

POMPEO'S CALL

The US secretary of state says North Korea should give up nukes to prosper

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It's called crazy medicine. Produced in Myanmar with military support, the dangerous drug very easily crosses the border and reaches cities, towns and villages of Bangladesh through various channels - sometimes in full knowledge of law enforcers. It now seems unstoppable and is poised to cripple the country's biggest hope -- the youth. Millions are now addicted to the pink pills. They take it as stimulant and end up with organ damage and mental derangement. The Daily Star has prepared a three-part series on the invasion of yaba and is running the second part today.

An open affair with death

Yaba being sold like any essentials

SHAHTUB SIDDIQUE ANIK, RAFUL ISLAM and MUNTAKIM SAAD

It was like wooing customers to have kebab and biriyani at popular Bihari restaurants. Only a few steps into the Camper Bazar, youths in small groups were looking for potential customers, holding packets full of pink tablets.

Banned yaba pills were being sold there like essentials. It was as if the place was a designated market for the illicit drug. The only difference was that there was no stall or cart for showcasing the crazy medicine.

"How many do you want? Mine are of good quality," said one of the youths, while another said, "There is no



"We conduct raids on the hotspots and arrest drug traders from time to time. But the drug syndicate is so organised that they resume trade soon after the officials leave the spot."

DG OF DNC

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The mobile phones held by a yaba peddler have been physically modified to make room for the small tablets. Inset, battery of a phone taken out to carry the pills conveniently. The pictures were taken near Malibagh Rail Gate last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Untouchable' yaba lord of Bihari camp



MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Ishtiaq Ahmed was a ragpicker 18 years back. But now, he is known as a big businessman among locals in Savar and Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital.

Born in Mohammadpur Geneva camp, he did odd jobs like collecting discarded bottles from

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Ground gets signals from Bangabandhu-1

PM congratulates the nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu-1 is getting closer to its orbit slot at 119.1 degree east and it is on Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP), said officials concerned.

After the successful launch at 2:14am

yesterday Bangladesh time from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the satellite travelled about 35,700 kilometres from the launch pad as of yesterday evening, said Md Mezbahuzzaman, project director of the Bangabandhu-1 satellite project.

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BNP raises question over ownership

STAR REPORT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the ownership of the country's first satellite, Bangabandhu-1, went to two people.

"This is fine that they have launched the satellite. Now let the satellite function and move in the space.

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Police raids send BNP men fleeing

'56 arrested in last 3 days'; Khulna city polls electioneering ends at midnight

RASHIDUL HASAN and DIPANKAR ROY from Khulna

With the electioneering for Khulna City Corporation polls ending this midnight, tension has gripped the rival camps of the Awami League and the BNP after police picked up more BNP men yesterday.

In the last three days, Khulna police raided the houses of about 1,600

PHOTO ON PAGE 10

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Fate of 3,200 trees rests on the cabinet

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government has initiated a move to cut down around 3,200 trees from the reserve forests in Gazipur and Cox's Bazar to implement two development projects, including building a mini stadium.

The environment and forests ministry

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Syeda Shalina Shally, left, founder of a shelter home for homeless old women, is hugged by Johura, a resident at the facility. The picture was taken at the Aapan Nibash shelter in the capital's Abdullahpur last week.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MOTHER'S DAY TODAY

The forgotten ones

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Rani Bala cannot remember much about her life before she was brought to a shelter home at Abdullahpur in the capital. After her daughter and son turned her away, homeless Rani wandered around the streets of Shanir Akhra for two years.

One day, about a year

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Two killed in 'gunfights' in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two alleged criminals, including a murder suspect, were killed in separate "gunfights" with law enforcers in the early hours yesterday.

Of the deceased, Alamgir Hossain, 32, son of Safir Uddin, was an accused in a murder case and Sirajul Islam, 23, was wanted in a case filed for stabbing a schoolteacher during mugging.

Police arrested Alamgir in Gopalganj on Friday and took him to Joybangla Bazar of Mymensingh Sadar around 2:30am yesterday to arrest other fugitives in the case, said Inspector Md Ashikur Rahman of Detective Branch.

Another accused

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