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People's Right to Know

Biggest arms haul in city

4 AK-47s, grenades, explosives seized after gunfight in Badda

Police recovered four AK-47 assault rifles, two revolvers, 20 hand grenades, four time bombs, a huge number of AK-47 bullets and explosives after a gunfight with a criminal outfit at Kuril Badda yesterday.

During the biggest ever arms cache recovery in the city, two policemen -- Sub-inspector (SI) Saidur Rahman, 45, and constable Neyamat Ali, 35, of Badda Police Station -- and one of the criminals were bullet-hit. They are now being treated at Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Following the recovery, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia directed the home ministry to conduct an intensive investigation into the inapress release. arms haul to identify the network and nab the masterminds.

A four-member Badda police patrol team led by SI Saidur went to Kuril bus stand area after hearing a gunshot at around 3:45 in the night. he policemen saw lights burning inside a tin-shed one-storey sign-board shop, Tulir Parash, on Pragati Sharani.

The light burning at such a dead of night made the policemen suspicious and they peeped inside to find four youths loading the magazine of an AK-47.

"As soon as the policemen knocked at the door, the criminals tried to run away through the door," said Deputy Commissioner of police (North zone) Golam Rasul

"SI Saidur grabbed two of them and constable Neyamat jumped to his help. The two criminals opened fire on them to free themselves.'

Saidur received two bullets in the left abdomen, two in the right thigh and one in the palm. Neyamat was hit in the lower abdo-

As they fell on the ground, the two criminals ran away. Constable Mosharraf and Neyamat opened fire on another criminal trying to come out of the shop.

On information, other mobile teams rushed to the spot and rescued Saidur and Neyamat. They found a 25-year-old man lying inside the shop with three bullet

wounds in the waist. They were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Policemen searched the shop and found some taped big packets and sacks.

They took the packets to a nearby field and opened them to find four AK-47 rifles, 990 rounds of bullets, two foreign-made revolvers, seven revolver bullets, 20 hand grenades, two 2-kg plastic explosive bombs, four time bombs, half a kilogram of gunpowder, six electric detonators, four-and- a-half yard detonation wire, two firing devices with charger, two time devices and a walkie-talkie.

The arms and explosives were deposited at Badda Police Station SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Decision on TUs in EPZs on Dec 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial committee will finalise a set of recommenda-tions Thursday on allowing trade unionism in the export processing

The recommendations also include some alternatives to trade unionism to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the exclusive indus-

The committee held its sixth meeting yesterday, chaired by State Minister for Labour and Manpower Amanullah Aman, to finalise the recommendations but deferred the decision for further review of sensitive points in its

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PM hopeful of Japanese dev assistance on easier terms

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped Japan would ease the terms and conditions of its development assistance in various ectors considering the economy of Bangladesh.

During a meeting with Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League (JBPL) President Shin Sakurai, the prime minister also hoped that Japan, the single largest develop-ment partner of Bangladesh, would come forward in a bigger way for construction of Padma Bridge like it did for Jamuna Bridge.

Sakurai was making a courtesy call on the prime minister at her

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UP chairman, 13 others get life for killing cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi divisional tribunal terday handed down life term to 14 underground operatives including a UP chairman for killing a police sub-inspector in Bera upazila in Pabna on September 11, 2000.

Members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party killed SI Hedayetul Islam in a gun battle with police at Bangalpara Char, some 30 kms off the upazila head-

Of the convicts, Korban Ali, 45, chairman of Dhalar Char Union Parishad of Bera upazila, Abdul Wahab Bepari, 42, Salim, 35, Ketab Ali, 35, and Jalal Uddin, 36, are now in jail custody.

The rest nine who are abscond-

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"A Lebanese national was wounded in the same incident.

Two Japanese diplomats were killed and two US soldiers died in an ambush in Iraq Saturday, sparking a fresh debate in countries allied to the US on the risks of joining the Iraq mission.

Two other foreigners were also badly injured in a separate attack yesterday and a Colombian contractor was killed in an ambush

AGENCIES, Tikrit

The Japanese diplomats were shot dead as they stopped at a food stall en route to Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's birthplace, where an aid conference was taking place, a US military spokesman said yesterday.

"Two Japanese were killed as they stopped at a roadside food stall, four km south of Mukayshifa on the afternoon of November 29. said Colonel Bill MacDonald, spokesman for the US 4th Infantry Division, which patrols the troubled region.

2 Japan diplomats,

2 US troops killed

Iraq mission sparks new debate

"The three persons had stopped for food and drink when attackers fired small-calibre weapons at

"The three were taken to a Tikrit hospital. The condition of the wounded individual is unknown," said MacDonald, speaking shortly before the opening of the aid conference at the fortified 4th Infantry Division's headquarters compound in Tikrit, 180km north of . Baghdad.

The US Army said the two American soldiers were killed Saturday when guerrillas attacked their convoy with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades west of Baghdad. The attack brought to 187 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since Washington declared major combat over on

In Spain, where public opinion

was generally against the war, Saturday's killing of the seven agents south of Baghdad reignited longstanding doubts about the role of around 1,300 Spanish troops helping to control south-central

"Spain pays a high price," the left-leaning newspaper El Pais said in an editorial. The El Mundo daily described the killings as: "Deaths which require explanations and

Political analysts have said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi risks a serious blow to his popularity if troops are sent to Iraq and deaths occur, an especially unwelcome prospect with an election for parliament's Upper House set for next July. Japan has passed a special law

to enable it to send troops to Iraq, but in line with the nation's pacifist constitution, they can only be sent SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

CIA admits lack

PSC closes its ears to leak rumours as BCS test starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) written test begins today amid widespread allegations of question leaks in a reminder of such complaints in preliminary

Photocopies of hand-written questions of the five compulsory subjects -- Bangla, English, inter-national affairs, maths and general science -- were sold at up to Tk 5,000 a set at different educational institutions and dormitories in the city and elsewhere.

But the Public Service Commission (PSC) brushed aside the allegations and held on to its decision to go ahead with the exams beginning at 1:30pm.

didn't get any formal allegation of leaks," said PSC Member Yeahiea Mollah, also in charge of controlling the exams.

"We have taken all-out measures to check question leaks and the PSC believes there is no chance of leaks." he said, adding the commission was monitoring newspaper reports on the allegations.

"The original question paper is not with me and how can I say the questions reported leaked are the same as originals," he said, adding the next decision will be taken shortly after the test.

Instead of taking last-minute preparations for the test, many examinees thronged to Dhaka

of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka College, Teachers Training College, coaching centres, Aziz Super Market at Shahbagh and Nilkhet market in search of leaked

University, Bangladesh University

Many at Dhaka University were seen using cellphones to spread the leaked questions to their friends and relatives.

But others who missed out on leaked questions expressed frustration. "I am disappointed as those who got leaked questions will outperform me," an examinee from Dhaka University despaired.

A student, not giving his name, said, "I have bought two sets of questions at Tk 1,000 from a Dhaka Another examinee detailed

Bangla questions, including essays, idioms, précis and short questions on grammar and litera-

The essays such as Women's Empowerment, Poverty Alleviation, Separation of the Judiciary and Gram Sarkar feature in a set of leaked Bangla questions.

The other set includes the essays on Globalisation, Bangladesh and Third World, Environment Conservation and Poverty Alleviation.

Some BCS examinees posted the photocopies of leaked ques-

of specifics on Iraqi arms before invasion

AFP, Washington

The US Central Intelligence Agency has acknowledged it "lacked specific information" about alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction when it compiled an intelligence estimate last year that served to justify the US-led invasion of Iraq.

But it said this and other uncertainties surrounding the case had been fully presented to President George W. Bush and other US policymakers in the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate, a document often referred to by members of the Bush administration as a basis of their claim that Iraq had an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the UN Security Hussein and his regime were "concealing their efforts to produce more weapons of mass destruction" and that their weapons programs "are a real and present danger to the region and to the

However, an explanation issued over the weekend by veteran CIA analyst Stuart Cohen, who was in charge of putting the estimate together and now serves as vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council, made clear the case against Iraq was much less clear-cut and more nuanced.

"Any reader would have had to read only as far as the second para SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Extra strike forces to stay

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

till next Eid STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Govt probing

third force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to the UNB.

raid yesterday

links to arms

cache recovery'

Home Minister Altaf Hossain

Choudhury yesterday said the

government is probing whether

the so-called third force has any

links with the arms cache recovered from Kuril Badda, according

"We are investigating whether there is any link with the so-called

third force or any design to destabi-

lise the country," the news agency

quoted the home minister as say-

ing at the office of the deputy com-

arms were recovered after seeing

two policemen injured in a gun-

fight with criminals in a predawn

Later the home minister said at

Altaf visited the spot where the

missioner of police (North Zone).

A home ministry meeting on law and order yesterday decided to maintain till Eid-ul-Azha the additional forces deployed during Ramadan to check crime.

Chaired by Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, the meeting was informed that mobile courts filed 8,201 cases and fined Tk 52.28 lakh for various infractions during SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

ANNOUNCEMENT

Today's edition includes a 4-colour supplement on DBBL ndustrial Bond on pages 6 and

FDI figure mismatch

BoI estimate does not tally with BB statistics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Investment (BoI) has once again come up with controversial figures on the foreign direct investment (FDI) in stark contrast to Bangladesh Bank estimates.

Another policeman, right, displays the remainder of the haul at the Office of Deputy Commissioner of Police in Banani.

According to a BoI survey, Bangladesh received foreign direct investment worth \$287.67 million during January to June period of 2003, showing a 71 percent growth.

BOI Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman made a presentation based on their latest survey on FDI at a press briefing at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka yester-

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), an independent think-tank, said the BoI

move to put up its own estimate on the actual FDI flow is a welcome step as FDI data is very important. There is a lot of confusion about statistics on the FDI flow, which is underreported in the national

However, he added that the released figures will give rise to controversy about the balance of payment (BoP) statement prepared by the central bank.

tral bank's FDI estimate during the first half of 2003 is 55 percent underreported and Bangladesh

"If the BoI data is true, the cen-Export Processing Zone's 33 percent underreported.

According to the BoP statement,

the capital and financial account,

which reflect the direct capital

flow, should include direct invest-

ment, both equity and invested earnings, Dr Debapriya noted. He said it is possible that reinvested earnings often being in local currency is not included in the BoP.

"On the other hand, intracompany loans, the third component of the FDI that is supposed to be reflected under trade credit in the capital and finance account of the BoP, does not probably mean total transactions during the period.

At the same time, the BoI survey is inadequate as it shows only inflow data, not outflow, and the net figures are not available, the CPD executive director added. Besides, there is no clarity in the data on capital machinery brought

the equity SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

CHT braces for disquiet

Alliance, PCJSS men at odds over hartal, road blockade on 7th anniversary of peace deal

NURUL ALAM, Ctg; MONIRUL ISLAM, Bandarban; JUGLUL HASAN, Khagrachhari

A fresh stand-off between the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the ruling four-party alliance supporters seems imminent in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) as the seventh year of the peace treaty ends tomorrow.

The political body of the indigenous people in the CHT, the PCJSS, as part of its agitation programme, has called for a road blockade on December 2 and a dawn-to-dusk hartal on December 8, which the ruling coalition supporters have

vowed to resist, sources said. PCJSS, which fought two-

decade-long bush war against the government for its rights, announced the agitation programmes demanding complete implementation of the peace accord signed six years ago and resignation of ruling party MP of Khagrachhari Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan from the post of chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Development Board (CHTDB). PCJSS chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma announced the programmes in the workers rally of his party at Bagaihat of Rangamati

for November 14 to 16. Larma, who was also the chief of

the indigenous rebels, threatened to cripple CHT by intensifying the movement if the security camps were not withdrawn from the hills before December 31. Tension mounted in the hill

districts following the announcement of the agitation plan prompting the authorities to tighten security ahead of the programmes, sources said. "We have taken measures to

deploy additional police force at all

important points of the hills to foil

any attempt to break peace during

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

A lake on the Jahangirnagar University campus plays host to hundreds of migratory birds seeking winter refuge in Bangladesh. But they are not all safe as hunters are always on the prowl to kill them for meat.