

Six sent to jail in 2.3 lakh yaba haul case in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent six alleged drug peddlers to jail on completion of two-day remands to each.

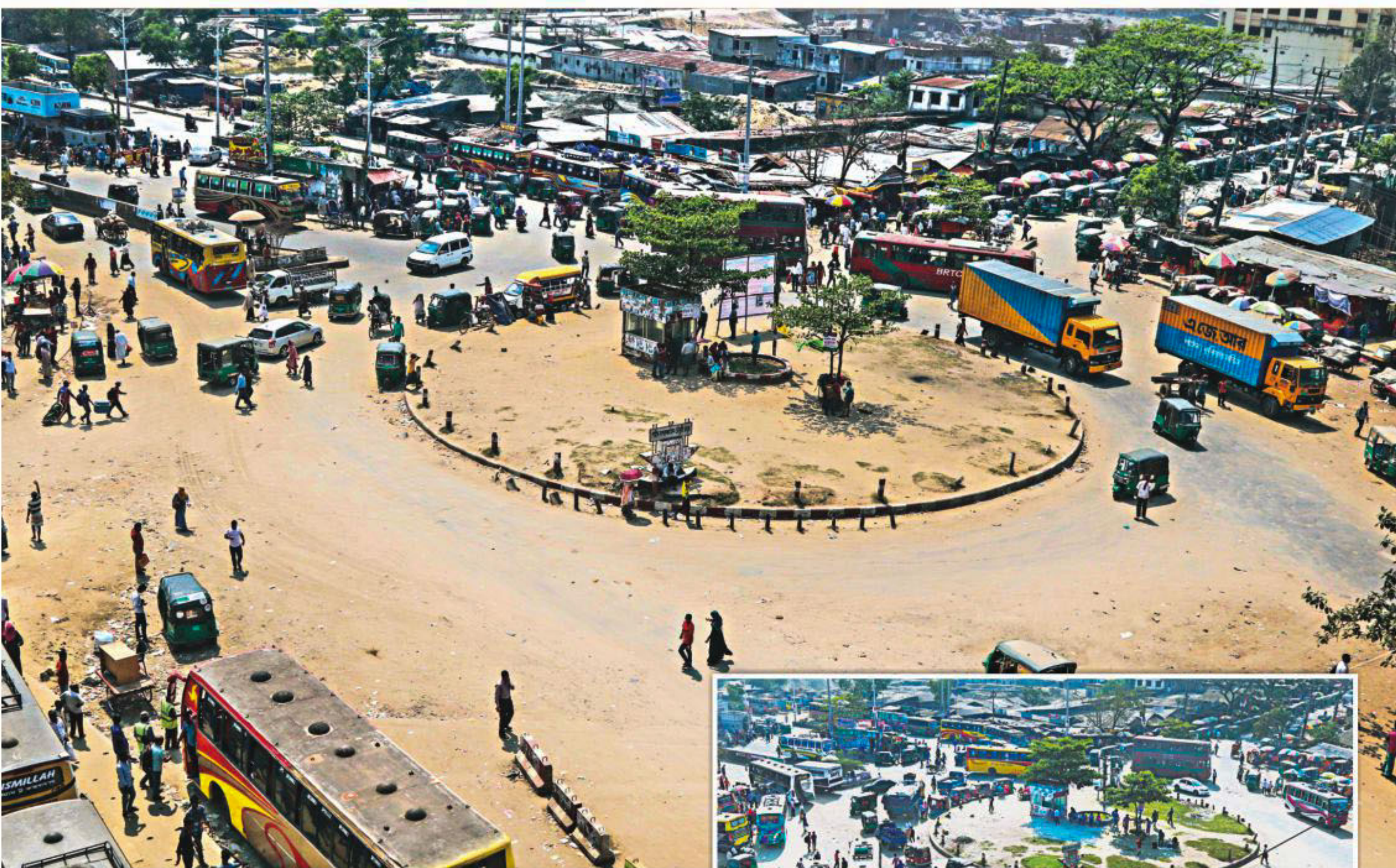
On February 9, Rab arrested them with 2.3 lakh yaba pills in a picnic bus in city's Bakalia area.

Court sources said arrestees Iqbal Hossen and Masud Rana gave confessional statements before the court under section 164 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The duo told the court that they collected the pills from Teknaf to carry those to Dhaka.

The bus owner was supposed to be given Tk 5 for each yaba pills, they added. The other accused in the case are Atiar Rahman, Bablu, Jewel Rana and Aminur Rahman Sumon.

The case, filed with Bakalia Police Station, is being investigated by Inspector Rajesh Barua of Counter Terrorism (CT) unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.



Only a few months ago, Shaheed Bashiruzzaman intersection -- north of Shah Amanat Bridge on the fringe of Chattogram city -- was clogged with vehicles as transport workers illegally used the important roundabout as a parking space. The situation has improved significantly as a result of action taken by traffic police. Inset, a photo from November 16 last year shows the previous scenario.

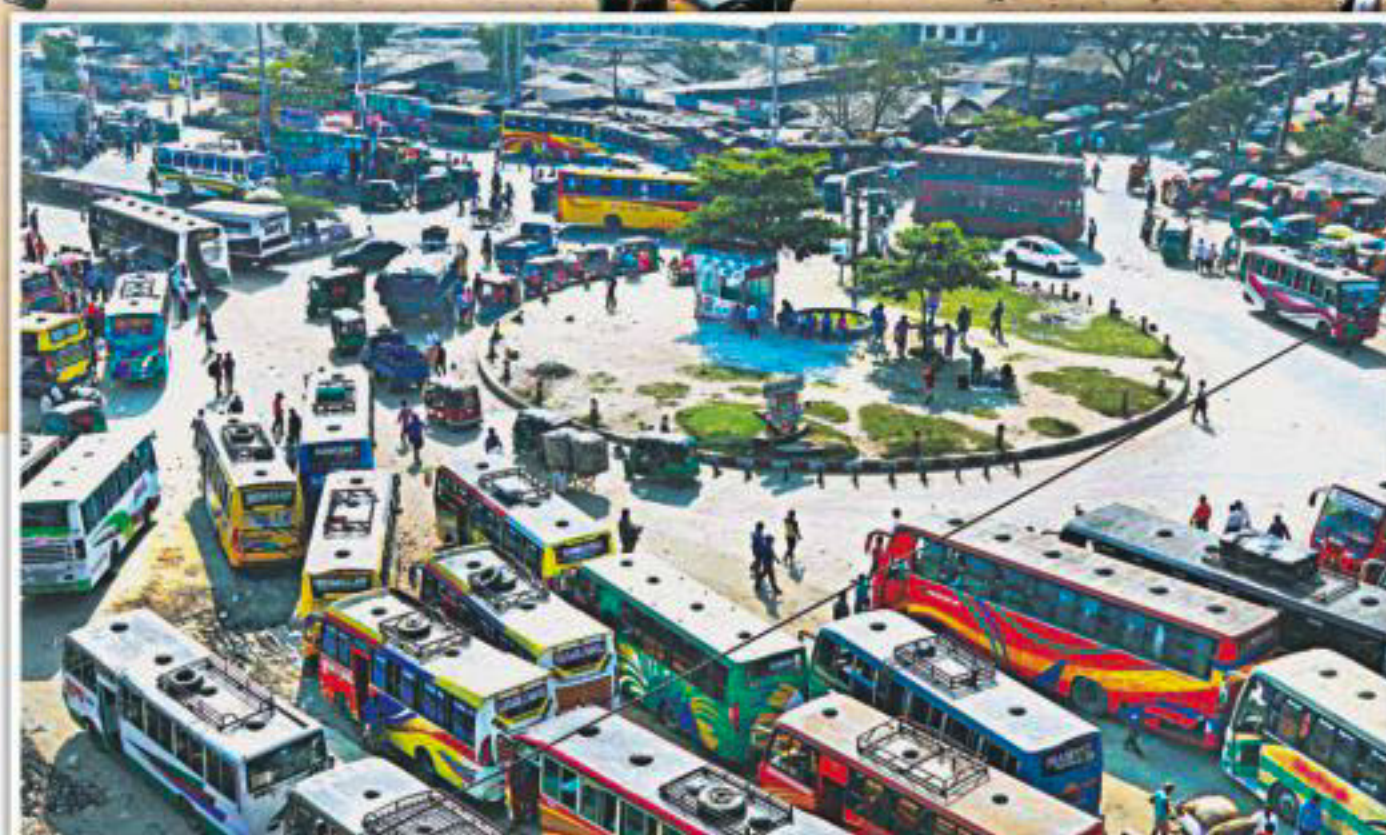


PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN, STAR FILE

Chatterton Dickson to take charge as new British envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK government yesterday named Robert Maurice French Chatterton Dickson as the next British high commissioner to Bangladesh.

"Robert Chatterton Dickson has been appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh in succession to Ms Alison Blake CMG, who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment," according to an announcement of the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) yesterday.

Blake, who discharged her assignment in Bangladesh since January 2016, left Dhaka last week ending her three-year tenure.

High Commissioner-Designate Chatterton Dickson, who arrived in Dhaka on Sunday to take up his diplomatic assignment, is expected to present credentials to President Abdul Hamid in next few days, diplomatic sources in Dhaka said.

This is his first Ambassadorial appointment since he joined in the FCO in 1990 as Desk Officer at the Nuclear Section of Security Police Department.

Prior to his appointment as high commissioner to Bangladesh, Chatterton Dickson served as additional director, Western Balkans Programme at the FCO.

He previously served as deputy head of mission and then Charge d' Affaires at British Embassy in Kabul, consul general in Chicago, joint head of Counter Terrorism Department of FCO, and political and press officer at British embassy in Manila.



Two arrested over rape of teenage girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Gournadi police in separate drives yesterday arrested two college students for their alleged involvement in the rape of a teenage girl -- hours after the victim's mother filed a case.

Golam Sorwar, officer-in-charge of Gournadi Police Station, said the girl was sent to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for tests.

The three accused in the case used to live in a rented flat near her house at South Bijoypur village under Gournadi upazila of the district, the OC said. The victim was familiar to one of them.

According to the case statement, the three raped the girl first on February 7 after calling her to their house, and then blackmailed her with a video of the incident to rape her twice more on February 11 and 15.

The victim's mother told the Daily Star, "We were initially afraid to file a case because they threatened to publish some videos of my daughter."

The prime accused in the case is still at large, OC Golam Sarwar said, adding that they are continuing their drive to arrest him.

Bangabandhu Int'l Airport to be built near Dhaka

Civil aviation and tourism ministry secretary says

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangabandhu International Airport will be constructed near the capital instead of the previously fixed location in Madaripur-Shariatpur region.

Mohibul Haque, secretary to the civil aviation and tourism ministry, disclosed the information on Sunday, saying that the government has scrapped the idea of building the airport at the previously proposed location due to densely packed households there.

"The Japanese consulting firm Nippon Koei Company Limited suggested the government not to build it at Madaripur-Shariatpur region as more than 8,000 families are living in and around the area," said the secretary.

He also said that the previously selected place was rejected as the government does not want to relocate such a huge population.

The secretary also mentioned that the construction will require land measuring 8km in length and 5km in width.

Asked about the new location, he said that it will be within 50 to 60 kilometers of the capital.

According to civil aviation and tourism ministry sources, the authorities are looking for a suitable location near Dhaka.

There will be a meeting among the parties concerned including the consulting firm at the ministry to discuss the possible locations, sources added.

The consulting company has already completed feasibility studies of the project at Zajira and Shibchar areas from July 2015 which was supposed to be completed by June this year at a cost of Tk 136.75 crore.

But the Japanese company submitted the report before the due time at a cost of Tk 120 crore, saving the government over Tk 16 crore.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism asked Nippon Koei Company to search for the new location with the condition of being near Dhaka for the proposed new airport.

Ctg student alliance demands Ducsu re-election

CUI CORRESPONDENT

Protesting mass irregularities at Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election, different student organisations yesterday held a protest rally in Chattogram city.

Under the banner of Pragatisheel Chhatra Oikya, they held the protest rally around 4:45pm with a three-point demand including re-election of Ducsu and later brought out a procession from Cheragi Pahar area, ending it at Andarkilla area.

"The ruling party's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League barred general students from voting," alleged Arif Mainuddin, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front's Chattogram city unit.

This was just a farce in the name of election, he added.

They sought the resignation of DU vice chancellor for holding this partial election. They demanded the announcement of a fresh election schedule and punishment for those who attacked general students.

Chattogram city units of Chhatra Union and Chhatra Parishad were also present at the programme.

Daffodil Family signs MoU with Raowa

CITY DESK

Daffodil Family and Retired Armed Forces Officer's Welfare Association (Raowa) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on March 9 for Entrepreneurship Development and Career Support Program.

Lt Col Md Shamsul Islam, psc, secretary general of Raowa, and Mohammad Nuruzzaman, CEO of Daffodil Family, signed the MoU at Eagle Hall in Raowa, said a press release.

Dr Md Sabur Khan, chairman of Daffodil Family, Maj Khandaker Nurul Afer, chairman of Raowa; Brig Gen Md Mahbul Alam, ndc, psc, senior vice chairman of Raowa; Lt Col Mustafizur Rahman, vice chairman of Raowa; and Lt Col AM Mosharaf Hossain, convener of Raowa Entrepreneurs Forum, were also present at the programme along with the members and advisor committee members of Raowa.

Under the agreement, entrepreneurship development support programs, entrepreneurial activities/project-works and career assistance services for the valued members of Raowa would be ensured under Bilateral Cooperation Program between Raowa and Skill Jobs, a career platform of Daffodil Family and Daffodil International University (DIU).

22 illegal structures demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The authorities of Bangladesh Railway's east zone yesterday demolished 22 illegal establishments from Segun Bagan in Pahartali area of Chattogram.

Twenty-two illegal structures including tin-roofed houses were bulldozed in a drive led by Executive Magistrate of Chattogram District Administration Md Ali Hasan.

Earlier, letters were issued to the occupants by the railway authorities asking them to vacate the railway property by January 30 this year, said Abdus Salam, a surveyor at Bangladesh Railway.

"When they did not vacate the land, we conducted the drive to recover the government property," he added.

Railway Nirapatta Bahini and police were present during the eviction drive.



Residents from Kulla union of Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding that arable land in the area be saved from illegal housing business.

PHOTO: STAR

Road accidents kill three

STAR REPORT

Three persons including a schoolgirl were killed in separate road accidents across Barishal, Narayanganj and Satkhira districts yesterday.

In Barishal, a man was killed after a truck and a local bus collided near Doarika bridge under Babuganj upazila on Dhaka-Barishal Highway, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Shikder, 45, of Tularampur village in Narail district, said Arabinda Biswas, second officer of Airport Police Station.

The accident took place when a Barishal-bound bus of Sugandha Paribahan collided with a truck, leaving the truck helper Saiful seriously injured.

Saiful was taken to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

In another incident, a man was killed on the spot after a truck ran him over in Dharmaganj area of Fatullah on Dhaka-Pagla-Narayanganj road, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Ruhul

Amin, 30, hailing from Kishoreganj, said Hasanuzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Fatulla Police Station.

Locals handed the vehicle and its driver over to police, the inspector said, adding that the body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile in Satkhira, a primary school student was killed on the spot after being hit by a pick-up van on Satkhira-Kaliganj road, UNB reports.

The deceased -- identified as Jyoti, 6, resident of Sokhipur village under Debhata upazila -- was first-grader at Sokhipur Dighirpar Government Primary School, said Biplab Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Debhata Police Station.

The accident took place around 8am as the van hit Jyoti while she was crossing the road. She died on the spot. Subsequently, locals blocked the road and staged demonstrations protesting the accident.

On information, police rushed in and brought the situation under control. The van driver Babu, 36, was detained in this connection.

Man arrested with 2,000 yaba pills at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Airport Armed Police Battalion (AAPBn) yesterday arrested a passenger with 2,000 yaba pills at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

The arrestee, Sohel Rana, 22, landed at the airport from Cox's Bazar, said Alamgir Hossain, additional superintendent of police of AAPBn, adding that the contraband drug was found in his bag.

Sohel, from Ulipur in Kurigram, identified himself as a singer, he added.

Quoting him, the AAPBn official said a man named Faruq, a resident of Cox's Bazar, gave him two packets of yaba with Tk 5,000.

Police said yaba smugglers are now using air routes to carry the pills to Dhaka from Teknaf, the gateway for the drugs to Bangladesh.

The route comes under tougher vigilance by law enforcers since the anti-narcotics drive began on May 4 last year.

AAPBn members seized around 66,000 yaba pills and arrested 33 people at the Dhaka airport in the last five months.

Books on pathology and paediatrics launched

CITY DESK

A book titled "A Text Book of Pathology", written in Bangla by Prof Md Tahminur Rahman and Prof Hosne Ara Tahmin, was launched at Anwer Khan Modern Medical College auditorium in Dhaka on Sunday.

Prof Md Tahminur is an eminent pathologist while Prof Hosne Ara a retired principal of Dhaka Medical College, says a press release.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin was present as chief guest at the publication

ceremony with lawmaker Dr Anwer Hossain Khan, chairman of Anwer Khan Modern Medical College Hospital, in the chair.

National Professor Shahla Khatun attended the programme as special guest while Dhaka Medical College Principal Prof Abul Kalam Azad as the guest of honour.

The speakers lauded the authors for writing the book in Bangla, and hoped that doctors would benefit from it.

At the ceremony, another book titled "Essence of Paediatrics", written by Anwer Khan Modern Medical College Principal Prof Md Ekhlashur Rahman, was launched.



Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin speaks at the publication ceremony in Dhaka on Sunday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED