

JUST A HOOK TO SOME LOVED ONES' SAFETY TO US



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Rooppur project work in progress using Shah Cement



Making money so easy!

ACC to sue customs officer whose bank deposits raised eyebrows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bank balance of a customs department assistant commissioner has raised eyebrows at Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

The officer, who joined the government service in 2013, deposited over Tk 6 crore to several accounts two years later, found an ACC inquiry.

"He opened three Fixed Deposit [Receipt] accounts with a total of Tk 2.3 crore in just 20 days in 2015," Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of ACC, told The Daily Star, quoting the inquiry report.

The inquiry report concluded that the money could be acquired through graft.

The commission has decided to file a case accusing the assistant commissioner, currently serving the Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Sylhet, of amassing the wealth illegally and his wife and nine others of abetting him in laundering the money.

According to the report, the officer joined the service on January 15, 2013 as assistant commissioner (customs). He opened an FDR with Sonali Bank's Dhaka University branch with Tk 80 lakh on October 27, 2015.

A week later he opened another FDR in his mother's name with Tk 75 lakh. On November 16, the assistant commissioner opened a third FDR in his sister's name with Tk 75 lakh. He was the nominee of both FDRs.

"Through illegal means and corruption, he acquired Tk 6,26,11,222. He deposited the money under his and others' names," reads the report.

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Water remains stagnant even after a light shower on the rundown DIT road in the capital's Rampura, eventually creating severe traffic congestion. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



ROHINGYA CRISIS Hasina to seek global support

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who reached New York yesterday to attend the United Nations General Assembly, would plead for global support to cope with the ongoing Rohingya crisis, as the refugee deluge fleeing ethnic cleansing in Myanmar tops 410,000.

Her priority at the 72nd UNGA is to make a formal proposal to find a long-lasting solution to the Rohingya crisis, which includes repatriation of over 800,000 Myanmar nationals through a peaceful manner.

Hasina, who is set to address the general debate on September 21, would highlight the root causes behind the Rohingya crisis and place specific proposals for an early solution to the longstanding humanitarian crisis.

Apart from addressing the UNGA, the PM would also take part in a variety of events on the sidelines and hold bilateral meetings with global leaders to mount pressure on Myanmar for halting the ethnic cleansing in Rakhine and taking back the Rohingyas.

Hasina is leading a 265-member delegation, including 173 businesspersons, 14 Awami League and alliance leaders, 15 top officials from the Prime Minister's Office, eight from the foreign ministry, 11 from other ministries,

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Transport strike over drug seizure

Road communication between northern, SW regions snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Road communications between southwestern and northern regions remained snapped yesterday as Kushtia transport owners and workers enforced an indefinite strike.

The strike came over a row between Rapid Action Battalion in Kushtia and Kushtia Transport Owners' Association after the former seized one kg of heroin from a bus on Friday and arrested its driver, conductor and helper for their alleged involvement in drug smuggling.

On Saturday, the two associations -- Kushtia transport owners and Kushtia transport workers -- jointly called the strike in a meeting with Kushtia Transport Owners' Association President Asgor Ali in the chair. Asgor is also the general secretary of Kushtia district unit Awami League.

According to a Rab press release, the crime-buster had information that some

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Challenges ahead to reach 4 SDG targets

TIB report says relevant agencies not functioning as expected due to political influence, centralised power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption, bribery, money laundering and human rights violation continue unabated in the country, posing serious challenges to the achievement of four targets of Sustainable Development Goal-16, Transparency International Bangladesh has said.

In a scathing report launched yesterday, the anti-graft watchdog said various government agencies were not functioning as expected due to political influence, centralisation of power and dominance of executive branch.

It, however, hailed the government for making serious efforts to improve institutional preparedness and formulate required laws and policies to achieve the targets.

The report titled "Sustainable Development Goal 16: Preparedness, Progress and Challenges of Bangladesh" was released at a press conference at the TIB's Dhanmondi office.

SDGs, otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the

KEY POINTS

Deposit in Swiss banks rose from Tk 4,627 cr in 2015 to Tk 5,560 crore in 2016

Corruption rampant in the country

Parliament not effective as expected

Extrajudicial killings, unlawful detentions, forced disappearances on

Actions taken for better access to information

planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Spearheaded by the UN, it came into effect in January 2016.

The four targets that Bangladesh may face challenge to achieve are: significant reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, strengthening recovery and return of stolen assets, and combating all forms of organised crime by 2030 (16.4); substantial reduction of corruption and bribery in all forms (16.5); development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

(16.6); and ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements (16.10).

Conducted between April and August, the report was based on interviews with experts, academics, practitioners, public officials and journalists.

Explaining the reason behind picking up the four

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Giant QR code made with trees



AGENCIES

In a bid to promote local tourism, a village in China has built a huge QR code that can be scanned from the sky. Pictures circulating on social media show the giant QR code that is made from over one lakh trees.

Built in Xilinshui, Baoding City in China's Hebei Province, the QR code links to the official WeChat tourism account of the village. Interested tourists can then find information about the village through the code.

The giant QR code is built with over 1,30,000 Chinese juniper trees and sprawls across a 227 meter field, reports Shanghai Expat.

According to South China Morning Post, SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

'UNDERMINING FLAG' Appear on Oct 5 or face arrest

Court asks Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An arrest warrant will be issued on October 5 if BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia fails to appear before a Dhaka court on that day in a case filed over undermining the country's map and national flag.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nur Nabi passed the order yesterday after AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, a pro-Awami League organisation, submitted a petition seeking an arrest warrant for Khaleda for her failure to comply with the court order, court sources said.

On March 22, the same court had issued a summons against Khaleda asking her to appear before it on September 12. But the BNP chief didn't comply.

Siddique on November 3 last year filed the case with the court, accusing Khaleda and her late husband and former president

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The bridge at Naranpur-Sonahara point on the Boral river is yet to be completed, even 10 years after the construction began. This long delay is causing huge sufferings to the people in two adjacent upazilas of Pabna.

PHOTO: STAR

Test for UN

World leaders face crises over North Korea, Myanmar at UN

AP, United Nations

Facing an escalating nuclear threat from North Korea and the mass flight of minority Muslims from Myanmar, world leaders gather at the United Nations starting Monday to tackle these and other tough challenges -- from the spread of terrorism to a warming planet.

The spotlight will be on US President Donald Trump and France's new leader, Emmanuel Macron, who will both be making their first appearance at the General Assembly. They will be joined by more than 100 heads of state and government, including Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders who is said to be bringing a 70-member entourage.

While Trump's speeches and meetings will be closely followed, it will be North Korea, which Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls "the most dangerous crisis that we face today," that will be most carefully watched. No official event addressing Pyongyang's relentless campaign to develop nuclear weapons capable of hitting the United States is on the UN agenda, but it is expected to be the No. 1 issue for most leaders.

Not far behind will be the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, victims of what Guterres calls a campaign of ethnic cleansing that has driven nearly 400,000 to flee to Bangladesh in the past three weeks. The Security Council, in its first statement on Myanmar in nine years, condemned the violence and called for immediate steps to end it. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is hosting a closed meeting on the crisis Monday, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's contact group on the Rohingyas is scheduled to meet Tuesday.

Guterres said leaders would also be focusing on a third major threat -- climate change. The number of natural disasters has

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