

**"Many major political parties are not participating in the upazila election. This is of course disappointing for us."**  
CEC KM NURUL HUDA (PAGE 3)

**"Corruption has bred social degradation and discrimination. Ideologies and principles vanished in many professions because of corruption."**  
LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ (PAGE 3)

**"The risk [of war] is great... Israeli behaviour is putting international law on the shelf."**  
IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF (PAGE 8)

## 43 godfathers still at large

*All named in home ministry list; yaba shipments from Myanmar keep coming*

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

Despite the surrender of 102 top narcos in Teknaf, yaba smuggling continues under the supervision of some listed godfathers and hundi traders who recently launched credit sales of the pink pills.

"A dozen yaba dealers in Myanmar send yaba shipments to Bangladesh on receiving orders from these godfathers," said a high official of the district police.

"The payment is made to the Myanmar dealers by hundi traders in Teknaf after top dealers staying in Dubai and India order the transaction," he told The Daily Star yesterday, requesting anonymity.

Of 73 godfathers named on a list of the home ministry, 24 surrendered to police on Saturday. Some six others were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers while 43 are still at large.

The rest of the 102 include 16 family

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### LAW ENFORCERS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO STOP YABA

- Coordination among all law enforcement agencies
- 70km security fence near Shah Pori Island
- Increased naval patrol in southern part of St Martin's Island
- Using surrendered godfathers, dealers to stop narcotics
- Increased vigilance of BGB, coast guards in Shah Pori Island
- Sending listed godfathers' name to ACC for action

- Strong vigilance on Rohingya camps
- Action against Myanmar BGP involved in smuggling
- Transfer of BGB camp members every month
- Transfer of policemen who have link to smuggling
- Reward for law enforcers working to stop yaba smuggling
- Joint patrol of police, BGB and Rab in border areas



Charred remains of shanties in a part of Chaktai Bhera Market Slum in Chattogram after a fire early yesterday. Bottom, burnt books of children. A woman breaking down in tears.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Fire kills nine in slum

*200 shanties ravaged in Chattogram*

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Chattogram

Nine people, including three children, were killed and many others injured as a fire ripped through a slum in Chattogram city's Bakalia area early yesterday.

The flames broke out around 2:30am and gutted around 200 shanties of Chaktai Bhera Market slum, said fire officials.

Ruma Akhter, one of the slum dwellers, said she woke up to screams and heard someone banging on her door.

"As I opened it, I saw my neighbour Rahima and her daughter Nazma. Rahima told us about the fire and then realised that her other two children were still inside their house."

Forty-seven-year old Rahima, who runs a small tea stall at the slum, and

Nazma ran rush to rescue the kids but they too got trapped in the fire, said Ruma, who sells fish for a living.

The four of the family died.

During a visit to the slum yesterday morning, this correspondent saw firefighters and policemen taking out charred remains of the victims in body bags.

The dead were identified as Rahima, 47, her daughters Nazma, 16, and Nasrin, 4, and son Jaker Hossain Babu, 8. Three others among the nine victims were also from a same family -- Hasina, 35, Ayesha, 37, and Shohag, 19, fire officials said.

The identities of the other two victims, including an eight-month-old baby, could not be confirmed till last night.

Fifty-year-old Lal Mia, who runs a grocery shop at the slum, said he and

his other family members ran for their lives as they noticed the fire spreading through shanties.

"All of my belongings turned into ashes in front of my eyes," said the man, who was still in shock while talking to this correspondent around noon.

Jasim Uddin, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said on information, 12 fire engines rushed to the spot and brought the flames under control following a 45-minute-long effort.

The cause of the fire and where it originated could not be known immediately.

The Chattogram district administration formed a four member committee, led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mashudul Kabir, to investigate the incident.

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PM IN UAE  
Dhaka, Abu Dhabi sign four deals

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates yesterday signed four memoranda of understanding on establishing port, industrial park, LNG terminal, power plants and a special economic zone in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the signing of the documents at St Regis hotel where she is staying.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque briefed reporters after the signing ceremony. PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim and Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Mohammad Imran were present.

The government of the UAE and Public Private

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## 3 suspected drug peddlers, robber killed

STAR REPORT

Two suspected drug peddlers and a suspected robber were killed in separate "gunfights" in three districts early yesterday.

In Kushtia's Sadar upazila, a "gunfight" between two groups of drug peddlers left one dead, claimed Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station.

The dead -- Nazmul Hossain Malitha, 40, of the district's Daulatpur upazila -- was an enlisted drug peddler and accused in 11 drug related cases, police claimed.

Hearing gunshots, a police team rushed to Shaldah village around 2:30am and recovered Nazmul's bullet-ridden body, the OC said.

The body was sent to

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## SPACE APPS Bangladeshi team wins Nasa contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A virtual reality (VR) project developed by four students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) has won NASA's Space Apps Challenge, a global competition.

Using this mobile VR application, called "Lunar VR", anyone can experience landing on moon on Apollo-11 and walk around the satellite.

Team Olik, the winning team, used a 3D model and data from NASA resources to create the virtual demonstration. NASA also gave them some challenges to solve.

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## Democracy, good governance first

*Experts say sustainable dev not possible without ensuring these*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not be able to sustain its development without participatory democracy and good governance, said a number of political analysts and economists yesterday.

The words of caution came at a session titled "Politics of Development" at the 4th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference 2019. South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) organised the two-day conference at the city's Brac centre Inn.

"We need a state where democracy, good governance and development will be ensured... we have to move forward step by step," said Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government.

"We need democracy first as good governance will not be established in the absence of democracy. Our development will lose steam if good governance cannot be established."

Mirza M Hassan, senior research fellow and head of Governance and Politics Cluster of BIGD under BRAC University, said Bangladesh now has a dominant party system (DPS).

Explaining the DPS, he said it "refers to a category of parties or political organisations that have successively

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## Scrap Dec 30 polls results

*5 more BNP candidates file petitions with HC*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citing widespread irregularities, five more BNP candidates yesterday filed separate election petitions with the High Court, asking it to cancel the results of the December 30 national polls in their constituencies.

In the petitions, they also appealed for directing the Election Commission to hold fresh elections there.

With the five petitioners, 79 defeated candidates from the BNP-led alliance have so far filed election petitions, court sources said.

In some of the petitions, it has been mentioned that even dead people were shown casting votes, which is nothing but a clear evidence of a "farfical" election.

Yesterday's petitioners

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## Controversial leaders given road safety job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after two college students were killed by a speeding bus in the capital in July last year, Shajahan Khan smirked when reporters sought his reaction as a transport leader.

On many occasions in the past, his other comments and actions regarding road safety issue sparked widespread criticism.

Now he will lead a 15-member committee to give recommendations for preventing road accidents and bringing discipline in the road transport sector.

The government formed the committee yesterday. Five other members of the committee are also involved with transport organisations that are often blamed for the very indiscipline they will seek to put an end to.

"Those who have created the problems in the sector have been given the responsibility to solve those. This is hilarious," Prof Moazzem Hossain, former director of the Accident Research Institute at Buet, told The Daily Star.

He also questioned the justification of forming such a committee.

"There is no precedent anywhere in the world that such problems have been solved by forming such committees. Similar committees were formed in the past, but they could not produce the expected results," he pointed out.

He stressed instead on taking up solution-oriented

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