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Vanilla Flavour

# The Daily Star

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"It is a waste paper and has become valueless now."

FORMER ASSAM CM TARUN GOGOI ABOUT NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS (PAGE 16)



"Like bad people in our society and families, there are bad cops in the police force. If city dwellers interact more with police and receive services from them, it will help us identify the bad police officials."

CMP COMMISSIONER MAHBUBOR RAHMAN (PAGE 5)



"The way they [BNP and Oikyafront] responded to prime minister's invitation does not go with democratic norms."

AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER (PAGE 16)



## COX'S BAZAR'S 'YABA VILLAGE'

# Paid agents now running the show

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Teknaf

One would be mesmerised by the duplex mansions by the 13km road between Teknaf Zero Point and Shah Porir Island. Most of the mansions are in the middle of farmland, forest or just beside the road.

The owners of the luxury homes, in the so-called yaba villages, are not there anymore. They are either on the run or in a police-protected house in Cox's Bazar.

Yet it is business as usual in the villages -- Nazirpara, Moulvipara and Jailapara -- where agents are taking care of the assets and running the illicit trade of the house owners, claimed a number of locals.

The agents go about their business in guise of labourers, rickshaw pullers or tea sellers and update the yaba lords on movement of law enforcers, say local sources.

"Everyone in the villages knows what they actually do but you will have a hard time making them talk," a shop owner in Noyapara Bazar of Teknaf, told The Daily Star.

"If someone is found to have leaked information, he or she could be targeted and attacked," he said, wishing anonymity.

Sources say each yaba dealer and smuggler of the area has five to six agents who are paid Tk 10,000 to Tk 20,000 monthly for looking after the assets and "business" of the godfathers.

"Sit at a tea stall and you will be approached by yaba sellers," the shop owner said.

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Luxurious houses of yaba godfathers in Teknaf's Leda and Nazirpara areas. Though the godfathers are either on the run or in a police-protected house in Cox's Bazar, the yaba business continues as usual. The photos were taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN



## Two killed in 'gunfight' between drug gangs

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of drug traders at Hoaikkong in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday, police said.

Police in India have meanwhile recovered a bullet-hit body of a Bangladeshi national, allegedly involved in drug smuggling, within its border opposite the Chuadanga frontier.

Cox's Bazar police said the deceased -- Delwar Hossain Rubel, 20, son of Farid Alam of Mina Bazar area in Hoaikkong union, and Md Rafique, 55, son of Safar Miah of Jhimongkhali area -- were drug traders. They were accused in several arms and drugs related cases, they added.

Two groups of drug traders exchanged gunshots at Nayapara Battali of Hoaikkong around 3:00am, said ABMS Doha, inspector (investigation) of Teknaf model police.

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## \$5.9b siphoned off in 2015

Bangladesh second in South Asia, among top 30 countries in world in terms of illicit financial flows

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Some \$5.9 billion was siphoned out of Bangladesh in 2015 through trade misinvoicing, the Global Financial Integrity (GFI) said in a report yesterday.

Bangladesh ranked second in South Asia in terms of illicit outflows of money, according to the report.

The Washington-based research and advisory organisation came out with the findings by analysing data of trade in goods of 148 developing countries with advanced economies. The report, based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, also said \$2.36 billion entered the country in 2015.

The GFI said trade-related illicit financial flows (IFFs) appear to be both significant and persistent features of developing country trade with advanced economies.

"Trade misinvoicing remains an obstacle to achieving sustainable and equitable growth in the developing world," said the GFI report titled "Illicit Financial Flows to and from 148 Developing Countries: 2006-2015".

The GFI defines IFFs as money that is illegally earned,

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## Jubo League leader shot in one leg

His family blames cops; police refute allegation

A CORRESPONDENT, Jashore

A local Jubo League leader was shot in his left leg on the roof of his neighbour's house in the town's Sasthitolapara area early yesterday.

Family members of Mehbub Rahman Mensel, joint convener of Jashore town Jubo League, alleged that police shot him.

Denying the allegation, police claimed that 35-year-old Mehbub was wounded in a clash between two groups of criminals. They also claimed to have arrested the Jubo League leader and his associate Mehedi Hasan Anik, 23, from the roof and recovered three pistols and 12 bullets.

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## ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE

# Graft danger to good governance

HC bench says as full text of verdict released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption threatens the foundation of democracy, social justice and rule of law, High Court has observed in its full verdict in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

"Today, corruption which includes financial crime also in our country not only poses a grave danger to the concept of good governance, it also threatens the very foundation of the democracy, social justice and the rule of law," the HC said.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman yesterday released the full text of the verdict that doubled BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's five-year jail term, originally handed down by a lower court last year.

"It is beyond controversy that where corruption begins all rights end. Corruption devalues human rights, chokes development and undermines justice, liberty, equality, fraternity which are the core values of our constitution," it said.

"Thus, the duty of the court is to work in such a manner to strengthen the fight against corruption. Therefore, there is no scope to take a lenient

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## US-BANGLA PLANE CRASH

# Pilot error vs tower error

Nepal probe says pilot had 'emotional breakdown' before deadly crash; Caab points at confusing communications by Kathmandu airport control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The captain of the US-Bangla plane "seemed to have an emotional breakdown" before the crash in Kathmandu airport last March, Nepali investigators said in the final report published yesterday.

They blamed pilot Capt Abid Sultan, 52, and First Officer Prithula Rashid, 25, of losing situational awareness at a critical phase of flight BS211 to Kathmandu from Dhaka on March 12, 2018. The Bombardier Dash-8 Q400 crashed on a football pitch beside the runway and caught fire killing 52 of the 71 on board.

But, Capt Salahuddin M Rahmatullah,

Bangladeshi member of the Accident Investigation Commission formed by Nepal, yesterday said had the people at Air Traffic Control (ATC) of Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport performed their duties properly, the crash could have been averted.

"... above all, there was the absence of a last-minute ATC instruction or advice for corrective action that the flight crew could have taken to avoid the accident," said Salahuddin, also the head of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Group of CAAB, at a press briefing hours after the Nepali authorities published the report.

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## De Villiers, Lewis own Chattogram

SPORTS REPORTER

It was an action-filled day at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. The first Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) game, which Comilla Victorians won against Khulna Titans by 80 runs, saw an unbeaten century in the form of Comilla's Evin Lewis and a hat-trick from pacer Wahab Riaz.

The second game was also an exciting one as it saw an unbeaten 184-run third-wicket partnership -- the highest for the wicket in BPL history -- between Rangpur Riders' AB de Villiers, who hit the second century of the day, and Alex Hales -- to guide their team to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Dhaka Dynamites.

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The shell-shocked mother of Afsar and Afrin stares at their photos on a mobile phone screen at their house in South Keraniganj yesterday. Earlier in the day, a truck hit a motorcycle from behind in the area, killing the siblings on the spot.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Two innocent lives cut short

Truck rams motorcycle carrying siblings, father; 8 others killed in road crashes across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two siblings were killed after a truck rear-ended the motorcycle they were in South Keraniganj on the Dhaka-Mawa highway, while at least eight others died in different accidents in three districts.

Most of the accidents resulted from recklessly-driven trucks.

In the Keraniganj incident, the dead -- Fatima Afrin, 12, a sixth grader and Afsar Hossain, 10, a fourth grader -- were returning to their Purahati home in the area from school on a motorcycle driven by their father Kalim Hossain.

As they neared their home around 11:00am, a truck suddenly crashed into them from behind and dragged the two children for a few metres before fleeing the scene. They were killed on the spot.

Both were students at the Cosmopolitan Laboratory School and College. Their father, a rent-a-car businessman, was left injured.

Witnesses said Hossain was riding his motorbike with his two children around 11:00am. Of the three, only he had a helmet on.

"When they reached near Priyangon Residential area, a recklessly driven goods-laden truck hit them from behind. The father fell off on the left side while the two children fell

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Afrin

Afsar