

CHITTAGONG ARMS HAUL

CID still hunts for five smugglers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Local CID police have been carrying out massive manhunt to nab the gang of five smugglers involved in the biggest ever arms haul of the country on April 2, official sources said.

They are Hafizur Rahman, Din Mohammad, Haji Sobhan, Abul Kashem Modhu and a Rohinga businessman known as Barmaiya Zahur.

CID officials said if those five persons could be arrested, the whole story behind the import of such a deadly consignment of arms would be unravelled.

Assistant Police Super Kabir Uddin said the CID teams were continuing their raids at different places to arrest the members of the gang involved in the offloading of the smuggled weapons. Sources said the teams were quizzing the members of different syndicates operating at Khatunganj, Patenga and Reazuddin bazaar to locate the hideouts of the smugglers.

The CID was entrusted with the task of probing the arms haul case on April 26.

London borough mayor arrives May 3

BSS, Dhaka

A four-member delegation led by the Mayor of London borough of Camden, Nasim Ali, arrives in the city on May 3 on a six-day visit.

Other members of the delegation are Deputy Lieutenant and Queens Representative Major Charles Winstanley, Leader of the Camden Council Dame Jane Roberts and community leader Abdul Hai.

The delegation will call on foreign and LGRD ministers, minister of state for youth and sports and secretary to the prime minister during their visit.

They will also visit Sylhet, from May 6.

SSC candidate beaten to death in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

An SSC candidate who was injured severely in an attack by his classmates during a cricket match in Khalishpur on Thursday afternoon died in Khulna Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Police said Abdullah Al-Mamun alias Khokon, 17, son of Zafar Ali of Alamnagar area, was beaten up with cricket bats.

Khokon was rushed to the hospital in critical condition, but died in the morning.

Police arrested three of his classmates -- Ronny, Ripon and Shahidul -- for their alleged involvement in the incident.



Different religious organisations took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

PHOTO: STAR

Special dev programme in disaster-prone areas

BSS, Rajshahi

The government is implementing a special programme for sustainable socio-economic development of the disaster-prone under-privileged people through various income-generating activities.

The main objective of the programme is to enhance the capability of the beneficiaries through involving them in the long-term income generating activities to face the natural calamities courageously.

The poor community will be made self-confident through integrated relief and development activities along with the recycling of their resources to face the natural calamities.

According to the officials concerned, the three-year programme styled as "Programme for natural disaster-risk reduction" is being

implemented in 70 disaster-prone upazilas under 27 districts across the country.

Of them, 46 upazilas under 14 northwestern districts, especially the 'monga-hit' ones, have been included in the programme.

An amount of Tk 50 crore has already been allocated for the programme in the current fiscal to provide each of the targeted families with an interest-free loan of Tk 5000 to Tk 10,000 for saturating them in the main stream of development.

Officials said the field level activities were being supervised jointly by local administration and relief and rehabilitation directorate of the disaster management and relief ministry.

Besides the monga-hit people, victims of other natural calamities like flood, cyclone, river erosion, landslide, drought, and earthquake

are being given priority under the project.

Under the programme, the target people would be made self-reliant through their socio-economic development so that they would not need rehabilitation through relief in future.

The beneficiaries would be provided necessary training on various income generating activities like rearing and fattening of cows, poultry farming and pisciculture.

Sources said members of the civil society like teachers, religious leaders, social and development workers, voluntary organisations, gram sarkars and UP representatives would be included for the supervision of income generating activities.

Over 1,700 held, 7 firearms recovered

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,709 people, including five listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered seven firearms and four rounds of bullet. Cases were filed against two people under the Arms Act.

MIRPUR-GULSHAN ROUTE

BRTC introduces double-deckers

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday introduced double-decker buses on the Mirpur-10 to Gulshan-2 route for the convenience of the city commuters.

Riki International, a private company, will now operate 10 double-deckers on the route via Mirpur-1, Shyamoli, Agargaon, Kakoli and Banani Bazar.

Inaugurating the service at Kalyanpur bus depot, BRTC Chairman Taimur Alam Khondokar said despite obstacles from the vested quarters of private transport owners and workers, the state-run bus service is expanding its network

day by day. According to official sources, about 500 BRTC buses are now operating in the city mostly by private operators through leasing system.

The chairman urged the lease-holders as well as BRTC officials and staffs to work hard to make the state-run transport corporation profitable.

He said if the BRTC can earn expected profit, the quality of service will be improved.

City BNP Vice-President Ekhlaashuddin Molla, DGM of Kalyanpur BRTC bus depot Indra Raj Chakma and Riki International Director Sultan Ahmed also spoke.

8 AL workers hurt in N'ganj attack

UNB, Narayanganj

At least eight Awami League activists were injured in an attack allegedly by the ruling party cadres in Jamtala area of the town on Thursday night.

Awami League sources said that 20-25 cadres of BNP came in two jeeps and two private cars at midnight and swooped on the AL activists who were painting slogans on the walls ahead of today's public

meeting at Chashara.

Awami League President and Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting organised by the Sramik League, the party's labour front, on the occasion of May Day.

The AL activists were writing slogans in favour of Sheikh Hasina, but the BNP cadres reportedly forced them at gunpoint to write slogans against Shamim Osman and Nasim Osman.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over the six divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 20.2 degrees at Tangail.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:23am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.6	23.8	60	53
Chittagong	33.8	25.5	67	67
Rajshahi	35.5	21.5	62	45
Khulna	35.9	25.3	69	65
Barisal	34.4	23.8	76	65
Sylhet	30.7	23.1	91	68
Cox's Bazar	34.2	25.5	68	--



Cultural programme

May Day Udjapon Parishad organises a cultural programme to be participated by noted cultural bodies like Udichi, Wishhijo and Kranti. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Aranyak programme

Aranyak Natyadal organises a cultural programme that includes music, recitation and drama to mark the May day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 10.00am.

JSD rally

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (JSD) organises a rally with LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 3.00pm.

BGWUC discussion

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) organises a rally and discussion. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 10.30am.

BSSF rally

Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation (BSSF) will hold a rally. Venue: 23/2, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation

Bindu, in association with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Gandaria High School Premises. Time: 10.00am.

KN rally

Karmajibi Nari (KN), an initiative for working women, will hold a rally. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 5.00pm.

DUJ discussion

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), in collaboration with Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, organises a discussion. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00am

SKOP rally

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) organises a rally. Venue: Osmani Udyan. Time: 11.00am.

Discussion

May Day Udjapon Committee for the Deprived and Workers organises a discussion with former President AQM Badruddoja as chief guest. Venue: Kachi Kanchan Mela, Segun Bagicha. Time: 11.00am.

BTUK rally

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra (BTUK) will hold a rally. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 9.00am.

Art competition

Asthma Association organises an art competition for the children to mark the World Asthma Day. Venue: Islamia Eye Hospital, Farmgate. Time: 9.00am.

Founding anniversary

The second founding anniversary of 'Dar Kak', a little magazine, will be held. Venue: Natabini English School, Lalmatia. Time: 5.00pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen two American films titled 'America's Sweethearts' (2001) and 'Doctor Zhivago' (1965). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 5.30pm and 8.30pm.



Cultural programme

Maple Leaf International School will present a cultural programme titled 'Bhangbo Badhar Pahar'. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 10.30am.

Seminar

The Commonwealth Cultural Society of Bangladesh, in collaboration with Neway Bangladesh, will hold a seminar on 'HIV/AIDS threats in Bangladesh'. Venue: La Vinci Hotel, Karwan Bazar. Time: 10.00am.

Briefing session

American Soybean Association organises a briefing session on 'Value added soybean products from the US'. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha, Kakrail. Time: 12.00 noon.

Workshop

Campaign for Good Governance organises a workshop on 'PRSP and mass media'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9.30am.

Discussion

Odhikar, a coalition for human rights, organises a discussion on 'People's right to information and state of press freedom in Bangladesh'. Venue: House-35, Road-117, Gulshan. Time: 2.30pm.

Discussion on press freedom tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC), like every year, will hold a discussion on 'State of Freedom of Journalists and Press in Bangladesh' tomorrow to mark the World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

Editors and senior journalists of the major dailies will take part in the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club at 1:30pm.

Every year, May 3 is dedicated to remember, celebrate and emphasise the importance of press freedom, which is crucial for the functioning of a healthy democratic and free society.

UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura says May 3 is a day to salute the journalists who inform the public about issues vital for the society, polity and human wellbeing.

In dozens of countries, being a journalist often means risking one's life to get a story. In 2003, 42 journalists were killed worldwide because of their works, according to the Paris-based Reporters sans Frontières (RSF). Another 766 journalists were arrested and at least 1,460 physically attacked or threatened.

The BCDJC invites all interested media professionals to the discussion.

Karnaphuli Paper Mills earns Tk 3.7cr profit

UNB, Chittagong

The Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) produced over 22,000 tonnes of paper against the target of 30,000 tonnes till March during the current fiscal, earning a profit of Tk 3.7 crore.

This was disclosed at a meeting to review the performance of the KPM, Karnaphuli Rayon and Chemical Complex and BSTI.

Industries Minister Taimur Rahman Nizami and other high officials attended the meeting held at the Circuit House yesterday.

The meeting was told that KPM, set up in 1953, would turn into a profitable enterprise if it is brought under BMR&E (Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Expansion) programme.