

More ammo keeps surfacing in Bogra

1,590 bullets in latest haul

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Kahalu and Dupchachia police assisted by the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday recovered at least 1590 bullets from Nayapara village under Kahalu thana.

The joint forces led by Kahalu thana Officer-in-Charge Wahidur Rahman found the bullets stuffed into three packets at a bamboo hedge near a brick-field on the bank of the river Nagar at about 4:00pm.

This is the fifth in a series of ammunition and explosives hauls in Bogra, raising the munition count to 95,282 bullets and at least 174 kg of explosives, according to local police sources.

Police said they suspect 4,000 more bullets and 25 kg of explosives might still be in the area or its vicinity.

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20 killed in Moscow suicide blasts

Two women blow themselves up at rock concert

AFP, Moscow

At least 20 people were killed and 30 seriously injured yesterday when two female suicide bombers blew themselves up at a Moscow rock concert, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Moscow police as saying.

The two women blew themselves up at a ticket booth at the entrance to the outdoor concert at Tushino airfield in northwestern Moscow after police prevented them from entering the site, ITAR-TASS said.

A third blast went off at a nearby market, the FSB security services told Russian news agencies.

Interfax quoted police as saying the death toll stood at 17, with 22 people hospitalized in serious

condition with shrapnel wounds.

The bombs were packed with at least 500 grams of explosives, police said.

The concert organisers told ITAR-TASS around 40,000 people were attending the annual event.

President Vladimir Putin was immediately informed of the blasts and the state prosecutor's office launched an investigation into "terrorism," Interfax said.

Female suicide bombers carried out a series of kamikaze attacks that killed nearly 100 people in the breakaway republic of Chechnya in May.

Most of the Chechens who held some 800 people hostage in a Moscow theatre for three days in October were also women.

Ex-army chief says munitions were made for insurgency

Regular army does not use this type of ammunition

UNB, Dhaka

Former army chief General (ret'd) Mustafizur Rahman has said the munitions recovered in Bogra were made for use in insurgency or unconventional warfare.

"The ammunition and explosives, wherever they might have been manufactured, are designed to be used by insurgents. A regular army doesn't use such ammunition; they cannot use bullets not marked with the name of the manufacturer," he said.

Mustafizur Rahman and Col (ret'd) Saqlain Hossain, an ammunition and explosives expert, accompanied the Awami League parliamentary team that visited Bogra and presented their observations at a press conference yesterday.

The former army chief believes the bullets were manufactured either in a Chinese factory or a factory set up with Chinese technology. Pakistan has an ordnance factory in the area.

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Criminal shot dead at Elephant Road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified gunmen yesterday shot dead an alleged criminal in broad daylight in front of his residence at the Elephant Road.

Noor Palash alias Eskey, 30, listed with the Dhanmondi Police Station as a criminal, controlled a toll extortion gang in the Elephant Road. He is an accused in three cases including one for murder.

Eskey was gunned down while he was talking with his elder brother Jahangir in front of their residence at 129, Elephant Road at around 10:00am.

"Three youths were loitering around our house and approached us suddenly. They drew pistols and opened fire on Eskey," Jahangir told The Daily Star.

"After shooting several times, the killers melted into Hatirpul," he said, adding that three others who were waiting at a distance also fled after the murder.

"The killers acted in a planned way and carried out the operation within a few minutes," an eyewitness said.

"I could not recognise the youths. They definitely were not locals," Jahangir said.

Eskey fell on the ground with six bullets hitting his face and throat, two in the back, three in the chest and one in the thigh. He died instantly.

Jahangir and other relatives took Eskey to Dhaka Medical College.

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Govt had a hand in Bogra affair, believes Hasina

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she believes the government had a hand in the Bogra munitions affair.

She said security was tight and there was red alert throughout the country as the Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri and US Secretary of State Colin Powell were visiting the country.

"So how the truck carrying the munitions reached Bogra, if there was no government patronisation?" the former prime minister asked. She demanded explanation from the prime minister and the home minister about the munitions recovered from Bogra.

The opposition leader was addressing as the chief guest a meeting held at Karimpur High School field in Lalpur upazila yesterday.

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SQ Chy's fresh attack on The Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser SQ Chowdhury once again launched an attack on The Daily Star without naming it.

This time, the issue was the use or meaning of the word 'bua' in a Daily Star report -- the translation of which, SQ Chowdhury claimed, ultimately violated the rights of parliament.

"In my budget speech, I had termed the leader of the opposition as 'amarapa, amar bua'. An English daily translated it as 'housemaid'," Chowdhury told the House yesterday when the speaker was disposing of notices on Questions of Privileges.

"No Bangla dictionary translates 'bua' as housemaid," he claimed,

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Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances our city pages could not be published today. We regret the inconvenience caused to our readers. However, it will be published tomorrow.



PHOTO: STAR

Security measures have been upped in the Secretariat following free fall in law and order. Policemen check a car, left, and a close-circuit camera monitors visitors yesterday.

Security at Secretariat beefed up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of violent incidents, apparent deterioration of law and order and widespread fear of sabotage, authorities have beefed up security in Bangladesh Secretariat and installed close-circuit cameras at entry points.

Furthermore, instructions have been given to police at different gates of Bangladesh Secretariat to check vehicles of staff and visitors. Police have also been asked to search bags of those who enter Secretariat premises with entry passes.

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Murder of baby Ratna

Two to die, two get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka, yesterday sentenced two persons to death and two others to life imprisonment in the baby Ratna murder case.

Mohammad Rubel and Mohammad Yunus were awarded the death penalty and the tribunal also fined them Tk50,000 each.

The convicts sentenced to life imprisonment are Mohammad Ibrahim and Zakir Hossain. Zakir has been absconding since the murder of Ratna inside an under

construction building at south Manda under Sabujbagh thana on August 8, 2002.

Ibrahim and Zakir have also been fined Tk50,000 each and will have to suffer rigorous imprisonment for another year in case of default. Zakir's jail sentence will be counted from the day of his arrest or surrender.

The convicts can appeal to the High Court Division within seven days against the verdict.

The accused killed rickshaw-puller Enamul Khan's daughter Ratna to take revenge on the fam-

ily, following an enmity that developed over a quarrel between two minor playmates.

Ratna's mother slapped her playmate Imon triggering a strife between the two families. Imon's brother Rubel along with Yunus, Ibrahim and Zakir killed Ratna by cutting her throat.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin handed down the 28-page verdict in presence of three of the four accused.

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