

**STARS SPEAK UP**

Iniesta, Suarez ask Neymar to make decision on his future

**REINCE PRIEBUS OUSTED**

Trump names John Kelly as new chief of staff amid vicious White House feud

**INEFFICIENT PORT**

Cost of doing business rises due to inefficiency of Ctg port

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FROM BANGLADESH

# Kingpins remain unpunished

Trafficking cases filed against 1,355 in Cox's Bazar; not a single one disposed of

1.5 lakh people trafficked thru' Bay of Bengal route in last 4 years

3,500 trafficking cases filed in last 5 years

2,733 victims rescued from traffickers

REAZ AHMAD and JAMIL MAHMUD

In the last five years, as many as 2,733 people have been rescued from the clutches of human traffickers in Cox's Bazar. And 242 cases were filed against some 1,355 people over the incidents.

However, not a single one has been disposed of.

Ninety-two of the cases are now under trial amid a backlog at a special tribunal, which mainly deals with women and children repression prevention cases, in the coastal district.

The country passed an anti-trafficking law in 2012 with a provision for a tribunal that will exclusively handle trafficking cases. However, the tribunal has not been set up yet.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Taposh Raxit, special public prosecutor at the tribunal in Cox's Bazar, said what is more frustrating is that plaintiffs hardly appear before the tribunal to come up with their accounts in connection with the 92 cases. So, it is difficult to expect early disposal of any of those, he said.

With governments, non-government organisations and right bodies across the globe observing the "World Day against Trafficking in Persons" today, experts in Bangladesh have emphasised bringing the kingpins of the crime to book.

Many believe a very poor rate of conviction in trafficking cases could be a reason why the menace continues unabated.

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PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA



A man pushes his motorcycle through thick, deep mud on Rangamati-Khagrachhari link road at Moantola Hijing area yesterday. Heavy rains in the last few days have damaged the dirt road opened to light vehicles on July 16. It was closed to traffic for over a month following the landslides.

## DU Senate names VC panel

Teachers, students scuffle outside

DU CORRESPONDENT

The members of Dhaka University Senate yesterday nominated a three-member panel for the appointment of a new vice-chancellor amid demonstration of a group of students.

The three in the panel are VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin and Prof Abdul Aziz, who was once the pro-Awami League Blue panel convener, said a press release.

The panel was endorsed at a special session after it was proposed by Prof Shibli Rubayat-Ul Islam and supported by Prof Md

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## Girl abducted, raped in Bogra

Accused Sramik League leader also tries hush-up; cohorts shave heads of victim, mother; 4 arrested



STAR REPORT

Bogra town Sramik League convenor Tufan Sarker abducted a female student from her home, raped her and then asked his party cadres and a woman councillor to make sure everything was hushed up.

They, in their attempt to muffle the victim, picked up the student and her mother, tortured them for four hours and

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## PANAMA PAPERS ACC yet to complete enquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen months have elapsed, but the Anti-Corruption Commission has yet to complete their inquiry into the 11 names that cropped up in the Panama Papers in connection with offshore entities with roots in Bangladesh.

ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud yesterday said they were working to collect information about the individuals concerned but do not have enough to proceed.

The issue of Panama Papers once again came to the fore after the Pakistani Supreme Court on Friday disqualified Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office over undeclared assets, leading to his resignation.

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## Ousted Pak PM names brother as successor

Nominates loyalist as interim leader; says his 'conscience is clear'

AGENCIES

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif named his brother Shahbaz, the chief minister of Punjab province, as his successor and nominated ex-oil minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as an interim premier in a defiant speech yesterday.

The announcement charts a way forward for Pakistan after the Supreme Court ousted Sharif following an investigation into corruption allegations against him and his family, bringing to an unceremonious end his historic third term in power and briefly plunging the country into political uncertainty.

"I support Shahbaz Sharif after me but he will take time to contest elections so for the time being I nominate Shahid Khaqan Abbasi," Sharif said in a televised speech to his party.

The younger Sharif holds only a provincial seat, so must be elected to the national assembly before becoming the new prime minister.

Earlier yesterday the Election Commission of Pakistan confirmed fresh elections would be held in Nawaz Sharif's former constituency.

Abbasi is set to be rubber-stamped as placeholder in a parliamentary vote, with Sharif's ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz commanding a majority in the 342-seat house.

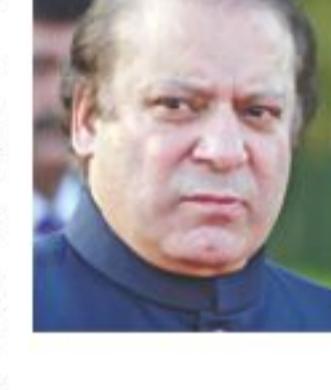
The opposition could also field a candidate for the premiership, though the nominee has little chance of getting sufficient votes.

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## Third time is not a charm

Nawaz Sharif's fate now hangs in balance

SHAKHAWAT LITON



Nawaz Sharif had benefited immensely twice in the past by the rulings of the Pakistan Supreme Court. But last Friday's ruling delivered by the apex court not only caused his downfall, it also made his future in politics uncertain.

Nawaz's first term as the prime minister came to an abrupt halt as President Ghulam Ishaq Khan unilaterally dissolved the parliament in April 1993. He returned to power a month later after the SC ruled the presidential order to dissolve parliament unconstitutional.

A Supreme Court ruling again favoured him in 2007. After being deposed in a military coup in 1999, he along with his brother Shahbaz Sharif was exiled from the country.

But the SC in 2007 ruled that both Nawaz and his brother Shahbaz were free to return

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## 3 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed in separate 'shootout' incidents in Brahmanbaria district and Keraniganj Upazila on the outskirts of the capital early yesterday.

In Brahmanbaria, two persons, whom police identified as a drug trader and auto rickshaw lifter, were killed in separate incidents hours after they were picked up by law enforcement agencies.

Police picked up Yousuf Mia, 28, son of Nurul Islam, of Maiskhari village under Kasba upazila, from near Comilla-Sylhet highway along with 135 kilogram cannabis at around 1:45am.

An hour later when police escorted him to his home to recover more drugs, his cohorts opened fire at law enforcement agencies, forcing them to retaliate. This triggered a gun battle, said Mohiuddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kasba Police Station, in which three police officers were injured.

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Shopkeepers near Mouchak Market sit idle as an hour of rain flooded their store fronts. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

## Café attackers had grenade training in the Buriganga

Counter-terror officials say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A couple of weeks before the Gulshan café siege on July 1 last year, two of the five attackers received training in throwing grenades in the middle of the Buriganga.

One of the alleged planners of the deadly attack, Aslam Hossain Rashed alias Rash took Meer Saameh Mubasheer and Rohan Imtiaz in the middle of the river on a boat at night and taught them grenade throwing positions targeting the water.

Rash, also a key militant of "Neo JMB", told interrogators that he was instructed by its chief Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury to receive the duo after they left home, Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters yesterday.

He also claimed that former activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, were at the helm of "Neo JMB".

Former Shibir men are now in direct leadership of Neo JMB, Monirul said, briefing reporters at the DMP Media Centre.

Monirul said the information was gleaned from Rash, who was arrested in Natore's Singra early on Friday. CTTC officials said the arrest would help them wrap up the investigation into Gulshan café attack.

About the training in throwing grenades, Rash told interrogators that he had hired a boat at Sadarghat Launch Terminal and took it to the middle of the river as he wanted to avoid the explosions being heard.



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