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Your Right to Know



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"Foul play, dirty behavior, and spitting venom in the name of politics only frighten people. The government is doing this to mislead people."
BNP LEADER NAZRUL ISLAM KHAN



"Be patriotic. It's not about being a tough guy. It's about doing your part."
JOE BIDEN ON IMPORTANCE OF WEARING MASKS AFTER TRUMP TESTS POSITIVE



"No power in the world can stop me from meeting and sharing the pain of the victim's family of Hathras."
RAHUL GANDHI AS OUTRAGE OVER GANGRAPE SIMMERS IN INDIA
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Pay or die

Stories behind 'gunfights' and the human cost of OC Pradeep's 'rule' in Teknaf

ZYMA ISLAM and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

With suspended officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das now behind bars over the killing of retired army major Sinha, stories are unearthed about the unwritten law of the upazila town: you pay, you live.

You bargain or you don't pay -- you mysteriously die in a "gunfight" that will happen in the middle of the night at some remote beach.

Yasmin Akhter's husband Hasan Ali was a "source" of the Border Guard Bangladesh -- not only does she proudly admit this, she also calls it "a service to the nation".

As the owner of a fleet of 40 fishing trawlers which he leased to sea-faring fishermen, Hasan was the perfect informant, since he had eyes and ears all over the sea looking out for shipments of yaba coming in from Myanmar.

According to his wife, this was also a quick way to make money since he received a handsome commission from the BGB for every haul. But it was also a quick way to make



Suspended officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station



enemies in a town where Hasan's closest neighbours are all yaba traders.

He got so rich ruining their livelihoods that he could afford to plaster every square inch of the walls and floors of his one-storey home with the fanciest golden-veined ceramic tiles.

Hasan was picked up by Teknaf police on October 27, 2018 from south Jaliyapara where he was mending torn fishing nets, alleged his wife.

"He was picked up at 10:30am. The fishermen saw him being taken away by the police. He had no cases against him, nor was he a listed drug trader."

When Yasmin went looking for him at the police station, she was allegedly told by the then OC Pradeep that she needs to hand over Tk 50 lakh to get her husband released, only being charged with Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"I said that I can give only Tk 20 lakh. I sold all the gold jewelry I had and met two policemen -- an assistant sub-inspector and a constable -- behind the Eidgah field at

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Boys walking ankle-deep in water on the corridor of Kajlarpur Government Primary School in the capital's Jatrabari. The severe and prolonged waterlogging is the result of a dysfunctional drainage system in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

GETTING VACCINES

Govt working on a \$550m scheme

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government has undertaken a programme worth \$550 million with an aim to procure and distribute coronavirus vaccines.

The authorities concerned are currently in negotiation with the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a loan of \$400 million for the programme.

Rest of the amount would be contributed by the government, said officials.

According to a top official of the Ministry of Finance, the ministry officials have been in discussion with the World Bank for a \$200 million loan since August and with the AIIB for another \$200 million since September.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal had talked with AIIB President Jin Lique over phone about the loan in the last week of September and the AIIB president responded to him positively, he said.

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Pro-govt clerics at Qwami helm

RASHIDUL HASAN

Tensions continue to brew between pro- and anti-government leaders from Hefajat-e-Islam and Qwami madrasas over securing the top posts of the Chattogram-based Islamist group, Qawmi Madrasa Education Board (Befaq), and Al-Haiyatul Uliia Lil-Jamiatil Qawmia Bangladesh, which is the highest level of Qwami madrasa education in the country.

The posts left vacant at the same time with the demise of Shah Ahmad Shafi on September 18.

The two sides have also reportedly engaged in a grave dispute over establishing grip on Hefajat, which came to the fore for its massive rally in the capital's Shapla Chattar on May 5 in 2013, and its stronghold Hathazari madrasa in Chattogram.

When this in the situation, the executive committee of Befaq elected Maulana Mahmudul Hasan, principal of Jatrabari madrasa and khatib of Gulshan Azad Mosque in the capital, as the board's acting chairman yesterday. He defeated his rival candidate Maulana Nur Hossain Kasemi.

As ex officio, Mahmudul would also become the acting chairman of Al-Haiyatul Uliia Lil-Jamiatil Qawmia Bangladesh.

Multiple sources in Hefajat and Befaq said Mahmudul is considered to be a pro-government Islamic cleric, while Kasemi is a top leader in the BNP-led 20-party alliance and also the secretary general of Jomiat-e Ullamae Islam, a component in the alliance.

Yesterday's meeting was held at the head office of Bangladesh Qwami Madrasa Education Board at Kajla, Jatrabari in Dhaka.

Hefajat leaders and several members of the Befaq executive committee

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RAPE AT MC COLLEGE

Three more accused give confessional statements

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three more people accused in a case filed over the gangrape of a woman at Sylhet's Murari Chand College gave their confessional statements to a district court yesterday.

A team of Shah Poran Police Station, led by Inspector Indranil Bhattacharya, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced the three accused before the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court around 1:00pm.

The accused are Shah Mahbubur Rahman Roni, Rajon Miah and Ainuddin.

Of the three, Rajon gave his confessional statement before Sylhet Additional Chief Metropolitan

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TRUMP IN HOSPITAL

Election concerns take foothold in White House

AGENCIES

White House officials sought to project an air of business as usual despite President Donald Trump's Covid-19 diagnosis and hospitalisation, but aides privately expressed concern about the presidential election and showed signs of rising worry about the coronavirus.

"The business of government continues," economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters after Trump disclosed on Twitter on Friday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Trump flew by helicopter to Walter Reed Medical Center for treatment in the early evening. But staff members said he would continue working from a special suite there and that he had remained engaged in governing throughout the day. He did not transfer power to Vice President Mike Pence.

In an 18-second video recorded inside the White House and released on Twitter, Trump broke his silence, saying he was being hospitalised but "I think I'm doing very well."

"We're going to make sure that things work out," he said, adding that First Lady Melania Trump -- who also contracted the virus -- was "doing very well."

Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Trump was receiving the anti-viral drug remdesivir following consultation with specialists. The president was "not requiring any supplemental oxygen," she said in a

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GRASSROOTS UNITS

AL chief riled by inclusion of tainted faces



PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed disappointment because names of "wrongdoers and infiltrators" were proposed for inclusion in the district, city and upazila committees of the party.

The AL president, also the prime minister, ordered concerned leaders to form committees with tested and dedicated leaders to further strengthen the party at the grassroots.

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SPORT

Salahuddin wins fourth term as BFF president

Kazi Salahuddin was elected president of Bangladesh Football Federation for a fourth consecutive term following a landslide victory at the BFF Elective Congress in Dhaka yesterday. According to unofficial results, the former national captain secured 94 votes to beat Badal Roy (40) and Shafiqul Islam Manik (1) at the congress held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel. Abus Salam Murshed was elected as senior vice-president for a fourth time too. Forty-seven candidates vied for 21 posts, including 15 member posts, in these elections. A total of 135 out of 139 voted in the elections.

STORY ON PAGE 11



Workers demolishing the illegal Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association building at the capital's Hatirjheel. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha started the demolition in January. But the work has been progressing slowly because of the coronavirus restrictions. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STOPPING DRUG ABUSE

Govt to set up independent institutes

Tests to be done before joining jobs, enrolling for higher edu

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With an aim to ensure "dope test" for entering higher education and job sectors, the government has taken steps to form an independent institute for the task.

It would be formed following the structure of Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institution (BSTI) and will monitor and ensure dope test in all job sectors and will also take steps to make sure that tests are conducted before admission in any educational institutes for higher degree and again before the final examination of the degree.

As a part of intensifying and strengthening the narcotics control across the country, the decision to form the independent institute has been taken in the last meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs.

The institute -- "Bangladesh Drug Testing Institute" -- will be set up in 19 districts of the country under the project called "Introducing dope test to detect drug addicts [first] phase".

Shamsul Haque Tuku, chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the home ministry, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

"We want to give dope test operation an institutional structure. The test will be conducted in educational institutes, and before entrance in the job and transport

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