

3 'Bangladeshi agents' of betting site arrested

They laundered Tk 4cr in last few months, says CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police claimed to have arrested three Bangladeshi agents of online-gambling site BetWinner, who allegedly laundered crores abroad.

According to CID, they laundered the money by converting it into dollars through a cryptocurrency exchange platform.

BetWinner is an online-betting site owned and managed by Cyprus-based Marikit Holdings Ltd. It is being operated from Russia, said CID.

The arrestees are Abu Bakr Siddique (30), Abdullah Al Awal, and Toraf Hossain (37). They were arrested from Cumilla's Chaudhagram upazila on Wednesday night.

Authorities said Bangladesh has become a popular hub for online betting in recent days. But such sites are illegal in the country.

"People living in rural areas of the country use the site for betting. In the last four months, the gang has laundered Tk 4 crore out of the country," CID Special Superintendent of Police Rezaul Masud told a press briefing at the capital's CID headquarters yesterday.

"BetWinner came to notice during regular monitoring of CID's Cyber Police Centre. Three Bangladeshi agents involved with the site were identified and arrested," he said.

During the arrest, six mobile phones, several SIM cards and a laptop were seized.



"Dress as you like" was the title of the programme arranged by a group of students from different universities in front of Raju memorial at Dhaka University yesterday. Through this simple act, they protested the rising tide of conformity that shames women for their attire and promoted the freedom of expression granted to every citizen by the country's constitution.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Probe body formed over fire at DNCC building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-member probe committee was formed to identify the reasons behind the fire, which originated at the seventh floor of the 22 storey building which houses the office of DNCC mayor at Gulshan-2 yesterday morning.

The committee headed by DNCC chief estate officer Dr. Mohammad Mahay Alam will also determine the estimate of damage and will provide recommendations about the next course of action.

The committee is asked to submit their report by three working days.

The fire originated around 7:08am on the seventh floor, said Rafi Al Faruk, duty officer of fire service.

Four firefighting units doused the blaze after two hours' effort. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately, he said.

'Please find alternative to arable land' Eminent citizens urge PM in open letter regarding Mongla Port project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen eminent citizens yesterday in an "open letter" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought her intervention to save about 300 acres of arable land in Banishanta union of Khulna's Dakope upazila from the clutches of a project by Mongla Port authority. As part of the "Inner Bar Dredging of Mongla Port Channel" project, the government took a decision to use about 1,000 acres of land, including 300 acres of arable land, for a landfill with dredged out earth from Pashur river, despite protests from land owners and farmers who depend on the land for their livelihoods.

In 2011 and 2021-2022, arable lands were filled with dredged-out earth in Chila union of Mongla, where no crops have been grown since, they said in the letter.

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Cultivation of Boro doesn't deplete groundwater Shows study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Boro cultivation does not deplete groundwater as it requires only 661 litres of water, according to a study.

The study also said groundwater of only three districts – Rajshahi, Naogaon and Nawabganj – were depleted despite a nearly 50 percent reduction of Boro rice cultivation in the last 10 years.

Researchers revealed the analysis at a programme, titled "Sustaining Groundwater Irrigation for Food Security in the Northwest Region of Bangladesh", organised by Institute of Water Modelling, in collaboration with Bangladesh Agricultural University and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research

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PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 2

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:30	4:45	6:23	7:45
JAMAAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:26	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

An unwavering champion of democracy

Say speakers on Abul Mansur Ahmad



Speakers at the event marking 124th birth anniversary of politician, writer and journalist Abul Mansur Ahmad at Dhaka University yesterday. Abul Mansur Ahmad's literary and political works -- his political memoir in particular -- were discussed at the event. Economist and educationist Akbar Ali Khan, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, partition historian and professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University Sayeed Ferdous, professor of Bangla at Dhaka University Mohammad Azam, lecturer at North South University Asif Bin Ali and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam spoke at the programme. Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad organised the event, where nine winners of the Abul Mansur Ahmad Essay Competition were announced and presented with awards.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Free democracy. Only then will society heal itself," said economist and educationist Akbar Ali Khan, as he read from Abul Mansur Ahmad's political memoir "Amar Dekha Rajneetir Ponchash Bochhor", at an event held at Dhaka University's Faculty of Social Sciences yesterday.

In commemoration of the 124th birth anniversary of politician, writer and journalist Abul Mansur Ahmad, his literary and political works -- his political memoir in particular -- were discussed at the event.

Akbar Ali Khan presented the keynote, followed by the speeches

of Sayeed Ferdous, partition historian and professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University; Mohammad Azam, professor of Bangla at Dhaka University; and Asif Bin Ali, lecturer at North South University.

Literary critic, intellectual, and political analyst Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury presided over the event.

With independence being the central theme of the political memoir, all four speeches highlighted the author's focus on democracy as the fundamental pillar of Bangladesh's constitution.

"Democracy can be 'protected'

and established today through proportional representation, elections that allow change and social harmony, strengthening of regional governments, and referenda that allow the population to vote without imposing new laws or altering the constitution," said Akbar Ali Khan.

"If we want democracy, we need more research, trial and error, and implementation," he added.

"Amar Dekha Rajneetir Ponchash Bochhor" is the "most widely referenced book" on Bangladeshi history and politics in global academia, said Mohammad Azam.

Both Azam and Asif Bin Ali highlighted the relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad's work in contemporary discourse. His political memoir, along with the rest of his writings, addresses issues of Bangalee identity, Bangalee Muslim identity, and politics as it affected the ordinary citizen.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's approach is unique because he prioritised simple language, clarity of thought, and critical thinking. The role of culture was most central to these ideas, said speakers.

As a social historian focusing on East Bengal during partition,

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We must help all youths flourish Says Debapriya Bhattacharya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inequality exists among the youths, as many have been left behind due to lack of opportunities, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, convenor at Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, yesterday.

"We are proud of our youths, but equality doesn't exist in this community. Many of them got opportunities, but many didn't. We must reach out to those who have been left behind," he said.



DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA

We are proud of our youths, but equality doesn't exist in this community. Many of them got opportunities, but many didn't. We must reach out to those who have been left behind.

He was speaking at a conference on youths and SDG, organised by Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

He said a large population of youths are not educated, do not have jobs and have not received any kind of training.

Most of the time, people only recognise those who are educated -- the English speaking, computer literate, tie and coat wearing people --

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Independent judiciary a pipe dream if judges don't feel free

Says retiring judge Krishna Debnath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Krishna Debnath, a judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, yesterday said independence of the judiciary is a pipe dream, unless a judge herself does not feel independent.

"During my 41-year judgeship career, I realised that although independence of the judiciary has been implemented on paper, in reality it is a pipe dream if a judge does not feel free," she said.

She made the comment while receiving a farewell from the attorney general's office and Supreme Court Bar Association at Court-1 of the Appellate Division, on the last working day before her retirement.

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique as well as Appellate Division's Justice Obaidul Hassan, Justice Borhanuddin and Justice M Enayetur Rahim were present in the courtroom, where SC lawyers, law officers and journalists attended.

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BNP to form commission to identify Zia's killers Says Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will form a new commission to identify those who were behind the murder of party founder Ziaur Rahman and put them on trial if the party returns to power in the days to come, said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He came up with the remarks after paying homage to Ziaur Rahman by placing wreaths at his grave, marking BNP's 44th founding anniversary.

Fakhru alleged that police and the ruling party activists attacked BNP leaders and activists

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BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir along with party leaders placed a floral wreath at the party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave in the capital's Chandrima Udyan yesterday, marking BNP's 44th founding anniversary.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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