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Army seizes AK-22, SMC after gunfight with CHT gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Army personnel yesterday seized two sophisticated firearms and ammunition after a gunfight with an indigenous gang in the hilly area of Kalapahar in Khagrachhari.

The gang, allegedly of the armed wing of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), opened fire on an army team when the latter was carrying out a raid on the area, sources said.

The gang however retreated after a 30-minute gunfight, in which at least 250 round bullets were exchanged, the sources added.

The army seized an AK-22 rifle, a sub-machine carbine (SMC) with 15 bullets and 29 used cartridges of M-16 and 7.62 rifles used by the gang, said the sources.

Bangla Bhai plans to go abroad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) leader Bangla Bhai has decided to go abroad changing his plan to surrender, a leader of the banned Islamist party said.

The followers of Bangla Bhai, the chief operations commander of JMJB, are learnt to have opposed his plan to surrender in view of the changed situation.

A leader of JMJB, which was banned last week for militancy, hinted that Bangla Bhai may leave for Pakistan today or tomorrow. Asked how Bangla Bhai would leave, the JMJB leader declined to provide any information.

Another source said Bangla Bhai may go to Afghanistan if he fails to go to Pakistan.

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ISLAMIST MILITANTS

12 sued for sedition, their leaders spared

Galib brought to Dhaka, quizzed; 2 more cases filed against him; 10 Ahab men held in Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Natore police yesterday sued 12 militants of the Islamic outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) for sedition but spared their leaders Dr Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib and Maolana Abdur Rahman.

Galib, leader of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh, as well as Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) chief Maolana Abdur Rahman and militant trainer Khabbab Hossain were mentioned in the case, but were not treated as accused.

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Asadullah Al Galib



A police camp has been set up near a madrasa founded by Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh chief Dr Asadullah Al Galib at Naodapara in Rajshahi. The cops check vehicles and pedestrians on suspicion.

Rocca on JMJB, JMB crackdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca has expressed hope that the recent actions taken by Bangladesh government against the supporters of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) will contribute to the maintenance of law and order in the country.

Rocca said this when she telephoned Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan yesterday to express her condolences for the killing of nine Bangladeshi peacekeeping troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to a US Embassy press release.

The assistant secretary conveyed condolences to the government of Bangladesh, and to the family and friends of the slain peacekeepers. She spoke about the troops' important mission for international peace and praised Bangladesh's contributions to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.

LAWYERS' PROBE INTO AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Police action allowed attackers to escape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-profile lawyers' investigation into the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally questioned the role of the police on that day and observed that the police made way for the attackers to leave the venue immediately after the explosions.

Instead of helping the victims, the policemen showed apathy and themselves moved to safe distance, observes a report released by six senior lawyers. Supreme Court Bar Association President Rokonuddin Mahmud headed the investigation.

The grisly grenade attack on the AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital killed 22 people

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Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday during the presentation of the inquiry report of an independent committee of lawyers that probed the August 21 grenade attacks. Committee members Dr M Zahir and Rokonuddin Mahmud are also seen.

JANE'S REPORT ON CTG ARMS HAUL

Weapons loaded at HK, S'pore; headed for Indian insurgents

STAR REPORT

Jane's Intelligence Review (JIR), the leading defence magazine of the world, in an investigative report on the Chittagong arms haul in April last has said the arms and ammunition were shipped from Hong Kong and then more weapons were added to the consignment in Singapore before being brought to Bangladesh.

It said before the cache was seized by police and BDR following a probable tip-off from Indian intelligence sources, one loaded truck is believed to have left the jetty.

According to the JIR report filed by Anthony Davis dated July 6, the shipment involved two key insurgent movements from India's northeast - the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the Isak-Muivah faction of the Nationalist

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Mass promotion on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of large-scale promotion plan in the civil and police administration, the government has prepared a list of around 1000 officials, to be promoted to the posts of deputy secretary, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary, highly placed sources said.

The government has already elevated 18 additional secretaries to the post of full-fledged secretary and more are on the cards.

A list of around 475 senior assistant secretaries, around 275 deputy

secretaries and around 200 joint secretaries has been prepared for promotion to the immediate higher posts.

The list was prepared on the basis of positive reports from intelligence agencies and the now defunct anti-corruption bureau, sources said, adding that the government will also promote a good number of officials, who are on the verge of retirement, on humanitarian ground.

The government has plans to complete the promotion to the posts of deputy secretary and joint

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Peacekeepers' bodies arrive tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bodies of the nine UN peacekeepers from Bangladesh killed Friday in a militia ambush in the trouble-torn Ituri province of Congo are expected to reach Dhaka at

9:00pm today.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will receive the bodies at the Zia International Airport.

The nama-j-e-janaza of the deceased will be held at the Army

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Quorum crisis again

JS session starts late, 3 of 7 whips turn up at trouble-shooting meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Quorum crisis continues to bug the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) forcing it yesterday to start business half an hour late while a meeting of the ruling coalition whips aimed at improving

the situation also saw a poor participation.

Only 10 members, against the 60 needed to make a quorum, were present in the House at 4:30pm yesterday, the scheduled time to start business.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar launched the session at 4:58pm with 50 lawmakers present. It needed a few more minutes to ensure a quorum.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia joined the session at 5:30pm, when a total of 70 deputies were present in the House.

After the break for Magrib prayers, the session resumed 20 minutes late again due to quorum crisis.

The House was adjourned at 8:00pm, when only 51 members were present, until 4:30pm today.

WHIPS' MEET
Only three out of the seven ruling coalition whips turned up at the meeting yesterday aimed at fixing a strategy to check the recurrent quorum crises in the House.

Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar

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Time : 10:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m. Tuesday
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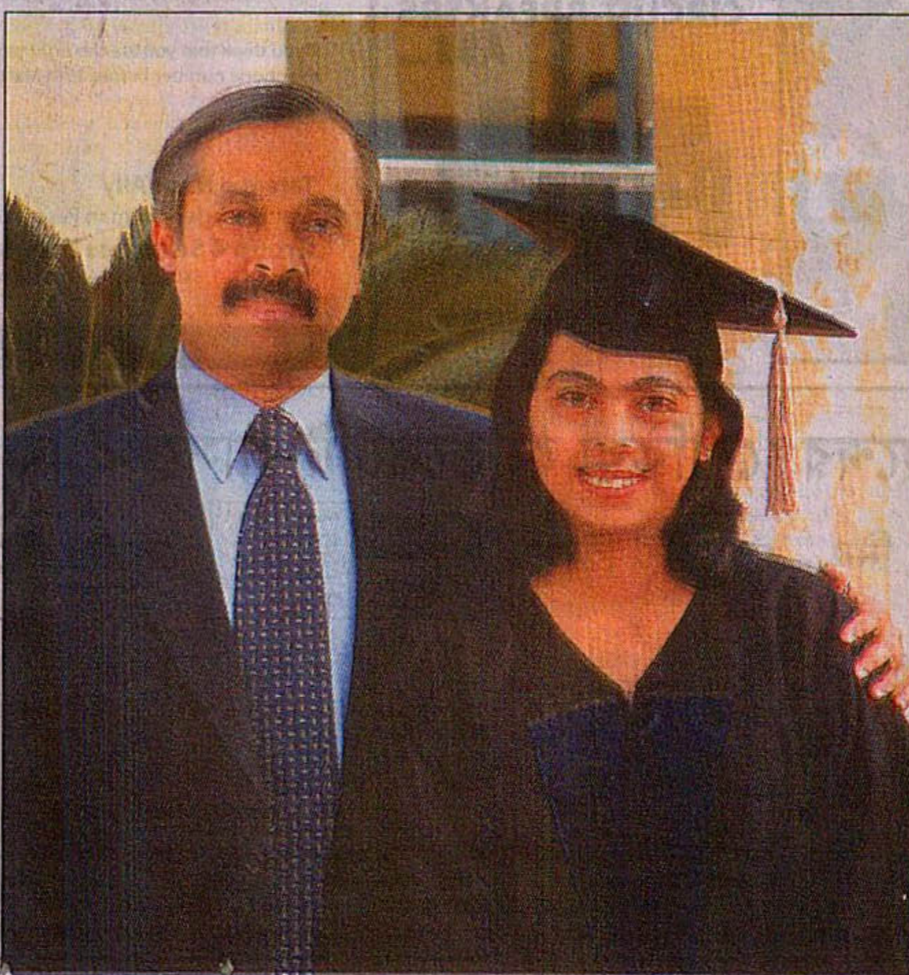
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