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Yaba trade run by 25 influentials

1,250 pieces of Yaba seized at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 25 politically and economically influential persons have been controlling the Yaba pills inflow in the country, according to a list prepared by the Department of Narcotics Control.

A lawmaker from Cox's Bazar has been named in the DNC list of Yaba smugglers prepared in September this year, said a DNC official.

"We found at least 600 big and small scale Yaba traders in the country. But the menace could be controlled effectively by taking steps against the influentials," said the official, requesting anonymity.

Against such a backdrop, Shahbagh police yesterday arrested seven people with 1,250 pieces of Yaba tablets at Dhaka University. They bought the pills from the university dormitory, police said.

Meanwhile, DNC officials mentioned the list at a view exchange meeting at its head-

quarters in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

The list has been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs recently, said Bazlur Rahman, director general of the DNC.

The DNC officials believe there has been a serious increase in the inflow of the contraband tablets in the country in recent times. According to its annual drug report, the amount of the seizure of Yaba in 2013 was 2076.36 percent more than that of five years ago.

In 2009, around 1.3 lakh Yaba pills were seized across the country by all agencies.

Last year, the DNC seized over 1.53 lakh pieces of Yaba pills while the seizure by all agencies was above 28 lakh. This year till November, the seizure exceeded 53 lakh, said Pranab Kumar Niyogi, director (operations) of the DNC.

"Almost all the Yaba consignments are being smuggled into the country through Bangladesh-Myanmar border," he said,

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A bird inside the cage of a bird hunter in Sarupkathi upazila of Pirojpur. Ignoring the law against catching and selling of wild birds, hunters in gangs use traps, *inset*, at gardens, orchards and farmland to catch them and they sell them to wholesalers in broad daylight.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN



Khoka charged with sedition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka, also a former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, in a sedition case.

Tofail Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Paltan Police Station and also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court.

Twenty-four people have been named as prosecution witnesses.

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Far from it all, he's battling cancer in the US

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who has been out of politics lately, is fighting cancer in the US.

The former convenor of BNP's Dhaka city unit is being treated at Manhattan's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center under Dr James Shieh's supervision.

Even though his health condition is improving because of oral chemotherapy, the former Dhaka City Corporation mayor has no plan to return to the country right now.

"Doctors say I can go back to Bangladesh and come back here after two and a half months for a check-up but I have decided to complete my treatment staying here," Khoka told The Daily Star over the phone.

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NSA spy scheme targets mobile networks

COMPUTERWORLD.COM

The US National Security Agency (NSA) has conducted a covert campaign to intercept internal communications of operators and trade groups in order to infiltrate mobile networks worldwide, according to the latest revelations from documents supplied by Edward Snowden.

NSA ran two hitherto undisclosed operations, the Wireless Portfolio Management Office and the Target Technology Trends Center, operating under the aegis of a programme called Auroragold, according to an article last week in The Intercept, which also published related documents.

The operations closely monitored the GSM Association, maintained a list of 1,201 email targets, or "selectors" used to intercept internal company communications, and gathered information about network security flaws.

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A flag vendor walking on the pavement of Manik Mia Avenue in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. The national flag sells in high numbers in December as people buy them to celebrate Bangladesh's liberation by hoisting the flags on cars, homes and offices.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Racism deeply rooted in US

Says Obama

MAIL ONLINE

President Barack Obama is prescribing time and vigilance to tackle problems as entrenched in American society as racism and bias.

In an interview with BET, the president described his conversation with a group of young civil rights activists, including a leader of protests in Ferguson, Missouri, he hosted last week in the Oval Office.

Obama said he told them that "this is something that is deeply rooted in our society, it's deeply rooted in our history." America has made gains, and that "gives us hope" of making more progress, he said.

Obama told BET "What I told the young people who I met with, that we're gonna have more conversations like this over the coming months, is this isn't gonna be solved overnight. This is something that is deeply rooted in our society. It's deeply rooted in our history."

"But the two things that are going to allow us to solve it. Number one: is the understanding that we have made progress. And so, it's important to recognise, as painful as these incidents are, we can't equate what is happening now to

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that increasing basic salary for government job holders by the Pay and Service Commission would help reduce corruption and enhance quality of government services?

Yes (28%)
No (72%)

TOTAL VOTES: 242

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the University Grants Commission's (UGC) initiative to bring all state-run colleges offering graduate and postgraduate degrees under the authority of public universities?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 9

Asan	5-15	Jamaat	5-50
Fazr	12-45	1-15	
Zohr	3-45	4-00	
Asr	5-19	5-22	
Maghrib	7-00	7-30	

Source: Islamic Foundation

Meet Indian super hero: Priya, the rape survivor

BBC ONLINE

A new comic book with a female rape survivor as its "super hero" has been launched to focus attention on the problem of sexual violence in India.

Priya's Shakti, inspired by Hindu mythological tales, tells the story of Priya, a young woman and gang-rape survivor, and Goddess Parvati as they fight against gender crimes in India.

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