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2018

# Mud house with 108 rooms

Several land owners built it on one-acre land in Naogaon

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Mud houses are not uncommon in rural Bangladesh but they don't have 108 rooms like the one at a Naogaon village. Built in 1986 by some well-off land owners, the two-storied house stands on an acre in Alipur village under Mohadevpur upazila. While char dwellers like corrugated-iron-sheet houses for easy shifting during flood and erosions, affluent people in dry regions preferred mud houses before concrete started making a splash. Mud houses are eco-friendly and are cool during the summer. There are many mud houses in remote villages of the Barind region. The one in Alipur village, seven kilometres from Naogaon's Nohata intersection, stands apart with its enormous size. Those who built the house as a hobby are Shamsher Ali Akanda, Taher Ali Akanda and their brother-in-law Taser Uddin Mondol. The house is 300 feet long and 100 feet wide, has 11 main entries, and 12 staircases to go to the first floor. The roof is made of corrugated iron sheets and there are rectangular spaces between rooms. Shamsher's son Azahar Ali Akanda said his ancestors engaged hundred labourers and also got their hands dirty to build the house. It took seven months to complete.

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With 108 rooms, a mud house in Naogaon's Alipur village. Some well-off land owners built the two-storey abode in 1986.

PHOTO: STAR



## Painter turns conman

Forms gang, offers people Saudi Riyal at half price to swindle them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rab has arrested seven members of a gang which used to “deceive people” in the name of selling Saudi Riyal at half price. Of the arrestees, Abu Sheikh, a painter, formed the gang with the help of his uncle-in-law Abdur Rahman Mollah and brother-in-law Ishrat Mollah, said Lt Col Sarowar Bin Kashem, commanding officer of Rab-1, while briefing journalists at its media centre in Karwan Bazar yesterday. The gang used to target private car passengers when the vehicles only got stuck in traffic jam or signal in the capital's Banani or Gulshan area and offered them Saudi Riyal at half price. Once the passengers fell into the trap, the gang members gave them a condition that they would sell them the Riyal if they bought the full stash of notes. When the vehicles were about to move, they handed over the stashes to passengers, asking them not to unbundle those as police might watch them and create problems, the Rab official said. When the passengers unbundled the stashes, they only found some real notes at the top and end of stashes, he said, adding that there were fake notes or white papers in between. Four other members of the gang are Shahin Matubbor, Mohosin Mia, Abul Bashar and Kamrul Sheikh. The gang members are either mason or painter, said Rab. A team of Rab-1 arrested

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**Aminuddin Khokhon**

**AL, BNP share SCBA top posts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-backed panel won six out of 14 posts in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election while the BNP-backed panel won eight. The result was published yesterday following the election held on Wednesday and Thursday. Senior advocate AM Aminuddin, member of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad, has secured the president post while BNP's Joint Secretary General barrister AM Mahbub Uddin Khokhon secured the secretary post for the seventh time. Advocate Aminuddin bagged 3,225 votes in total while Khokhon bagged 3,056. Around 6,135 lawyers out of 7,825 cast their votes in the capital's SCBA auditorium.

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## US threw away golden chance

Says top N Korean diplomat referring to Hanoi summit; Pyongyang mulls suspending nuke talks with Washington

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea is considering suspending talks with the United States and may rethink a ban on missile and nuclear tests unless Washington makes concessions, a senior diplomat said yesterday. North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said Washington threw away a golden opportunity at Hanoi summit, the AP reported. "I want to make it clear that the gangster-like stand of the US will eventually put the situation in danger," AP quoted Choe as saying. But, she added: "Personal relations between the two supreme leaders are still good and the chemistry is mysteriously wonderful." US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in Washington the United States wished to continue talks with North Korea and had "every expectation" that its leader, Kim Jong Un, would stick to pledges not to resume nuclear and missile testing. Choe blamed top US officials for the breakdown of last month's summit in Hanoi between Kim and US President Donald Trump, Russia's TASS news agency and the AP reported. "We have no intention to yield to the US demands (at the Hanoi summit) in any form, nor are we willing to engage in negotiations of this kind," TASS quoted Choe as telling reporters in the North Korean capital. Choe said Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton "created

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## UPDF member shot dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A UPDF activist was shot dead allegedly by a group of JSS-MN Larma men yesterday in Akkhai Karbaripara area of Khagchhari's Panchhari upazila. The dead is Sukhamoy Chakma alias Taraban, 40. Michael Chakma, an organizer of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) claimed Taraban was an active member of the organisation and went to Akkhai karbaripara area for organisational work. Armed criminals of Jana Sanghati Samiti (JSS)-MN Larma are to be blamed for the murder, Michael alleged. On the other hand, a central leader of JSS-MN Larma denied the allegation. Seeking anonymity, he said his organisation

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## 'Belly destruction' Thailand sends overweight policemen to fat camp



ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Police stations all around Thailand are sending their chubbiest officers to a weight-loss camp as part of a nation-wide program aptly called "Belly Destruction". After the success of a two-week pilot program, police stations in Thailand have begun sending their fattest officers to the Central Police Training Centre in the city of Pak Chong, to take part in intense physical activity designed to adjust the size of their bellies. Each station will periodically send two to three overweight policemen to the centre, where they will work out, ride bicycles and adopt a healthy, protein-rich diet to shed as much extra weight as possible.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## WHO CARES ABOUT FITNESS?

It's a wonder that this vehicle, which appears to have come out of a post apocalyptic movie set, still can run on the street and carry people from Mirpur-14 to Manikdi in the capital. Such rundown human hauliers are often seen on the city roads but the authorities appear not to be noticing them. It is mandatory for a vehicle to go through fitness check-up every year and have its fitness certificate renewed. The photo was taken recently.



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