

FLY ASH FREE
AKIJ CEMENT
bonding forever

100+ YEARS
ASSURANCE OF DURABILITY

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

24/7
08000-123456

BERGER
express
painting

রুড় কবরতে
ধরম্ম
পুলো-ময়ানা
আদে নয়

Police wake up, finally

Raid illegal casinos in 4 sports clubs run for several years, hardly 300 yards off Motijheel Police Station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It apparently took Motijheel police years to even learn about the four "casinos" operating in the very same block as the police station.

As part of the crackdown against illegal "casinos", police simultaneously raided the four gambling dens housed inside Mohammedan Sporting Club, Arambagh Sporting Club, Dilkusha Sporting Club, and Victoria Sporting Club yesterday.

All the clubs are located within a few hundred yards of Motijheel police station. But the illegal operations within them managed to remain hidden in plain sight.

Till yesterday, that is, when the raids began at 2:30pm. Deputy Commissioner of DMP (Motijheel Division) Anwar Hossain said that they had been unaware of any casino in the clubs, adding that they conducted the drives based on a tip-off.

Mishu Biswas, assistant police commissioner (Motijheel zone), told The Daily Star that they had heard of illegal gambling taking place on a small scale in these locations and mentioned previous raids there without going into the specifics.

He said they did not know how much they had grown over the years.

There was, however, no answer as to why the police had not known what was happening in their own backyard.

Fakirerpool Young Men's Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club, which had been running "casinos", are just behind the Motijheel police station, separated only by the walls of a police barrack. But they came to the nation's attention during the crackdown against "casinos".

About 100 feet further ahead, two more "casinos" at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Shiny roulette tables at an illegal gambling den inside the Mohammedan Sporting Club in the capital. Policemen go through the contents on a poker table inside another such illegal gambling operation in Victoria Sporting Club.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

Samrat digs in at office fearing arrest

RASHIDUL HASAN

Dhaka South Jubo League President Ismail Hossain Samrat has allegedly dug himself in at his office in Kakrail to avert arrest and is desperately looking for ways to leave the country, his party men told The Daily Star yesterday.

They said Samrat deployed his security men and supporters to surround the building in the wake of law enforcers' crackdown on "casinos" at sporting clubs in the capital.

The party men, refusing to divulge their posts in the ruling-party youth front, said that since the arrest of Jubo League leader Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan on Wednesday, in connection with running a "casino" at a football club in Fakirerpool, Samrat has been staying at his office.

The Daily Star correspondent visited Samrat's office around noon yesterday and stayed there for around three hours. This paper could not independently verify whether he was actually inside the office.

Samrat's supporters had virtually cordoned

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



GK Shamim may lose his PWD contract

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Works Department (PWD) may cancel the construction work contracts of SM Golam Kibria Shamim, who was arrested on Friday on several charges, as it fears obstacles in the execution of the contractual projects due to his being in custody.

Shamim has been known to be an influential contractor of the PWD and other government organisations.

His company GKB and Company (Pvt) Limited was tasked with implementing 15 large construction projects of the government, involving around Tk 3,000 crore, said the company's marketing manager Shafaath Hossain on Saturday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

B'BARIA MURDER PROBE Dead man talking

MASUK HRIDYO and SHARIFUL ISLAM

A former union parishad chairman in Brahmanbaria died on November 2 last year, but documents placed before a district court show he "gave statement" to a police officer as a witness in a murder case nearly three months after his death.

The documents also show that PBI Inspector Harunur Rashid, the investigation officer of the case, recorded deposition of a retired government official as a witness on a date when the man was in India for treatment.

The inspector submitted a four-page supplementary charge sheet on April 9, mentioning that he recorded statements of 50 witnesses. Later, 24 of the witnesses filed affidavits with the court stating that they did not give any depositions as witnesses.

Such big flaws and discrepancies in the investigation came to light when former chairman of Biddyakut Union Parishad Abdul Hannan Bhuiyan addressed a press conference on September 8.

In the supplementary charge sheet, Hannan is one of the 10 accused.

Hannan alleged that Inspector Harunur Rashid demanded a bribe of Tk 20 lakh from him on March



Abdur Rouf

21. As he refused to pay, his son and a nephew were named in the charge sheet.

Following Hannan's allegation, The Daily Star analysed relevant documents and talked to a dozen people.

The papers show the PBI inspector recorded statements of former Biddyakut UP chairman Abdur Rouf and Ajanta Kumar Bhadra of Merkuta village in Nabinagar upazila on January 31. Rouf and Ajanta are witness No 36 and 37.

Rouf's elder son Moniruzzaman said his father died of heart attack on November 2 last year.

After the man aged 73 complained of chest pain, they headed for Dhaka for his better treatment. As his condition deteriorated on the way, he was taken to a hospital in Sonargaon in Narayanganj, where he breathed his last.

Moniruzzaman showed a copy of his father's death certificate they collected on December 4 last year from Biddyakut Union Parishad. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the death certificate.

According to locals, Rouf was a respected person in the area and four-time UP chairman. Many of them attended his Namaz-e-Janaza.

Ajanta, a retired government official who now

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Protest after hospital uses expired saline

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Several hundred people surrounded the office of the Civil Surgeon (CS) in Nilphamari yesterday, protesting the use of expired intravenous saline on a number of female patients in Nilphamari Modernised Sadar Hospital on Saturday night.

The use of expired saline allegedly worsened the conditions of the patients at the 250-bed hospital.

The agitation, which was carried out by patients' attendants, relatives and other locals, was withdrawn after the additional deputy commissioner (General) Azharul Islam, on behalf of the deputy commissioner, ensured that an inquiry committee would be formed to investigate the allegation and would

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

NID FORGERY IN CHATTOGRAM EC OFFICE 50 outsourced staffers under scanner

4 data uploaders held for quizzing

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Chattogram

Some 50 staffers, mostly data entry operators, of different projects of the Election Commission's Chattogram office are under the scanner, after investigators found their involvement in making Bangladeshi National Identity (NID) cards for the Rohingya people, police said.

Members of the Counter Terrorism (CT) unit yesterday detained four more data entry operators for interrogation in a case filed over the NID forgery.

Earlier, police arrested technical expert Mostafa Faruq with an official laptop of the EC, voter signature pads, an internet modem, and flash drives containing information about some Rohingya people.

The latest detainees are: Md Shahin, Fahmida, Pavel Barua and Md Jahid, said sources in the CT unit.

Of them, Shahin and Fahmida are data entry operators of the Kotwali thana Election Commission office. Pavel and Jahid are data entry operators of Double Mooring and Bandar thana EC office.

The four were picked up from their workstation at the district Election Commission office around 1:00pm, said Mohammed Shahidullah, deputy commissioner (CT unit) of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

"We are trying to verify some information gleaned from the other arrestees," he said.

"Joynal, who was arrested earlier, and Mustafa gave some information and names during interrogation and police are scrutinising those."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SOCIAL MEDIA USE Restrictions for lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court administration yesterday issued a set of directives for the lower court judges on using social media, asking them not to upload images and video clips of SC judges and also not to publish information or make comments that go against the national unity and spirit.

The instructions were issued through a notification that said the lower court judges have to stop using social media during their working hours from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

The notification, signed by SC Registrar General Md Zakir Hossain, said if the instructions are defied, it will be considered misconduct and Bangladesh Judicial Services (Discipline) Rules-2017 alongside other relevant existing laws and rules will be applicable in this regard.

The laws and rules will be applied to ensure punishment for those who will ignore the directives, an SC official told The Daily Star.

The directives were issued on recommendations from the Supreme Court Special Committee for Reforms, the notification said.

The notification prohibited the lower court judges from publishing information and making comments that can hurt the religious sentiment of any community.

It asked them not to comment on or

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BYLINE: Solar panels set up near the Karnaphuli river as part of a power project in Rangamati. The project named "Kaptai 7.4-megawatt Solar PD Grid Connected Power Plant" was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 11. The picture was taken on September 16.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Rohingya couple killed in 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya couple was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Cox's Bazar yesterday, hours after they were detained by the law enforcers.

The incident that claimed the duo -- Dil Mohammad, 32, and Zaheda Begum, 27 -- happened at a refugee camp in Hnila union of the district's Teknaf upazila.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said they detained the duo with a gun.

On their information, a police team, along with the duo, conducted a raid in the camp to recover firearms, the OC claimed.

As soon as they reached the area, a group of criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight" the duo caught in the line of fire, he added.

Police rushed them to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital where doctors declared them dead, he further said, adding that the bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsies.

Three policemen were also injured during the "gunfight", the OC said.

Police claimed to have recovered three rifles, eight cartridges and 12 bullet shells from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

Including the duo, a total of 41 Rohingyas have been killed in "gunfights" so far.