek Sharma (L) and Shubman Gill celebrate during their 105-run opening stand in their Asia Cup Super Four fixture against Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium yesterday. Thanks to that partnership off only 59 deliveries, India chased down Pakistan's 171 for five in 18.5 overs with six wickets in hand.

PHOTO: AFP

Protest erupts in Philippines over graft

AFP, Manila

Thousands of Filipinos marched in Manila yesterday to vent their anger over a ballooning scandal involving bogus flood-control projects believed to have cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

But a day of largely peaceful mass protests erupted into violence as riot police deployed water cannon in clashes with scores of mostly young masked people who hurled rocks and shattered the glass of one police outpost.

Police arrested 72 people – including 20 minors – in two separate incidents that saw at least 39 officers injured and a trailer that was being used as a barricade set ablaze, according to a spokeswoman.

Major Hazel Asilo told AFP it was unclear if those arrested were “protesters or just people who are causing trouble”.

Rage over the so-called ghost infrastructure

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