

Another stunning ammo haul in Bogra, this time from BNP workers' houses

26,500 bullets, 48kg explosives recovered



ANWAR ALI, Bogra

Police and BDR men seized 26,500 bullets and 48kg explosives in joint raids on four BNP workers' houses in Kahalu upazila in Bogra yesterday.

Law enforcers said the seizure in Jograpara and Sardarpara areas of the upazila is linked to Friday night's recovery of bullets and explosives from an abandoned truck and an Awami League (AL) leader's house.

The places of the latest recovery are close to a brick-kin of one Yasin Ali where the truck was being unloaded Friday night.

With yesterday's raids, 88,600 bullets and 168kg explosives have so far been recovered in Bogra.

Yesterday morning, Dupchachia police and the BDR jointly launched the search in and around the brick-kin and recovered 2,500 bullets from a ditch in front of the house of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist Ratan at Sardarpara. Seven thou-

Two Indians held with arms and wireless set at Satchhari forest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

In connection with the Bogra ammunition haul, the BDR yesterday arrested two Indians and recovered two firearms and a wireless set from them at the Satchhari Forest Range in Chunarughat upazila, Habiganj.

The commanding officer of the BDR battalion at Srimangal, Lt. Col. Enamul Huda led the raid at Satchhari forest and held the uncle and cousin of Ashish Dev Barman, the absconding owner of the truck seized in Bogra.

A modern Chinese rifle, a gun and a compass were recovered from the arrestees -- Chittaranjan Dev Barman and his father Jogesh Dev Barman, said the BDR.

They claimed that the BDR arrested them when they came over at the Satchhari camp after being called in.

The two were produced before a Habiganj court and were placed on a

five-day remand.

Jogesh and Chittaranjan were then sent to the capital where they are being interrogated by the Task Force Intelligence (TFI), a coalition of different agencies.

Two separate cases under the Arms Act and the Special Powers Act were filed with the Chunarughat Police Station.

The BDR raided in vain several places for Ashish. Except for Ashish's sister Shucharita Dev Barman, no one was found at his Satchhari Forest house.

"Police and others are coming to our house again and again. We do not know whether my brother was involved in anything wrong," Shucharita said to journalists.

Earlier on Sunday, the Chunarughat and Madhabpur police arrested Altaf Miah, 22, driver of the truck, and helpers -- Swapan Kumar Dev Barman and Kishore Barman. They were also sent to Dhaka for interrogation, sources said.

US has no plan for military base in Bangladesh

Ambassador Mary Ann Peters talks of Washington's commitment to sign repatriation treaty with Dhaka

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mary Ann Peters yesterday categorically said her country "has no plan or desire to establish a military base in Bangladesh".

She also said her government is committed to moving progressively toward signing a repatriation treaty with Bangladesh in near future.

The US-Bangladesh repatriation issue was shelved following the change of political regime in Dhaka

In 2001.

She was speaking at a talk titled 'Security of South Asia: A US Perspective' at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

The BISS talk came on the heel of wild speculations that Washington was desperate to lease a military base from Dhaka to station its forces somewhere between the Far and Middle East(s).

Delving into a wide range of

issues, the ambassador said, South Asia has become a major focal point of the US foreign policy.

The speech reflected a US perspective that quintessentially stems from US concern over terrorism, weapons proliferation and the near stagnation in the region's socio-economic developments. The ambassador criticized the poor level of intra-regional trade in South Asia compared with the NAFTA and the EU.

Pinpointing the issue of terror

Hasina says Khaleda out to establish Taliban-style govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday took a swipe at Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and said she harbours criminals.

"The prime minister is trying to shift the blame for her misdeeds onto us (the opposition lawmakers) and to misguide the nation," Hasina, also the Awami League president, said in rebuttal to Khaleda's accusations against the opposition.

The prime minister at Monday's budget discussion in parliament

mounted a scathing attack on the AL and labelled it as 'al-Qaeda, Taliban, terrorist and killer'.

"People know better who are Taliban," Hasina said at a meeting with a delegation of Bangladesh Teachers' Association at the party's Dhamondhi office.

"The prime minister formed the government with the fundamentalists who took to the street and shouted slogans in favour of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan," she said. Hasina accused Khaleda of trying to establish a Taliban styled rule in Bangladesh.

She also levelled allegations against Khaleda of sheltering criminals and linked her to bomb blasts in Narayanganj and at the Ramna Batamul.

Hasina said a charge-sheeted criminal in the Udichi bomb blast case is now serving the government as a cabinet minister.

"Another cabinet minister said in the past that they distributed arms

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Politics took backseat as Kibria visits ailing Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Presidium Member SAMS Kibria Monday visited Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and wished his early recovery.

The former finance minister reached the CMH at 7:30pm and inquired about Saifur's health.

The two fierce rivals on the economic front talked 40 minutes away

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Hit-and-run driver drags doctor to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A car yesterday knocked down a motorcycle-riding doctor and dragged him for over a kilometre along the Mirpur Road to Panthapath till he died.

Hit by the car (Dhaka Metro-Ka-02-0626) in front of the Sobhanbag mosque at 11:00am, Dr. Mohammad Shajahan Ali, 40, medical officer of Pongu Hospital, was

dragged on as his leg got tangled with the car's bumper.

Witnesses said instead of stopping the car and saving the doctor who was still alive, the unidentified driver sped away. Witnesses claimed that police at Russell Square did not intercept the car dragging the body of the doctor.

Leaving a trail of blood all along Panthapath, the car stopped ahead

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Top men of two TV channels quizzed over Bogra reporting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top police officials have interrogated some executives of private satellite channels Channel-I and ATN Bangla in connection with the airing of news on the sensational ammunition and explosives haul in Bogra.

Police officials went to the ATN Bangla office at around 7:45 pm yesterday and interrogated some executives of the TV channel.

On Monday, three police officials led by deputy commissioner (south) went to the Channel-I office at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Notice

The June 21 article under the heading 'Pharmaceutical cos-doctor nexus-I' was written by this newspaper's Staff Correspondent Pinaki Roy, not by Dr. Pinaki Bhattacharya. Dr. Pinaki, who heads a multinational pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh, has got nothing to do with our report or whatsoever.

MOODY
M
INTERNATIONAL
CERTIFICATION
ISO 9001
APPROVED

UKAS
QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
Registration Number
014

Proud to Announce

BTA the pioneer and the largest manufacturer of aluminium profiles, door/windows in Bangladesh is also the-

- 1st company in aluminium sector to receive **ISO 9001** international certification of quality product and management.
- This recognition has been possible by the continuous support of our valued clients and our endeavours to up-grade our production facility to produce world class aluminium.
- Your trust and reliance will inspire us to excel further.

'BTA always miles ahead'

Buy **BTA** products with **BTA** logo printed on aluminium profiles.



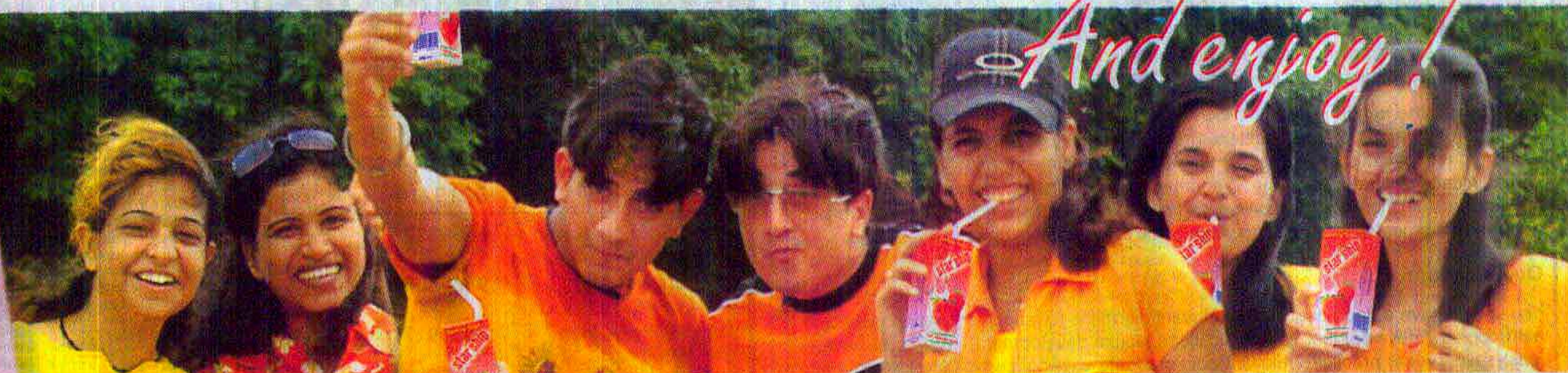
BANGLADESH THAI ALUMINIUM LTD.

BTA TOWER, 29 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Road # 17
Banani Commercial Area (13th to 15th Floor), Dhaka-1213.
Phone (PABX): 9882111, 9883337, 9882145, 9887395
Fax # 880-2-9881713, E-mail: bta@bdmail.net, Web: www.btabd.com



Sip The STRAW, get the BERRY

And enjoy!



starship

Strawberry Yoghurt Drink
Your everyday drink with....

Red Red Love, Red Red Life