

Govt has zero tolerance against casino, gambling

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government has taken zero tolerance policy against casinos and gambling. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has the courage to capture the offenders whoever they may be or which party they belong to," he said about the ongoing drives against casinos and gambling, while speaking as chief guest at a discussion on "Indemnity: a black chapter" organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, a cultural organisation, at Jatiya Press Club.

Anisul said BNP men are seen to be much vocal about casino now, although they cannot dare expel those from the party, who embezzled money of orphans.

"Don't teach us the zero tolerance policy against corruption. All of your party are involved in corruption. You are making hue and cry as you have been tried," he said, pointing to BNP.

The law minister said only Sheikh Hasina can take action against the corrupt and make Bangladesh free from corruption.

"As Sheikh Hasina abides by the rule of law, she has proved that the Indemnity Ordinance is a black law. She has taken necessary steps for holding trials of the killings of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders and war criminals," Anisul Huq said.

Former state minister for information Tarana Halim presided over the meeting where actors Enamul Haque, Azizul Hakim, Reaz, Amirul Haque Chowdhury and Mannan Hira also spoke.



Pedestrians suffer through long queues and a cramped straiway on the footbridge adjacent to Dhaka airport to cross the busy intersection, left, as the escalator of the footbridge on one side has been out of order for months, due to lack of maintenance, bottom right. The closed part of the stairs has meanwhile become a squatting spot for the homeless, top right. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RISE OF CASINOS

14-party alliance slams authorities' ignorance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday expressed grave condemnation to the authorities for their failure and inaction against the rise of gambling and casino business, "right under the nose of the administration."

The alliance expressed the contempt from a meeting held at the Awami League central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

After the meeting, Mohammad Nasim, spokesperson of the alliance, told reporters that they are happy with the crackdown being continued across the country against corruption and social offenses.

"We are content with the ongoing drive that was started to stop casino business. We congratulate it," Nasim, also a presidium member of the Awami League, said. At the same time, he expressed his disappointment over involvement of some political leaders with the casino business.

"We are shocked how the casino business is operated under the very nose of the administration. We condemn the administration for its failure and inaction," he said.

Calling upon the respective ministries to take necessary steps to uproot such businesses, Nasim said, "No rogue should be sheltered or nurtured."

Blaming the authorities for nurturing corruption within the administration, Nasim said, "We cannot accept that some corrupt individuals will tarnish the government's achievement."

Stating that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken a strong stance

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'Govt alone cannot eradicate child labour'

Speakers tell discussion, call for concerted efforts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Collective efforts of all are essential to eradicate child labour from the country, as only government's effort is not enough for this, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Though the number of child labourers has reduced over the last decade, still a huge number of children are working in informal sectors, they said at the discussion held at Cirdap.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organised the discussion on "challenges of implementation of ILO Convention 182 in Bangladesh" with assistance of Terre des hommes Netherlands and Global March Against Child Labour.

Over the last ten years, the number of child labourers in the country has decreased by 1.68 million (from 7.9 million to 3.45 million), said AKM Masud Ali, executive director of INCIDIN Bangladesh, quoting BBS data in his keynote presentation.

However, over the same period, the

number of child labourers in hazardous sectors in the country has decreased by only 10,000 (from 1.29 million it fell to 1.28 million), he said, adding that progress is slowest in this sector.

Masud said a large number of child labourers are still working in informal sectors, but there is no scope for monitoring it.

"We have to identify the worst forms of child labour, and work to eradicate it on a priority basis," said chairperson of parliamentary caucus on child rights affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku.

He said not only government, but also stakeholders will have to take responsibility for this together.

"Child labour in rural areas has decreased, and even the number of child house helps is also reduced; it has happened as disadvantaged people are enjoying allowances from the government under social safety net projects," said

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JU student 'sexually harassed' by teacher

STAR REPORT

A female student has raised allegations of sexual harassment against an assistant professor of Jahangirnagar University's government and politics department.

On Monday, the victim took a large number of sleeping pills while she was at a relative's house in Dhaka. Her friends then took her to a Savar hospital.

"I took the pills because I was tormented by the mental trauma I was going through," she told The Daily Star On Wednesday from the hospital bed.

Earlier on September 19, she filed a complaint to the department head, detailing how Sanwar Siraj, an assistant professor who was her course instructor, harassed her.

In the complaint, she mentioned that Siraj started making advances towards her since March last year. She had visited him in his office with a friend to discuss syllabus for an upcoming exam, and the teacher obtained her number then, saying he doesn't answer calls from unknown numbers.

On the evening of the exam on March 12, Siraj called her to ask how her exam went. The same night, he started sending her inappropriate messages on Facebook messenger, the victim wrote in the complaint. The Daily Star has obtained evidence which supports her claim.

She asked Siraj in person to stop this behaviour, but he continued tormenting her through lewd remarks via calls and messages. At that time, the victim consulted her classmates and teachers, who told her to wait until the exams end to file an official complaint.

The victim said in the complaint she was traumatised by this continued

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The road beside airport police box remains muddy and waterlogged due to lack of proper drainage system. Every day, vehicles heading towards the city from the airport use this alternate route as one side of the thoroughfare from Ashkona Hajj Camp to airport is closed to traffic because of the ongoing construction work of metro rail. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY

SC show-causes official over 7-month delay in forwarding HC order

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court administration has issued a show-cause notice on an official, over a seven-month delay in sending a High Court order for finishing the trial of sensational Ishtiaq Ahmed Jonny murder case, to the lower court concerned.

"A show-cause notice has been issued on a superintendent of the criminal miscellaneous section of the High Court Division, over the delay in sending its [HC] order to the trial court concerned. The High Court order was sent few days ago to the trial court," Mohammad Saifur Rahman, spokesperson of the SC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He refused to disclose the name of the person to whom the notice was served, and directed this correspondent to HC Assistant Registrar Kazi Arafat Uddin, who signed the show-cause notice.

Contacted, Kazi Arafat also refused to disclose the name of the official. "The notice was issued on Wednesday asking the respondent to explain in seven days why the delay was made.

After receiving his reply, authorities concerned will take the next course of action," he said.

When this correspondent went to the criminal miscellaneous section of the HC to inquire, its chief Md Mujibur Rahman said they are hamstrung by manpower and office space shortage.

"I have heard that a show-cause-notice was issued, But I have not received any. If I get the notice, I will reply to it," Mujibur Rahman said.

"Around 70,000 files are pending with this section. Many disposal and

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Dengue claims one more life

STAR REPORT

A dengue patient died in Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday morning, taking the unofficial death toll from the mosquito-borne menace to 157.

The deceased was identified as Rozina Begum, 28, wife of Mohammad Swapan from Bishwa Colony under Akbar Shah police station in the port city, said Rajib Dey, ward master of Ward-13 at CMCH.

Rozina was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday after having a stroke, said Assistant Registrar Imon Das, adding that she was diagnosed with dengue after coming to the hospital. Though Rosina was a primary stage dengue patient, the stroke caused excessive internal bleeding in her brain which eventually caused the death at 11am yesterday, the doctor added.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), has so far confirmed 75 deaths from dengue. A total of 388 dengue patients were admitted to the hospitals in 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of whom 271 are outside Dhaka.

DGHS data shows that 86,543 people have been admitted to hospitals across the country this year with dengue, 46,665 of them in Dhaka.

A total of 1,704 dengue patients are undergoing treatment in hospitals, of whom 1,045 are outside the capital.

DHAKA TODAY

HUMAN CHAIN
Global Climate Strike
Organiser: TIB
Venue: Jatiya Press Club
Time: 10:30am

DEBATE
Immediate Repatriation of Rohingya Refugees
Organiser: Debate for Democracy
Venue: BFDC, Tejgaon
Time: 10:30am

DISCUSSION
Global Warming, Pollution and Environmental Disaster
Organiser: Biggan Andolon Moncho
Venue: Jatiya Press Club
Time: 10am

FESTIVAL
Science Fair
Organiser: Biggan Chinta
Venue: Dhaka Residential Model College, Mirpur Road
Time: 9am

TRAINING
On Mushroom farming
Organiser: Green Me
Venue: School of Alternative Skills Development, Dhanmondi
Time: 10am

FAIR
Asian Tourism Fair
Organiser: Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry
Venue: ICCB
Time: 1pm

15.49pc pass DU 'Ga' unit entry test

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test result of "Ga" unit under the Business Studies faculty of Dhaka University for 2019-2020 session was published yesterday, with the pass rate of 15.49 per cent.

This year, the admission test was held in a new format, containing 75 marks for multiple-choice questions (MCQ) and 45 marks for a written exam.

A total of 28,169 admission seekers appeared in the test against 1,250 seats. Of them, 6,802 obtained pass marks in MCQ part, and their answer scripts of the written section were evaluated after that.

4,362 students passed the combined examination, as per the published result.

The eligible students have been asked to fill in their choice forms between September 29 and October 9 on the admission website of DU. The results can be viewed on www.admission.eis.du.ac.bd or via SMS sent from any mobile network operator.

Meanwhile, the first-year honours admission test of "Gha" unit under the Social Science faculty for the 2019-2020 academic session will be held today.

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