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Kidnapping: Two more held from DU hall

By DU Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested two youths from Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University in connection with the kidnapping of two schoolboys of an English Medium School.

Police identified them as Saitur Rahman and Basir Ahmed. With this, police so far arrested four persons in connection with the recent kidnapping incident.

Neither police nor DU authorities could confirm whether the youths arrested yesterday were students or outsiders. Police, however, said both the youths claimed themselves as DU student.

Acting on tip off, police went to the Shahidullah Hall at about 5 am and nabbed the two youths from Room No 2024. The arrested were produced before the CMM's court yesterday morning, police added.

Meanwhile, two outsiders arrested from the campus on Wednesday night in connection with the kidnapping were produced before the CMM court yesterday. Police prayed for seven days' remand while the court granted remand for one day, our court correspondent said.

Durban summit

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all these issues and put the finishing touches to its report on the eve of CHOGM today," a Commonwealth statement said.

Broadened agenda

The secretary-general said there would be a review of political and economic developments in Commonwealth countries and discussions on how the civil society actors could become more active partners of governments.

"The Commonwealth is not just an association of governments but also an association of peoples," he said, explaining the emphasis on the role of the civil society in pursuing good governance and democratic principles in countries.

"It's not only having elected governments that matters ... civil society can contribute to development and promotion of democracy," Chief Anyaoku said.

Ahead of the summit, a major civil society conference - the Third Commonwealth NGO Forum - discussed "The People's Future: Citizens and Governance in the New Millennium" and is submitting its report to the heads of government.

He said one of the key agenda would be the future role of the C-MAG, which has a mandate "to deal with serious and persistent violations" of the principles contained in the 1991 Harare Commonwealth Declaration.

"C-MAG will go beyond military regimes ... determine which member country needs attention in terms of human rights/democracy/freedom of media."

"It will be identifying them, naming them, and bringing collective Commonwealth pressure to bear on them," he said and added Commonwealth will provide assistance based on its report.

Established by Heads of Government at their Auckland Meeting in 1995, the C-MAG draws its mandate from the Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme or the Harare Declaration, named after the place in New Zealand where the Heads held their Retreat in 1995.

The Group is required to assess the nature of the infringement and make recommendations for collective Commonwealth action," a Commonwealth official said.

Debt relief

The secretary-general said rising debts remained a major problem and that the Commonwealth would like to see more generous definition of debt entitlements to relief."

Calling for "much greater level of write-offs," he said, "Commonwealth would like to see fiscal issues taken into account in debt sustainability calculations."

Retreat

But "some of the more sensitive issues" will come up for discussions when the heads of government go on a two-day retreat starting from mid-day Saturday and ending Sunday evening in George when they will "relax with their spouses", Chief Anyaoku said.

On the opening day tomorrow, the executive session of heads of government will decide on the successor to Chief Anyaoku, who retires early April next year.

"An announcement (on the next secretary general) is expected at the close of business tomorrow," he said. Bangladesh's Farooq Sobhan and New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon are vying for the top job.

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President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the function celebrating Golden Jubilee of Notre Dame College in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

BIMST-EC accord to form economic forum next yr

By Staff Correspondent

would be circulated amongst member countries.

The commerce secretary said in the sub-sector on gems, jewellery, processed food and pharmaceutical products, chair country Thailand circulated draft action plans outlining possible projects and areas of cooperation for each of the sub-sectors.

The forum will assume its final shape at the next bi-annual meeting expected to be held sometime in April or May 2000 in New Delhi," said commerce secretary Sayed Alamgir Farrouq Chowdhury at a press conference at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

Chowdhury was briefing newsmen after the two-day preparatory meeting of BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation) Economic Forum that concluded on Wednesday. The first meeting of the BIMST-EC sectoral committee on Trade and Investment was held yesterday with Bangladesh in the chair.

Joint Secretary of Indian External Affairs Ministry Dr B Balakrishnan, Myanmarese charge d'affaires in Dhaka Mya Tun, additional commerce director of Sri Lanka M Sundaralingam and Bureau of Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation, Thailand director Vichai Maneesuwansin were present.

Chowdhury said the meeting on trade and investment reviewed the activities of the sub-sectors and projects under the Trade and Investment sector. A concept paper for formation of the BIMST-EC Economic Forum has been agreed at the preparatory meeting, he added.

The Economic Forum will be convened in New Delhi prior to the third ministerial meeting, Chowdhury also said.

In the sub-sector on textile and clothing, he said, the chair country Sri Lanka informed that the meeting of the expert group in this sub-sector is currently in progress. The action plan formulated at the meeting

Dhaka, Ctg, Mongla customs houses to remain open today, tomorrow

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday announced that the customs houses of Dhaka, Chittagong and Mongla would remain open today and tomorrow for the interest of the people and to expedite the existing overall activities of the trade and industry in the country, reports BSS.

The custom houses will remain open from 9 am to 12 noon today and from 9 am to 5 pm tomorrow, an NBR press release said in the city yesterday.

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President

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private organisations should come up from the higher-educated men and women, he added.

"If you want to increase employment in the country, you will have to improve standard of education," said the President.

Merely memorising lessons and unproductive education do not deliver in practical life. Creativity is the key to economic development. New concepts are needed to meet the needs of the changing world," Shahabuddin said. "Putting the right person in the right place at the right time is imperative."

However, President Shahabuddin had a word of "wise" for Notre Dame College for its long struggle in providing proper education to its students.

He said he understands that the college earned recognition for its role in enhancing standard of education in the country.

Presided over by Arch Bishop of Dhaka and chairman of the governing body of the college Rev Michael Rozario, the golden jubilee function was also addressed by Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr A Moyeen Khan MP, Dr Joseph D'Silva, Janakantha executive editor Borhan Ahmed and Rev Hugh Cleary.

Principal of the college Fr Benjamin Costa gave the address of welcome.

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