

Combing operation

FROM PAGE 1
other outlawed parties and burst their dens, reports our Khulna correspondent.

Sources said a ruling coalition lawmaker from Khulna division is also under watch for his suspected connection with one of the three Islamist militant groups.

The lawmaker is also among the 33 Islamist extremists suspected for participating in the Afghan war as mujahideen.

The list also includes the imam of a Khulna city Jame mosque, who has also been absconding since August 17.

Unconfirmed sources said most of these 33 Islamist extremists are hiding in the Sundarbans near the Indian border.

The coastguards will join the combing operation and the forest guards will also be involved if necessary said the sources.

COMILLA

Detectives yesterday arrested three JMB men, including a schoolteacher, in three separate drives in the district, reports our correspondent.

The arrests are Moula Atique Rahman, 34, son of Abdul Karim Sarker of Khairakandi village of Debibwan, Zakir Hossain, 26, son of Jasim Uddin of Uggarpur of Burichong upazila, and Azim Uddin, 46, son of Abdul Mannan of Nalgaon of Kapasia upazila of Gazipur.

Azim is an assistant teacher at Batakandi High School in Ifras upazila of Comilla.

The three were arrested in their houses following confessional statements of three other JMB men arrested earlier on Saturday.

Atique, Zakir and Azim confessed to the police that they had taken training in bomb-making and operating firearms, including AK47 rifle and 9mm pistol, under the supervision of Bangla Bhai.

JOYPURHAT
Five JMB members were arrested in Joypurhat early yesterday, BDNEWS reported.

Shadhana fined

FROM PAGE 1
Md Rokan Ud Doula.

The factory authorities also failed to show any equipment used to measure the standard of drugs.

Three cases were filed against Beni Madhab Mukhargee, general manager of the Shadhana Aushadhalaya Ltd under the acts of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTIT), Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Drug Administration.

Around 400 rare species Rhesus monkeys are living in the factory area and sometimes they snatch the molasses, locals told the reporters when the court was conducting the raid.

"Varieties of virus especially pygmy which is responsible for many diseases, spread out if animals like this type of monkeys stay within 300 metres," BSTI officer Nazir Ahmed told The Daily Star during the drive.

Alcohol will formulate where sugar and molasses are kept but Shadhana has no standard equipment to measure the percentage of alcohol, an officer of the mobile court said.

"Herbal medicine is good for health and play a vital role in curing diseases as it has few reactions but the producing process in the factory is not acceptable," Magistrate Rokan Ud Doula told reporters after the drive.

Another mobile court led by magistrate Mizanur Rahman raided two restaurants in Lejagon areas and fined a total of Tk 13,000 for keeping unhygienic environment and inedible food.

A mobile court led by Magistrate Majibul Hug raided eight hotels and sweetmeat restaurants of Paltan in the capital and fined Tk 45,000 for serving unsafe food and not maintaining hygienic environment.

Another mobile court led by Magistrate Md Abdul Saftah raided different restaurants and fast food shops in Badda area and fined four cases, fined Tk 90,000 and arrested a restaurant owner for keeping environment unhygienic and serving unsafe food.

Mohsin, son of Rustam Ali of Kadatia village in Comilla, admitted to having link with the JMB during primary interrogation, police said.

On Tuesday, police produced Mohsin before the court and sought 10-day remand. The court granted a four-day remand.

Acting on Mohsin's statement, police on the same day arrested another teacher of the madrasa, Abdul Hye, son of Abdul Malek Master of As a d n a g a r v i l l a g e u n d e r Brahmbaria upazila of Comilla. Police also quizzed him.

Buet rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1
Anowar Hossain.

Ours reply

The students demonstrating on the Buet campus on Tuesday alleged that the VC handed over two students to police, which agitated them further, leading to the alteration with the VC for 15 minutes.

The VC was not available for his comments on this issue on Tuesday.

We regret mentioning the name of Monowar Hossain as Anowar Hossain.

Expedite process

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The High Court should have a separate bench to deal only with securities-related cases, it suggested.

The seminar further recommended capacity building of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) officials and investors' awareness programme so that they are better equipped to address all related issues.

The Tuesday group wanted to hold a conference on fair polls in Bangladesh and the government shut them away, citing interference in internal matters of Bangladesh, she said.

If it was an interference in local matters, then what was it when a number of diplomats were stationed in the Election Commission secretariat on the day of 2001 election? asked the former prime minister.

About her India trip, the former prime minister said, she will visit Azmeen Sharif. "There may be courtesy calls with political leaders in Delhi during the visit," she said.

Hasina is expected to return on October 2.

Gayeshwar

FROM PAGE 16
published yesterday by several dailies. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with the ruling party's high commands for not giving his daughter the party nomination of women's reserved seat in the parliament.

Newspapers reported in the last couple of days that Gayeshwar had already tendered his resignation letter to the party high commands.

"I will declare it openly if I decide to resign from the party," Gayeshwar said to the reporters yesterday emerging from a home ministry meeting at the Bangladeshi Secretariat.

The BNP leader went to the party at Nayapaltan after the meeting around 2:00pm. He talked to a physician over the telephone and at 2:30pm he was admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease (NICVD) following chest pain and high blood pressure.

Subhash Das, son-in-law of Gayeshwar, told The Daily Star last night that his father-in-law was undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit.

His daughter Aparna Roy, while talking to The Daily Star, said she did not know whether her father resigned from the party or not. Aparna also expressed her dissatisfaction with the party high commands for not giving her party nomination.

Tata final

FROM PAGE 16
not," said a top-level source in the government.

He said both sides will make all-out efforts to settle all the critical issues about the proposed investment.

The sources said four critical issues will dominate the negotiation. These are fiscal incentive to Tata investment, gas security and gas price, tariff for purchase of electricity from Tata power plant and the methodology of co-financing in Barapukura.

Among the issues, sources said Tata wants fiscal incentive for its investment similar to those in the export processing zones (EPZs). At the same time, they want to be allowed to sell their products in the local market, which is prohibited for the investors in the EPZs.

The government does not want to provide Tata with such incentives at the same time, as it will mean discrimination for other foreign investors.

Secondly, Tata wants a guarantee for uninterrupted supply of gas to its fertiliser factory for 20 years and to its steel plant for 25 years.

But the government prefers to introduce a liquidity damage (LD) provision instead of any specific guarantee on gas supply.

The tariff on electricity will be the most critical issue, as the government has not set criteria for fixing tariff of electricity of the coal-fired plant.

Earlier, the officials of the Bangladesh government and the Tata Group held negotiation meetings thrice in Dhaka (May to July) to discuss the nitty-gritty of the proposed investment.

At that time, both sides tried to understand each other's position.

The sources said if both sides reach a successful conclusion this time, the agreement with Tata will be signed by the end of November this year.

And when we protested the news item, the newspaper published our rejoinder, but it was done in a way so as not to be clearly noticed.

Dhaka now 110 out

FROM PAGE 1

governance still remain major problems here," he mentioned. "There is no change in perception. We can change the perception by changing the reality."

The country is experiencing a deteriorating trend in investment and the business environment index, he said. The government is suffering from indecision, and policy instability is a cause for increasing concern about business environment.

Bangladesh ranked the lowest among 117 countries this year both in the corruption sub-index and the public institution index.

The Growth Competitiveness Index (GCI) of 2005 and 2004 shows change in the country credit rating in Bangladesh, which was negative five percent, had been the worst.

The CPD in collaboration with the World Economic Forum has been assessing the business competitiveness environment in Bangladesh since 2001. The GCI deals with two broad indicators, the GCI and Business Competitiveness Index (BCI).

This year's survey covered 93 companies in Bangladesh, which are contributing most to the national economy. Strengthening corporate governance has become essential.

The survey was designed to cover relatively large companies with total assets of at least Tk 10 crore.

These include 46 manufacturing companies, 13 financial institutions, seven real estate and construction firms, eight ICT enterprises, seven transport and engineering firms and 12 others.

Concerned sources said the JCD general secretary had an altercation with a student named Akash over the possession of a seat while watching a cultural function at the University Open Stage at 11:00pm on Tuesday.

The survey is to be open today for volunteers. Rather, what the entrepreneurs are thinking has been reflected in the survey.

"It does not mean that Bangladesh did not improve in any area. We are doing good but not enough," he added.

Low cost of labour and natural resources still continue to be major competing factors for Bangladesh, the CPD executive director said.

Investment, production and export are good but it is not better than last year's. Strengthening corporate governance has become essential.

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