



Illegal felling of trees and looting of other forest resources are commonplace in the CHT districts. Unscrupulous elements carry logs in a truck after cutting down trees from a hill in broad daylight.

Govt may seek help of Interpol

Police could not make any headway yet in the biggest ever arms haul case

NURUL ALAM

The government is likely to seek help of Interpol to probe the country's biggest ever arms haul in Chittagong on April 2 as the local police could not yet make any headway in this regard, intelligence sources said.

A top intelligence official said that help of Interpol might be needed to investigate the gunrunning case in the international fields to unearth the clues of origin of the deadly consignment of weapons and its destination, link of suppliers and other related syndicates.

"We should engage Interpol to trace out the international link as the local smugglers involved with the arms haul could not be arrested yet," he added.

Meanwhile, officials of foreign diplomatic missions in Dhaka are reportedly keeping a watch on the developments on the arms haul as it became a matter of concern for them, sources said.

Officials of some diplomatic missions, in the meantime, visited

the port city apparently in a bid to enquire into the matter, police and intelligence sources said.

Two US embassy officials visited the port city after the arms haul and met the commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

They were very much inquisitive about the seizure of deadly weapons, police sources said.

Two Australian officials also arrived here and enquired about the arms haul, sources added.

Indian High Commission officials were reportedly found very active in Chittagong to unearth clues since the haul of the weapons, sources said.

Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri also visited this port city last week and called on Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, trade body leaders and other dignitaries.

Sources say Indian mission has been seriously monitoring the developments on the arms haul case as rumour spread that the deadly consignment of weapons was a transit cargo meant for insurgent groups including United

Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) operating in the border areas.

However, The high powered probe body led by Home Secretary Omar Farook is expected to arrive in Chittagong shortly for further investigation, sources said.

Earlier, the probe body stayed here for three days and quizzed over 30 people.

Local CID police are investigating the arms haul case as Karnaphuli thana Officer-in-Charge Ahadur Rahman was dropped as investigation officer (IO) for his controversial role.

CID police began a manhunt to nab Hafizur Rahman, Din Mohammad, Abul Kasem Madu, Haji Sobhan and Barmaiya Jahur. They were allegedly involved with the offloading of weapons at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd (CUFL) before the seizure.

Ten truckloads of weapons including Ak-47, rockets and rocket launchers and hand grenades were seized from CUFL jetty.

Politics, relation main criteria

90 employees appointed at Chittagong University in two and half years

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Chittagong University authorities have so far appointed 90 employees on political consideration or their relatives during the last two and half years, sources said.

Of them, 38 are Class Three and 52 Class Four employees.

Over 25 are activists of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat. They are still involved with the politics of ruling coalition government, sources added.

Moreover, around 30 appointees are from village Madarsha of Vice Chancellor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury. The VC had appointed them misusing power, sources said.

"He appointed his two nephews at his office as Class Three employees recently, an employees association leader said on condition of anonymity."

Persons appointed are: Three Class Three and Class Four employees at commerce faculty dean office, two at VC's office, seven at Pritilata Hall, nine at central library,

eight at registrar office, four at account section, two at development section, two at estate section, four at examination comptroller office, two at officers' association office, four at Alaol Hall, two at F Rahman Hall, four at Shahjalal Hall, four at engineers' office, two at medical centre, three at press section, 10 at security department, 10 at science faculty, one at CUCSU building and four at social science faculty.

Besides, the 30 newly appointed employees having family relationship with the VC are working at different offices

of the university. Earlier, as per the university provision, pro-vice chancellor was responsible for appointment of Class Three and Class Four employees. But the VC took over the charge of appointing staffs to select persons on his personal choice, sources said.

Though there is a selection board to appoint the employees, the VC, also chairman of the committee, reportedly appointed the employees without any consultation with the committee members, sources added.

The VC appointed one

Anwara Begum aged about 50 as a Class Four employee at Pritilata hall. She once worked as maid at his residence.

When contacted, VC Nuruddin denied allegations brought against him regarding appointments.

"All the staffs have been recruited on the basis of their aptitude," he said.

About the 30 appointees from his native village, he said the number is not as high as reported and they are qualified for the job.



Hand-made fans of palm leaves are on high demand at this time of the year as scorching heat of the summer coupled with frequent power outage make the life of city dwellers unbearable. Photo shows vendors selling hand-made fans of different colour and design in the city.

theweekthatwas

Protest against attack on female journalist

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra (BSK), Chittagong chapter organised a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on Sunday protesting attack on its coordinator Sumi Khan. Sumi is also Chittagong representative of the Saptahik 2000.

Identified criminals stabbed journalist Sumi Khan at Boudha Mandir Road in the city on Tuesday night.

Chittagong Press Club indoor games end

The annual indoor games competition of Chittagong Press Club ended here on Friday.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressed the prize giving ceremony as the chief guest at the press club auditorium. Standard Bank Chairman Quazi Akramuddin Ahmad was present as special guest with Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian in the chair.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury in his speech called upon journalists, politicians, businessmen and common people to work together for the prosperity of the nation.

Booklet on cyclone preparedness

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Social movement against natural calamities like cyclone was impossible without creating sense of dignity among the distressed people.

The speakers said this at the publication ceremony of a booklet on cyclone preparedness at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong Centre here on April 29.

Scientist Professor Jamal Nazrul



Indian singer Penaz Masani and her group enthral led audiences at the "Gazal Sandha" at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong centre auditorium on May 1. Indian High Commission organised the event.

The Forum for Development, Journalism and Communication Studies (Focus) organised the publication ceremony of the booklet titled, "Ghurney Jhar Mokabelai Amrah Prostut" (We are ready to face cyclone) commemorating the night-marish cyclone of April 29 of 1991. The cyclone claimed at least 1,38,000 people of the coastal belt of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Feni district.

Scientist Professor Jamal Nazrul

Isalm was the chief guest at the ceremony with Focus President Dr Moniruzzaman in the chair.

Disaster expert Dr Md Shahidul Islam, Cyclone Preparedness Programme Regional Director AJM Golam Rabbani, Journalist Muhammad Idris, Alok Pal and Sahid Ullah Lipon also spoke.

Workshop on women entrepreneurship

A five-day workshop on women entrepreneurship titled, "Finance for Non-Finance Managers" ended here on Thursday with a call for equal participation of men and women in the economic development of the country.

Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs (WE) and SouthAsia Enterprise Development Family (SEDF) organised the workshop.

The participants at the closing ceremony at a local hotel vowed to work together for the promotion of business and development of the port city.

Addressing the workshop as the chief guest Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury said that WE, Chittagong was a part of Chittagong chamber and got all out support from the chamber.

Chittagong Stock Exchange President Habibullah Khan and CCCI Vice President Monzoor-Ul-Amin Chowdhury were the guests.

WE President Monowara Hakim Ali, SEDF Business Development Analyst Denir Jinat Latif and Business Development Officer Aanuash A Khan and

WE Vice President Bilkis Iqbal Dada also addressed the function.

Work for betterment of distressed children

Chanderhat, Chittagong held an education projection and donation awarding function at its temporary office at Nasirabad in the city on Thursday.

The speakers said that natural growth of latent quality as well as physical and mental growth of the underprivileged children was greatly hampered. They said that side by side with the rich and benevolent people different political and financial organisations or agencies also should come forward with specific programme for the betterment of distressed children and youth.

Sports organiser Didarul Alam Didar and journalist Shamsuddin Harun were the chief guest and special guest at the ceremony with Chanderhat, Chittagong President Shirin Akter in the chair.

Mahbub's birth anniversary celebrated

Chattagram Academy here on Sunday celebrated the 106th birth anniversary of Litterateur Mahbub Ul Alam.

Addressing the anniversary programme as the chief guest renowned social scientist Dr. Anupam Sen of Chittagong University said that only the creation of "Mofizan" was enough to keep Mahbub Ul Alam ever

alive in the arena of literature.

Chattagram Academy Director Professor Anowara Alam, Dr. Jinoyodhi Vixmu, Columnist Muhammad Idris and researcher Mohammad Ishaq Chowdhury also spoke.

Free medical camp

A three-day medical camp ended providing some one thousand people with specialised treatment free of cost at Raozan College ground on Sunday.

Raozan Club organised the camp sponsored by Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong.

Former Director General of the Directorate of Health Dr Noor-Un-Nabi inaugurated the camp as the chief guest.

USTC Medicine Specialist Dr Muklutur Rahman, Dr Hasan Md Abdur Rouf and Dr Abdul Mutalib, Raozan Club members journalist Nurul Alam, Syed Omar Faruq and Shoyeb Khan also

spoke at the inaugural ceremony with BMA, Chittagong Vice President Quamrunnahr Dostogir in the chair.

ASP suggests formation of 'Lathi Bahini'

Nanupur, Dharmapur and Jafatnagar unions of Fatikchhari Upazila, organised separate rallies on Saturday to make aware local people against crime and criminals.

Additional Superintendent of Police (north) Chowdhury Monzurul Kabir was present as chief guest. He asked the concerned UP chairmen to form 'Lathi Bahini' at each ward of the unions to help resist criminals and submit names of the members of the Bahini to Fatikchhari thana immediately.

The first rally was held at Nanupur Abu Sobhan High School ground with UP chairman Syed Osman Gani Babu in the chair. The second and third

rallies were held at Dharmapur UP Office ground and Jafatnagar UP Office ground. UP chairmen Nurul Islam and Nazimuddin Nazu presided over the rallies.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ramizur Rahman Mollah, Officer in-Charge of Fatikchhari thana Mahabubur Rahman, former chairman Badiul Alam Master and Razia Masud also addressed the rallies.

BGMEA leaders meet mayor

A delegation of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporters Association (BGMEA) called on Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at his Sholoshahar residence on Wednesday and exchanged views on different issues including garments.

The BGMEA leaders sought cooperation of the city mayor in providing healthcare services to the garments workers from CCC-run urban healthcare centres. First Vice President MA Salam led the BGMEA team.



Former Director General of the Directorate of Health Dr. Nurunnabi addresses the inaugural ceremony of a Medical Camp as the chief guest organised by Raozan Club at Raozan College on Saturday.