

19 arrested for gambling at Ctg stadium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Law enforcers arrested 19 persons with cash and cards for gambling inside the referees' association office at Chattogram's MA Aziz stadium on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Chattagram Jela Krii Sangstha (CJKS) yesterday formed a probe committee to investigate the incident and sealed off the office, said Hafizur Rahman, vice president of CJKS.

Police also claimed that a syndicate has been organising gambling events at the venue in the guise of meeting of the association.

The arrestees include Md Iqbal (36), Akbar Hossain (27), Towhidul Islam (36), Abbas (42), Karim (30), Sohag (29), Towhidul Alam (41), Helal Uddin (63), Farid (35), Mahmudul Haque (30), Suman (30) and Kaium (40).

During a drive at the East Gallery's second floor, police seized Tk 6.75 lakh from their possession, said Officer-in-Charge Nezam Uddin.

Police said the room, where gambling was held regularly, had been used as the temporary office of Chattogram Football Training Academy for the last one year.

Sylhet city staffers clash with pullers of battery-run rickshaws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Workers of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) locked into a clash with drivers of battery-powered rickshaws in front of the Nagar Bhaban at Bandarabazar area in the city yesterday.

The clash started following rickshaw pullers' demonstration demanding release of seized battery-driven rickshaws -- which SCC ordered to prohibit on city roads -- and a demand of legalising the vehicles.

BM Ashraf Ullah Taher, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "During the demonstration, a group of city corporation workers became agitated and gathered with bamboo sticks which provoked the demonstrators and lead to the clash."

"Three vehicles of the corporation were vandalised. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. No one was detained from the spot and no one filed any complaint with police," he said.

Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury said, "We've prohibited these years ago; six months ago, we ordered all such rickshaws to be removed from city roads. Following the order, we started the drive and seized a few."

"While we asked the pullers to show us legal documents about ownership and permission to ply as regular rickshaws, no one was able to show any papers and started demonstrating."

"Leftist Democratic Alliance leader Pronob Paul led the mob in attacking us while we were trying to settle the issue," he alleged, adding that the drive will continue.

Pronob Paul said, "We were in a peaceful demonstration. The city corporation workers attacked us on purpose which agitated the rickshaw pullers."

"Different cities now have permitted battery-driven rickshaws, and the government also formed a high level committee to decide in this regard."

"We urged the mayor to consider the humanitarian issue, but he did not. He threatened to destroy all seized rickshaws," he said.

"There are many stores in the city that are selling these vehicles, and the city corporation give them trade licence. If selling is legal, why pulling them on road cannot be legalised properly?" Pronob said.

Musician Noble sued under DSA

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer and musician Mainul Ahsan Noble was sued under the Digital Security Act yesterday.



The case was filed by veteran musician Isha Khan "Ethun Babu" with the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka.

Ethun Babu filed the case against Noble, who goes by the stage name Noble Man, for making derogatory comments about him on Facebook, Shamim Al Mamun, the tribunal's bench assistant of, told The Daily Star.

After a hearing, judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain took the case into cognisance and recorded the complainant's statements, he said.

The tribunal also instructed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police to investigate the case and submit a report to it by July 6, Shamim added.

According to case documents, Noble made some derogatory posts against complainant Ethun Babu and other noted artistes from his verified Facebook page in May this year.

All about

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DS: A step has been taken to let people know about case updates on their phones. Tell us more about it.

Habibur Rahman: A GD/case monitoring cell has been launched at Dhaka range office to ensure proper investigation and dispel the common belief of people that lodging any GD or case requires money.

Every month, we usually monitor 9,000 to 11,000 GDs and cases. Every GD, after being lodged, reaches Range DIG Office by 10am the next day. Our cell instantly monitors those by calling up the lodgers or complainants and investigation officers. However, in some cases, calls are made within two to four days of its lodging.

We follow similar procedures to check whether there was any case of harassment or bribery during registering a case. We also follow through during mid-level stages of investigation, and after its completion.

A huge number of people now come to us for passport verification and police clearance. For that, we have introduced a mobile application. When a person comes to us for clearance, they receive a notification with details and contact number of the officer assigned.

The officer has to dispose of an application within three working days, or else a red mark is shown in the software, and we can check whether any anomaly took place. If the application has to be verified from two separate districts, we allow extra time.

Through the process, we can check if any official is taking money or bribe in exchange for service, as there is a team to monitor it. We also call applicants randomly to check if they faced harassment or difficulty.

DS: Dhaka range handles appointments, promotions and transfers of police members. Do you have any specific system in place for

that?

Habibur Rahman: We have introduced a system to dispose of official letters within five working days, unless there are inquiry-related issues. It has ensured transparency, and no one gets any scope for recommendation.

There's a provision in government service that one has to continue work in a place for at least two years. But we sometimes transfer officials on humanitarian grounds. If an officer is working in Barishal but his parents live in Panchagarh, we take that into account and transfer him to a nearby place upon request. Promotions are now maintained centrally through an evaluation examination.

DS: Often, there are allegations of irregularities against police members, especially in major commercial areas such as Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur. How do you deal with such issues?

Habibur Rahman: We have several tiers of monitoring system. We constantly monitor activities of all members through our Police Internal Oversight (PIO). If anyone is found involved in illegal activities like bribery, extortion, harassment, rude behaviour, or involvement with narcotics, members of PIO deployed in every unit instantly send that information to our range office, and departmental proceedings are drawn based on that.

In addition, we have central PIO to oversee allegations against police. We also have a central complaint cell for people in Police Headquarters named "ICP's Complaint Cell".

Nowadays, 999 has also become a popular medium to convey complaints against police members.

DS: Many citizens still hesitate to go to police stations or talk to officials fearing harassment. There seems to be a trust issue when it comes to police. What is your view on this? Are you

taking any step to address it?

Habibur Rahman: We have introduced a process to welcome help seekers in all police stations. First, we greet them with candies, which helps ease their discomfort and helps create a pro-people environment.

We then give them a card with names and numbers of officials in a police station. We have also come up with a GD form which can be filled up easily.

Besides, we have taken steps for quick case disposal, so victims can get justice swiftly. We have issued order for ensuring quick autopsy to finish investigations. Our OCs are now visiting mosques and informing people that they do not need to pay money for filing cases. Additionally, the government has appointed public prosecutors for those who do not have money to fight cases.

We have chosen religious institutions to raise awareness among citizens, as people from all walks of life go there.

DS: What are some challenges or limitations you have faced in Dhaka Range? How do you plan to overcome those?

Habibur Rahman: Dhaka Range is important as it surrounds the capital and covers all the city entry points. We have two ferry terminals, Savar National Memorial, the president and prime minister's village homes, mausoleum of the Father of the Nation and the largest commercial zone inside the range. We also have to ensure security of foreign delegates. Besides, we oversee or collect intelligence regarding militant or extremist activities.

These challenges have become routine work for us, and we have to do our duty with diligence. But the good news is that we have been able to do so successfully and are hopeful to continue the good work in the future.

Daffodil International University CAREER OPPORTUNITY. Senior Medical Officer. Vacancy: 2. Employment Status: Full-time. Job Location: Daffodil Smart City, Ashulia, Dhaka.

Tufan Sarkar. FROM PAGE 3. by submitting a fresh bail petition even though a rule over this issue was pending with the same court, ACC lawyer Sazzad Hossain then told The Daily Star.

Mobilising. FROM PAGE 3. and in the process, we want to have zero coal power," he said.

No Hefajat. FROM PAGE 3. "However, the matter is sad and worrying. Naturally, the question arises as to what is the condition of the common people if the minister's phone is snatched," he added.

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PM condemns. FROM PAGE 3. breathed his last at a city hospital on April 4 at the age of 61.

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