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NEWS BRIEFS

Chief Adviser visits
Sayem, Sufia Kamal

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday visited former President Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem. Professor Emeritus Sirajul Haq and poet Begum Sufia Kamal. The Chief Adviser went to their residences in the morning and spent some time with the distinguished personalities, reports UNB.

AL extended
meet Apr 18

An extended meeting of the Awami League will be held on April 18 at 10 am at the Party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. All executive committee and Advisory Council members and Presidents and General Secretaries of the district and thana Awami League and former parliament members will attend the meeting, reports UNB.

23 firearms
recovered

Police yesterday seized 23 firearms, some ammunition and explosives from different parts of the country during the arms recovery operation. The seized arms and ammunition included two revolvers, two pistols, 14 pipe guns, one single-barrel gun, three sawed-off one LG, 46 bullets and cartridges, and 14 bombs. Police also arrested seven people on charges of possessing illegal arms and explosives, reports UNB.

Body recovered
in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: Police recovered bullet-ridden body of a young man last night from Nasirabad area of the city. The victim could not be identified immediately.

The Daily Star

AL demands at presidium meet Place defence ministry under Chief Adviser

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League yesterday demanded immediate placing of the defence ministry under the disposal of the Chief Adviser from that of the President.

"If the defence ministry remains under the disposal of President it might make the armed forces controversial," a resolution adopted at a meeting of the AL presidium said. "It has also raised confusion among the people about holding of a free and fair election," the resolution pointed out.

With Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the meeting, held at her Dhanmondi residence, was attended by the party's presidium members Sayeda Zohra

country. The issue of the defence ministry came up very prominently in the discussion.

Tofael said his party would continue to demand transfer of the defence ministry under the disposal of the Chief Adviser. It is very important now because the country is preparing for general elections.

The press release also said that illegal arms were not being recovered from across the country properly and that a free and fair election would not be possible without recovery of the arms and arrest of the arms holders.

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Rupali Bank warehouse at Hatkhola gutted: 20 hurt



Fire servicemen extinguishing blaze at the Rupali Bank godown at Hatkhola in the city yesterday. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

At least 20 people including 12 fire service men were injured and a huge stock of chemicals, motor bikes, bicycles, tyres and tubes of motor vehicles and other goods were burnt in a devastating fire at a warehouse of the Rupali Bank in the city yesterday.

The fire broke out in the warehouse of the foreign exchange branch of the bank at the ground floor of a 7-storey building at Hatkhola, at around 11:20 am, fire service sources said.

The adjacent Hatkhola branch of the bank was also partially damaged in the fire, according to an official of the bank.

More than 30 drums with different chemicals, around 30 motorbikes, 20 bicycles, a huge stock of tyres and tubes of different types of motor vehicles and yarn were burnt, the sources said. Bank sources added that all the goods in the godown were insured.

Some firemen were injured when the drums exploded inside the godown, said an official of fire service.

Of the injured firemen, Majibur Rahman and Humayun were admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital while Liakat was taken to the IPGMR in serious condition. The others were admitted to the DMCH, he said.

The BNP Secretary General alleged that confusion has been created among the people about the neutrality of the caretaker government as it failed to take measures against 'identified' terrorists and hoodlums.

He reiterated the party's call to the caretaker government not to harass innocent people in the name of arms recovery.

Talukder said, "It was the Awami Bksalite terrorists who had killed our five workers in Chittagong."

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