

**TIES SET TO WORSEN AS PAKISTAN BLOCKS NEW INDIAN DIPLOMAT'S APPOINTMENT AS CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES IN ISLAMABAD**  
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## Back to business

A dozen listed Teknaf narcotics previously hiding now seen again, taking over yaba trade

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, back from Teknaf

In the home ministry list of narcotics traders, Sirajul Mostofa Chowdhury Lalu's serial number is 764.

A residence of Tulatuli area of Whaikhyang union of Teknaf upazila, Lalu is wanted in seven different cases and he went into hiding after the nationwide anti-narcotics drive began in May 2018.

But now he has come out of his hideout and got involved in yaba smuggling again.

Similar is the case of Sayed Alam.

An inhabitant of Mazarpara village of Whaikhyang, he is wanted in three narcotics cases. A few months ago, he allegedly made a settlement with now suspended Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das to avoid arrest and just vanished.

Recently, Sayed was seen roaming in Teknaf.



Since July 31, there has been no significant drives against narcotics traders by the district police while Rab and BGB had big success in seizure of yaba pills.

Like these two, over a dozen listed narcotics dealers of Teknaf, who went into hiding after the anti-narcotics drive began, returned and took over their smuggling trade.

During a visit to Teknaf, the gateway of smuggling the crazy drug into Bangladesh from Myanmar, these correspondents managed to collect details of these narcotics dealers who have reappeared on the scene.

Even the 102 top godfathers and dealers, who surrendered to police on February 16 last year, are also trying to get released on bail in the two cases filed against them each -- over arms and narcotics.

At least 10 of them have been granted bail in the arms case and they are now trying to get bail in the narcotics case, according to jail sources.

In an April 2019 investigation by

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The mighty Jamuna devouring Char Dighapara Government Primary School in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila yesterday. The school building was constructed in FY 2004-5 at a cost of Tk 28 lakh. The authorities said the river was at least two kilometres away from the school building three years ago.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## OC PRADEEP, WIFE Court orders attachment of properties

It denies him bail too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A Chattogram court yesterday passed an order to freeze all movable and immovable property of Chumki Karan, wife of former officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das, in connection with a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Meanwhile, the court rejected the bail prayer of Pradeep, who is accused in Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan murder, in the graft case for amassing illegal wealth.

The court of Metropolitan Session Judge Sheikh Ashfaqur Rahman passed the confiscation order after the investigation officer

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## 'Winter is coming'

PM warns that pandemic may worsen in winter; asks all to prepare

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing apprehension that the Covid-19 situation may deteriorate to some extent during the upcoming winter, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked everyone to bolster preparation to fight the pandemic in wintertime.

"Winter is coming. The situation may deteriorate to some extent. But we've to take preparation from right now," she said while receiving donation of Tk 165.6 crore for the PM's Relief and Welfare Fund from over 40 organisations.

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## A battle brewing over Hefajat helm

Anti-govt elements including Jamaat out to take control, govt moves to retain it

RASHIDUL HASAN and FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

With the demise of Hefajat-e-Islam chief Shah Ahmad Shafi, several anti-government elements, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, have moved to establish control over the Islamist outfit and its stronghold, Hathazari madrasa, claim several Hefajat leaders.

These elements -- both political and non-political -- are using a section of Hefajat leaders, including its Secretary General Junaid Babunagari who reportedly took a stance against Shafi and his son Anas Madani, to have a grip on Hefajat and the Qawmi madrasa, they say.

Several lakh students study at Qawmi madrasas across the country and different political forces, on many occasions, reportedly used them to materialise their political goals.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hefajat Joint Secretary General Maulana Zafrullah Khan said several anti-government political forces and a section of Islamic intellectuals have jumped at the opportunity to re-establish ties with Hefajat for using it against the government.

On the other hand, the government is trying to retain its control on Hefajat and Hathazari madrasa following the revolt against Shafi and his son, he mentioned.

Abul Kasem Kasemi, another Hefajat leader in the capital, said that with new leaders at the helm of Hefajat and Hathazari madrasa, it may take some time to fathom whether there would be a new polarisation.

Jamaat is making efforts to repair relations with Hefajat on which it and the BNP reportedly banked on during the 2013 movement to oust the AL government, said a number of Hefajat leaders.

Several Jamaat leaders, including its Secretary General Mia Golam

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## SC keeps four cases against Khaleda stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld four High Court orders that stayed the trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in three cases for vandalism and arson and one for defamation.

The apex court, however, asked the High Court to hear and dispose of the rules issued in connection with the cases.

With yesterday's orders, the SC has so far upheld 12 HC orders that stayed trial proceedings of 12 cases against Khaleda,

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## DGHS official, wife siphoned off Tk 40cr

ACC probe finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspended accountant of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Abzal Hossain and his wife Rubina Khanam have lauded about Tk 40 crore abroad, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) found in its investigation.

Abzal, who surrendered before court on August 26th, faced a 14-day remand on two separate cases filed by the anti-graft body.

An ACC official, preferring anonymity, said the Tk 40 crore is dispersed across 20 bank accounts in three countries, including Canada, Australia and Malaysia.

Sources said that the commission is trying to freeze the accounts.

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A large portion of this hill in near Sylhet's Pathantula-Madina market has been cut. Locals allege that the hill-cutting work is done by men working for an influential local in the dead of night. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

## How hills of Sylhet turn flat

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

There are laws, High Court order, protests of environmentalists and a dedicated government office to keep vigilance, but nothing can stop hillock cutting in Sylhet.

For over two decades, around half the hillocks have been razed, environmental activists claimed.

It may lead to serious environmental disasters, they said.

As urbanisation of Sylhet city is happening fast, the demand for plain land to construct buildings is rising and hillocks are being cut.

Hillock cutting is rampant mostly in Sylhet city and its suburbs which falls in Sylhet Sadar upazila.

Hillocks have been damaged in Hawladarpara, Karepara, Gowabari, Bagmara, Dolia, and Baluchar and

many other places of Sylhet city and its suburbs.

The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (amended 2010), strictly prohibits the cutting or razing of any types of hills and hillocks by any individual or institution. Exceptions may be made, but only after a clearance certificate is issued by the Department of Environment (DoE).

Moreover, on November 2011, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) filed a writ petition with the High Court to stop hillock cutting and the court banned cutting of any types of hillock in Sylhet.

Recently, hillock cutting at Gowabari Tila and Majumdar Tila in Sylhet city's ward-8 and its adjacent areas in the Sadar upazila is being heavily criticised.

Majumdar Tila is being ravaged for years, part by part, and now hillock cutting is going on there at nights.

Lawyer Dilip Kumar Deb, a resident of Hawladarpara, said, "Many hillocks, including Majumdar Tila, have been ravaged in the last couple of years. Owners and their associates cut the hillock at nights so that they cannot be noticed. Officials are aware of it, but they don't take any necessary steps to stop this."

The Gowabari Tila was being cut using the excavator of Sylhet City Corporation. On August 26, the DoE fined Nur Uddin, brother of ward-8 councillor, Tk 1.40 lakh for cutting the hillock.

Councillor Iliasur Rahman was also fined Tk 1 lakh for cutting hillock inside his house in 2015.

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