

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

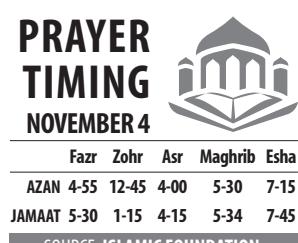
BSS, Dhaka

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.



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

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.

Regional Director (Dhaka and Mymensingh division) of DoA

times.

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."

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

been taken to protect this historic

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

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