

Ctg arms haul

FROM PAGE 16 tentative list, said CID sources in Chittagong.

The first investigation officer and plaintiff of the arms case, Ahadur Rahman, the then officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, the second investigation officer AKM Kabir Uddin, former deputy commissioner (port) Abdullah Baki and former assistant commissioner (port) Mahmudur Rahman are on the tentative list, the sources added.

The sources claimed that Ahadur Rahman, now the district intelligence officer of Satkhira, and AKM Kabiruddin, now retired, failed to make much headway in the case.

Abdullah Baki reportedly had a role in recording the case twice, scrapping the original one to drop the names of five persons suspected to

have links with Ulfa (United Liberation Front of Assam). The five were held at CUFL jetty on the night of the incident, the sources said.

On the remand prayers for the former CUFL officials, the current investigation officer of the case Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, also senior ASP of CID Chittagong Division, said, "We felt it necessary to interrogate the former managing director and the former general manager (admin) further."

He said, "Despite being informed of the offloading of deadly weapons, the two apparently did nothing. They visited the spot neither that night nor the next day."

"Moreover, when the security officer concerned informed the managing director of the matter in writing, he forwarded it to higher authori-

ties in BCIC (Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation) headquarters in Dhaka," said the investigation officer.

The former managing director and general manager were arrested Thursday after being interrogated along with others in one room and following the confessional statement given to a court by former assistant security officer of CUFL Mobin Hossain Khan. Regarding the progress of the investigation, the investigation officer said, "We are focusing on CUFL. We have almost finished questioning CUFL officials concerned with only a few more to go."

He said, "We would later question others in higher authorities concerned as well as those in the law enforcement and intelligence agencies."



A scavenger collects used blood bags from the drainage line of a private clinic at Mehendibagh of Chittagong. Oblivious to the dangers of handling the bags, the woman said she will clean and sell the bags.

Defamation

FROM PAGE 16 Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Dr Abdul Majid recorded statements of the complainant, took the charges into cognizance against the accused and passed the arrest warrant order.

In his complaint, Hannan Shah said that Irad, at a press briefing at his Gulshan home on March 9, claimed that Hannan Shah has a corruption record and called the complainant 'an illegitimate son of democracy'.

The statement, published in different national dailies the next day, was false, baseless and fabricated. It was done to damage the image of the complainant in the society as well as the political arena. Several electronic media houses broadcast the press briefing, the complainant added.

The accused not only tried to damage the image of the complainant but also the image of Khaleda Zia, former Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) mayor Mohammad Hanif, Mirza Abbas and incumbent Mayor Sadeque

Hossain Khoka, he said.

Coming down heavily on former DCC mayors, Irad had said all of them have failed. "How does a responsible political party nominate people like Mirza Abbas, Sadeque Hossain Khoka or Hanman Shah who all have corruption records?" he had said.

Irad Ahmed at a press briefing on March 9 claimed that BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia demanded Tk 5 crore from Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) mayor aspirant Irad in exchange for party backing in the upcoming DCC mayoral election.

Irad Ahmed, in presence of his father, BNP standing committee member Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky, said, "I met the BNP chairperson and she wanted to know if I had enough money."

"I told her that honest and competent candidates are not supposed to have enough money. In reply she said, 'I will be very frank' and asked for Tk 5 crore from me. I told her that I will not give her the money from my bank account since I am neither a Mosaddak Ali Falu nor a Mirza Abbas," he said.

RTI may offer wider access

FROM PAGE 1 take prior permission from the RTI commission to do so.

Once the bill is amended as per the committee's recommendation, none of the organisations -- government, statutory or others registered under the laws of the land -- will be able to deny giving information to individuals without prior permission from the commission.

As per a provision of the bill, organisations are not bound to provide or disclose information that might pose a threat to country's security, integrity and sovereignty or confidential information received from any foreign government, advance information on changes in tax, VAT and budget, matters under trial and investigation and summary prepared for cabinet meeting.

Committee Chairman Obaidul Quader placed the report in the House and recommended passage of the bill with proposals for changes in it.

The committee also recommended that the House form the right to information commission in 90 days, instead of the present provision for forming it 'as early as possible'.

It also recommended bringing changes to the formation of the select committee to pick a panel for the commission.

As per the committee's recommendation, a person practising journalism and having the qualification of an editor or any distinguished member of civil society involved in mass media can be incorporated in the five-member body.

The committee also recommended that the organisations must publish reports every year with details about their structures, functions, laws, rules and notifications.

However, the bill proposed publishing such reports after every two years.

The immediate past caretaker government promulgated the right to information

ordinance to ensure people's access to information. But the ordinance ceased to have effect on February 25 as it was not ratified in parliament on time.

Later the government placed a bill for continuation of the legal framework with retrospective effect from October 20, 2008, the day the ordinance was promulgated.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry placed in parliament two separate reports on two bills on Sylhet and Barisal Metropolitan Police.

The committee recommended that the House pass the bills bringing some amendments to it.

The chief of the parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism ministry also placed a report on scrutiny of the Bangladesh

Aviation Corporation Amendment bill.

Journalism evolving

FROM PAGE 16 "There is panic that newspapers are going to disappear as businesses," Johnson said.

"Then there is panic that crucial information is going to disappear along with them. We spend so much time figuring out how to keep the old model on life support that we don't figure out how to build the new one."

News organizations should stop wasting resources on information freely available online, he added. And, they should stop killing trees.

"The business model sure seems easier to support if the printing goes away," Johnson said. "They don't have the print costs."

International Data Group (IDG) has some 450 publications, many of them only available online.

The global technology media, events and research company learned the benefits of delivering its publications, such as PC World and InfoWorld, exclusively on the internet, IDG chairman Patrick McGovern told AFP in a recent interview.

"The overall move to online has been big," McGovern said. "Print editions are yesterday's news. If

it is news, people want to hear it as soon as they can."

IDG operates in 95 countries and says it is growing by double digits in China, India, and Eastern Europe.

Newspaper publishers would be wise to drop print and delivery costs and then focus on digging out the hot local topics that their readerships crave, according to McGovern.

"Find out the scandal in the mayor's office; what the police are up to, and those other things that people love to talk about," McGovern said. "It is easier and much less costly to put it online."

While internet users have grown accustomed to getting news, pictures, videos and other content for free, McGovern believes people will pay monthly subscriptions for online newspapers solidly tapped into their communities.

"I think people realize that if they are not paying for the information there will not be much investment in the information," McGovern said.

Johnson sees the future of news weaving together talents of professional journalists, bloggers, and people using social networking tools

such as Facebook and Twitter to instantly tell what is happening around them.

The information mix will, of course, include direct online streams such as webcasts from high-profile people such as US President Barack Obama.

"Let's say it is impossible to separate fact finding from rumor mongering," Johnson hypothesized.

"If only there were some institution that had a reputation for integrity and a staff of trained journalists that had thousands of people visiting their websites every day."

Those institutions are newspapers, Johnson noted, adding that an Internet-age motto of newspapers should be "All the news that fit to link."

Johnson is co-founder of a series of websites, his latest being Outside.in, and his books include "Everything Bad is Good For You" and "The Invention of Solitude"

Army Headquarters Invitation for Tenders Military Engineer Services. Notice No. 600/15/27/2008-2009/E-6 Date: 08 March 2009. Includes details of tendering process, eligibility, and project description.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোং লিঃ. ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড কন্ট্রোল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes details of gas transmission and distribution project tendering.

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Director Deptt. of Social Services Agargaon, Dhaka. Invitation for Tender. Includes details of construction project tendering.