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CTG ARMS HAUL
Further probe ordered for smuggling case too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

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 arms 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 graft case.

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-

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gation led by Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Sheikh Attaf 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

FULL STORY STAR BUSINESS PAGE 8



South Africa captain Graeme Smith (wearing sunglasses) leads his team out of Zia International Airport yesterday morning. The Proteas are here to play two Tests and three ODIs with the first Test starting in Dhaka on February 22.

PHOTO: STAR

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 to participate in local government elections if they hold any post in a political party.

At the 12th board meeting of DCC commissioners held at the 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.

"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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According to sources, there is no

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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.

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

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 Liki Yabang area near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border with an aim to control poppy cultivation, said

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

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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.

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Prayer Timing		
February 15		
	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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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 Médecins Sans Frontières, 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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