

'Kingpins' safe in 'safe home'

63 yaba godfathers, dealers surrender to police in Cox's Bazar; more to follow

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

A two-storey training centre inside the secure compound of Cox's Bazar Police Lines is now the "safe home" for 63 alleged yaba godfathers and dealers in the district.

At least 24 of them are on the government list of 73 top drug dealers in the country, said a top police official in Cox's Bazar.

Wanted in 2-16 cases, each of them had been on the run since the anti-narcotics drive began in May last year. Now though, they seem relaxed since their surrender last week.

The "yaba kingpins" include elected public representatives of local bodies and three brothers of Awami League lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi, who topped multiple government lists of yaba traders in the country.

Around 6:15pm yesterday, a correspondent of The Daily Star managed to take a look inside the "safe home".

Some were gossiping, while others were loitering around. Yet others were having their evening snacks brought by their family members. Money does not seem to be a problem for them.

Two constables in plainclothes were guarding the entrance, with three others on the backyard. The 1,200-sqf building has 12 rooms in its two floors.

"We are passing really good times here. We are sharing plenty of food brought by our families. Police are also behaving very well with us," one of the "inmates" told The Daily Star.

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Discharges from sewers and garment factories have left the Turag river look like a bubble bath in Roopnagar area beside Mirpur Beribandh road in the capital. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

All AL units to have their own office

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League has decided to have around 6,000 party offices with modern facilities at all city, district, upazila, thana and municipalities headquarters, and at union levels to strengthen its organisational structure.

The party, which secured a landslide victory in the December 30 national polls and assumed state power for a third consecutive term, will finance the purchase of land and construction of offices in places where it does not currently have one, said party sources.

The offices which are already there will be modernised and equipped with the latest facilities.

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DECEMBER 30 ELECTION US concerned at reports of anomalies

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US yesterday expressed concern over credible reports on election irregularities, including harassment, intimidation and violence that "marred Bangladesh's recent election".

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Mark Green made the statement as he held talks with Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque in Washington DC.

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Child murder up by a quarter

Some were killed over trivial matters, says Shishu Adhikar Forum report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 418 children were murdered in the country last year, up by 23.30 percent from the previous year, says a report by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum.

In 2017, at least 339 children were killed, mentions the report titled "State of Child Rights in Bangladesh 2018" unveiled in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Analysing the reasons behind the killings, it found that in most cases, children were murdered over trivial matters, family or conjugal dispute, dowry, extramarital affair and enmity.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN 2018

Murder

418

Rape

571

Abduction

150

627 children killed in road crashes, 606 drowned

Ducusu election after 3 decades

Authorities set March 11 for voting; student bodies welcome the move

DU CORRESPONDENT

The first election to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) in 28 years will be held on March 11.

The voting will begin at 8:00am and end at 2:00pm, a DU press release said yesterday.

As the Ducusu president, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman set the date in line with Section 8 (E) of the student platform's charter.

Earlier in the day, he held two meetings on the election with the hall provosts and the advisory council at his office.

The university authorities had started updating the voter

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Hasina among 100 global thinkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was named in a list of 100 global thinkers by US-based Foreign Policy magazine.

"Sheikh Hasina has responded to the greatest security challenge facing Bangladesh with a generosity. . . Rather than turn away the approximate 700,000

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Helena Begum, right, and Happy Begum refuel vehicles at a refueling station in Langolbandh area of Narayanganj on Dhaka-Chattogram highway on Tuesday. Although the profession has long been associated more with men than women, these women and their four other female colleagues are breaking that mould. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Chittagong take top spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Vikings continued their brilliant run in the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) as skipper Mushfiqur Rahim's unbeaten fifty guided the side to a six-wicket win over Rajshahi Kings at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

With six wins in seven games Chittagong now stand at the top of the points table while Rajshahi, with four wins in eight games, sit in fifth position.

Rajshahi posted 157 for five riding on in-form Laurie Evans's 56-ball 74.

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Tragedy rips apart family

7 including 6 of the family killed as auto-rickshaw collides with truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Early yesterday, Shah Alam and his family members woke up to the news that his son was stabbed and being treated at a hospital.

Worried sick, the family started for the hospital in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw but fell victim to a tragic accident on the way.

Shah Alam, 38, five of his family members and the auto-rickshaw driver were killed as the vehicle collided head-on with a goods-laden truck on the Dhaka-Raipur regional road in Laxmipur Sadar's Mandarir Ratanpur area.

The accident around 5:00am left all those in the auto-rickshaw dead on the spot, Mohammad Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Chandraganj Highway Police, told The Daily Star.

The victims include Shah Alam's wife Nasima Akter, 32, their sons Rubel, 3, and Amit, 15, Shah Alam's sister Shamsun Nahar, 25, sister-in-law Rokeya Begum, 29, and the driver Nuru, 35. They all were from Jagadishpur area of Noakhali's Begumganj upazila.

Quoting the victims' relatives, police said unidentified criminals stabbed Shah Alam's elder son Nadim Mahmud Antor, 20, around 1:00am in Chandraganj's Sadaghar area.

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Tara Mia gets bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tara Mia, who was born with a deformity in his right hand and had been made accused in a case over attacking police personnel before the December 30 polls, secured a six-month anticipatory bail from the High Court yesterday.

The verdict comes following The Daily Star's report yesterday headlined "Hard to believe". The report came with a picture of Tara Mia.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rais Uddin and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain passed the order after Tara's lawyer informed the court about the report and sought his bail through a petition.

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Expressing heartiest gratitude to all the valued clients, shareholders, stakeholders, regulatory bodies, patrons and well-wishers for being with The Premier Bank Limited.

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