



"And we must absolutely respond to this war. By economic means, by political means and if necessary by other means."
DIMITRI MEDVEDEV, RESPONDING TO FRESH US SANCTION THREAT. (PAGE 8)

"The BNP and its Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir have now become whimsical like reckless drivers."
AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER. (PAGE 3)

"We demand the arrest of those terrorists who, wearing masks and helmets, brutally attacked journalists and demonstrators in presence of police."
BNP LEADER MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM. (PAGE 3)

3 MONTHS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS DRIVE Outcome not as expected Godfathers remain untouched, dealers adjusting in a changed reality

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

It has been three months since the nationwide war on drugs began, but the godfathers or their patrons still remain untouched while the dealers are selling narcotics discreetly, adopting new strategies.

Though open sales of narcotics have largely stopped, sources in law enforcement agencies and even drug dealers say unless the big fishes netted, the containment will be temporary.

Since the Rab launched a special crackdown on May 4 and police began their own anti-narco operations on May 18, around 42,000 people have been arrested while at least 213 got killed in the so called shootouts.

Law enforcers say the arrestees were suspected dealers, mules or addicts while those killed in the "gunfights" were dealers or peddlers. Besides, around 28,000 cases were filed across the country and over 45 lakh yaba pills seized during the drives.

But the godfathers and their patrons -- including a ruling party lawmaker of Cox's Bazar and his family members, a lawmaker of Khulna, some other political leaders and a few hundred rogue policemen -- are yet to be brought to book though they have been named in intelligence reports or the list prepared by the Prime Minister's Office.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, a top home ministry official said, "The government will gradually take actions against those responsible, including the lawmakers whose names appeared on the list [of PMO], but it wants to go tough on them after the national election."

Rab and police officials maintain that many godfathers had either gone into hiding or fled the country.

THE OUTCOME?
On July 19, a Rab press release said drug lords were on the run and the open
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Two traders sort out live fish from a makeshift tank on a truck parked in front of Karwan Bazar wholesale fish market in the capital. They often bring various fish, including Rui and Katla, from a farm in Rajshahi and sell them here for Tk 300-400 a kg, earning a good profit. The photo was taken recently.
PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



- ➔ Rab started all-out crackdown on May 4
- ➔ Police began their drive on May 18
- ➔ At least 213 alleged drug dealers and peddlers killed during crackdown
- ➔ Many godfathers "went into hiding or fled the country"
- ➔ Total arrest over 42,000 suspects
- ➔ Over 28,000 cases filed
- ➔ Over 45 lakh yaba pills seized
- ➔ Drug prices went up, yaba by Tk 50 and one puria (tiny pack) of cannabis by Tk 30
- ➔ Law enforcers believe drive has cut yaba supply chains
- ➔ Rab DG suggests two-month restrictions on mobile banking in Cox's Bazar

ROAD SAFETY DEMO Troublemakers identified: IGP

STAR REPORT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday said they have already identified the people responsible for creating anarchy cashing in on recent student protests over demand for safe roads.

"We have definitely identified many anarchists and taken action against some of them. The rest of those responsible for creating anarchy will also be brought to book," he said after inaugurating three establishments of police in Chandpur, reports BSS.

"Several of the anarchists have already been captured and some of them are put on remand. The procedure will continue until all those responsible are identified," he added.

Thousands of school and college students across the country began demonstrations demanding concrete government steps to improve road safety

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REPATRIATION OF ROHINGYAS More talks, no timeframe yet

FM holds meeting with three senior ministers of Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar yesterday agreed to speed up the process of repatriating the forcibly displaced Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh from Rakhine to escape persecution.

The development came at a ministerial meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and his Myanmar counterpart Kyaw Tint Swe in Naypyidaw.

Though the two sides reiterated their commitment to closer consultation in resolving the crisis, they could neither reach any concrete decision nor set any date for starting the repatriation.

They reviewed the preparations for the return of the refugees, and also agreed to establish a hotline between the foreign ministers of the two countries to facilitate further discussions.

A diplomatic source in Dhaka told this newspaper that the issues raised at yesterday's meeting had already been discussed in the past, and there was no indication that Myanmar would expedite the repatriation process.

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Do your part

UN refugee agency chief urges nations to help Dhaka on Rohingya issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has urged governments and business leaders of the Asia-Pacific region to help Bangladesh shoulder the responsibility of hosting some one million refugees, who have fled atrocities in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

"Can we conceive of development, trade, and migration-related measures to help the people and government of Bangladesh shoulder the responsibility of hosting some 900,000 refugees?" he said.

Grandi put forward the options including expanding guest worker quotas for Bangladeshis that would increase remittances or reducing tariffs on garment exports from Bangladesh, according to UN News.

He said these on Tuesday while addressing the ministers of 26 countries in Bali, Indonesia, at the Seventh Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process, a forum of

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THE ADDED TROUBLES

Impounded vehicles dumped right on the busy Dhaka-Tangail highway near Baipail Police Outpost in Savar have long been blocking traffic in the area. The authorities concerned did nothing to remove them. Locals fear the situation on the highway might worsen during the upcoming Eid holiday when the pressure of vehicles will increase. Inset, a man throws garbage into a seized truck in the same area. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Govt to bring back 'Boma' Mizan from India in time Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said the government would bring back militant leader Jahidul Islam Mizan alias "Boma" Mizan from India.

"We have an extradition treaty with India. Prisoners whom we want to bring back and they [India] want to take back are already being swapped. We will also bring him [Mizan] back in time," he told the media at his Monipuripara residence in the capital.

Fellow militants snatched "Boma" Mizan, a top bomb expert and leader of mainstream Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), from a prison van in Mymensingh four years ago. He was arrested at Ramanagara near Bengaluru on Monday.

Bangladesh counterterrorism officials

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