

3 bus staffers arrested with 1 lakh Yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion arrested three alleged drug peddlers with one lakh yaba tablets in a Dhaka-bound passenger bus in Chittagong city's Bahaddarhat area yesterday. The arrestees -- Roni, 35, Sohel, 35 and Ashar, 19 -- are the staffers of Relax Paribahan, Rab sources said. Roni is the bus driver, Sohel supervisor and Ashar helper of the driver, said Rab-7 Squadron Leader Shafayat Jamil Fahim, who led the drive. Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team seized the Yaba pills from the engine box of the Paribahan bus coming from Cox's Bazar, said the Rab official. The three were handed over to Bahaddarhat Police Station. A case was filed in this connection.



The dilapidated condition of the road in front of Election Commission office in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar creates hazards to the commuters and pedestrians alike. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SNAPS & snippets

Canadian envoy presents credentials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Benoit Préfontaine presented his credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban on Thursday. Following the ceremony, the president recalled the cooperation of Canada during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, said a Canadian high commission press release yesterday. Canada is also playing an important role for the development of Bangladesh, he said. High Commissioner Préfontaine expressed his commitment to contribute to further strengthening and broadening relations and enhancing the people to people ties between the two countries.

JU admission tests begin

JU CORRESPONDENT

The honours admission tests of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under 2017-18 academic session began yesterday with the A unit test and will continue till October 17. Calculators, mobile phone sets and any electronic devices are prohibited in the examination halls. The authorities have also set up a mobile court to avoid admission forgery during the entrance test. For details the applicants can visit ju-admission.org.

Ctg woman 'kills herself'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman allegedly poisoned herself at her Fatehpur residence in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong yesterday. Ruma Akter, 25, a resident of Ward No-1 of Fatehpur union, was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said CMCH Police Outpost Assistant Sub-inspector Alauddin Talukdar. Her husband Sumon is an expatriate, said police. Hathazari Police Station Inspector (Investigation) Mohammad Jahir said they were looking into it.



Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Reproductive Health Services, Training and Education Program (RHSTEP) signed an agreement on a four-year project titled "Strengthening of Safe MR and Family Planning Services and Reduction of Unsafe Abortions for Improving SRHR Situation in Bangladesh" at a function in the capital yesterday. Anders Öhrström, deputy head of mission and head of development cooperation of Swedish embassy in Dhaka, and Quazi Suraiya Sultana, executive director of RHSTEP, signed the deal.

Empower women for a better world

Zonta District-25 confce told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a call to end violence against women and children, the three-day 14th biennial regional conference of the Zonta District-25 ended in the capital yesterday. The theme of this year's conference was "We Dare to Dream". Zonta District-25 comprises Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. At the event, rights activist Khushi Kabir and Zonta District Foundation Ambassador and social activist Dilruba Ahmed were honoured with "Life Time Achievement Awards" for their contributions to ending discrimination in the society. Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi, the chief guest at the event, said women's equal participation in all sectors must be ensured. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki said women can reach their full potential if they have access to all the resources and have decision-making power. Zonta International Representative and Board Liaison and Director Hsin-Hsin Yang stressed the need for empowering women to make the world a better place. Zonta District-25 Governor Fahmida Karim said Zonta will enhance its support to Rohingya women and children. Members of different Zonta clubs in Bangladesh were present in the event. Founded in 1919, Zonta International, is a global organisation of executives and professionals working together to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy in 66 countries with 30,000 members.

Ctg homeowners to resist 'unreasonable' holding tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Homeowners at a rally in the port city's Dewanhat area yesterday vowed not to bow down to the "unreasonable" holding tax recently imposed by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). The rally took place after they laid siege to the offices of 10 ward councillors at 11:00am. Leaders of "Kordata Suorkkha Parishad" (a platform of homeowners) also submitted a memorandum to the respective councillors urging the CCC to backtrack on its decision. Addressing the rally, Amir Uddin, general secretary of the platform, termed the recent rent-based holding tax "anti-people". Most of the homeowners survive solely on the income from their house rent. If CCC realises the amount they demanded as holding tax, nothing would be left for the homeowners, he said. "We pledge not to bow down to the unreasonable holding tax." Hasan Manuf Rumi, spokesperson of the platform, urged the homeowners not to submit any appeal to the CCC review board, formed to reduce the holding tax if deemed unjust. He also urged them not to pay the increased holding tax until their demand is met.

The platform also declared that it would stage demonstrations at every ward on October 13. Also, in November they would lay siege to another 10 offices of the ward councillors. EX-MAYORS FOR RECONSIDERING DECISION The two former CCC mayors requested incumbent Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin to reconsider the decision of hiking the holding tax. Monjurul Alam, the immediate past mayor, in a letter said the decision should be "reviewed in a more realistic way". In another letter, former mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said, "Though known as commercial capital, all areas of Chittagong are not equally developed. Compared to Dhaka, the income earned by Chittagong homeowners is much lower. Holding tax assessed on monthly rent would in no way be reasonable as the homeowners are already paying income tax to the concerned authority." Mayor Nasir could not be reached for comments despite several attempts over the phone.

B'baria bus-truck collision kills 4

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Four people were killed and 10 others injured in a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a fish-laden truck on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Malihata area of Sarail upazila in Brahmanbaria yesterday. The dead are Momin Mia, 40, helper of the bus driver; Shahid Uddin, 38, of Habiganj; Parvin Akter, 35, wife of Al-Amin Mia of Brahmanbaria; and three-month-old Nurunnabi, son of Habibur Rahman of Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur. Younus Miah, officer-in-charge of Sarail Bishwa Road Highway Police Station, said the Dhaka-bound bus, Agradut, was coming from Habiganj. The injured were taken to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, said the OC.



Khushi Kabir and Dilruba Ahmed receive the "Life Time Achievement Awards" at the 14th biennial regional conference of the Zonta District-25 at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Dr Gowher Rizvi, Fahmida Karim, Meher Afroze Chumki and Hsin-Hsin Yang were present at the programme. The Zonta District-25 is comprised of its units in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: STAR

Comprehensive Bimstec plan stressed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali emphasised a "comprehensive plan of action" and its submission to member states as to how best member states should act and support in flourishing Bimstec. He was meeting newly appointed Bimstec Secretary General M Shahidul Islam at his ministry yesterday. The minister greeted Shahidul for taking over as the Bimstec secretary general. He advised Shahidul to meet all leaders of member states and take their advice about running the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec).

People will resist gas, power price hike move : Prof Anu

UNB, Dhaka

People will resist the government move to raise power and gas prices, said Prof Anu Muhammad, member secretary to the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources and Power and Ports, yesterday. "If the prices of power and gas are raised, people won't accept it and resist such anti-people decision," he said. He was speaking at the committee's views-exchange meeting titled, "Gas resources of Bangladesh, power tariff hike and the government's plan" at Mukti Bhaban in the capital. The meeting was addressed, among others, by the committee leaders Mohammad Shah Alam, Saiful Haque, Bazlur Rashid Firoz, Tipu Biswas, and Abul Hasan Rubel while Prof Moshahida Sultana, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Zonaid Saki made presentations on the public opinion of the recently held public hearing. Prof Anu Muhammad observed that the

costs of power and gas are going up because of the foreign-dependent power and energy system master plan. "The government should abandon the foreign-dependent energy and power system master plan," he said, making a call to prepare a new master plan in consultation with local experts to protect the interest of mass people. Anu Muhammad alleged that the government is exposing gas crisis in a bigger way with a target to promote LPG by a certain business group. He noted that previously the government had said the country had no gas crisis; the ultimate goal was to promote gas export but the plan was foiled. Anu Muhammad demanded cancellation of the contracts signed with foreign companies for gas exploration in order to establish full ownership of people on gas resources. The other leaders said the government has been implementing different schemes in the name of mega projects only to promote corruption as these projects are

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

ARTICLE 70

Hearing adjourned for two more weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday further adjourned for two weeks the hearing on a writ petition that challenged the legality of the constitution's Article 70. According to Article 70, a lawmaker has to vacate his or her seat if he or she votes in parliament against the party that nominated him or her. The HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan also asked writ petitioner Advocate Eunos Ali Akond to submit a supplementary petition to it by this period containing the apex court's observations about Article 70 in its verdict scrapping the constitution's 16th amendment. The 16th amendment had empowered the parliament to remove the Supreme Court judges for "incapacity" or "misbehavior".

The Appellate Division of the SC in July this year upheld the HC verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution with observations. The HC on August 8 had adjourned the hearing on the same writ petition till October 8 [yesterday] as writ petitioner Eunos Ali Akond in a supplementary petition had "misquoted" the SC's observations about Article 70. On April 18, Eunos submitted the writ petition to the HC, challenging the legality of Article 70, saying that it is against democracy and contradicts Articles 7, 19, 26, 27, 44, 31 and 119 of the constitution. Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu opposed the writ petition saying that Eunos Ali Akond had filed the writ petition for his personal interest as he said in the writ petition that he was a candidate for the post of president of the republic.

Shun corrupt

FROM PAGE 3 of people who kept faith in local public representatives by casting their votes. Hamid called upon all irrespective of political affiliation to forge a unity for doing good things which will help build a peaceful society.

Muktamoni

FROM PAGE 3 intensive care unit of the burn unit. Another operation will be conducted beside her chest after considering her physical condition, the physician said replying to a query. "We are moving forward slowly as tumour developed in different parts of her body," he added. A week after doctors found a tumour in an artery of her arm, Muktamoni underwent her first successful surgery at the DMCH on August 12. Nearly three kilograms of tumour was removed from her right arm in the operation. Later, the doctors conducted two more operations to remove the tumour from her arm and shoulder. The child's father Ibrahim yesterday sought blessing from people for his daughter.



As part of its campus activation programme, the export idea contest "Rise High Bangladesh" covered American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) in the capital yesterday. Puzzle winners pose on the campus.