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SHAH CEMENT

AMPHETAMINE SMUGGLING

Bangladesh being used as a route

Transnational syndicate using Dhaka airport, int'l courier services, says narcotics dept probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A transnational syndicate is allegedly using Bangladesh as a route to smuggle amphetamine powder to other countries after smuggling it into the country from neighbouring India.

It is using Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) and international courier services to get the powder out of the country.

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) came up with the findings while investigating a case filed after the recovery of 12.32kg of amphetamine powder from the cargo village area of HSIA last month.

To detect such smuggling consignments and increase vigilance, the DNC is now planning to deploy a dog squad at the airport.

The DNC also instructed international delivery service providers to install scanning machines at their offices so that no one can send such illegal goods through them.

Bangladesh banned the import of amphetamine and its use for production of medicine for cold in February 2017 after it was found that the chemical was largely used for yaba production.

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Three rickshaw passengers using a tarp to shield against the driving rain on the Dhaka University campus yesterday afternoon. While they are shielded from the rain, the absence of masks in the close confines under the tarp puts them at risk of coronavirus transmission.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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RAPE CASE IN KHULNA

HC upholds life term based on circumstances

Punishment stays though medical report unavailable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has upheld the life sentence handed to a convict in a rape case in Khulna, considering the circumstances and statement of the victim although her medical report was not available.

"The appellate court [HC] has upheld the sentence handed down by the lower court concerned as the statement of the victim about the rape was believable. Therefore, the appellant [Ibrahim Gazi] cannot be acquitted [of the charges] on the excuse that her medical test was not done or he [Ibrahim] has not raped," the HC said.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty made the observation in the full text of the verdict, which was released yesterday.

The bench delivered the short verdict on February 27 on the appeal filed by Ibrahim challenging the trial court judgment on him in the rape case.

Deputy Attorney General Jannatul

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu's cable to ICRC president



October 15, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SPEEDY REPATRIATION OF BANGALEES URGED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urges the president of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) Geneva to urgently take up the issue of stranded Bangalees with the authorities in Islamabad to prevent their persecution and arrange their speedy repatriation to Bangladesh. The prime minister today in a telegraphic message to Marcel Naville portrays the plights of the Bangalees stranded in Pakistan.

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LIBELLOUS FB COMMENT

Former Ducus VP Nur sued under Digital Security Act

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka University student yesterday sued former Ducus vice-president Nurul Haque Nur under the Digital Security Act over making insulting and defamatory comments about her during a Facebook Live broadcast.

Earlier, the student had filed three more cases against Nur over her alleged rape.

In the Facebook Live aired on Sunday night, Nur said the DU student, now in a hunger strike until death, was staging a drama and called her "dushcharitraheen".

Yesterday, the student filed the case with the Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka. Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain took

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Peru opens Machu Picchu for a single Japanese tourist



AFP, Lima

Peru's best-known tourist site Machu Picchu has opened after months of coronavirus closure, but for just a single visitor -- a Japanese man stranded in the country by the pandemic.

"The first person on Earth who went to Machu Picchu since the lockdown is meeeeeee," Jesse Katayama posted on his Instagram account alongside pictures of himself at the deserted site.

"This is truly amazing! Thank you," he added in a video posted on the Facebook pages of the local tourism authority in Cusco, where the famed site is located.

Katayama spoke against the backdrop of the

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Ninth-grader gang-raped in Cox's Bazar

Three rapists held

STAR REPORT

A grade-IX student has allegedly been gang-raped in Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Nurul Hakim, of the upazila's Gulgulia Para, called the girl over phone and asked her to meet him on October 11. As the girl responded, Nurul and his two friends -- Ebadullah and Khairul Amin -- took her to a nearby paddy field and gang-raped her, said police.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 15

	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-15	5-45	7-15
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	4-30	5-50	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Panic grips locals after Rangamati gunfight

STAR REPORT

Panic gripped Rangamati's Naniarchar after a gunfight took place in the area on Tuesday evening.

Additional members of police and army have been deployed there, said Md Sabbir Rahman, officer-in-charge of Naniarchar police station.

In a press release, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said two members of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF-Prasit Khisa) were killed and a member of Bangladesh Army was injured in the gunfight.

The deceased were identified as Ashapurna Chakma alias Rocket and Shambu Chakma, said police.

The OC said Ashapurna was a member of the UPDF, but they were yet to know whether Shambu was involved in any politics.

"We are trying to find out whether Shambu was a member of the UPDF or

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Two indigenous women returning home with bundles full of chopped wood, to be used as fuel, in Rangamati's Katachhari area.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

RURAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Their hard labour goes unrecognised

NILIMA JAHAN

Mayadebi Tanchangya, of Bilaichhari upazila, toils away every morning till night to make ends meet for her seven-member family.

From domestic work and rearing livestock to farming vegetables on a small field in her homestead and jhum, the 48-year-old works for hours every day for only Tk 15,000 a month, which she spends on her family.

When the pandemic-induced shutdown had begun, she started facing problems while selling her farm-grown vegetable. As she is not registered as a female farmer and has no state support, she is still facing difficulty due to Covid-19's impact.

On top of this, she did not know that the government is providing under a Tk 5,000 crore stimulus package to small and medium farmers in rural areas.

"I don't know anything about it. I heard this from you," Mayadebi told this correspondent.

Mayadebi is among the hundreds of indigenous women, living in hilly districts and on plain land, who hardly get any recognition despite making important contributions to the country's society, agriculture and subsistence economy.

An overwhelming majority of them are kept out of the loop in terms of any state support, such as agricultural cards, seeds, fertilizers, or low-interest loans.

The Daily Star spoke to 15 indigenous women from the three hill tracts districts and plain land, but none of them have been registered as farmers in the digital database of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

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