



The Daily Star



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CASES AFTER CASINO DRIVE

End of probe ever elusive

ACC fails to submit charge-sheet in over one year, now blames it on pandemic, delay in communications with foreign banks



- So far 22 cases filed against 24 people
- Accused include AL men, ward councillors, businessmen, government officials
- Cases allege accused of amassing hundreds of crore of taka
- ACC to file charge-sheet in case against Selim Proshan soon

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

More than a year after a crackdown was launched on casinos, the ACC has yet to complete the investigations in any of the 22 cases filed against ruling party men, among others, over the illegal business.

ACC investigators blame the pandemic and delay in official communications with foreign banks about laundered money for their failure in finishing the probe.

In the drive that began in September last year, the Rapid Action Battalion arrested several leaders of different affiliated bodies of the Awami League. Some of the big fish held included Ismail Hossain Chowdhury

Samrat, then secretary of Dhaka South Jubo League.

Later, the ACC filed 22 cases against 24 people, including 10 leaders of AL wings, four ward councillors, four businessmen and two government officials. In the cases, they were accused of accumulating hundreds of crores of Taka beyond known sources of income and laundering them.

But charge-sheet has not been filed against any of them.

"Many of our officials are infected with Covid-19. The pandemic has also restricted our movement which is necessary for investigating the cases," said an ACC director, who is

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A police pickup truck and another vehicle are parked on the pavement on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Karwan Bazar in the capital yesterday. The vehicles obstruct pedestrians on a street that has been narrowed down due to the construction work for metro rail.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No proof of demeaning Holy Quran

Says SP citing findings of primary investigation

STAR REPORT

The man lynched and set on fire in Burimari, Lalmonirhat last Thursday had not demeaned the Holy Quran, police said yesterday.

"We are certain that no incident of demeaning the Holy Quran took place in the mosque," Abida Sultana, superintendent of police in Lalmonirhat, said commenting on the murder of 50-year-old Abu Yunus Md Shahidunnabi Jewel.

The several hundred people who gathered on Burimari Union Parishad premises in Patgram in such a short time and killed the man must have been instigated by someone, the officer told The Daily Star.

Jewel's grieving wife Jesmin Akhter Mukta told our Lalmonirhat correspondent that her husband used to offer prayers five times a day.

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That grim caravan just won't stop

473 women return home dead from Middle East in around 5 years; 165 from KSA; 51 died by suicide

SHARIFUL HASAN

It was 4:00am yesterday when the first light of dawn was still far from the Dhaka sky.

Amid the predawn silence, heart-wrenching cries pierced through the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, as just hours ago the body of 13-year old Nodi arrived from Saudi Arabia.

Her family stood at the same place they saw her off but now they were receiving a coffin with her dead body inside.

Nodi was sent to the Gulf country last year as a domestic worker, but her passport falsely mentioned her age 25 -- the minimum age required for women to go Saudi Arabia.

The documents sent along with the body claimed Nodi died by suicide in August but her family claimed that she was either killed or forced to commit suicide after brutal torture.

"My daughter had been in trouble since she left for Saudi Arabia. We informed the recruiting agency repeatedly but they did not take any step. Now my daughter is gone. The documents said it was suicide but I found no scars on my daughter's neck. There were signs of torture all over her body," Nodi's mother Beauty Akhter said while crying.



Nodi

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Remittance likely to grow 8 percent

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Remittance flow to Bangladesh is likely to grow by 8 percent in 2020, compared to that of the previous year.

This will comfortably counter a 22 percent decline forecast by the World Bank earlier amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In April, the multinational lender said that money sent by the migrant workers to Bangladesh was projected at \$14 billion in 2020, a decline of about 22 percent as the pandemic brought the global economy to a screeching halt, prompting massive job cuts and return migration.

But on Friday, the Washington-based lender, in its Migration and Development Brief, said

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Gap narrows in key swing states

Trump, Biden focus on Pennsylvania a day after campaigning in US Midwest states; early voting tops 86m

AGENCIES

US president Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden ramped up their campaign push yesterday as surveys show the Republican has narrowed the gaps in key battleground states with his Democratic rival ahead of Tuesday's election day.

Barack Obama yesterday was scheduled to join forces with Biden in Michigan and Trump was to campaign in the key state of Pennsylvania, which he won in 2016 by a razor-thin margin, to get its 20 electoral votes.

Trump, 74, won Michigan by a narrow margin of 0.2 points in 2016 -- but this year the former vice president leads by seven points.

That puts him in pole position to take its 16 electoral votes, a sizable leap towards the 270 he needs to win the White House.

For the past week Obama has put his popularity at the service of his former vice president, hosting several rallies at which he repeatedly slammed Trump's response

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First-time Florida voters seek change

PORIMOL PALMA

Young voters in Florida, a battleground state for the US Presidential elections, think that America faces image crisis during Trump administration for its stance on climate change and handling of coronavirus pandemic.

They say Donald Trump has done pretty well in economic front [though some say as continuation of the previous Obama administration's policy], he does not care much about science-based policies that speak of sustainability.

"Trump is not doing anything good as far as climate change is concerned," said Samantha Schwarz, a first-year student of Biology at the University of South Florida, Tampa on Thursday.

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Shanties burn as firefighters and locals try to douse the flames in Kalyanpur slum in Dhaka late Friday night. At least 40 dwellings were gutting in the fire. More on page 3.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

18 more die, 1,320 test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen people have died from Covid-19 in the country during the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, said a press release.

With this, the total number of deaths has reached 5,923.

This is 1.45 percent of all confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection in the country, said the press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 1,320 new infections were recorded in the same 24 hours taking the total number of people infected to 4,07,684.

Bangladesh is the 18th country in the world in terms of the total number of novel coronavirus infections, according to worldometers.info.

This position is one step behind Indonesia and one spot ahead of Belgium.

Against a total of 11,532 tests in the 24 hours, the positivity rate was 11.45

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US daily cases break world record

100,000 Covid-19 cases reported on Friday as total cases pass 9m; new curbs in Europe as infections top 10m mark

AGENCIES


The United States saw a record number of new coronavirus infections for the second day running on Friday, with just over 100,000 new infections reported just days before voters decide if President Donald Trump should remain in the White House.

The skyrocketing caseload helped push

the US tally past nine million cases reported since the pandemic began, while Europe topped 10 million and France entered a new lockdown.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,189,892 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled

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AKM Mosharraf Hossain FCA
Advisor to the BNP Chairperson, Former State Minister for Energy & ex-Member of Parliament from Mymensingh-5 constituency. Passed away **October 17, 2020**. Please pray for his departed soul.

Abba - A life well lived

A life well lived is a precious gift, From someone who has made our world, And for millions others, A brighter, better place.

Public service was to him the highest value, His wants were very few He just went on quietly working For the ones he loved the most.

A life well lived is a legacy A living, lasting memory Our grateful hearts will always treasure.

It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone, A part of us went with you, The day Allah called you home. Rest in peace, Abba.

Russell, Nahia, Rana, Shaon, Arman, Mikail, Tarik, Sophia & Zane