



## HEROIN SMUGGLING TO UK

## More shipments detected

Death threats issued to investigating officers

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Intelligence agencies have found out that the racket that had smuggled 75 kilogram heroin to the United Kingdom also trafficked another 72kg of the drug later to the same destination.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Special Branch

(SB) of police are now probing into the smuggling.

But, sources said, despite a home ministry directive to handle the case promptly, the CID, which is coordinating the investigation, is foot-dragging and is yet to file any case in this connection.

The agencies are investigating into the latest finding about the international drug smuggling ring.

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## Commodity price hike pushes down consumption

STAR REPORT

As prices of essential commodities are on the rise, low and fixed income group people are being forced to buy or consume less than what they usually do.

Sales of certain essentials including sugar, powdered milk, pulses including lentil, onion, potato, garlic, ginger, green and dry chillies have gone down substantially in recent days as their prices have shot up significantly within a short span of time, traders said.

The price of sugar has more than doubled in the last six months hitting between Tk 62 and Tk 64 per kilogram (kg). Average sugar price

ranged between Tk 30 and Tk 32 per kg in September last year. But the price hit as high as Tk 70 a kg yesterday at neighbourhood grocery shops.

Prices of onion rose by 50 percent, potato 30 percent, garlic nine percent, and broiler chickens 13 percent within just a month, according to the daily monitoring report prepared yesterday by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

Prices of lentil, eggs, palm oil, flour, fish (truti), beef and mutton have shot up between 3 to 9 percent yesterday than what the prices had been on March 4, the TCB reports said.

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