

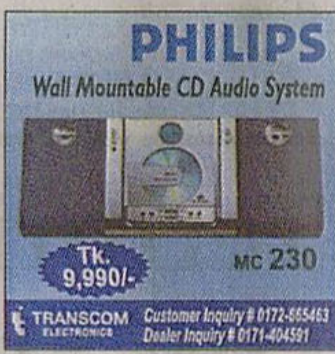


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AK47, bullets recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives recovered an AK47 assault rifle and 141 bullets from two persons at Dania in Shyampur Friday night but failed to arrest them. A Detective Branch (DB) team was checking vehicles at a check post on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in front of Dania College at around 11:35pm when two youths on a red motorbike were passing. "As we signalled them to stop for checking, they sped up and fled, dropping a bag behind," DB Assistant Commissioner (AC) Abdul Qudus Khan, who was leading the DB team, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Huge arms, ammo seized in Bandarban

Cache includes 4 AK47 rifles, 2,500 bullets; 3 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday recovered four AK47 rifles, seven 9mm pistols, three local guns and a huge number of ammunition from the border area in Naikkhongchhari. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army personnel in Ruma upazila yesterday held three Myanmar nationals for illegal entry. After the latest recovery, the number of AK47 rifles seized in last one month stands at six while that

of 9mm pistols is 17 and bullets 10,000. After a tip-off, a team of BDR raided a jhum house in remote forest of Chhagalkhaya in Naikkhongchhari yesterday morning. Led by Naikkhongchhari Battalion Commander Lieutenant Col Abdul Awal, the team found four Russian-made AK47 assault rifles, seven German-made 9mm pistols with 2,500 bullets, 14 LMG drum magazines and 18 long magazines dumped in the dense jungle. BDR sources said the terrorists had left behind the firearms for the sake of their own security. They, however, managed to escape the dragnet as the news of the operation was leaked beforehand, said local sources. BDR men in another raid recovered three local guns from Ong Jura U village at Modok border point in Thanchi upazila on Friday night. Modok Border Outpost Commander Captain Moin led the team that made the arms seizure.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

SAIDEE'S N'GANJ VISIT Cops club protesters, 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

At least 20 people were injured when police and Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres clashed with the opposition activists trying to resist Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saidee visiting Bandar upazila yesterday. The workers of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition alliance were demonstrating against Saidee's visit when the Shibir men in tandem with police swooped on them at places across Bandar. Earlier the local units of the opposition alliance had declared the lawmaker persona non grata

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

MILITANT ATTACKS

CJ says countrymen now at a crossroads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The countrymen are now at a crossroads of the national life facing the recent militant attacks, Chief Justice JR Mudassar Husain said yesterday. "Every citizen has the right to live with dignity, safety and security. So, against those terrorist attacks we have no other alternative but to respond unitedly in a clear and effective way," he said at a discussion on the rule of law in the

present context of Bangladesh. Organised by the Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB) at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium, the discussion marked the 57th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "We can best secure the rule of law by rooting the efforts at all levels of our social and political culture," the chief justice said, adding that a society is well-governed when "there is a rule of law, not the rule of a person".

He placed emphasis on effective and impartial functioning of the judiciary, saying a modern welfare state is always governed by some laws, rules and regulations and by some guidelines and prohibitive and penal procedures. Justice Sultan Hussain Khan, chairman of the Anti Corruption Commission, said those who are benefiting from these bomb attacks are providing all kinds of support to the bombers. "People

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Nat'l swimming meet postponed over threat from militant

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) Friday postponed its long-distance annual competition after threats from Islamist militants. "We've postponed the national competition for security fears following threat from militants," Shahabuddin Ahmed, the general secretary of the federation, told The Daily Star Sport. The national competition, for both men's and women's, was to be held on the Chitra river in Narail on December 12. "The district organiser, Narail sports association, faxed us a message stating that the deputy commissioner got a threat on his life from militants over recent arrests.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



A member of Detective Branch of police shows an AK47 assault rifle and its ammunition recovered from Dania in the capital on Friday night.

Two suicide bombers held, bombs seized JMB threat continues

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers in separate drives have arrested 16 cadres of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) including two suspected suicide squad members across the country. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claims one of the suspected suicide squad members arrested yesterday in Demra in the capital is a student of economics at Jahangirnagar University (JU). Meantime, law enforcers seized two powerful bombs in Patuakhali and Sirajganj, yesterday while a bomb hoax was reported in Chittagong. JMB threatened to blow up the Islamic University and Dinajpur

Government College. The Rab in a raid arrested the alleged suicide bombers Deen Islam alias Raju, 20, and Sabuj alias Washim, 24, in Gopalbagh in Demra, reports our JU correspondent. The elite force launched the raid following information gleaned from JMB suicide squad members arrested in Chittagong in November, Rab sources said. Sabuj, son of Abdus Salam, who hails from Kaliakair in Gazipur, is a JU student of the 2001-2002 academic session, while Raju is the son of Golam Rasul of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur. They have been handed over to Rab-3 in Dhaka for interrogation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Cops' Yadab claim weakens further

STAR REPORT

Police are now unsure if Yadav Das, one of the eight victims of the Netrakona blast, was a suicide bomber as three more bodies from the carnage bear similar injuries. They are yet to determine the identity of the suicide bomber(s) 48 hours into the blast that claimed eight lives and injured around 50. The primary knee-jerk reaction of the state minister for home and the police authorities also weakened as a police constable, Humayun Kabir, now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH), said he saw a bicyclist with a carton entering the crowd after the first blast. About six yards away from

the cyclist, Kabir asked him to stop, but he then quickly pulled a string from the carton, blowing off the bomb, the policeman said. Meantime, Netrakona police yesterday detained the father and brother of Yadav in the name of their security. Investigating officer Alauddin of Sadar Police Station told The Daily Star that they are now unsure about the identity of the bomber. "Observing the injuries Yadav received in the blast, we assumed him as the bomber," he said. "Later, we took Yadav and Rais Uddin as bombers as the two had similar injuries," Alauddin said, adding, "But the bomb experts said several people were injured in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Bomb hurled at pick-up van at Gulshan, 2 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals blasted a bomb in front of a pick-up van waiting for passengers in the city's Gulshan area yesterday evening, injuring a woman and a minor boy. No one however could tell who hurled the bomb and who was the target. Sathi, 30, a resident of Mohammadpur and manager of a beauty parlour in Gulshan sustained minor injuries to her back

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

FBCCI slams govt for delaying action against militants

Some business leaders demand Babar's resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders from across the country at a meeting in Dhaka yesterday reiterated their demand that the government should take stern measures to combat Islamist

militant activities without any delay. The government is delaying its action against rising militant activities with its manoeuvring for an all-party dialogue but it would not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Move to tap phones protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-eight eminent citizens in a statement under Sammilito Samajik Andolan (United Social Movement) banner protested against the government move to tap telephones yesterday and termed it anti-democratic. Alarmed at last week's cabinet decision to amend Telecoms Act to allow law-enforcement agencies eavesdrop on phones they said, it violates human rights and freedom of expression. "Government is responsible for the prevailing mismanagement, unrest and anarchic situation in the country and in such an atmosphere it may seem the act to tap

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

14-party sits today on PM's talks offer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14-party opposition coalition will sit today to form a clear position on the prime minister's letter inviting it for a national dialogue to find ways to stop terrorism. Sources in the coalition said the meeting may take a decision to send a reply to the prime minister's letter asking her to create a congenial atmosphere for the dialogue by sacking those parties and persons from her government who are accused of patronising militants. Left 11-party alliance, friendly to the 14-party coalition, is going to hold a separate meeting this

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Passengers go on rampage at ZIA as flight cancelled

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Unruly passengers of Biman Bangladesh Airlines went on the rampage at Zia International Airport (ZIA) last night as the flight they were waiting for was cancelled. The passengers, who were scheduled to fly to Riyadh at 9:00pm, attacked law enforcers, Biman officials and ZIA employees, and ransacked lounges. They claimed the authorities did not

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