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# Into the world of thieves

*They take only cash, never return to the same area*

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

He told police that he was just a petty thief two years ago.

Sometimes he stole shoes from mosques during prayers and sold those on footpaths in the capital's Gulistan.

While in jail a couple of years ago, he met two other inmates and later formed an organised gang of 28 burglars who travelled across the country and broke into jewellery, cell phone or money-exchange stores in supermarkets and stole the cash.

Officers of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch found out about Abdullah and his gang while investigating the theft of Tk 11.41 lakh from a money-exchange shop in January in Uttara.

The amount was recovered from them.

A DB team arrested 10 members of the gang, including Abdullah, in a residential area near Kamalapur Railway Station on Friday, Mashur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB (north) told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Locals protesting a drive against chemical warehouses and factories in Bakshibazar area of Old Dhaka yesterday, the second day of a month-long crack-down by a taskforce of 14 government agencies. *Right*, electricity connection of an unauthorised warehouse being snapped; officials cornered by locals at one stage around noon; and Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon joins the drive in the afternoon.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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## Tigers' misery continues

SPORTS REPORTER

The first Test against New Zealand may be over by the time fans in Bangladesh wake up and turn on their

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



### PRAYER TIMING MARCH 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Yaba dealers now up to novel ways

*Rab seizes 8,000 pieces from inside chair legs*



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

It appears that the more the law enforcers are trying to keep a tight rein on yaba trafficking, the more the purveyors are adopting novel tricks to worm their way into different parts of the country.

Amid recent drives against the crazy pills, a number of

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## EXTRADITION OF HUAWEI CFO TO US

# China seethes as Canada moves

REUTERS, Ottawa

The Canadian government, as expected, on Friday approved extradition proceedings against the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, prompting a furious reaction from China.

Meng Wanzhou, the daughter of Huawei's founder, was detained in Vancouver last December and is under house arrest. In late January the US Justice Department charged Meng and Huawei with conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Meng is due to appear in a Vancouver court at 10 am Pacific time (1800 GMT) on March 6, when a date will be set for her extradition hearing.

"Today, department of Justice Canada officials issued an authority to proceed, formally commencing an extradition process in the case of Ms. Meng Wanzhou," the government said in a statement.

China, whose relations with Canada have deteriorated badly over the affair, denounced the decision and repeated previous demands for Meng's release.

US Justice Department spokeswoman Nicole Navas Oxman said Washington thanked the Canadian government for its assistance. "We greatly appreciate Canada's steadfast commitment to the rule of law," she said in a statement.

Legal experts had predicted the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau would give the go-ahead for extradition proceedings, given the close judicial relationship between Canada and the United States.

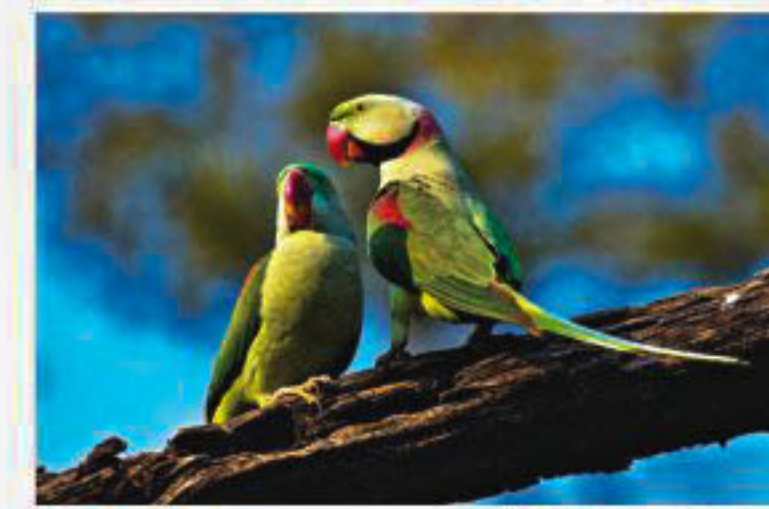
But it could be years before Meng is sent to the United States, since Canada's slow-moving justice system allows many decisions to be appealed.

A final decision will likely come down to the federal justice minister, who will face the choice of angering the United States by rejecting the extradition bid, or China by accepting it.

Professor Wesley Work of the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs said "the Canadians will take a

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## Addict parrots raid poppy farms



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Farmers in India are complaining that parrots seemingly addicted to opium are destroying their poppy crops.

Tiny parakeets, which appear to have become hooked on the powerful narcotic, have been spotted raiding fields in Madhya Pradesh dozens of times every day.

Crop destruction by birds has exacerbated problems with low rainfall, which is already reducing the yields of legal opium producers in the state.

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People browsing through children's books at a stall on the last day of the month-long Ekushey Boi Mela at Suhrawardi Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Curtain falls on Boi Mela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long 2019 Amar Ekushey Boi Mela ended in the capital yesterday having seen a record number of new books and a huge public gathering.

Putting the count of records aside, the book writers, publishers, readers and literature enthusiasts said goodbye to the country's largest book fair.

"I cannot believe that it [the book fair] is over. I wish it lasted a little longer," said Mithila Nahrin, a Dhaka University student who went to the book fair with her friends.

People of different professions and ages echoed her words about the loving literary congregation and said they thoroughly enjoyed visiting the book fair with friends and families.

"It was really difficult for me and my job-holder wife to spend time with our daughter. As the book fair was extended this year, we could manage to bring her here," said Md Azad, holding a finger of his fifth-grader daughter Sraboni.

Considering low visitors' turnout in the last few days of February, Bangla Academy

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