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Pirates attack defence cargo: Ammunition intact

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 16: The foreign vessel 'MV Karen Cat' loaded with defence cargo, which came under attack from pirates at the outer anchorage Wednesday night, is now anchored at port jetty No. 11, port sources said.

Unloading of the cargo will begin soon, the sources said.

The vessel is carrying 549 tonnes of ammunition imported from Romania for Bangladesh Army and Air Force, security source said. Of the total cargo, 63 tonnes of ammunition were imported for the Air Force.

But the pirates did not touch the ammunition kept inside the hatch of the small ship, 75 metres in length. They looted some goods from the store room of the ship, keeping the captain and other crew confined in the ship at gunpoint, port sources said.

Port thana police was informed about the incident but none of the pirates could be arrested so far, police said.

Myanmar FM arrives today

U Win Aung, Foreign Minister of the Union of Myanmar arrives in the city today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The Myanmar minister is coming to Bangladesh as part of his visit to the countries of south and southeast Asia region, sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said.

Official talks between the two countries will be held today. Besides Rohingya issue, improvement of relations between the two neighbours will figure in the talks, sources added.

During his visit, U Win Aung is scheduled to call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He is likely to hold a meeting with Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, Minister for CHT Affairs.

Law ministry denies press report

By Staff Correspondent The Law Ministry in a press release issued on Thursday in the context of press reports on transfer of operatorship of Cain to Shell Oil, clarified that it did not "approve" the change of operatorship.

The press release said that the Law Ministry was not authorised to approve matters relating to Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and it did not send any approval letter to the Petrobangla.

It further said that the Energy Ministry sought the Law Ministry's opinion on some specific legal issues (relating to the change of operatorship) and the Law Ministry gave its opinion after examining the PSC and relevant documents.

The opinion so given was not under the influence of anybody, nor it was uncalled for," the press release added.

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Prayer Timings

July 17

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 4:10 | 4:15 |
| John | 12:50 | 1:25 |
| Asr | 4:55 | 5:05 |
| Maghrib | 7:00 | 7:05 |
| Esha | 7:55 | 8:15 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Crackdown fails to stem rising crimes

1571 murdered, 490 abducted, 1264 raped, 53 acid victims in 5 months

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Despite a nationwide crackdown on criminals, incidents of crime including murder and rape marked a sharp rise during the first five months of this year compared to those in the corresponding period last year.

Incidents of dacoity rose to 447 from 443, snatching 801 from 719 and those of clashes rose to 1,771 from 1,700, sources in police said.

Incidents of rape rose to 1,264 from 974 and those of

acid throwing on women to 53 from 43.

A total of 3203 cases of repression on women were filed with police during January-May this year against 2515 in the corresponding period last year.

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acid throwing on women to 53 from 43.

Police said 1,058 arms were recovered and 179 policemen came under attack by criminals during the period.

A total of 50,242 criminal cases were filed with police during January-May this year, up from 44,928 in the corresponding period last year.

Incidents of crime also marked a rise in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna metropolitan cities.

The government launched the nationwide crackdown

were murdered and 61 women violated during January-May this year. A total of 209 incidents of snatching and 30 of dacoity took place. The number of criminal cases in the city rose to 8,401 in January-May this year from 7,235 in the corresponding period last year.

But the actual number of criminal incidents would be much more as many incidents are not reported to police, the sources said.

In the capital, 106 people

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Compiled from police sources, *not all heads included here.

Country-wide crime figures

| Type of Crimes | Jan-May 98 | Jan-May 99 | +/- |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Murder | 1304 | 1571 | +266 |
| Dacoity | 443 | 447 | +4 |
| Women Repression | 2515 | 3203 | +688 |
| Rape | 974 | 1264 | +290 |
| Acid | 43 | 53 | +10 |
| Child Repression | 255 | 234 | -21 |
| Snatching | 719 | 801 | +82 |
| Clashes | 1700 | 1771 | +71 |
| Abduction | 461 | 490 | +29 |
| Attack on police | 114 | 179 | +66 |
| Total crime occurred * | 44928 | 50242 | +5314 |

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, July 16: The Khulna City Corporation's (KCC) 'Dual Water Supply System' project is yet to be approved by the government although two years have passed since it was planned for solving the chronic water crisis in the metropolitan city.

An estimated three-crore-gallon of water is needed everyday in the metropolis to meet the demand of about 15 lakh dwellers in the city. But the KCC currently supplies 85 lakh gallons of water only, which is one-third of the requirement.

The project undertaken in 1997 by the KCC was sent for inclusion in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) with an estimated cost of Tk 3.90 crore.

One of the component of the project is 'Safe Drinking Water Supply System', while the other is 'Unfiltered Water Supply System'.

When implemented, the Dual Water Supply System project will ease pressure on underground water being extracted through 50 production tube-wells and 6000 shallow and deep tube-wells.

The idea of Dual Water Supply System was taken from Calcutta City Corporation during the visit of a KCC delegation to Calcutta in 1996. Later, a project profile was submitted for its early implementation.

Movable property of terrorist Kader attacked in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 16: Police in a raid today attached movable property from the residence of Abdul Kader, one of the top terrorists in Agrabab.

Kader is involved in some criminal cases, including murder in Agrabab commercial area, police said.

Police could not arrest him despite several raids on his residence.

As he remained absconding, police attached property from his residence at 11 am as per court order.

Earlier, police had attached movable property from the residence of another top terrorist Abu Bakar, known as Kana Bakar, at Devpari in Lalkhan bazar area in the city.

Stabbed Tangail BCL activist dies at DMCH

TANGAIL, July 16: Chhatra League activist Imam Hossain Nixon, 16, who was stabbed by his opponents on Thursday, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Another injured, identified as Babul, is undergoing treatment at Tangail General Hospital.

Police said armed miscreants stabbed Nixon and Babul indiscriminately in front of Nixon's house in the town at around 5 pm on Thursday.

Seriously injured Nixon was rushed to DMCH while Babul to Tangail General Hospital.

A case was filed with police in this connection.

Body to examine demands of APBN men formed

The authorities yesterday formed a one-member committee to examine the demands of APBN members and make recommendation for settling their grievances, reports UNB.

Officials said DIG of the Armed Police Battalion (APBN) Moinuddin Chishiti has been entrusted with the task and asked to submit report within seven days.

"I would submit my report ahead of the time," the DIG told the news agency when reached by telephone.

The step was taken after the Armed Police Battalion members sought intervention of the Home Minister to reframe their service rule that created discontent among its some 8,000 personnel, the sources said.

They approached the Minister during the Darbar of APBN headquarters at Uttara on Wednesday when he assured that the demands would be considered within the purview of

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Clarification

DIG of Armed Police Battalion M Chisty in a clarification to a Daily Star report on procession inside the barracks yesterday said that the report was not based on facts.

Besides, the DIG claimed that there was no tension in the barracks after the departure of the Home Minister and the Inspector General of Police.

According to the DIG, Darbar Parade is a regular programme at the Armed Police Battalion barracks and the parade on Wednesday was a special one as the home minister attended it. The Daily Star report was published on Friday.

Gumti falls below danger mark

Fresh areas in Comilla flooded

By Special Correspondent

The Gumti came down below its danger level yesterday after wrecking havoc in a vast area in Comilla district but strong current in the river prevented engineers from repairing its damaged embankment.

"We are still waiting for further fall in the water level," said a senior official of Comilla district administration.

The water gushing through breaches in the Gumti embankment at Ebdarpur in Burichang thana spread across the flood plains and submerged part of the Comilla-Chandpur road near Lalmai and washed away a bridge at Paroana in Burichang, snapping road link.

Elsewhere in the country, the major river systems barring

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government. As there was no irregularity, the then Prime Minister never took any step against him (Kafiluddin).

Chowdhury said that under Ayub regime, the government grabbed about 14 bighas of land owned by Kafiluddin Chowdhury. "Later, in affected persons' quota, out of his nine sons and daughters, only three including myself were allotted three plots of 2.5 katha each."

After long 36 years, Chowdhury said, during the present regime, he got the allotment letter. "We have deposited the money but transfer of the plot has been stopped."

In a statement Chowdhury said his father was an 'ideal person' and never took a plot or gave any to his sons and daughters.

Rather, he said, his father allotted plots for doctors, engineers, lawyers, businessmen and political leaders, including the then Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan and minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He said his sister Ayesha Chowdhury's husband, Ahsanullah, a former Secretary, got a government plot during 1955-57. "All the senior officers

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