

Jt forces put 14 more listed criminals behind bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 66 people, including 14 listed criminals, were arrested across the country under the Operation Clean Heart in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday. The joint forces of the army, BDR and police recovered 18 firearms, including four revolvers, six shot-guns, six pipe guns, a pistol, a sawn-off rifle, and six bullets during the period. The latest spate of arrests pushed the number of people rounded up since the start of the anti-crime crackdown on October 17 to 10,400, including 2,287 listed criminals. The joint forces have so far seized 1,899 firearms and 29,056 rounds of ammunition. The principal information officer told the journalists during a briefing yesterday that the joint forces have arrested a total of 7,280 non-listed people since the drive started on

October 17, and they have been released after interrogation. Our Pabna correspondent reports that the joint forces arrested eight people including two listed criminals, and recovered two firearms and some drugs from their possession. A team of the joint forces and personnel from the Narcotics Control Department (DNC) raided Bhangara village of the Sadar upazila and seized a truckload of marijuana. They arrested Mokther Pramanik, Abul Kashem, Madu Sheikh, Rafiq Khan, Sayen Sardar, Hanif Sheikh and Majnu Sheikh. Two listed criminals Mohiuddin Sheikh and Abdul Majid from Ghugudaha village of Sathiya upazila, were also arrested. The joint forces have arrested 250 people including 32 listed criminals from different parts of the district over the last 70 days. During

the period they also recovered 46 firearms and 1,014 ammunitions, which were exhibited for the public on Saturday in an open place adjacent to the stadium. The firearms included 12 guns, nine revolvers, 10 pistols, seven pipe guns, and eight rifles. In Barisal, the joint forces arrested a leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami along with a huge quantity of rubber stamps and forged documents from Nolchhiti upazila of Jhalakati district Friday. Police said they arrested Abu Bakkar Khan, Amir of Nolchhiti upazila unit of the Jamaat, along with 65 rubber stamps of bank, education and madrasa board officials, ministers, MPs, government and opposition leaders, 140 forged documents and 170 photographs of girls and women. Abu Bakkar Khan is a clerk of local Harikhalai Madrasah. He was

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A gardener at work at the Balodha Garden in the city, overlooked by a multistoried building. High-rise buildings around the park threaten rare plant species in the century-old garden.

PHOTO: STAR

Six chemical containers salvaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six of the seven chemical containers that slipped into the river Karnaphuli at Chittagong port Jetty No. 7 area were salvaged till 6:00 last evening. The remainder was expected to be recovered by last night. The incident occurred on Wednesday morning. According to sources, departure of QC Lark, the vessel that carried the containers, has been delayed by two days due to the accident and salvage work. Now the vessel is leaving the port today with 1100 TEUS containers of exported cargoes including 800 TEUS containers of readymade garments. Exporters fear due to the delayed departure the shipment of readymade garments might fail to reach the mother vessels in the foreign ports in time. In that event, the garment unit owners could well count millions in losses. The containers loaded with imported chemicals fell into water while being loaded on barge Nitu 2 from QC Lark. Though two of them were damaged during the salvage operation, the chemicals remained safe within the inner haul of the two-haul slanders.

Experts cast doubt on cloning claim

REUTERS, Hollywood

Experts remained sceptical Saturday after a sect that believes extraterrestrials created mankind claimed - without offering any proof - to have produced the first human clone. Researchers and ethicists challenged Clonaid's claim that it had successfully cloned a human using procedures much like those used to clone Dolly the sheep, saying the group seemed to lack the experience and resources necessary for such a feat. "These claims give science a bad name. There is nothing credible about them," said Dr Severino Antinori, a maverick Italian who had previously announced that one of his patients would give birth in January to the first human clone. The Vatican said the claim was "an expression of a brutal mentality, lacking all ethical and human consideration" and noted the group had provided no proof. Clonaid CEO Brigitte Boisselier told reporters Friday that the baby girl was born to a 31-year-old American woman late Thursday morning. She was cloned through cells taken from the mother, Boisselier said. The parents, who had been infertile, did not wish to show off the baby, according to Boisselier, who declined to disclose their identities or location. "It would be a surprise to me if it were that simple to clone humans," said Dr. Barry Zirkon, head of the division of reproductive biology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. "Based on the experience with animals, one would imagine it would take many shots to actually get a human baby." Boisselier said an independent expert would conduct genetic tests on the baby to verify the breakthrough. "You should have the answers and all the proof you need in about eight days," she said. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section and weighed 7 pounds, Boisselier said, adding that four more cloned babies would be delivered by the end of January. Clonaid was founded by Claude Vorithon, who calls himself Rael and founded a cult called the Raelians. The company Web site lists

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Dilip Barua 11-party coordinator no more

UNB, Dhaka

Dilip Barua was removed from the post of coordinator of the left leaning 11-Party Alliance yesterday. The interim action was taken against Barua for accompanying the prime minister during her recent visit to China, which the alliance viewed as a 'political blunder'. The decision to sack Barua was taken at a meeting of the 11-party held at Workers' Party central office yesterday. Barua was replaced by Alhaj Abdus Samad, president of Gano Azadi League, to act as the coordinator of the 11-Party Alliance, said a press release.

Balodha Garden wilts in high-rise shadow

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

The Balodha Garden in the city, home to rare and exotic plant species, faces ruination, as multi-storied buildings mushroom around the century-old park, obstructing sunlight. Despite protests and pleas from various organisations and the civil society, the authorities have allowed construction of multi-storied buildings around the 3.38-acre garden. The buildings now block sunlight and impede proper air

circulation in the garden that houses some 18,000 trees and plants of more than 700 species. Moreover, there is dust and pollution from nearby roads. Moreover, mismanagement by the authorities concerned has left the garden in a mess, littered with phensidyl bottles, paper and other rubbish. Various species of rare trees and plants have died away. Experts fear that the garden may not be able to survive the onslaught of urbanisation

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Engineer beaten to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An engineer was beaten to death on the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus Saturday night. Shafiqul Mawla, 42, was a former employee of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) and used to work for a private firm for the last several months. Sources said a group of unidentified youths stopped Shafiq in front of the BUET Shaheed Minar at around 9:15pm and roughed him up

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RMC principal ousted by JCD activists

UNB, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) Principal Ziaus Shams Asadi was allegedly ousted from his office and driven out of the campus by some agitating students yesterday. Campus sources said Dolon, an irregular student of the college and also a member of the convening committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal RMC unit, was earlier declared ineligible to sit for the second professional MBBS examination scheduled for January 11.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 30		5-22 pm
Dec 31	6-41 am	
Prayer Timings		
Dec 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-27	5-32
Esha	7-30	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		