

YABA SMUGGLING Four of Rohingya family held at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four members of a Rohingya family were detained at the Dhaka airport on Thursday after police recovered 6,000 pieces of yaba from three of their abdomens.

Mohammad Ziaul Haque, additional superintendent of Airport Armed Police Battalion, said they held the four based on intelligence, after the family of six arrived on a flight from Cox's Bazar.

They also conducted pathological tests on the four at a centre in Uttara, he said yesterday.

The tests confirmed the presence of unusual objects in the stomachs of the three - Md Rubel, 15, and his aunts Achhiya Begum, 25, and Zohura Begum, 30.

Later, police took them to DMCH and recovered 130 packets containing 6,275 pieces of yaba from their stomachs, under the supervision of a doctor, Ziaul said.

Achhiya's husband, Ali Ahmed, 28, who was accompanying the three, was the mastermind of the yaba smuggling, he added.

Achhiya's seven-month-old son and Zohura's 10-month-old daughter were also with them. The detainees are residents of Leda Camp in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.

The process of filing a case is underway. The detainees will be handed over to police, Ziaul said.



Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan pays tribute to four national leaders at the old central jail on Nazimuddin Road in the capital, marking Jail Killing Day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



CONSTITUTION DAY PM greets all citizens

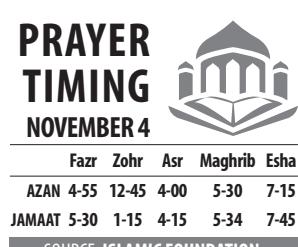
BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted all citizens of the country on the occasion of Bangladesh Constitution Day to be observed today.

The constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh on November 4, 1972 and it came into effect on December 16 the same year.

On the eve of the day, the premier, in a message, said, "If future generations can establish a non-exploitative society based on socialism, democracy, nationalism and secularism, then my life will be meaningful, the blood-shed of the martyrs will be meaningful," said Hasina, quoting the speech of Bangabandhu given in the Constituent Assembly.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin also greeted all on the occasion.



Resign, transfer power to a national govt IAB gives 7-day ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolon Bangladesh yesterday issued a seven-day ultimatum to the government to resign and transfer power to a national government formed comprising all political parties.

IAB amir Syed Mohammad Rezaul Karim came up with the ultimatum at a rally organised at Suhrawardy Udyan.

The party, founded by Charmonai Pir Fazlul Karim, also threatened to wage tougher movement with all the political parties for elections under a neutral government if their demand is not met by the date. "The government will do whatever they wish and the people will sit idle -- this cannot happen. They will not be allowed to hold a staged election like the 2014 and 2018 polls," Rezaul told the rally.

"Today, everyone in the country has only one demand -- an acceptable, participatory, free and fair election," he said.

"The government is referring to the constitution saying that it is not possible to go beyond it. Who made the constitution? Awami League? This

MUKTAGACHHA ZAMINDAR BARI A palace in ruins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Atani Zamindar Palace in Muktagachha of Mymensingh has been in a dilapidated state for a long time, much to the frustration of hundreds of visitors and locals.

The Department of Archaeology (DoA) took charge of this palace in 1993. They started renovation work in 2012 and continued till 2017, but stopped before the work was completed.

Locals said the valuable items of the palace, including the doors and windows, had been plundered after the zamindars left it in 1950 and during the War of Liberation in 1971.

They also alleged that 30 years have passed since DoA took charge, but this palatial house remains in a neglected state; nearly half of the palace is on the verge of ruin.

The DoA has placed a signboard beside the palace claiming it to be a "protected archaeological monument," but it is far from being protected.

The Muktagachha dynasty was established in 1727 by Sree Krishna Acharya Chowdhury, and they made this palace their home. Even now, the palace attracts visitors from faraway places.

Once, this palace was renowned for the different cultural events organised by the zamindars.

Many prominent personalities of this sub continent including sarod maestro Ustad Allauddin Khan, have visited the palace several

times.

The palace consisted of the residence for the zamindars, an auditorium (rang mahal) furnished with a revolving stage, and other facilities fit for royals.

With renovations done, the palace would attract more visitors. Though visitors come here every day, their number doubles on Fridays as people from different areas throng

Regional Director (Dhaka and Mymensingh division) of DoA

been taken to protect this historic palace from going into oblivion.

There are only two staffers,

including a guide at the site, and

they are unable to maintain security

at the palace. They need at least 20

employees for Atani Zamindarbari

and other protected sites in

Muktagachha, said DoA officials.

Witnesses and police

said Sumon, 35, started

arguing with his mother

Modhumala Begum as

the 55-year-old refused

to give him money.

The family alleged

that Sumon often needed

money to buy drugs.

At one stage of the

argument, Sumon

hacked his mother with a

machete, killing her on

the spot, said OC Nure

Azam of Fatullah Police

Station.

Sumon was arrested

with the weapon, said

the OC.

the palace, said Md Alal Uddin, a site attendant at the palace.

While visiting the site recently, this correspondent saw a group of 40 students of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) at the palace.

Talking to this correspondent, Sumana Islam, a third-year student, said this ancient palace should get better treatment as it is a part of Mymensingh's traditional history and culture.

Shipra Acharya Chowdhury, a descendant of the Muktagachha dynasty, said no proper steps have

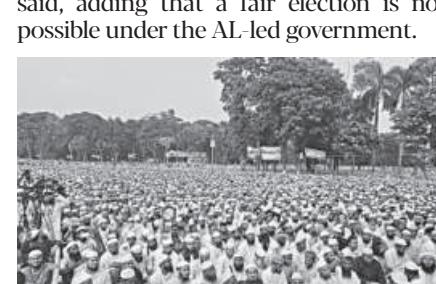
Afroza Khan Mita said a project proposal for the renovation work and beautification of the palace and a few other monuments in Mymensingh has been sent to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and is in its final state. "We will start the renovation work when the fund is released after a few months," the official said.

Mohammad Billal Hossain, mayor of Muktagachha, said, "The renovation work has been stopped for some time now. I would like it to be started again, as this palace is a part of this area's heritage."



constitution is also illegal like the Awami League-led government," he said.

"We will fight taking everyone including the leftists, rightists with us and get Sheikh Hasina off the throne," IAB's senior nayeb-e-amir Syed Faizul Karim said, adding that a fair election is not possible under the AL-led government.



The party called upon the president to take initiative to hold dialogues among all parties to resolve the existing crisis and unconditional release of the top political leaders including those of BNP.

IAB declared to extend support to all peaceful programmes of opposition parties including BNP to establish people's voting rights and to oust the government.

EC meeting with president deferred to November 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission's courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin has been deferred to November 9, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal said yesterday.

Earlier, the meeting was scheduled for November 5.

All the four election commissioners headed by the CEC are expected to meet with the president ahead of announcing the schedule for the 12th national polls.

A meeting with the president before announcing the schedule for the national election is a long-time tradition. The commission already held a meeting with Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan on November 1.

Top EC official said the commissioners will hold a meeting to finalise election schedules after meeting the president.

This time, the commission is likely to appoint returning officers (ROs) and assistant returning officers (AROs) a week before the announcement of the schedule.

Usually, they are picked on the day of schedule announcement.

The ROs and the AROs will be given time to complete their preparations for the polls, said top EC officials. The commission might announce the schedule in mid-November, they said.

BANGABANDHU TUNNEL

Three hurt as bus hits car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least three people were injured as a bus hit a private car inside Bangabandhu tunnel in port city's Patenga area last night.

The identities of the injured could not be known immediately.



Tanvir Rifat, an assistant engineer of the tunnel authority, said an Anwara bound bus hit a private car from behind around 8:50pm, leaving three passengers of the car injured. "Upon information, we rushed to the spot and sent the injured to a hospital," he said.

"We also seized both the vehicles but the bus driver fled the scene," he added.

Jahangir Alam, assistant manager of the tunnel authority, said they were preparing to take legal action in this regard. The tunnel was not damaged due to the accident, he said.

On Sunday, a car hit and damaged a railing of the tunnel.

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