



PHOTO: STAR

Rab recovers an AK 47-like shutter gun at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

## AK 47-like shutter gun, huge ammo seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered an AK 47-like shutter gun, eight cocktails, one foreign revolver and huge ammunitions from a den of a criminal at Motijheel in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Tipped off, a team of Rab raided a flat at the Railway Colony at south Shajahanpur and arrested Shahidul Islam Yusuf, 26, an accused in at least three cases including murder case.

Following Yusuf's statement, the Rab team raided a locked den of the goon in the same area at about 3:00am and recovered the cache.

## CU ADMISSION TEST 24 students vie for one seat

CU CORRESPONDENT

Around 24 candidates will compete for one seat in the upcoming admission test of Chittagong University (CU).

A total of 66,257 candidates collected forms for 2,815 seats to sit for the test that begins on January 21.

Admission forms was sold till the last date of form collection on December 22.

However, with introduction of two more departments - Psychology and Persian Language, the number of units has also been raised to eight from previous seven under which the students will sit for the admission tests this year, sources said.

A total of 7,955 forms were sold under 'KA' unit (science), 11,442 forms under 'KHA' unit (arts), 980 forms under KHA unit (oriental language and fine arts), 17,679 forms under 'GA' unit (commerce), 11,060 under 'GHA' unit (social science), 7602 forms under 'UMA' unit (law), 1,804 under 'CHA' unit (forestry), 1,147 forms under 'CHHA' unit (marine science) and 6,588 forms under 'JA' unit (biology).

The university authorities earned a Tk 1,65,64,250 this year from the sale of admission forms, sources added.



## Sami elected GS of SMEHS

The executive committee of Salimullah Muslim Hall Ex Students Society (SMEHS) of University of Dhaka in their recent meeting unanimously elected CM Koyes Sami as its new Secretary General, says a press release.

Sami served as chief executive of Arab Bangladesh (AB) Bank Limited and Dutch Bangla Bank Limited and later on joined the Oriental Bank Limited as chief executive.

In his professional life he has earned several recognitions and also represented the country and his institutions in seminars and symposiums abroad. A leading newspaper of India named Fortune India described him as "The Best Foreign Banker 1997-98" while he was serving as the country manager of AB Bank in Mumbai, India.

# Uphold national heritage, culture

President tells RTV launching programme

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the electronic media should focus on people's activities and strengthen the national heritage and culture.

"The role of mass media is very important in highlighting national progress and development at home and abroad. In this golden age of information technology, the electronic media is the most modern media for conveying the voice of the common people and current events objectively," he said.

The President was inaugurating the operation of RTV, a new Bangla satellite television channel in the private sector, at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference centre yesterday.

He also expressed the hope that RTV would encourage people's participation in the national development efforts and help expand literacy and improve the standard of education, create employment and attain the goal of poverty alleviation.

He said crores of Bangla speaking people living in various parts of the world, including the United States, Britain and the Far East and Middle East countries would be able to watch the programmes of RTV to be telecast through satellite.

This, he hoped, would help the Bangladeshi diaspora to keep in touch with the current politics, culture, development efforts and everyday events that are taking place in the country.

He reminded that transparency and accountability in all institutions must be ensured in a democratic society.

The President said the present government believes in freedom of speech, but all should be cautious so this freedom is not misused.

Mass media have the right to question transparency and accountability in various institutions, but at the same time the mass media are also accountable, he said.

Iajuddin said the media have responsibility towards society and they can play important role in bringing about social reforms.

He mentioned that various media including CNN did not confine their activities to transmission of news, but also helped the distressed people in various ways.

The President stressed upgrading our mass media to international standard and called upon all concerned to come forward in practising sound journalism while staying above all controversies.

He said the power of mass media should be used positively to create public awareness and to promote the lot of the people, to eradicate diseases and epidemics and to ensure sanitation.

He expressed hope that with the slogan of 'Aj and Agamir' (for today and tomorrow), RTV would be able to play an important role in serving the nation by reflecting the expectations and desires of the common people.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam and Chairman and Managing Director Alhaj Mosaddak Ali of RTV were present at the function.

## Nolok grabs int'l limelight

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Street singer Nolak Babu, who was crowned the top singer in Bangladesh's own version of 'American Idol', has grabbed international limelight.

The Statesman in a news item headlined 'Bangla's American Idol' called the achievement a 'U-turn' after he was announced "Closeup-1 Tomakei Khujche Bangladesh".

The Hindustan Times wrote: In a classic rags to riches story, a Bangladeshi street singer has won the country's first talent hunt TV show winning one million taka, the hearts of thousands of viewers who voted for him -- and a whole new life.

The Daily News & Analysis, a joint venture of the Dainik Bhaskar Group and Zee TV, carried the news item on the feat of the 19-year-old boy with the headline: A 'train singer' is Bangladesh Idol.

"Tears rolled down his cheek when Nolak was announced champion of the first ever Bangla song competition," wrote the Webindia123.com detailing the award distribution ceremony telecast live by NTV and watched by millions of viewers.

Grown up in a poor family in northern Jamalpur district and deserted by his father at the age of nine, the boy used to sing songs on the trains and buses to collect money for treatment of his ailing mother, wrote the New Kerala.Com.

"When I left home touching her legs, I had the target to return to her winning the Closeup-1 award. Now I will visit the country along with my mother by the car they awarded me," Nolak told the BDNEWS.

He remembered the day when he first appeared before audience at a Baishakhi fair in Jamalpur seven to eight years ago. "Usually people don't give money in such programmes, but on that day many people made contributions for me," he recalled.

International wire services like AP, AFP and Reuters and newspapers in the UK, the USA and Middle East countries also carried special features on the talent, who shot to fame with his performance in the Closeup-1 contest.

## Trader robbed of Tk 1.8 lakh in Ctg: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Miscreants snatched Tk1.8 lakh of a businessman at the city's Access Road in Agrabad yesterday.

Local people caught the two muggers and beat them up indiscriminately. The two identified as Zakir and Momin were undergoing treatment in critical conditions at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Police and witnesses said the incident occurred at around 12:30pm at Access Road in Agrabad while Liaqat Hossain, owner of Tultul Engineering, was going to a bank to deposit Tk 1,80,000.

The gang of four muggers in a CNG auto-rickshaw waylaid Liaqat and took away the cash and his mobile set at gunpoint. As they were fleeing the area, Liaqat cried out for help to recover his money. Some locals came forward and caught the two. They also recovered Tk 30,000 of the total amount. But the other two muggers managed to flee the scene with the rest of the money.

Police rescued Zakir and Momin from the angry mob and sent them to the CMCH. A case was filed in this connection with the Doublemooring Police Station.

## ICM grand rally today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Charmonai Pir Syed Md Fazul Karim, Ameer of the Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM), yesterday urged the people from all walks of life to make the today's grand rally a success.

The ICM will organise the Dhaka Divisional grand rally at Muktangan in the city at 2:00pm protesting continuous bomb attacks across the country, misrule of the government, terrorism, corruption and price hike of essentials.

The Charmonai Pir in a statement said those who are threatening the country, Islam and humanity are the enemies of Islam and the nation.

He said the government will meet a more dire consequence than the previous one for its attempt to elude responsibilities.

The Charmonai Pir said that innocent Alam-Olamas, teachers and students of madrasas are being harassed and arrested in the country.

He said the Islamic forces must protest it unitedly. He called upon the people to play effective role in establishing Islamic rule for peace in the country and freedom of humanity.



PHOTO: STAR

Former diplomat SA Karim launches a book titled 'There and Back Again: A Diplomat's Tale' by Ambassador KM Shehabuddin at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

# 'Enforce law to save Karnaphuli'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for proper enforcement of environment-related laws and prevention of encroachment to check pollution of the river Karnaphuli.

The also stressed the need for proper maintenance and regular dredging to improve the navigability of the river on which the premier seaport, the economic lifeline of the country, is located.

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) organised the seminar titled 'Lets Unite to Save the Karnaphuli' at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), with Prof Md Sikander Khan, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, Chittagong chapter, as the chief guest.

The discussants called for making an inventory and assessment of pollutants in all the 41 wards of the port city and tackling the pollution problem at ward level through community participation in order to reduce the pollution of the river.

They also underscored the need for better coordination among the Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) in enforcing the environment laws.

The authorities often disregard the aspects of pollution and even many officials and employees of these departments are not aware of the laws, they said.

The speakers called on the environment lawyers, social and professional organisations to create awareness and forge a movement to save the river Karnaphuli.

Prof Sikander Khan called on conscious people to identify those who disregard other people's right to open access resources such as the rivers, and inform the authorities for necessary actions.

All the stakeholders of such open access resources should be united and help the authorities check activities that cause pollution and destruction of the environment, he said.

CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin called for preserving open spaces and developing a new township along the Karnaphuli.

The CDA has recently prepared a physical planning for proper urbanisation and initiated some development projects involving the members of civil society and different experts, he said.

Under the project, roads bypassing the city centre and necessary bridges and culvert would be constructed soon, the CDA chairman added.

Mahmudul Islam, a former CDA chairman, said the industrial units polluting the environment should be closed down and people should help the authorities in this regard.

He also called for strict enforcement of laws to compel the industrial units to recycle their wastes in order

to protect the environment.

Presenting the keynote paper, Assistant Professor Md Shahadat Hossain of the Institute of Marine Science of Chittagong University said the metropolitan city produces about 760 tons of solid wastes everyday and a bulk of them found its way into the Karnaphuli.

Chemical wastes from 720 industrial units, including 19 tanneries, 26 textile mills, four paint and dye manufacturing units, pesticides and detergent plants, paper mills, fertiliser factories, refinery and bitumen plant, along the banks of the Karnaphuli have been polluting the river water continuously, he said.

Prof Aminuddin Mridha of CU presented a slide show at the seminar, presided over by Prof Dr Mohiuddin of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of CU.

Prof Sudhir Bikash Dev, former principal of Chittagong College, Principal Fazlul Haq of Government Mohsin College, Forum for Planned Chittagong (FPC) Vice-President Architect Bidhan Barua, CDA Chief Engineer Abdul Halim, journalist Asif Siraj and Jesmin Sultana Paru took part in the discussion, moderated by CU law department lecturer Mujtaba Md Abu Naser.

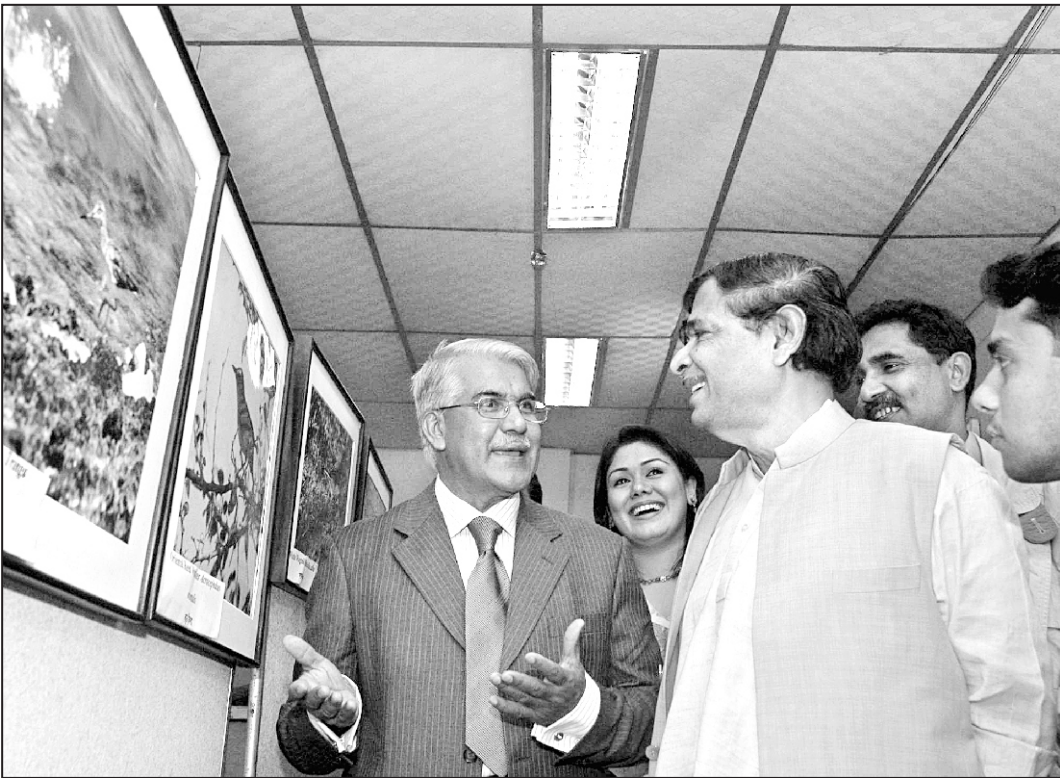


PHOTO: STAR

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed visits a photography exhibition of zoologist Ali Reza Khan at the Photojournalists' Association gallery in the city yesterday.



## Light to moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said, predicting night temperature is likely to fall slightly.

Highest temperature 27.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 10.8 degrees at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:19pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.6	15.5	71	58
Chittagong	27.0	16.6	67	60
Rajshahi	26.1	10.8	77	71
Khulna	25.0	14.2	76	72
Barisal	25.5	13.8	68	88
Sylhet	25.7	15.9	99	83
Cox's Bazar	26.6	19.0	68	67

## 'There and Back Again: A Diplomat's Tale' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book focusing on the role of diplomats during the War of Liberation was launched at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Former diplomat SA Karim launched the book titled 'There and Back Again: A Diplomat's Tale' by Ambassador KM Shehabuddin. Published by the University Press Limited, the book is a diplomat's first-hand account of the liberation war.

Former diplomats, educationists, editors, dramatists and writers who attended the publication ceremony said the book documents the importance of multilateralism, excellent personal rapport and proactive networking in international diplomacy.

They said it gives the reader a backstage look at many dilemma and decisions involved in major events. The book also includes comments on the current state of Bangladeshi diplomacy and suggestions for improvement, based on 35 years of diplomatic experience of the writer.

In his book, the author recounts the memories of several historic events as he witnessed and experienced them during his long career as diplomat and ambassador in South Asian countries, the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

Former ambassador Mohiuddin Ahmed said Shehabuddin is the first diplomat to defect and join the liberation war even before the formation of the Mujibnagar government.

Shehabuddin also played a leading role in the formation of a diplomatic front in '71, he added.

The book is a must-read for foreign service cadres, Mohiuddin said and suggested including it as a textbook of the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh.

Lauding the role of the author in the liberation war, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said his role was not only the involvement in the liberation movement, but also by being the first diplomat to defect, he encouraged many others to do the same.

He said it needed immense moral courage to defy the then Pakistan government, being a second secretary in Delhi High Commission.

He also lamented the absence of similar moral courage in present-day Bangladesh.

Ataus Samad, advisory editor of the Amar Desh, stressed the need for Bangla version of this book for everyone to read it.

Dramatist Mamtazuddin Ahmed also spoke at the function presided over by Prof Dr Anisuzzaman.

The price of the book is Tk 525.

## TRADE FAIR BLAST Police pick up hurt madrasa student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday picked up an injured madrasa student in connection with Sunday's bomb blast near Dhaka International Trade Fair to quiz him about the incident.

"We are interrogating Parvez and are yet to come across any pieces of evidence regarding his involvement," Sub-inspector (SI) Khan Mohammad Irfan, told The Daily Star last evening.

The SI, also the investigation officer of the case, said the explosion might be related to hijacking.

The police took Giasuddin alias Parvez to Tejgaon Police Station from Dhaka Medical College and Hospital around 1:00am. Parvez, among three others, also sustained injuries in the blast.

On information from Dhaka, Magura police yesterday picked up Parvez's father Golam Mawla at his house in Shibrampur upazila and released him after interrogation, reports our Magura Correspondent.

The police interrogated him for eight hours to find out whether his son was involved in the incident or not.

Neighbours said Parvez sat for this year's Alim examinations at Siddiquia Alim Madrasa and was expelled for adopting unfair means.

Some of them claimed he is an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

"I am not aware of his links to Shibir as he has been detached from us for about eight months," Golam told The Daily Star.

Parvez's uncle Abu Bakar Siddique however said his nephew had gone to Dhaka on December 9 for a computer training.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in and around the trade fair.