



TO CURE SOCIAL ILLS

Three-day social business summit opens in Vienna

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MEET THE NEW TIGERS

Shohag Gazi, Abul Hasan are in Test squad against West Indies

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HE'D RATHER DIE IN SYRIA

President Assad says he will never flee despite the uprising

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Stop new gas links

HC asks govt

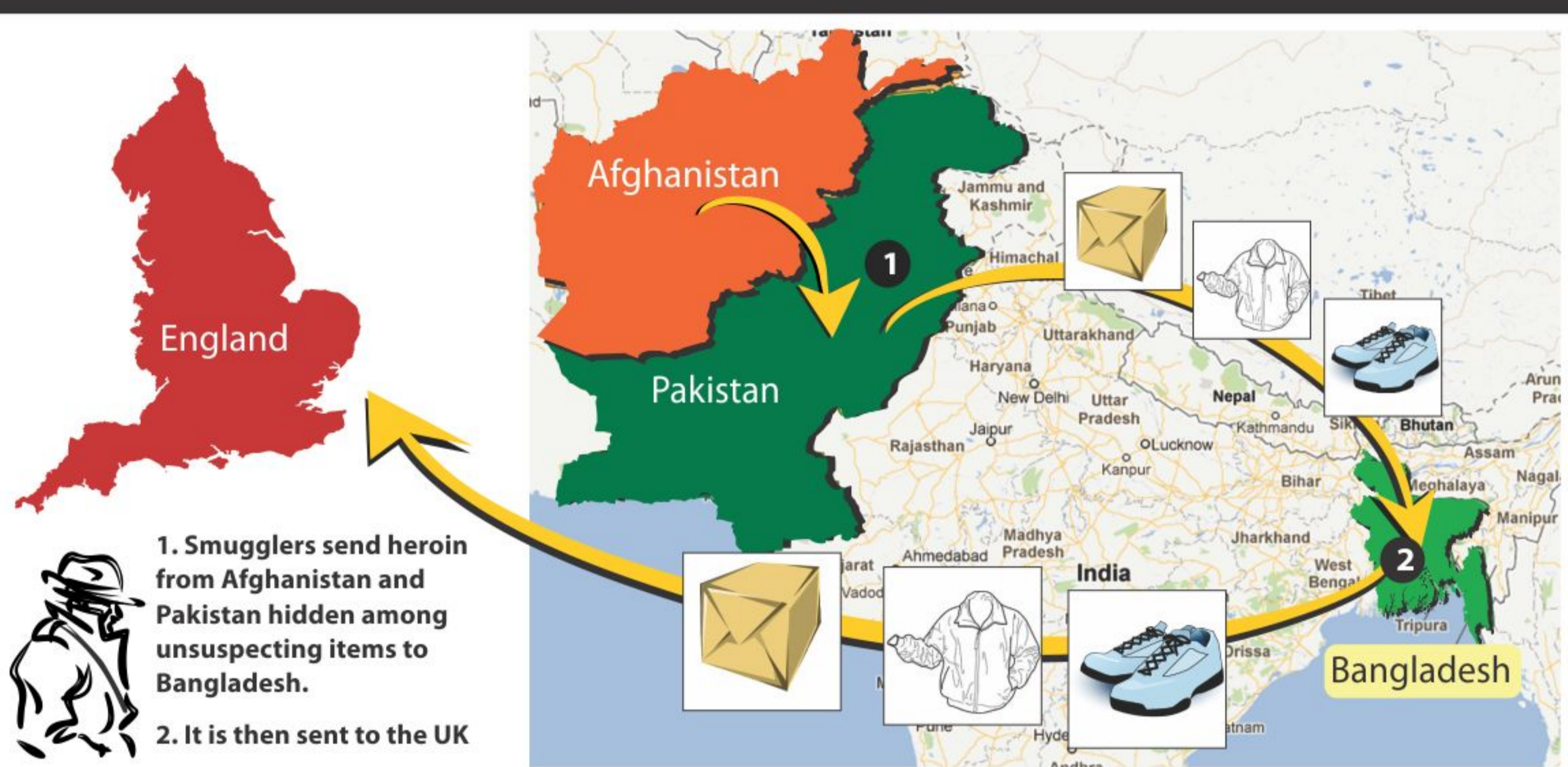
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop giving new gas connections until further orders and to submit in four weeks a list of officials and staff found responsible for providing illegal gas lines.

It gave the managing directors of Bakhrabad and Titas Gas transmission and distribution

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USING BANGLADESH AS HEROIN SMUGGLING ROUTE



150kg heroin couriered to UK in 12 years

Detectives find at least 10 gangs involved; lax checking by courier services made the crime easy

ASHIF ISLAM SHAON

Bangladeshi members of a transnational drug cartel smuggled around 150 kilograms of heroin to the UK through Bangladesh in the last 12 years, taking advantage of the lax security checking system of some courier services.

At least 10 local gangs have couriered the

deadly drug in around 250 consignments, hiding them in shoes, leatherjackets and books after Pakistani agents had brought them to Bangladesh from Pakistan and Afghanistan, detectives say.

Detectives learnt about these gangs and their smuggling process after the arrest of Shamsul Arefin Tuhin, a local member of the

international gang, in the capital in September.

On information from Tuhin that a Bangladeshi-born British citizen named Shah Alam Suman, a Pakistani national and some British nationals had been operating from the UK, Bangladeshi detectives sought help from

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MURDER CHARGE

Limon's family cleared

Court acquits the shooting victim's parents, brother of dubious charge as police fail to produce proof

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The family members of Jhalakathi college student Limon Hossain have been cleared of murder in a case filed by a former Rab informant.

Ibrahim Howlader filed the murder case with Jhalakathi Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court on August 23 over the death of his brother-in-law Forkan.

He alleged that 13 people, including Limon's father Tofazzal, mother Henoara, elder brother Sumon and uncle Siddique, had beaten Forkan to death during a brawl on August 20.

Nusrat Jahan, senior judicial magistrate of Jhalakathi, acquitted all the accused of the murder charge after the investigation officer submitted the report before the court yesterday.

A Rab team on March 23 last year shot Limon, then 16, in the left leg as he was taking his cattle to a field at Chhaturia village of Jhalakathi. Later, his leg had to be amputated from the thigh.

Limon's mother filed a case against six Rab men with Rajapur Police Station on April 10 last year. On the other hand, Rab filed two cases against the youth.

Ibrahim, witness No 17 in one of the two cases, had once been an informant of the elite crime buster, Colonel Faridul Alam, commanding officer of Rab-8, earlier told The Daily Star.

In the murder case, Ibrahim claimed the accused had injured him at Idurbari-More of Rajapur at 4:15pm on

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Triumphant Obama girds for battle

STAR DESK

President Barack Obama has returned to the White House emboldened by his stunning re-election and challenging his Republican opponents to work with him to avert a looming financial crisis.

The liberal euphoria that greeted Obama's landmark election victory over Mitt Romney was short-lived as he immediately set about the daunting task of breaking down partisan gridlock in a bitterly divided Congress.

Before leaving Chicago, Obama was already on the phone trying to bridge the gap with Republican

leaders to avoid a potentially catastrophic "fiscal cliff" that could plunge the fragile US economy back into recession.

A combination of dramatic spending cuts and tax increases will take effect on January 1 without a deal on reducing the ballooning budget deficit, with Democrats and Republicans in Congress locked in a who-blinks-first standoff.

Obama spoke to Republican House Speaker John Boehner and also telephoned the minority Republican leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, as well as top Democrats.

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REPLACING HILLARY--PAGE 7



SUNSHINE FAMILY

US President Barack Obama, joined by First Lady Michelle Obama and their daughters Sasha and Malia, heads for Air Force One at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Wednesday. They were bound for Washington the day after Obama was re-elected.

PHOTO: AFP

Hina Rabbani arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar arrives in Dhaka today on a five-hour visit to invite Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Islamabad to attend the Developing-8 Summit on November 22.

Initially, her visit was supposed to be for 12 hours but her schedule



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Foil bid to save war criminals

PM urges people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a vested quarter was out to thwart the trial of war criminals, and urged people to remain alert about their evil designs.

"I request all to remain alert so that the vested quarter cannot commit any destructive activities in the country," she said while inaugurating a conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Mentioning about the recent violence carried out by the activists of Jamaat and Shibir across the country, the premier regretted that they even did not spare the law enforcers.

Hasina said the defeated force of the 1971 Liberation

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MALAYSIA Manpower export again from Jan

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

Workers will go to Malaysia under state arrangements from January after the government signs three Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the Malaysian government, said the secretary of expatriates welfare and overseas employment.

An MoU on employment of workers with

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China talks tough on corruption

Hu Jintao warns CPC members at nat'l congress

STAR REPORT

Calling for combating corruption and promoting political integrity, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Hu Jintao yesterday sounded a caution that failure to handle this major political issue could prove "fatal to the party, even cause the collapse of the party and the fall of the state."

Hu Jintao, also president of China, said the issue is of great concern to the people and tackling it is a long-term political commitment of the CPC.

He called for enhancing intra-party democracy, reports Xinhua.

The top Chinese leader made the call in a keynote report at 18th national congress of the party.

The congress began yesterday in Beijing with a pledge to further open up China's socialist market economy and to bring reforms and a major leadership change in a decade, reports Reaz Ahmad from the Chinese capital.

The theme of the congress is to "hold

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Anti-Islam filmmaker jailed in US

AFP, Los Angeles

The man behind the anti-Islam video blamed for sparking deadly protests in the

Muslim world was jailed in the US for a year on Wednesday for breaching the terms of his probation for a previous offense.

Mark Basseley Youssef, 55, will serve the sentence



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