

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

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 Habibur 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 officials 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.



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.

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 Allaaddin 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 through



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

Son held for killing mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nganj

A man was arrested for killing his mother at their home in Fatullah of Narayanganj on Thursday night.

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.

Suman was arrested with the weapon, said the OC.

Bomb recovered at Ishwardi railway junction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A bomb was recovered from rail tracks at Ishwardi railway junction early yesterday, a day after an attack on Maitree Express.

A bomb disposal unit of Rapid Action Battalion later disposed of the explosives at noon.

Meanwhile, security measures have been beefed up to ensure railway safety.

Confirming the matter, Harunuzzaman Romel, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi GRP Police Station, said the explosive was found wrapped in red cover on the rail tracks near the junction. The matter has been informed to the higher authority.

On information, Rab's bomb disposal unit went to the spot and recovered bomb from the rail line, said Md Golam Faruk, senior assistant superintendent of police and also company commander of Rab-12, Pabna camp. According to the bomb disposal unit, the recovered bomb was highly explosive, the Rab officer said in a press release.

Pakshey divisional railway manager Shah Sufi Nur Mohammad said law enforcers are investigating the incident. There was no disruption in train movement.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
NOVEMBER 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:15
JAMAAT 5:30	1:15	4:15	5:34	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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

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 naye-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.

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