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Stage set for surrender of 150 criminals

Most of them arms dealers, robbers in Cox's Bazar; home boss, IGP to attend surrender programme tomorrow

MUNTAKIM SAAD and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Three minibuses with tinted windows and no number plates entered the Cox's Bazar Police Lines, escorted by four police vans on November 8.

Ayub Ali, a suspected firearms maker and notorious criminal of Maheshkhali, and 20 of his men were inside the vehicles, sources said.

Hundred more suspects in cases of arms dealings and robberies were moved into the police lines by yesterday, but they had not been arrested.

The reason? They would surrender before the home minister in a formal programme in Maheshkhali, off Cox's Bazar coast, tomorrow.

Locals said the suspects, who are from Maheshkhali and Kutubdia, had been reigning supreme in Maheshkhali upazila for years. They had made murders, robberies, and abductions a common phenomenon in the upazila.

They were responsible for the island to get the nick name "island of illegal arms".

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, along with Cox's Bazar-2 MP Ashek Ullah Rafique and Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary would be present at the surrender ceremony on Kalarmarchhara Union Parishad ground around noon tomorrow.

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A child, whose hand is held by a woman, signals a vehicle to stop as they jaywalk in the capital's Rampura yesterday. There is a footbridge nearby. Every day, hundreds of people cross streets in the city this way, putting their lives at risk.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Netanyahu indicted over corruption

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's attorney general indicted Benjamin Netanyahu on a range of corruption charges yesterday, the justice ministry announced, potentially spelling an end to the prime minister's decades-long political career.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit "decided to file charges against the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for offences of receiving a bribe, fraud, and breach of trust," a ministry statement said.

Netanyahu, who strongly denies all the charges, becomes the first Israeli prime minister to be indicted while in office.

Rightwinger Netanyahu, who has been in power since 2013, is seen as a

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Stop promoting 'falsehoods'

Trump's ex-Russia adviser tells US lawmakers at impeachment hearing

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump's former Russia adviser Fiona Hill yesterday urged lawmakers in the House of Representatives to promote "politically driven falsehoods" that cast doubt on Russia's interference in the 2016 US election.

In her prepared testimony, Hill said some members of the House Intelligence Committee, based on their questions and statements, appear to believe that Russia and its security services did not conduct a campaign against the United States during the 2016 presidential race and that perhaps Ukraine did.

Hill appeared to be referring to some of President Donald Trump's Republican allies and defenders on the committee in the impeachment inquiry focusing on his actions toward Ukraine.

"This is a fictional narrative that has



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BGB detains over 300 intruders from India

They entered Bangladesh thru' Jhenidah, Benapole borders in last three weeks

STAR REPORT

Three hundred and twenty-nine people have been arrested on charge of trespassing into Bangladesh from India in the last three weeks.

The arrestees, who entered the country through the borders in Jhenidah and Jashore's Benapole, were detained by the Bangladesh Border Guard and handed over to police. They were sent to district jails by courts after cases were filed against them for trespassing, said BGB and police sources.

Although the arrestees claimed to be Bangladeshis, they could not show the authorities any documents in support of the claim. They also claimed they fled from India fearing harassment and detention by the police there, the sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, officials of BGB Battalion-58 in Jhenidah said they held 67 minors, 69 men and 78 women between November 1 and November 10.

The arrestees illegally entered the country through the border points at Jaluli, Polianpur, Khashalpur in Maheshpur upazila, they said.

Habildar Moktar Hossain of the battalion said the arrestees were mostly from Bengaluru, the capital of India's Karnataka. Some of them had shifted to the city from Assam.

He said many of the arrestees claimed that they had gone to India from Bangladesh four to five years ago, but came back fearing detention by Indian police.

Seventeen cases were filed against the arrestees with Maheshpur Police

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PSC, EBTE DAYEE EXAMS HC questions legality of 15 students' expulsion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of children's expulsion from the ongoing Primary School Certificate (PSC) and its equivalent Ebte dayee terminal examinations.

Issuing a suomoto (voluntary) rule, the HC asked the respondents to explain in two weeks why the expulsion of children from the PSC and Ebte dayee terminal examinations should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench also asked why the directive of Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) to expel the children should not be declared illegal.

The court also asked respondents of the suomoto to show cause for which it should not take necessary steps for

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Water vapour found on Jupiter's moon



CNN ONLINE

For the first time, scientists have discovered the presence of water vapour above the surface on Europa, Jupiter's icy moon first visited by one of the Voyager probes 40 years ago.

This adds to the intrigue of other previously discovered factors associated with the potential for life on Europa. The findings were published in the journal Nature Astronomy on Monday.

The research team observed Europa using the W M Keck Observatory in Hawaii -- one of the biggest telescopes in the world -- for 17 nights between 2016 and 2017. On one of those nights, they detected the signal for water vapour.

The researchers observed 5,202 pounds of water releasing from Europa per second, which could fill an Olympic-size swimming pool within minutes, according to Nasa.

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16 found in container heading for Ireland

AFP, Dublin

Sixteen people have been found sealed inside a container on a ferry bound for the Irish port of Rosslare, shipping operator Stena Line said yesterday.

The discovery draws renewed attention to the issue of illegal immigration and human trafficking in western Europe, after 39 Vietnamese were found dead in a container in Britain last month.

And on Tuesday, the crew of a cargo ferry run by DFDS Seaways found 25 migrants in a refrigerated container

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-30 3-45 5-21 7-00

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



NATURE QUEST

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Just before the sunset, a flock of painted storks was spotted on a char of the Padma river in Rajshahi. Experts said the winter visitor -- a colourful bird with an enormous bill, very long legs and of various shades of pink and red -- has arrived early this year. The photo was taken recently.

Anti-Terror Unit empowered to probe cases

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Over two years after its formation, the Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) will finally operate in full swing now as it has been empowered to investigate cases related to terrorism and militancy.

The government published the rules for the ATU in this regard on Tuesday through a gazette notification.

The ATU was formed in 2017 with a countrywide mandate after the home ministry approved the formation of the 581-member unit on September 19 that year.

With an additional inspector general as its head, the unit was operational on a limited scale since it had no authority to investigate any terrorism-related cases.

Even those cases filed by the ATU after the arrest of suspected militants used to be probed by police stations concerned or other units, said officials of the unit.

"The rules determine what we can do and what we cannot," Superintendent of Police (media) of ATU Mahiduzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The rules empower us to do any kind of investigation relating to cases filed in connection with terrorism and militancy. Power to investigate cases is the backbone of any law enforcing agency," he added.

The officer said now they would be able to work in full swing.

"Now, we will investigate the cases that we will lodge. Besides, we will also be generally responsible for investigating all militancy-related cases, which will be filed outside the Dhaka Metropolitan area," Mahiduzzaman said.

In February last year, the Police Headquarters sent

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