

Five JMB men, four outlaws captured

STAR REPORT

The law enforcers yesterday arrested five militants of outlawed JMB and four cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Bagmara upazila of Rajshahi district, in Sadar upazila of Sherpur district and in Chittagong.

The JMB militants arrested in Bagmara are Shafiqul Islam; 33, of Udpura village and Mahmud Hasan, 40, of Ramrama village, our staff correspondent at Rajshahi reports.

Acting on a tip-off, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel raided Udpura village and arrested Shafiqul at his house, while Bagmara police arrested Mahmud at Ramrama village.

Police picked up the PBCP

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DHAKA WATER SUPPLY \$250m ADB aid for better system

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will allocate \$250 million to improve water supply situation in Dhaka city, as it found its pilot project in the city's Manikdi area effective.

"The pilot project demonstrates how quality water supply could be ensured," ADB Country Director Hua Du told reporters during a visit to the Dhaka Water Supply Project (DWSP) in Manikdi near Uttara yesterday.

Hua Du assured of the allocation considering the success of the pilot project that helped reduce water losses from 53 percent in March 2006 to 14 percent in January 2007 due to rehabilitation

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Barapukuria power plant resumes full-scale generation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Both units of 250MW Barapukuria coal-based power plant in Parbatipur resumed full-scale power generation around midnight Tuesday.

Officials at the power plant yesterday said a total of 220MW generated power is being added to the national grid through Rangpur grid since late Tuesday night as 20 to 25MW power is consumed by the plant itself.

The power plant resumed operation after the government imported coal from a neighbouring country. The state-owned Barapukuria Coal Mining

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PHOTO: STAR

Yesterday's brief shower floods the Satrasta intersection at Tejgaon in the capital.

Car bombs kill 160 in Baghdad

AFP, Baghdad

An avalanche of car bomb attacks on Shia districts of Baghdad slaughtered 160 people yesterday and delivered a savage blow to the credibility of two-month-old US security plan.

The series of blasts were the deadliest in Baghdad since the launch of the massive crackdown; the single deadliest blast alone killed 115 people, mainly commuters and shoppers.

The bombings ripped through five districts of the sprawling capi-

tal, where thousands of Iraqi and US troops are straining to enforce order and contain the daily violence terrorising Baghdad's five million residents.

In the bloodiest attack, a parked car exploded on a principal intersection and in a busy market area in the downtown district of Al-Sadriyah, scattering charred corpses among a row of burnt-out buses.

A fire incinerated human flesh, cars and vehicles after a deafening blast that sent a dense cloud of putrid black smoke spewing into the

afternoon sky as rescue workers screeched through the streets to scenes of horror.

Fire engines doused nearby cars and buses as dozens of ambulances and pick-up trucks ferried the wounded to hospital and civilian volunteers wrapped charred bodies in carpets for transport to the city's overflowing morgues.

Angry Iraqis who lost loved ones lashed out at Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, blaming his beleaguered government for failing to bring law and order to the streets of

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PHOTO: STAR

Farmers are in despair as they see sterile paddy sheaths plucked from their field at Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

UNDP offers Tk 400cr for voter list, ID card

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has assured the Election Commission (EC) of providing financial assistance for simultaneously preparing the voter list with photographs and national identity cards at an estimated cost of Tk 400 crore.

"The UNDP has assured us of providing the full amount of money required for the task," Election Commissioner Sahul Hossain told reporters yesterday. He said the UNDP will give the money as a grant.

A meeting on foreign funds for the voter list project was held at the Economic Relation Division (ERD) on Tuesday where UNDP repre-

sentatives and the EC secretary were present.

The EC at an inter-ministerial meeting last Sunday decided to explore options to sees if any foreign fund is available for the project. The meeting asked the ERD to work in this regard and seek financial assistance from four countries--the UK, the USA, Canada and Japan.

Meanwhile, the EC Secretariat has set May 18 for the examination of 320 upazila election officers to test their capability for the job. The Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University will take the examination.

The EC Secretariat has already

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Wild elephants trample 2 kids to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Wild elephants straying into a village trampled two children to death in Ramu upazila under the district on Wednesday night.

As a herd of elephants swooped on Joyariyanala village near a forest, Mohammed Mostafa, 9, son of Nazir Ahmed, and Lucky Akter, 7, daughter of Shah Alam, fell victim, police and forest officials said.

The elephants also destroyed five houses, uprooted trees and demolished standing crops.

Wild elephants killed about 10 people in Cox's Bazar last year, a forest official said, adding that massive deforestation and encroachment due to fresh human settlements are destroying wildlife sanctuaries and it causes the elephants' more frequent intrusions into the villages.

21 killed in shootouts in Brazil

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Police gun battles with suspected drug traffickers and shootouts between rival gangs in Rio de Janeiro overnight to Tuesday left at least 21 people dead, police said.

Thirteen people were killed in a shootout believed to be between rival drug trafficking gangs in the Morro da Mineira slum in the north of the city, according to a police toll.

The gunfight also injured 12 people, a police spokesman told AFP, emphasizing that the toll was not final.

About a dozen suspected drug runners, including five minors, were arrested.

The shootout began at daybreak on Tuesday when a gang swarmed over the shantytown in what appeared to be an attempt to grab the drug market there from a rival gang.

The violence escalated when police arrived and the shooting

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Prayer Timing		
April 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

No change in Titas gas field

Int'l consultant summoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd (BGFCL) has invited an international consultant to visit the troubled Titas Gas Field, sources said.

However, the sources could not confirm if the international consultant would be assigned to patch up the leakage in the troubled third well of the field.

Around half a million dollars worth of gas, between 15 and 18 million cubic feet a day (mmcf), are rushing out of the well uncontrolled since Monday posing a threat of a blowout.

Sources said the consultant is expected to arrive soon. The consultant has previous experience in

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FALSE DECLARATION Tk 6.61cr 'used' machinery seized in Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong customs officials seized 17 containers of capital machinery imported under false declaration at Chittagong Port on Tuesday night.

S Co Colour Coating Line of Dhaka imported the old and used machinery instead of the declared "brand new, defect-free" ones worth around Tk 6.61 crore, sources in Chittagong Customs House said.

The customs officials suspected that some sort of money laundering might have taken place through the invoice that also involved customs duty of Tk 33 lakh.

The authority will carry out physical inspection of the containers today, they said.

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Moudud sent to jail in liquor smuggling case

Hearing on charge-framing in Huda's arms case Apr 26

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP leader and former law minister Moudud Ahmed was sent to jail yesterday in connection with the case filed for smuggling in contraband foreign liquors and possessing those.

Another Dhaka court yesterday fixed April 26 for hearing on charge-framing against detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda in an arms case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Selina Akhter passed the order after Moudud, who is also a member of

the BNP Standing Committee, was produced before the court on completion of his four-day remand.

Heavily guarded by police, a gloomy Moudud was produced before the court at 2:30pm where his lawyers moved two petitions one for his treatment and the other for providing him division in the jail custody.

In the forwarding report placed before the court, Officer-in-Charge of Gulshan Police Station Obaidul Haq, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he gathered important information about the contraband liquors from

Moudud who failed to show any documents for bringing and keeping those liquors.

The IO also mentioned that through misuse of power during his ministership Moudud had kept sarees, meant for the poor as government relief, in his possession. Besides, the ex-minister did not distribute those to the people, which is a corruption.

Filing a separate case by the Anti-Corruption Commission in this regard is now under process and subject to investigation.

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Bangladesh's last Cup match today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be trying to sign off from the Cricket World Cup on a high when they play wounded hosts West Indies in today's Super Eights match in Barbados.

Bangladesh's last match in the cricket's showpiece event may only have academic interest but following Habibul Bashar's men's heart-breaking 74-run defeat to Ireland, it turns into a battle of two bruised sides.

The action starts at 7:30pm with state-run Bangladesh Television

(BTV) and SET Max beaming live coverage of the game from Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

While Brain Lara's demoralised side hope to rescue their tarnished reputation in their penultimate encounter, the Tigers' focus would be on proving their disappointing loss against ICC associate members Ireland as an 'accident' after two heroic triumphs against India and South Africa.

The Tigers have yet to conquer the West Indians in one-day internationals. They lost ten out of 12

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SL wipe out Ireland

AFP, St George's

Farveez Maharoof and Muttiah Muralidaran shared eight wickets as Sri Lanka crushed Ireland by eight wickets after dismissing them for only 77 runs in their Super Eights match at the Grenada National Stadium here Wednesday.

Sri Lanka replied with vigour as they notched up the target, reaching 81 in 10 overs losing only two wickets. Veteran opener Sanath Jayasuriya took the Irish attack to the cleaners as he smote three boundaries and a six to score an unbeaten 24. Captain Mahela Jayawardene accompanied him as he struck five boundaries and a six in his 39 off 27 balls.

Jayasuriya lost his opening partner Upul Tharanga in the first over as the left-hander was out caught at point to Boyd Rankin

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