

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
**3 detained**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Coast guard personnel detained three people, including one member of a human trafficking syndicate, at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Fazlul Karim, 20, of Shah Porir Dweep, is a member of the syndicate that smuggles people to Malaysia by fishing boats.

Twenty eight-year-old Rafique and 18-year-old Nur Hossain confessed that they were about to set out for Malaysia without passport, said coast guard sources. They both hail from Holbungia of the upazila.

Acting on intelligence information, a team of coast guard conducted a drive at Shah Pori Bazar and arrested the trio from a tea stall around 8:30 am, said Sub Lt Golam Mohammad Masud Sikdar, station officer of Coast Guard Shah Porir Dweep.

During interrogation, Rafique and Nur could not say anything about the contract or the amount that their parents had to pay the brokers associated with Fazlul, said Masud adding that Fazlul did not give any information.

Lieutenant Commander Atiqur Rahman, zonal commander of Coast guard east zone, said the process of handing over the detainees to Teknaf police was underway.

**WB to cut 4pc**

Bank, at a press conference held at a city hotel yesterday.

The charge for preparation for projects and their supervision would vary from one to another depending on locations and patterns of the projects, said a top WB official.

Though the developed countries have granted the BCCRF fund for climate change victims of Bangladesh, it would remain under control of the WB, the official told The Daily Star.

The government and development partners supporting the BCCRF organised the session yesterday to brief about Bangladesh's position in the upcoming UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 18 to be held in Doha, Qatar next week.

At the briefing, it was said that Bangladesh has so far received total \$170 million under this fund. Of the amount, Australia granted \$7 million, Denmark \$1.2 million, the European Union \$37 million, Sweden \$13 million, Switzerland \$3.4 million, the United Kingdom \$95 million and the USA \$13 million.

"We need as much as \$10 billion immediately to fight the effects of climate change. At least \$5 billion would be required only for river training," Dr Hasan Mahmud, minister for environment, told the briefing.

Dr Atiqur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, Abdul Karim, former cabinet secretary, Dr Ainun Nishat, vice-chancellor of BRAC University, climate expert Dr Atiq Rahman, among other experts and members of Bangladesh delegation, were present at the crowded press briefing.

William Hanna, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, who was also present at the briefing, said "Bangladesh would become a role-model of a vulnerable developing country pursuing low carbon development."

Under the BCCRF projects to build and rehabilitate cyclone shelters, mobilise communities for afforestation and reforestation and involve the local NGOs for community-based climate change adaptation activities in poor and vulnerable areas, are already underway. Initiatives to introduce solar irrigation, agricultural adaptation measures and build modern food storage facilities are currently under preparation.

As many as 61 multipurpose cyclone shelters are planned for construction in five districts -- Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Barguna, Satkhira and Khulna. To date, construction of 37 shelters has already started and is expected to be completed by June, 2013.

The first call of proposals will be on next Saturday. An assessment of the threats of climate-induced migration from vulnerable areas will be carried out in early 2013, Ellen Goldstein said while briefing.

**A strange invitation?**

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The home minister had asked the former bureaucrat to visit his office or residence, Delwar told The Daily Star over phone.

Neighbours told him Thursday night that police had come and waited for him for about an hour when he was not home. He spent the night and the following day thinking that police would come again.

Later, two teams from Savar and Ashulia police stations showed up yesterday afternoon and pressurised him till 5:15pm to meet the minister.

Delwar told police that they could arrest him if they had warrant.

"I was not sure whether the home minister really wanted me to meet him," he said. "A minister doesn't ask any citizen this way to meet him."

"Why should police come with such an unofficial invitation? If I go with police and anything happens to me, who would take the responsibility?" he said.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not reach MK Alamgir. According to his PS, his mobile phone was switched off as he was at the dinner in honour of the Belarusian prime minister last night.

Although police officials at Delwar's residence said they had no complaint against him, Officer-in-Charge of Savar Police Station Mohammad Asaduzzaman told this paper, "We have complaint that despite having wife and children, he lives here [Ashulia] after marrying a young girl."

Replying to a question, the OC said they had only verbal complaint but did not say who had lodged it. "There is a problem in disclosing the matter."

Asked why his men went to Delwar's house which is under Ashulia Police

Station, Asaduzzaman hung up his phone and could not be reached anymore.

Delwar, who has been staying alone at a rented house at Sreepur village in Ashulia for the last six years, rejected the allegation of marrying again.

"I live alone in Ashulia due to personal problems. But there is no question of getting married again," he said. "If police or anybody else can show evidence of my second marriage, they are welcome."

Second Officer Sazzad Rumon led the team from Savar Police Station.

Contacted last night, he first denied going to Delwar's house. But later he admitted it when told that the OC confirmed this.

He, however, declined to say anything beyond what the OC had said.

When told that there were discrepancies between the statements of the OC and Delwar, the second officer said, "It doesn't matter what Delwar said; our OC's version is correct."

Ashulia Police Station OC (Investigation) Mostofa Kamal said they sent their men as Savar police had sought their cooperation without specifying the purpose.

Contacted, Delwar's wife Roushan Ara Begum, who lives with her two daughters and a son at a house in the city's Mohammadpur, said she did not file any written or verbal complaint against her husband.

Delwar, 58, went on voluntarily retirement as a rector at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre in 2011. Just before this job, he served as the land secretary.

He was made the secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission in January 2007, when posts of the chairman and members of the commission were vacant.

Delwar, as secretary of the

ACC, announced names of many bigwigs as corruption suspects as per the decision of the then military-backed caretaker government. He had also issued notices to many of them asking for wealth statements.

MK Alamgir, who was on the first such list of 50, submitted his wealth statement from prison after being detained along with other graft suspects.

After Awami League-led grand alliance came to power, Alamgir on many occasions criticised the 2007 ACC drives and activities of the caretaker administration.

**PM cancels**

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But party sources said the top leaders and policymakers of Awami League advised Hasina not to go to Islamabad on security grounds as the absconding convicted killers of Bangabandhu might be there.

Besides, different militant and terrorist groups were highly annoyed with Hasina due to her government's anti-terrorist and anti-militant initiatives, said the party sources.

The bigwigs also told their party chief that it would be unwise to visit Pakistan unless Islamabad offered formal and unconditional apology to Dhaka for the genocide of the Pakistan occupation forces had committed in Bangladesh during the Liberation War in 1971.

Hina Rabbani Khar while meeting Dipu Moni on Friday reiterated that Pakistan had regretted its actions of 1971 on different occasions since 1974. She called for the two countries to move ahead together by turning back to the past.

The D-8 (Developing 8) consists of Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Indonesia and Malaysia. The second summit of the group was held in Bangladesh in March, 1999.

**CPC remains a boys' club**

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powerful body the Politburo Standing Committee has never had any.

Analysts attribute women's lower representation to traditional Chinese mindsets and social structures, and a male-dominated political culture infamous for late-night drinking and mistresses.

"There's definitely this old boys' club in Chinese politics that works against women," said Leta Hong Fincher, a doctoral candidate researching gender at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Earlier this year the state news agency Xinhua carried a report acknowledging that women faced "subcultures of Chinese officialdom like drinking alcohol" that "make it difficult for women to integrate".

"The social costs of entering politics in China are harder for women than for men," it said, citing the demands of family and standing in the eyes of society.

Some of China's most famous powerful women left terrible legacies, deepening the bias against women in politics.

Mao's wife Jiang Qing was jailed after being blamed for helping to incite the brutal 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. She later hanged herself.

The last powerful woman of imperial times, the Empress Dowager Cixi who died in 1908, is widely seen as fatally weakening China through her corrupt and despotic ways.

This hastened the country's early 20th-century collapse into civil war and anarchy.

It is not known whether Liu will retain her politburo slot and many analysts have all but ruled out her entering the topmost body. The standing committee is expected to shrink from nine to seven members, including the expected next president Xi Jinping and premier Li Keqiang.

The last female politburo member, vice premier Wu Yi who negotiated China's entry into the World Trade Organisation, was ranked No 2 on Forbes magazine's list of

the world's most powerful women several times -- behind either Angela Merkel or Condoleezza Rice -- before retiring in 2008.

But she failed to break through the standing committee ceiling.

Liu has not achieved Wu's stature but has stellar political connections across the main political factions that observers believe exist in the party.

As the daughter of a former high-ranking official, she has something in common with Xi -- a so-called "princeling" who is the son of a revered Communist revolutionary.

Liu served alongside President Hu Jintao in the Communist Youth League, whose alumni form a key grouping in the party elite.

But her family was also close to Hu's predecessor Jiang Zemin, who still wields influence behind the scenes despite his retirement.

The Communist party took power in 1949 championing gender equality as part of its platform, and Fincher said it "did bring about concrete economic reforms for hundreds of millions of women".

But the emphasis on equality epitomised by Mao's comment has faded over the decades, she added.

In 2010 a survey by the state-run All Women's Federation found 62 percent of men and 55 percent of women agreed that a woman's place was in the home -- a rise of seven percent among men and four percent among women over the previous decade.

Women in cities earned only 67 percent as much as men and 56 percent as much in rural areas, the survey found.

They also lagged in labour-force participation and education level, the United Nations said in its latest report comparing the status of men and women.

Nonetheless China stands above average in global gender parity rankings, with the UN putting it in 35th place, ahead of a United States at number 47.

A 1997 Chinese government target said the legisla-

ture should be not less than 22 percent women. At 21 percent it comes slightly short, but according to the International Parliamentary Union it is a fraction above the global average, putting it in 64th slot.

Han Xiaoyun, a female congress delegate from the eastern province of Jiangsu, praised efforts to improve women's status but said they should not be chosen to attend the gathering or for other posts simply because of their gender.

"You can't say that in order to increase the proportion of women you tell qualified men to step aside," she said. "Whoever's good should be selected."

**Hopes weak for Pakistan-Afghanistan peace talks**

AFP, Islamabad

A high-level Afghan delegation was due to arrive in Pakistan yesterday for talks on peace in the war-torn nation, but analysts warned that without Taliban involvement little would come of the negotiations.

Members of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, led by chairman Salahuddin Rabbani, are to meet Pakistani political leaders and the head of the powerful military over the coming three days.

Support from Pakistan, which backed the Taliban regime that held power in Kabul from 1996 to 2001, is seen as crucial to peace in Afghanistan beyond 2014.

Afghan-Pakistani talks were derailed more than a year ago amid a welter of accusations when Rabbani's father Burhanuddin, then head of the peace council, was assassinated by a suicide bomber in Kabul.

Afghan officials lashed out at Islamabad over the killing of the former president of Afghanistan, saying it was planned in Pakistan and carried out by a Pakistani, while Islamabad blamed Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

**FORMER GENERALS**

**Pak Army rejects probe**

PTI, Islamabad

The Pakistan Army's legal branch has concluded that there is no scope for the military to try former army chief Gen Mirza Aslam Beg and former ISI chief Lt Gen Asad Durrani for paying millions of rupees to politicians to rig the 1990 general election, a media report said yesterday.

In a preliminary report presented to army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, the legal branch concluded that the two retired generals could not be tried under the Army Act following the Supreme Court's order holding them responsible for the rigging of the polls.

**Turag**

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ETP went out of order and failed to treat the waste properly.

"On the very next day we repaired the ETP," he said.

The Daily Star could not contact Managing Director of RS Knit Composite Limited, Towhid Hossain Khan, despite repeated attempts.

The DoE director asked the authorities of the two factories to desist from polluting the river.

**Golam Parwar**

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Jamaat-e-Islami and former legislator of Khulna-5 constituency Mia Golam Parwar in the capital's Gulshan.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (public relation) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the arrest was made around 6:15pm.

The DB sources said Parwar had been kept under watch since afternoon and was taken to the DB office on Minto Road around 8:30pm after his arrest.

Parwar was shown arrested in a case filed in connection with a clash between Jamaat-Shibir men and police and vandalism done by the activists on November 5 in Motijheel, the DB sources added.

Masudur said that Parwar will be produced before court today demanding remand.

Shafiqur Rahman, Jamaat-e-Islami acting secretary general, in a statement protested the arrest.

**Smart cars**

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crossing the street.

The system also tests cars that transmit such information to each other.

In a test drive yesterday, the presence of a pedestrian triggered a beeping sound in the car and a picture of a person popped up on a screen in front of the driver.

A picture of an arrow popped up to indicate an approaching car at an intersection. An electronic female voice said, "It's a red light," if the driver was about to ignore a red light.

The 3.5 hectare test site looks much like the artificial roads at driving schools, except bigger, and is in a corner of the Japanese automaker's technology centre near Mount Fuji.

Toyota officials said the smart-car technology it is developing will be tested on some Japanese roads starting in 2014. Similar tests are planned for the US, though details were not decided.

Such technology is expected to be effective because half of car accidents happen at intersections, according to Toyota.

All automakers are working on pre-crash safety technology to add value to their cars, especially for developed markets such as the US, Europe and Japan.

Toyota's Japanese rival Nissan Motor Co recently showed cars that were smart enough to stop on their own, park themselves and swerve away from pedestrians who suddenly jumped into the vehicle's path.

Toyota also showed a new feature that helps the driver brake harder to prevent bumping into the vehicle in front. It said the technology will be available "soon".

Toyota has also developed sonar sensors that help drivers avoid crashing in parking lots. One system even knows when the driver pushes on the gas pedal by mistake instead of the brakes, and will stop automatically.



Golam Mostofa, the constable injured by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Joypurhat yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Jamaat, Shibir**

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Jamaat and its student body Shibir enforced the strike in Joypurhat, protesting the death of a Shibir activist on November 10. The deceased, Badiuzzaman, 22, was bullet-hit during a clash with police in the capital on November 5. He hailed from Joypurhat.

Witnesses said constable Mostofa of Khetlal Police Station was riding a motorcycle on his way to Khetlal from a Joypurhat court.

He came under attack when he pulled over after a tyre of his bike had punctured at Hichmi Bazar.

Locals rescued him from the spot and rushed him to Joypurhat Adhunik Hospital, from where he was later shifted to Bogra for better treatment.

Law enforcers said pickets torched an auto-rickshaw in front of Joypurhat Govt Girls School around 10:30am and damaged a truck before Joypurhat Palli Bidyut office in Shahartoli area around 2:00pm.

At Panchbibi, police fired five rubber bullets during a clash with Shibir men.

Police detained nine Shibir activists from different places in Joypurhat.

Yesterday was the fourth day in the last seven days when Jamaat-Shibir men clashed with law enforcers across the country over the release of their top leaders, including the nine facing trial for crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

In the capital, police detained 23 Shibir members. Of them, 14 are residents of Jatiya Sangsad Colony in Agargaon.

Officials of the Detective Branch of police said they recovered five Molotov cocktails, anti-government leaflets and jihadi books during raids in Agargaon and Tejgaon.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police said the 14 detainees were tenants of the houses allocated to Parliament Secretariat's administration officer Amirul Islam, assistant secretary Abul Kalam Azad and another govern-

ment employee named Anwar Hossain.

Talking to The Daily Star, DB Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam said the detainees had admitted their involvement in Saturday's violence in the capital.

He said police would investigate why the officials rented their quarters to the Shibir men. "If it is found that they [officials] share a similar ideology with the detainees, they would be brought to book."

In Munshiganj, police arrested district Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Nurul Haque Matabbar, Baitul Mal secretary Akhter Hossain and activist Abdus Sobhan on charges of involvement in subversive activities. Akhter is also an official of Islami Bank, reports our correspondent, quoting police.

In Laxmipur, law enforcers picked up 10 Shibir activists from different parts of Sadar upazila. Police sued 200 Jamaat-Shibir men for creating violence.

The Rapid Action Battalion in Feni detained four Jamaat activists while they were distributing leaflets.

Police held two Jamaat men in Sunamganj and 11 in Chapainawabganj and seven Shibir men in Jhenidaha.

Kurigram police captured five BNP and two Shibir activists.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds: Law enforcers rounded up 13 Sramik Dal and two Shibir workers from a procession in the town. Students of Patuakhali Science and Technology University handed over two other Shibir men to police.

A group of Jubo League activists torched upazila Jamaat office in Taras of Sirajganj.

In the capital, Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League held a protest rally on Bangabandhu Avenue. Addressing the rally, Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif said the ruling party men along with the common people will resist Jamaat-Shibir's subversive activities.

**Ministry stalls**

FROM PAGE 1

proposed quota while some spoke for one percent quota for lawmakers.

A competent source said the education ministry might backtrack from the decision of introducing the quota for MPs.

The source added that the prime minister was not quite upbeat when the education secretary informed her of the proposal and public reaction to it at a signing ceremony in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

Meanwhile, two rights bodies yesterday challenged the government move in the High Court.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and Ain o Salish Kendra jointly filed the petition following a report published in The Daily Star yesterday under the headline "Admission quota for MPs".

The organisations sought stay on the move and urged the HC to direct the government to keep from introducing lawmakers' quota in the enrolment at non-government schools.

The HC, however, adjourned the hearing until the government finalises its decision.

The bench of Justice Mohammad Bazur Rahman and Justice Md Ruhul Quddus said it would hear the petition if the government issued any circular introducing the quota.

The government had only discussed the issue, but did not make any final decision, the HC bench said. The petitioners also asked

**No trace**

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victim Parag Mondol, is a successful businessman and he has around 45 acre land at Shuvadya Paschim Para of Keraniganj and adjoining areas.

The incident has created sensation in the area as the kidnappers fired shots at Parag's mother and two sisters, and the driver of their family car in Shuvadya Paschim Para area while whisking the boy away on Sunday morning.

Visiting the area yesterday this correspondent found that a good number of curious people from the locality and surrounding areas gathered there.

Parag's eight-year-old sister Piyal Mondol, who witnessed the incident but escaped unhurt, has been in tears. "Bring my brother back home," she told The Daily Star.

Whoever she found nearby, Piyal was asking the same question, "Where is my brother?" and describing the scene.

Family members said Piyal had been unable to sleep since the incident. Doctors gave her sleeping pills yesterday noon but to no avail.

Locals say police patrol is not frequent in the area and the kidnappers took this advantage.

Officer-in-Charge Sakawat Hossain of South Keraniganj Police Station said members of police and intelligence agencies were yet to get any clue as the abductors did not contact either with the victim's family or someone else.

Police are yet to trace where the abductors had gone after opening fire. Parag's mother Lipi Rani Mondol was operated upon on Sunday at the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital, and was undergoing treatment there until yesterday.

His 11-year-old sister Pinaki Mondol returned home the same day after being treated at the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor). Driver Nazrul Islam is now admitted to Mitford Hospital.

Witnesses said four people riding on two motorcycles had been wandering in the area since 6:00am on Sunday. Locals thought that they might be looking for any land owner or a broker. So nobody took the matter seriously.

During the incident, the two motorcycles were parked on two sides of the road, keeping a distance from the car of the victim's family. When Parag's mother along with her three children approached the car, the criminals opened fire at them injuring three and abducted Parag.

Locals assume that the criminals had tie with someone in the area to help them identify the victims. Parag's father Bimol said he could not guess who could be behind the incident.

Jayanti Talukder, an aunt of Parag who stays close, told this correspondent the style of the abduction raised questions among the local people as such dramatic action was not necessary.

Parag used to play in the area, sometimes even alone and went to the neighbours houses. It was not difficult to kidnap him on any of such occasions, she added.

The neighbours, especially those affluent and land owners, have now become worried following Parag's abduction.

Locals suspect the boy was abducted to create pressure on his family so that they flee to India and their property could be grabbed.

Parag's uncle Pradip Kumar said the family members on Sunday night met with the home minister, who assured them of law enforcers' efforts to rescue the boy.

He said the family also appealed to the prime minister through journalists to personally supervise the case.

Meanwhile, BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday during a press conference at his party office in the capital's Naya Paltan area demanded judicial probe into the abduction. According to him, a vested quarter was behind the incident.