

ROTTEN WHEAT DEAL
OC, 2 SIs held
for taking
Tk 15 lakh bribe
OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The joint forces on Tuesday arrested five people, including three police officers, for exchanging Tk 15 lakh as bribe inside Fatulla Police Station in Narayanganj to get released a huge amount of rotten wheat seized earlier.

The arrestees are -- Ashraful Islam, officer-in-charge (OC), and sub-inspectors (SIs) Enamul Haq and Miraj Al Mahmud of the police station and Mostafizur Rahman and Zakir Hossain, officials of Abul Khair Group, a food importer.

The joint forces comprising army and the Rapid Action
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BOGRA TORTURE
Probe finds 5
cops guilty
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A three-member inquiry committee accused five police officials for torturing a suspected thief at Bogra Sadar police station (PS) in its report submitted on Tuesday.

They are -- officer-in-charge (OC) Shamsul Haque, SIs Monjur Rahman, Abdul Karim and Shariful Islam (2) and constable Nurul Islam.

The committee, led by an additional police super, also recommended for taking punitive action against SI Karim for his negligence in duty and filing divisional cases against the other four. SI Karim might be discharged from service if the report is implemented, sources said.

On January 27, all the accused
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Fair polls not enough for democracy

Roundtable stresses depoliticising constitutional bodies, seeks roadmap of interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight former advisers of caretaker governments (CG) yesterday underscored the need for strict compliance with some rules for healthy democratic practices, saying only a free and fair election is not enough for upholding democratic values spilt over the years.

They also suggested non-politicised appointment of compe-

tent persons to key posts of constitutional bodies and other public institutions, and a thorough cleansing to depoliticise those for sustaining democracy.

Keeping off interfering in local administrations and development works, the lawmakers will have to concentrate on their duty of making laws which they are voted for, the advisers said as they put their heads together at a roundtable titled 'Im-

peratives of Present Caretaker Government'.

Editor of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman moderated the discussion organised by the newspaper at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

IMPERATIVES & TIMEFRAME
Noting that the CGs do not have limitations like political governments, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, an adviser of the 1991 CG, said, "We
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Businessman
arrested with
arms, huge
ammo

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a businessman and seized three firearms, 5,373 rounds of ammunition and three walkie-talkies from his Bijoynagar residence in the capital on Tuesday.

The arrestee, Anwarul Islam Tareq, 48, was put on a two-day remand yesterday for interrogation after a case was filed with Ramna Police Station in this connection.

Acting on a tip-off, a squad of Rab's crime prevention company led by Major Ershadul Haq raided the three-storey house of Anwar at
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BURIGANGA CLEAN-UP
BIWTA knocks
down 66 illegal
structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday knocked down 66 concrete structures of Hasnabad, Naiyatola and Mirerbagh areas located on the Keraniganj side of the river Buriganga.

"It was a factory of Nazim Chairman, who is a very influential person at Keraniganj area," Sharif Afzal Hossain, a BIWTA official said after the drive, adding they tried to demolish this one-storey structure earlier but failed.

The BIWTA officials also partially demolished several factories and residences yesterday, sources said.
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CONTAINER HANDLING

Charge goes up by four times

RAFIQ HASAN

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) unilaterally raised the charge for handling container through four sophisticated Quay Gantry Crane (QGC) by nearly four times for gearless vessels (ships without crane).

A CPA circular had said the enhanced charge would be effective from today (February 1) but facing strong opposition from the Shipping Agents Association, the decision was postponed until February 21, sources said.

Nine out of 48 feeder vessels operating on the main routes connected Chittagong and Singapore, Malaysian and Sri Lanka ports are

gearless.

The Chittagong port authorities issued a circular on Monday saying that the handling charge for a loaded 20-feet container would be \$14.60 instead of \$3.63 earlier while the port would charge \$21.80 dollars for a 40-feet container instead of previous rate of \$5.80, said the source.

The new charge would be applicable for gearless ships that do not carry any crane on board. The charge for the ships with gear would be one-fourth of the rate, said the circular.

The unilateral decision of increasing handling charges angered the Shipping Agents Association who held an emer-

gency meeting with the CPA chairman and other high officials yesterday.

The shipping agents decided not to comply with the decision of increasing handling charges.

The enhanced charge for gearless ship would keep negative impact on cargo handling at the port and it would discourage the feeder vessel operators, they said.

The business community also protested the decision saying that it would keep serious impact on the consumer items.

The sophisticated gantry cranes installed spending Tk 150 crore are used mainly for handling container of gearless vessels that cannot
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Revised ADP to drop unapproved new projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unapproved new projects under the ongoing Annual Development Programme (ADP) will not be included in the revised ADP (RADP) for the current fiscal year, according to new RADP rules and regulations.

The planning ministry issued the new RADP rules and regulations yesterday as part of the caretaker government's initiative to revise the ADP.

The new RADP will accord power and energy highest importance while agriculture and infrastructure-related projects will also

receive priority for approval.

Out of 1,472 projects under the ongoing ADP, 586 are unapproved and without funds; of these, 429 unapproved projects are without funds and 157 others will be funded by donors.

Currently 886 projects are being implemented under the ongoing ADP.

The immediate past BNP-led coalition government approved 80 projects at the end of its term during the current fiscal.

The new rules and regulations
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Rajshahi mayor
files defamation
suit against
Prothom Alo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu yesterday lodged a defamation suit with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court against the leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

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Prayer Timing		
February 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		