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Big yaba haul in Cox's Bazar

Rohingya man held with 8 lakh pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Hired by yaba smugglers, some Rohingyas in the guise of fishermen are bringing in the crazy pills and charging Tk 1 for each tablet.

Their syndicate, having at least 15 members, has recently been identified. It carries the pills to Dhaka through different routes, including road and air.

Rab revealed the information after arresting a Rohingya man in possession of around 8 lakh yaba pills in Cox's Bazar, a bordering district with Myanmar, on Sunday night.

The elite force said it was the largest yaba haul in the district in recent times.

The arrestee was identified as Jamal Hossain, 32, of Rohingya camp-22, in Teknaf.

Maj Rabiul Islam, deputy director of Rab-15, said Jamal was held after a Rab team, acting on a tip-off, raided an area near Inani beach around 11:30pm.

Based on information gleaned from him, the Rab members found the yaba tablets in a bush nearby, he said.

Rabiul said six people, including Jamal, brought in the pills from Myanmar. The five of the six, including Bangladeshis, are yet to be arrested.

"We have learnt the six were supposed to get Tk 6 lakh each for smuggling the tablets into Bangladesh," the official told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The syndicate has at least 15 members and the destination of the pills was Dhaka," he said, without revealing information about the other syndicate members for the sake of the investigation.

The Rab official also said Jamal during primary



Policemen carry ailing Prof Ajoy Roy in a chair on the premises of a Dhaka court. Prof Ajoy, a former teacher of Dhaka University, appeared before the court yesterday to give his statement in a case filed over the murder of his son, writer-blogger Avijit Roy, in 2015.

PHOTO: EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

AVIJIT MURDER

'I am tired'

Says his father in court refusing to show up again

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Ajoy Roy, father of slain writer-blogger Avijit Roy, yesterday told a court that he would not keep appearing for hearings of his son's murder case.

"I cannot come to the court again and again. I am in old age now," he said while lawyers cross-examined him.

"I am tired now," said the 85-year-old man.

During the yesterday's hearing, he also told a defence lawyer, "Don't ask me irrelevant questions."

Talking to The Daily Star earlier in the day, Avijit's younger brother Anujit Roy said, "Four years have gone, but there is no visible headway in the trial. My father will not come to court anymore. We are quite upset seeing the progress of the trial."

At around 2:45pm, Prof Ajoy, a former teacher of Dhaka University, who is the plaintiff of the case, gave his statement before acting

Khaleda's health condition stable, says BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confusion has arisen over the health of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia as the hospital authorities claim she is stable while her party and relatives say her life is at stake as her health deteriorated.



The authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday said Khaleda, aged about 75, was "stable" and her health showed "significant improvement to some extent".

They also claimed the former prime minister, now serving a jail term in a corruption case, was satisfied with her treatment and her health didn't deteriorate at all.

Asked about some BNP leaders' apprehension that her life was at stake, Prof Zilan Miah Sarker, chief of the medical board giving treatment to Khaleda, yesterday said, "Our apprehension is not like that. But life and death are in the hand of Allah. We visit her regularly and we show respect."

Speaking at a press briefing at the

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EU grants Brexit delay to Jan 31

Eyes formal approval from Britain as PM Johnson pushes for early election

REUTERS, London

The European Union yesterday agreed a three-month flexible delay to Britain's departure from the bloc as Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushes for an election after opponents forced him to request an extension he had vowed never to ask for.

Just days before the United Kingdom is formally due to leave the EU on October 31 at 2300 GMT, Brexit is hanging in the balance, with British politicians no closer to reaching a consensus on how, when or even if the divorce should take place.

Johnson, who became prime minister in July by pledging, "do or die", to deliver Brexit on October 31, was compelled to request a postponement after he was defeated in parliament over the sequencing of the ratification of his divorce deal.

The 27 countries that will remain in the EU agreed yesterday to put off Brexit until the end of January with an earlier departure possible should the faction-ridden UK parliament ratify the separation deal Johnson agreed with the bloc.

"The EU27 has agreed that it will accept the UK's request for a Brexit 'flextension' until 31 January 2020," European Council President Donald Tusk said in a tweet, referring to the concept of a flexible extension.

EU member states will need Britain to formally reply to its offer of a three-month delay before launching a "written procedure" whereby governments will have 24 hours to accept or reject.

"We can only launch the written procedure when we have the agreement of the UK government on the text," a senior EU official said. Johnson is obliged by legislation passed by parliament last month to accept an extension once offered.

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HC asks govt not to harass Prof Yunus

The Nobel laureate asked to surrender to labour court by Nov 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government not to harass or arrest Nobel Laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus until November 7 in three cases filed in connection with the sacking of three employees of Grameen Communications.

The HC, however, asked Prof Yunus, chairman of Grameen Communications, to surrender before the trial court at any convenient time by November 7.

The bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman passed the order following a writ petition filed by Dr Yunus's brother Dr Muhammad Ibrahim.

The HC gave the order so that Dr Yunus can surrender before the

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67-yr-old becomes China's 'oldest new mother'



AFP, Beijing

A 67-year-old woman has given birth in China, a hospital said yesterday, with the parents claiming they are the country's oldest couple to conceive a baby naturally.

The woman, surnamed Tian, delivered a healthy girl by Caesarean section on Friday, Zaozhuang city's Maternity and Child Health Care Hospital told AFP.

"The child was bestowed on the two of us by heaven," Tian's 68-year-old husband, surnamed Huang, told Chinese news site guancha.cn.

Tian told Jinan Times that she only discovered that she was pregnant when she went to the hospital for a health check, telling the newspaper:

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Hazari made AL advisory council member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Controversial former lawmaker Joynal Abedin Hazari was made advisory council member of the ruling Awami League yesterday.

Obaidul Quader, general secretary of the party, handed the letter of appointment to Hazari at the AL's Dhanmondi office.

The move comes amid a crackdown on controversial leaders of the AL and its front and associate bodies.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:32 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Freeze Aziz's accounts for 30 days

Orders central bank

RAFIUL ISLAM

Bangladesh Bank yesterday asked all banks to freeze the accounts of Aziz Mohammad Bhai for 30 days.

The move came after the Department of Narcotics Control recovered casino equipment and over 390 bottles of liquor from his two residences in the capital's Gulshan-2 on Sunday.

Issuing the order to the banks, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit of the BB also sought information on the accounts of the controversial industrialist, and that of the persons or organisations linked to him, if found any.

A casino was being run on the rooftop of one of the houses though the anti-casino drives stopped such illegal activities in the identified clubs, said a DNC official.

"Most of the gamblers in the home-based casino were foreigners. Only

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A fisherman repairing nets on the bank of the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram's Fisheries Ghat area. With the ban on catching hilsa ending tomorrow, many fishermen are busy preparing to go back to rivers and the Bay. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Forgotten torture comes to light

Video of man beaten in front of his children goes viral a year after as perpetrator arrested

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

The video starts with one Hasan beating an elderly man -- whose hands and legs are tied and who is visibly unconscious -- with a wooden stick. Shouts can be heard off camera, which then pans to the victim's around 12-year-old daughter, who tries to come to her father's aid. "Younger women than you have been raped," Hasan says to her. At this, she backs away.

The camera turns to a crowd of people, watching the torture unfold. Then the beating continues.

Afterwards, the entire incident remains forgotten for a year.

The video taken from Dauri village in Bhola's Lalmohon upazila last year, went viral last night, hours after Hasan was arrested by Bhola police in a robbery case, local law enforcers said.

Following the arrest, the video began circulating on social media and it came to the police's attention. The law enforcers then went to the house of the victim, Md Jashim Uddin, 50, and a crime hidden by intimidation resurfaced once again.

Mir Khairul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Lalmohon police station, said the attacker was identified to be Hasan, 30, son of Abul Hossain of Kalmi village of the same upazila.

According to locals, Hasan is a musclem of the local union chairman, with some claiming he was the chairman's 'right hand'.

The incident stemmed from when Hasan allegedly instructed Jashim, a known-BNP supporter, to peddle drugs in the area, but Jashim refused, locals said.

The beating was the cost of the refusal.

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