



"Criminals, irrespective of their political affiliations, will not be spared."
ROAD, TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER ON RECENT DRIVES AGAINST "CASINOS" (PAGE 3)



"Without knowing the matter, many are saying that Rohingya voters were included. But there is no way to do that. The main EC server is completely protected."
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY REGISTRATION WING OF EC BRIG GEN SAIDUL ISLAM AT A BRIEFING IN NIRBACHAN BHABAN.



"President Trump and I both want to give diplomacy every opportunity to succeed."
US SECRETARY OF STATE POMPEO EMPHASIZES DIPLOMACY IN STANDOFF WITH IRAN (PAGE 8)



CASINOS ON CLUB PREMISES

Everybody knew, nobody opposed

Cash-starved clubs allow casinos for money; some club officials say they were under 'political pressure' to run gambling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cash-strapped clubs allowed "casinos" on their premises due to "political pressure" and the lure of money, according to officials of two clubs that were raided by police on Sunday.

The clandestine operation of such "casinos" came to light following a crackdown that began on Wednesday.

It is now apparent that almost everybody knew what was happening, yet there was little to no resistance.

"Personally, I never support such illegal and immoral endeavours but I was forced to give away the space due to political pressure," said Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director in-charge of Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd.

He further said the money they received as rent helped run the club, which is otherwise solely dependent on donations.

According to sources, the "casino" would pay an estimated Tk 20 lakh per month as rent and the cash injection helped the club



carry out its day-to-day functions.

A top official of Victoria Sporting Club, wishing not to be named, also alleged that political influence played a big role in renting the club's space for a "casino", but he hinted that money was also a factor in the decision.

He said Dhaka South Jubo League President Ismail Hossain Samrat, who is currently holed up in his office fearing arrest, was the one who had proposed renting out space for the "casino" business.

"He is the vice-president of the club.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Nepali staffers sneaked in as RMG traders

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Some of the Nepali citizens who had been working at a casino in Mohammedan Sporting Club came to Bangladesh in the guise of readymade garments traders, documents recovered from the club showed.

A company pad of an apparel factory and a buying house showed that two invitation letters were sent to the Bangladesh embassy in Kathmandu on May 6 and May 15, requesting visa issuance for six Nepali nationals for business purposes.

A salary sheet of Mohammedan Sporting Club showed that the six began working at the casino between late May and the first week of June.

The salaries of the 13 Nepalis who worked at the casino were between \$600-1000, according to a conveyance salary sheet. A conveyance

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

WEALTH OF SHAMIM, FAMILY MEMBERS BB asks banks to freeze accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has ordered all banks to freeze accounts of SM Golam Kibria Shamim, his wife and mother, and of now-expelled Jubo League leader Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan.

Meanwhile, the Central Intelligence Cell of National Board of Revenue is all set to issue another order asking banks for information about their bank accounts.

Law enforcers arrested Shamim, popularly known as GK Shamim, at his Niketon office on Friday for his alleged involvement in criminal activities and tender manipulation.

According to an official at the central bank, a number of people submitted cheques from Shamim to different banks on Sunday and the banks sought directives from the BFIU on whether they should accept the cheques.

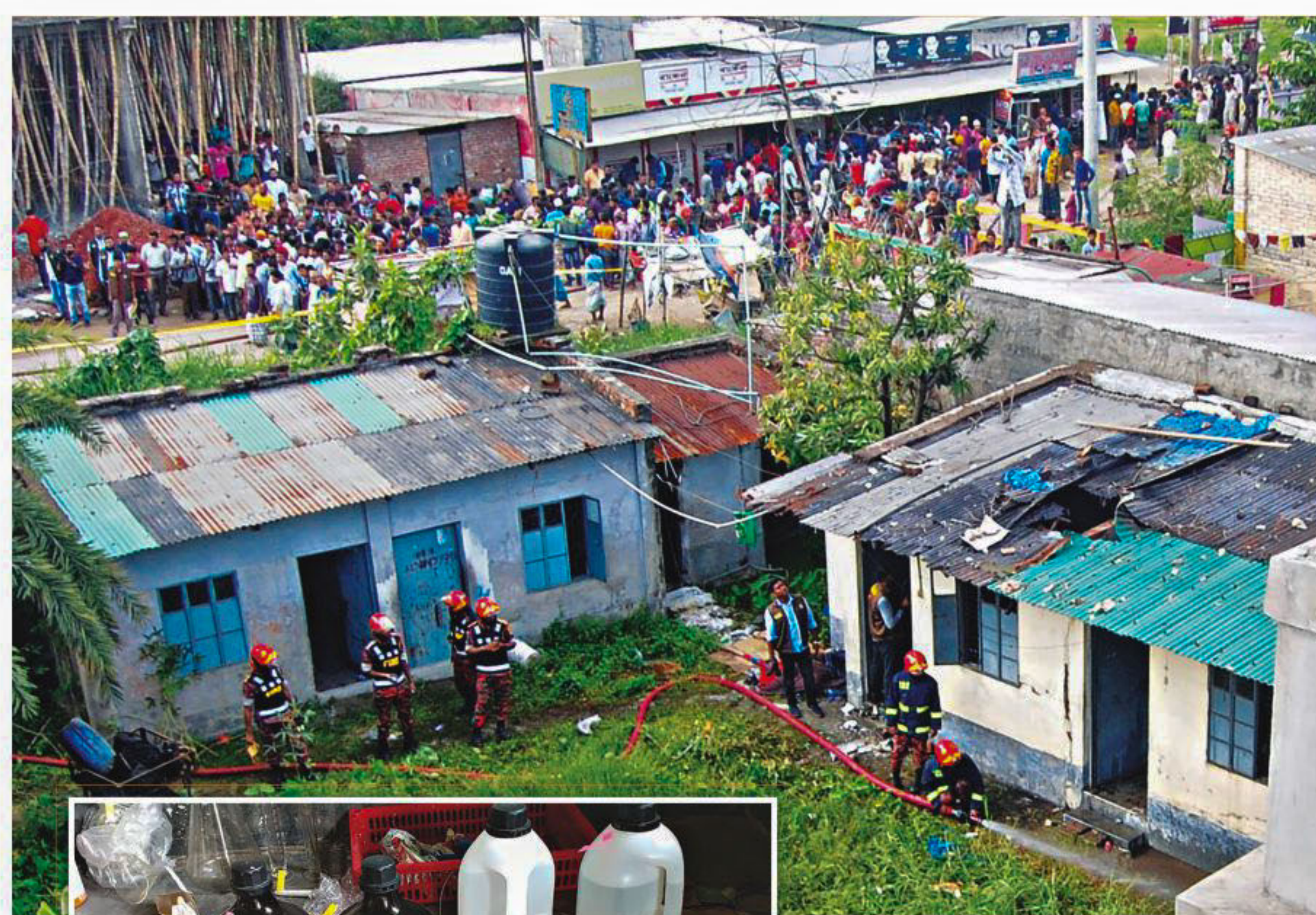
About "Tk 300 crore" is now in Shamim's accounts with different banks, the official said.

Shamim, now on a 10-day remand, has three cases filed against him.

Rab arrested Shamim, 50, a top government-listed contractor and known to be a Jubo League leader, in connection with extortion and tender manipulation.

Rab during its raid at his home and office seized eight

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Firefighters are busy containing the spread of a fire after counterterrorism officials detonated a bomb at a "Neo-JMB" den in Narayanganj's Fatullah yesterday. Inset, seized fake guns and bomb-making chemicals put on display.

PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

'Neo-JMB cell' behind IED attacks on cops

2 suspected cell members held as N'ganj 'militant den' busted; IS video suspected to be recorded there; IED, chemicals, explosives found

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SANAD SAHA, from Narayanganj

Members of a "Neo-JMB" cell planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at two places and attacked policemen at three other spots in the capital in the last six months, counterterrorism officials said.

The cell, suspected to have 10 to 12 members, used two members for each operation, and the IEDs were made at one of its dens in Narayanganj's Fatullah, the officials said.

In a drive yesterday, members of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police destroyed the hideout and arrested two militants from there, they said.

The officials also claimed to have recovered bomb-making chemicals and toy guns from the scene.

The arrestees were identified as

the owner of the house Farid Uddin Rume, 27, a teacher of Mechanical and Production Engineering in the capital's Ahsanullah University, and Mishuk Khan Mizan, 24, a final-year engineering student of Narayanganj Polytechnic Institute.

Rume's wife Jannatul Foara Anu, 26, a banker, was detained for interrogation.

Counterterrorism officials said a recent "IS" video, where some militants are seen holding guns, is believed to have been shot at the den and those in the footage are the members of the cell, who are inspired by the global terror outfit.

Police first picked up Mizan from Jatrabari area around 6:00pm on Sunday and based on information gleaned from him raided the den at a tin-shed one-storey building early yesterday, Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of the CTTC unit, told

The Daily Star.

But another suspect, Rume's younger brother Jalauddin Rafiq, 23, who completed an engineering course recently, managed to flee the spot during the drive, said police.

Rume lives with his wife in a two-storey building in nearby Shiarchar area. Around seven months ago, he asked the tenants in the one-storey building to leave, said counterterrorism officials.

Rume then allegedly set up the bomb-making den in the house having six 10-feet by 12-feet rooms, they said.

"We recovered three IEDs which were ready for explosion. We also found toy guns resembling AK-47s, a fake pistol and two vests," Deputy Commissioner Saiful said.

CTTC officials said it was possible to make at least 20 IEDs with the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Tigers look to break Mirpur jinx

SPORTS REPORTER

The ongoing T20I tri-series will come to an end after hosts Bangladesh take on Afghanistan in their third meeting of the tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The Tigers, who were humiliated by Afghanistan during the one-off Test in the port city earlier this month, will now be looking to redeem themselves with a win in a format where they are ranked three places lower than the seventh ranked Afghan side.

This will also be an opportunity for Bangladesh to win their first multi-team tournament final in Mirpur after losing all the three previous finals. The one thing that could come to the Tigers' aid in their attempt to achieve the feat is that Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan, who had pulled his hamstring during their last game against Bangladesh, still remains uncertain for the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



HEALTH COVERAGE Countries need to join hands to achieve it PM tells programme at UN headquarters

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said collaboration among countries at regional and global levels is fundamental to accelerate progress in the Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

"Resource mobilisation to ensure Universal Health Coverage is a fundamental obstacle in many countries. Effective global partnership

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

UGC asked to form probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday sent a letter to the University Grants Commission (UGC), asking to form a committee to investigate the situation at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj.

"We've already sent a letter to the UGC to form a fact-finding committee. The ministry will assist them in the investigation," Mohibul Hasan Nowfel, deputy minister for education, told The Daily Star yesterday.

It would take time to start the investigation as the university is closed now, he said.

Meanwhile, power connections to the dormitories were restored yesterday as the students continued their protest for the sixth consecutive day demanding removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nuruddin Ahmed for his alleged involvement in corruption and irregularities.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



With a frame on its upper part dislodged, a makeshift wooden Shaheed Minar lies neglected on the campus of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAFIUL ISLAM

DEV PROJECT AT GOPALGANJ UNIV

The puzzle of Tk 10 crore

Money shown spent, work not done

RAFIUL ISLAM, back from Gopalganj

If you go by the documents of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj, over 68 percent work to build a concrete Shaheed Minar on the campus has been completed.

But what the university really has is a makeshift wooden structure, which too is left uncared for, with a frame on its upper part dislodged.

As per the progress report, Tk 1.63 crore out of the total Tk 2.38 crore was spent till June 2018 for the Shaheed Minar construction, which actually has not even begun.

The story doesn't end here. The authorities mentioned in the official documents that they spent about Tk 8.5 crore in constructing Bangabandhu Mural Complex, an auditorium and two gates of the university.

The papers show sixteen percent work of the mural complex, 15 percent of auditorium and 47 percent of the gates have been completed. But there are no signs of these structures yet.

The university is currently under the spotlight with students demonstrating for resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof Khondoker Md Nasiruddin amid allegations including corruption in the project and nepotism in recruitment.

Contacted, the VC said there has been no irregularities in the university development project. Claiming that no project money was spent yet, he asked this correspondent to contact the project director or his deputy for details.

Tuhin Mahmud, deputy project director, ruled out graft but admitted that they showed the expenditure in their documents.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6