

Rab recovers AK-22, arms from criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of Chittagong in separate raids on Friday night seized five people, including four alleged operatives of a Cox's Bazar-based terrorist outfit, with firearms and ammunition in Bandarban.

The arms and ammunition recovered from the arrestees included one China made AK - 22 rifle, one .22 bore rifle, two air guns, 65 AK -22 bullets, 26 air gun cartridges and a magazine of .22 rifle.

Besides, the Rab team recovered three daggers and parts of barrels of various guns.

Of the arrestees, Lalmoon Bom Lala, 43, Victor Bom, 17, Rowat Chhang, 26, and Jirkhan Bom, 19, hailed from Ruma in Bandarban while Md Abdul Gafur, 32, from Satkania upazila in Chittagong.

A 20-member team of Rab following a lead that an arms dealing was to take place, raided the Kaichthali in Bandarban on Friday night. They arrested Abdul Gafur

with a sophisticated AK-22 rifle.

Later the same night, acting on information extracted from him, the Rab members arrested Lalmoon Bom Lala from a hotel and Victor, Rowat and Jirkhan from Uzanipara in Bandarban district headquarters with a large number of arms and ammunition in their possession.

The arrestees and the arms and ammunition were brought to Rab headquarters in the port city.

A case was filed with Bandarban Police Station.

Banglar Sourav sailors found guilty of oil spillage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A probe committee formed by the shipping ministry held responsible the master, chief officer and other deck officers of a state-owned oil tanker for pollution in the Bay.

The ministry formed the seven-member committee to probe oil spillage from MT Banglar Sourav, owned by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), while lightering crude oil at the outer anchorage of

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Militants threaten to kill US, UK hostages

Suicide car bomb kills 23, oil official survives attempt on life

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

Insurgents threatened to kill two Americans and a Briton unless the United States freed Iraqi women prisoners, Al Jazeera said yesterday, and a suicide car bomb killed 23 people outside Iraqi National Guard offices.

The Arabic broadcaster aired scenes from a videotape of the three hostages it said it had obtained from

the Tawhid and Jihad Group of suspected al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The group demanded the release of Iraqi women prisoners from Umm Qasr prison in southern Iraq and Baghdad's Abu Ghraib, scene of past abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US guards that caused international outrage and has led to criminal proceedings.

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Pneumonia claimed 24 lives in Khulna last week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pneumonia epidemic in southwestern districts including Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Jessore claimed 24 lives in the last one week.

Hospital sources said in Bagerhat seven children died of the disease last week, while 157 are undergoing treatment at Sadar Hospital and health complexes of Sharankhola, Morrelganj and

Chitalmari upazila of the district.

Bagerhat Civil Surgeon Dr Enamul Kabir has admitted that a pneumonia epidemic resulted from continuous rain and accompanying cold spell is sweeping through the district. Apart from pneumonia, other water-borne diseases may break out with rainwater receding, the civil surgeon said.

He, however, refuted allegations

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PHOTO: STAR

From left, alleged criminals Rowat Chhang, Jirkhan Bom, Lalmoon Bom Lala and Victor Bom and suspected arms dealer Abdul Gafur arrested on Friday night by Rapid Action Battalion in Bandarban with the firearms and ammunition recovered from their possession.

Mysterious containers yield crockery, tablecloths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday found tablecloths and crockery in two of the 33 mysterious containers they kept under strict vigil at the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Kamlapur on suspicion that they may contain illegal firearms.

Higher authorities asked the officials concerned to hand over the containers to their importers after a thorough search on a tip-off that some of them might contain firearms.

Members of Rab opened two

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Prayer Timing September 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-09	6-12
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Market access brings them success



PHOTO: STAR

A village woman looks on as a woman grocer measures soybean oil for her at Sabgram Market in Bogra.

SHAMIM ASHRAF

Women selling goods in market?

No-one of Bogra's Sabgram village ever thought they would not only see such a scene in a remote place like theirs but it would even be a run of the mills. Women like Maloti, Kohinoor, Angur, Rebecca, Pokkhirani and Piara are now running brisk businesses at the heart of Sabgram Market side-by-side their male competitors, some of whom are squint-eyed no doubt. And what makes the men even more dumbfounded is the casual way these women carry on and succeed as shopkeepers.

These rustic women who once had to fend for their family members could not believe when they first learnt that women like them would get a place in a market.

After a similar government initiative in 1984 had failed to produce the desired results, CARE Bangladesh and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) launched a

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