



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives *Vaccine Hero* award from Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Board chair of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), at a conference room of the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday. The award was conferred upon her in recognition of Bangladesh's outstanding success in vaccination. PHOTO: PID

Vaults of vile riches

Rab seizes Tk 5.05cr in cash, 8.5kg gold, six firearms from houses of AL leader and Wanderers Club casino shareholder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid the clampdown on gambling, Rab members got a tip that five vaults were sold from English Road area recently and the buyer is a top casino businessman. The tip led the elite force to three houses at Banianagar and Narinda in Old Dhaka.

In the subsequent raid yesterday, Rab found Tk 5.05 crore in cash, around 8.5kgs of gold worth Tk 4 crore and six firearms stashed in five vaults in those houses.

Rab said Dhaka Wanderers Club's casino shareholder Enamul Haque Enu and his brother Rupon Bhuiyan own the money, gold and firearms.

Enamul is Gendaria Thana Awami League vice-president and his brother Rupon is the joint general secretary of the unit.

Enamul bought the gold as the five vaults had no more room to keep the proceeds



from the casino operation, Rab said.

Neither brother was at home during the raid.

"Enamul's wife is giving us misleading information about her husband. She said her husband went to Thailand two months back, but we have information they met a few days ago," Rab-3 Commanding Officer

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Govt slaps travel ban on Samrat

RASHIDUL HASAN

The government yesterday imposed a travel ban on President of Jubo League's Dhaka South unit Ismail Hossain Samrat, meaning he can no longer leave the country.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, an official of the immigration police at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport said they were asked to remain alert.

Samrat, one of the alleged kingpins of the "casino" business in the capital, was said to have been holed up in his Kakrail office since September 18 – the day organising secretary of

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Ex-PWD engrs under scanner

NBR asks for details on their bank accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue yesterday asked banks to provide account details of two former Public Works Division top engineers and their wives, said officials.

They are former PWD chief engineer Rafiqul Islam and its former additional chief engineer Abdul Hye, said a NBR senior official, seeking anonymity.

The NBR also directed banks to freeze bank accounts of SM Golam Kibria Shamim, his wife and mother, and of expelled Jubo League leader Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan. It also asked banks to send the details of their accounts.

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Stunning blow for Johnson

British SC strikes down parliament suspension in the run-up to Brexit

AFP, London



Britain's Supreme Court yesterday ruled that Prime Minister Boris Johnson acted unlawfully in suspending parliament in the run-up to Brexit, in a momentous defeat that sparked calls for him to resign.

The ruling is a huge blow to Johnson's authority and casts further doubt on his vow to leave the European Union on October 31 even without a deal with Brussels.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, immediately announced that MPs would reconvene this morning.

The Conservative leader, who is currently in New York, told British media he "strongly disagreed" with the decision but said he would respect it.

He had argued that shutting down parliament until October 14 was

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COST OF SUPPORTING ROHINGYAS

Dhaka now saddled with \$1.2b a year

Experts say the figure may rise

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's economy is burdened with an estimated \$1.21 billion a year for supporting the Rohingyas and the cost may go up with their population growth, inflation, and decline in foreign funding, experts said yesterday.

The refugees are providing cheap labour and are involved in small businesses in Cox's Bazar and these are driving wages down and shrinking job opportunities for locals, they said at a roundtable, adding that the cost of living for locals has also

gone up.

They feared that damage to forests and other natural resources could also impact tourism in Cox's Bazar, home to some 12 million Rohingya, including 743,000 who fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 2017.

Two repatriation attempts – one on November 15 and the other on August 22 – failed as the Rohingyas refused to return without guarantee of citizenship and safety in Rakhine where the conflict flared up since early this year.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

UN, China, ASEAN must play stronger role

Dhaka should adopt a robust and creative diplomacy

Engage Myanmar's civil society, media, and retired military personnel

Bangladesh needs a clear policy on handling Rohingyas

Ensure education, health, and social protection for Rohingyas



The T20I tri-series trophy was shared between Bangladesh and Afghanistan after incessant rain washed out the final of the tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh, Afghanistan share trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a damp end to the T20I tri-series as Bangladesh and Afghanistan were declared joint champions after the final was washed out at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The match was called off at 9:05pm by match officials following persistent rain and as per the rules of the tournament, the two finalists shared the trophy. This was the first time that Bangladesh became

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ATTACKS ON COPS

Claims tweeted from Bangladesh

Says top counter-terror official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tweets, which claimed the Islamic State carried out attacks on police in the capital in the last five months, were actually made from Bangladesh, the top counter-terror official said yesterday.

"We think the Islamic State was not behind those incidents. Five members of a Neo-JMB cell planned the attacks on police and made the Improvised Explosive Devices [IEDs] used in the attacks," Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, said at a press briefing at Dhaka Metropolitan Police Media Centre.

The SITE-Intelligence Group, which tracks online activities of jihadist organisations and white supremacists, said the IS claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Replying to a query, Monirul said, "The SITE-Intelligence Group never verifies any claim, and they have no mechanism for it."

The Group monitors social media sites, and whenever it learns of any incident, it tries to find out from open sources whether the incident actually took place, he mentioned.

The CTTC unit on Monday arrested two suspected members of the "Neo-JMB" cell -- Farid Uddin Rumi and

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