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# EU tightens borders after Paris carnage

Agrees to tighten checks on all travellers, calls for joint European intel agency; police, security powers extended across Europe

AGENCIES

European Union interior and justice ministers in Brussels yesterday pledged solidarity with France in the wake of the Paris attacks a week ago and agreed a series of new measures on surveillance, border checks and gun control.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve asked for the crisis meeting after the attack in Paris last Friday in which Islamic State radicals with ties to Syria and a planning cell based in Belgium killed 129 people across the city.

"We must be implacable in our determination, we must speed up our action, otherwise Europe will lose its way," he said after the 28 governments agreed to speed new legislation to share air passengers' data, curb firearms trafficking and ensure closer checks on EU citizens crossing Europe's external borders.

"We need to act firmly, we need to act swiftly and with force," Cazeneuve said after the Luxembourg minister who chaired the meeting confirmed the formal approval of an agreement reached among officials earlier in the week.

Those draft conclusions, seen by Reuters, included agreement to "implement immediately the necessary systematic and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Construction tools for Mayor Hanif Flyover have been occupying the Golapbagh playground in the capital's Sayedabad area for years. The flyover opened to the public about two years back but the tools are yet to be removed, depriving locals, especially the kids, of the playground. *Inset*, green activists and locals demonstrate in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding the playground be freed. Story on page 2.

# Memories of war scar

Katrina Cappuccino, whose grandmother was raped by the Pakistan army during the 1971 war, tells her tale to Dhaka audience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She came, she cried and she made the audience cry.

Forty-four years ago, Katrina Cappuccino's grandmother had been raped by the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War. Her mother was born a few months after the country's independence but denied by the society.

At that time, there arrived an angel in human form in Bangladesh, from a land thousands of miles away, and adopted Katrina's mother when she was three months old. That angel, Bonnie Cappuccino, not only took the feeble war baby to Canada but also gave the baby her surname and brought her up with love and affection.

Yesterday, both Bonnie and Katrina shared their experience in front of a small gathering at the Liberation War Museum in the capital's Segunbagicha. The programme was organised by the museum authorities.

Many in the audience were moved to tears by Katrina's story.

Katrina said her mother had not yet got the chance to visit Bangladesh.

"I'm here today and trying to really soak everything all in for her so that she [her mother] feels she's with me on this trip," Katrina said.

"I only arrived in Bangladesh yesterday [Thursday] evening but I'm completely overwhelmed with the amount of love and support and generosity I've already seen."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Katrina Cappuccino with Bonnie Cappuccino

# Cop, friend go berserk

Beat up journos at city checkpoint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bike-riding police official along with his friend allegedly beat up two on-duty journalists at a checkpoint in the capital's Shahbag around Thursday midnight.

The assailants are Mashiur Rahman, assistant superintendent of police (probation) of Savar Model Police Station, and his friend Atiqul Basher, a former student of Dhaka University.

The two were drunk when the incident took place, said police.

Talking to The Daily Star, OC Abu Bakar Siddique of Shahbagh Police Station said police signalled at the bikers to pull over at the checkpoint.

Incensed, Mashiur and Basher, who was driving the bike, locked into an altercation with the cops. At one stage, they pounced on Nure Alam, a senior reporter of Asian Television, and cameraman Didar Hossain.

The attackers also swooped on some policemen when they tried to pacify the duo.

Nure Alam said police stopped the motorcycle which had a sticker stating "press". "The bikers wanted to know our identities as we were filming the scene. As they came to know that we were journalists, they got down from the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# 'Trinomul BNP' Huda's new party

RASHIDUL HASAN

Former BNP leader Nazmul Huda is not done with his political venture just yet.

Yesterday, he floated another political party named Trinomul BNP for what he said to "begin a new journey of BNP".

"This new BNP will be led by elected grassroots leaders," he told a press conference at a city hotel. He declared himself as the convener of the new party.

It is the fifth party launched by the former minister since he quit the BNP in June 2012.

He is still the chairman of Bangladesh Manabdhikar Party and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



# Facebook to make 'break-up' easier

facebook

AFP, San Francisco

The online social network devoted to making the world more connected will now help couples break up.

Facebook began testing tools that curtail how much ex-partners see of one another and their posts at the social network, according to product manager Kelly Winters.

"We are testing tools to help people manage how they interact with their former partners on Facebook after a relationship has ended," Winters said.

"When people change their relationship status

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# SAVE Ruplal House

ANANTA YUSUF

During a long walk on the Buckland bund along the Buriganga, have you ever noticed an old and decaying yet majestic colonial architecture with a 400 meter long riverfront? If you have, you know what I am talking about- it's the Ruplal House.

A Bengali babu Ruplal Das and his brother Raghunath Das bought this house from an Armenian zamindar named Aratun in 1835. The affluent brothers hired the famous architectural firm Martin and Company from Kolkata to renovate the property. It was renovated in the then popular neo-classical style.

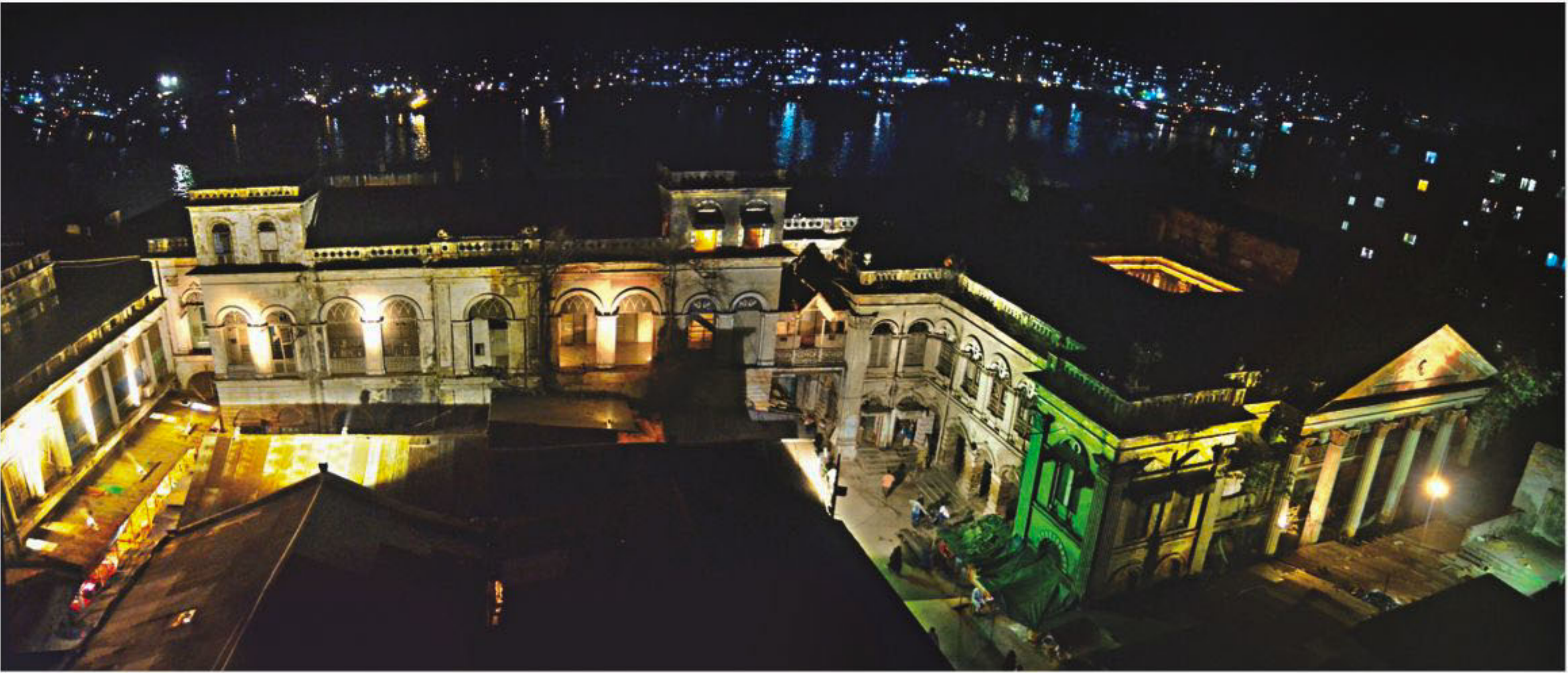
According to Nazir Hossain, the writer of Kingbodontir Dhaka, Ruplal was the first from the Das family who went to school and scored highest numbers in the entrance exam, equivalent to present day SSC. He was also the most successful Bengali businessmen of his time. This period in history witnessed the gradual rise of the merchant class and the demise of the landed

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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THE LOST BEAUTY: The Ruplal House, a famous mansion full of memories linked to many important events of the nineteenth-century Dhaka, deserves at least some care.



PHOTO: STAR

# 2 cops hurt in gunfight with yaba traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two DB policemen were injured in a gunfight with a gang of yaba traders in Bandarban Sadar upazila early yesterday.

After the gun battle, the detectives arrested two alleged yaba traders, Mohammad Ilias, 32, alias "Yaba" Bulu, and his associate Mohammad Rubel, 24, of Chittagong's Rangunia upazila.

Acting on secret information that some yaba traders

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION