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CTG ARMS HAUL Further probe ordered for smuggling case too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday ordered further investigation also into the smuggling case filed under the Special Powers Act in connection with the haul of 10 truck-load of deadly arms and ammunition at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty on April 02, 2004.

Earlier on Monday, the same court ordered further investigation for the second time into the arms case relating to the ammo haul filed

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Massive fire at Mohammadpur slum

1,000 shanties gutted; criminal link suspected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire gutted around 1,000 shanties leaving about 4,000 people homeless at a slum in the city's Bijli Moholla under Mohammadpur police station in the early hours yesterday.

At least 10 slum dwellers suffered burn injuries while trying to extinguish the fire.

Many of the affected people alleged that some vested quarters

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Dr Toufiq still detained, now shown held in Niko graft case

UNB, Dhaka

Detained former power and energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury couldn't come out of jail on High Court bail in the barge-mounted power plant case, as he has been shown arrested in another graft case involving Niko gas deal.

Talking to the news agency over cellphone yesterday evening, Bushra Toufiq, daughter of Dr Toufiq, informed the news agency

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Dhaka, Delhi sign deal to double flights

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh and India signed an air service agreement on Wednesday raising the number of weekly flights from 30 to 61.

The pact signed in New Delhi will allow Bangladeshi airlines to operate flights to 18 destinations in India and Indian airline Air India to operate flights from Sylhet for the first time, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

Civil aviation authorities of the two countries also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the designated airlines of both the sides to operate seven all-cargo flights per week within their territories by any type of aircraft.

The decisions were reached at a three-day meeting from February 11 to 13 between the two sides in New Delhi. The Bangladesh dele-

gation led by Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali went to Delhi on February 9 to attend the meeting.

The 18 Indian destinations are -- Patna, Lucknow, Guwahati, Gaya, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Khajuraho, Aurangabad, Goa, Jaipur, Port Blair, Kochi, Trivandrum, Kozikode, Amritsar, Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad and Tiruchirappalli.

Earlier, Bangladeshi airlines' destinations in India were Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai.

The two countries also agreed to the provision of co-operative marketing arrangement to enhance air services and make it profitable.

However, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd said the increase in number of flights has not been a positive step for Biman as it was not

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Swiss group declared fit to buy Oriental Bank stake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Switzerland-based ICB Global Finance Group Holdings AG has received the central bank approval to buy 50.1 percent stake in the troubled Oriental Bank for Tk350.77 crore.

The Swiss firm has been asked to pay its offered amount before signing of the 'sale and purchase' agreement on February 28, Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Murshid Kuli Khan told reporters at his office yesterday.

The central bank in an advertisement on August 2 last year invited expressions of interest (EOI) for selling the problem-ridden bank and six bidders responded. Of those, ICB Global Finance Group and Domestic Investment Consortium submitted technical and financial proposals.

Domestic Investment Consortium offered the price at Tk251 crore.

The central bank took over the administration of Oriental Bank on June 19, 2006 following mismanagement and rampant corruption by some of the bank's directors.

FULL STORY STAR BUSINESS PAGE 8



A crow feasts on a dead chicken at Kaptanbazar in the capital yesterday. Dead fowls are carelessly left lying around or in the city's garbage dumps although the city corporation has put barrels near kitchen markets to dump them.

REPORT TO ACC Ex-MP Ilyas Ali shows Tk 4cr wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Former BNP lawmaker and convener of Sylhet district BNP M Ilyas Ali filed his wealth statement with the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday evening claiming his wealth to be worth Tk3.99 crore.

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SHIBIR RAMPAGE Rangpur college principal gets death threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The Principal of Rangpur Carmichael College, Dipendra Nath Das has filed a GD with the police after receiving a death threat by post yesterday.

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Death traps in workplaces

Toll still too high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction, sea fishing and readymade garment (RMG) sectors topped the most hazardous occupations in the country in 2007, according to a survey based on newspaper reports.

Workplace fatalities reported in 2007 were 435 while injuries totalled to 1,176.

The highest number of fatalities, 105 deaths, was recorded in construction sector while sea fishing took the second position with 45 deaths. Readymade garment (RMG) sector came in third with 39 fatalities.

The survey, conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) on the basis of reports published in 14 national

newspapers in 2007, was revealed at a discussion at BILS office in the capital yesterday.

Inadequate safety measures and absence of training at workplaces are some of the main reasons behind the rising incidents of workplace casualties, said trade union leaders and labour rights activists.

According to the survey, at least 291 workers were killed and 550 injured in workplace accidents alone and 26 workers were killed in road accidents.

Violence in and outside the workplaces caused the death of 118 and injuries of 626 workers.

Twenty-two female workers were killed in accidents at their workplaces while 44 female

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Power handover to elected govt a must to keep int'l backing

Says French FM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner has said that the caretaker government in Bangladesh has to hand over power to an elected government if it wants to take the country forward and also keep the support of the international community.

Emphasising the fact that the state of emergency can never be a permanent solution, Kouchner said, Bangladesh needs to become politically more stable in order to grow and fulfil its potential.

Kouchner, one of the founders of Medecines Sans Frontiers, was speaking to US-based agency News World at an awards ceremony in New York on February 12.

Bangladeshi Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus was the main

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Musharraf warns against any poll results protest

Zardari urges supporters to 'besiege' polling stations

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf pledged yesterday that next week's elections will be free and fair and on time, but warned that any protests against the result would not be tolerated.

Musharraf said that the success of the "mother of all elections" was crucial for international efforts to stabilise the violence-prone nuclear-armed nation, which remains a key ally in the US-led "war on terror".

His stern warning came after the

widower of assassinated former premier Benazir Bhutto said he would call for mass agitation if rigging denies his party victory.

"Despite all the insinuation and apprehensions, the elections will be free, fair, transparent and peaceful. It is my pledge to the nation," Musharraf said at a special government conference shown live on state television.

"No disruption or violence will be allowed. If people think they can come on streets after the elections, nothing of that sort will be

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Commissioners of DCC ask for honorarium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A few Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) commissioners sometimes adopt unfair means since DCC commissioners are not given any honorarium or money to run their offices, a number of commissioners yesterday claimed.

Meanwhile, the commissioners protested the Election Commission's decision not to allow anyone participate in local government elections if they hold any post in a political party.

At the 12th board meeting of DCC auditorium, the commissioners demanded Tk 25,000 as monthly honorarium with arrears from the 1st board meeting held after the election on April 25, 2002. DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka presided over the meeting.

According to sources, there is no

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Poppy farming again in hills

MANIRUL ISLAM MANU, from Bandarban

Poppy cultivation has begun once again in the bordering hilly areas of Thanchi and Alikadam upazilas in Bandarban.

Source said a terrorist group of Myanmar in collusion with an international drug smuggling ring is forcing local indigenous people to grow poppy on a large scale this year.

Armed cadres of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) had allegedly set up a hideout in Likri Yabang area near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border with an aim to control poppy cultivation, said

sources.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said BDR has only five border outposts on the 250-kilometre-long border in the hilly area leaving a loophole in security measures.

Several terrorist groups allegedly set up their hideouts in the unprotected bordering areas as the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar is yet to be demarcated.

Apart from being involved in poppy cultivation and narcotics smuggling, the ALP members often abduct local people to get ransom.

Poppy cultivated on a vast tract of land here would come into

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	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-57	6-01
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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