

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

27,000 bullets, 48kg explosives recovered



PHOTO: STAR

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

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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 the 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 Dhanmondi 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 a r m s

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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

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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.

Two Indians held with arms and wireless set at Satchhari forest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Following the big haul of ammunition and explosives in Bogra, the BDR arrested two Indian nationals yesterday and recovered two firearms and a wireless set from their possession from the Satchhari Forest Range in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj district.

The commanding officer of the BDR battalion at Srimangal, Lt. Col. Enamul Huda led the raid on Satchhari forest and arrested Chittaranjan Dev Barman, 29, an Indian national and a cousin of Ashish Dev Barman, the absconding owner of the truck seized in Bogra.

Based on the statement given by Chittaranjan, the BDR also recovered a rifle, a gun, a wireless set and a compass from the house. Chittaranjan's father Jogesh Dev Barman was also arrested.

Two separate cases under the

Arms Act and the Special Powers Act were filed with the Chunarughat Police Station.

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

Meanwhile, three people arrested in connection with the Bogra ammunition and explosives haul were interrogated by the Task Force Intelligence (TFI), a coalition of different agencies.

Jogesh Dev Barman and his son Chittaranjan Dev Barman, arrested from Habiganj, were brought to the city and interrogated by the TFI. Jalal was arrested by the Detective Branch of Police from the Airport Railway Station on Monday night, and was turned over to the TFI for interrogation.

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

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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 tan-

gled 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

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