

Six arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police, in separate drives, arrested six people and recovered firearms and phenethyl from their possessions in the capital on Wednesday.

In Pallabi, police arrested two alleged muggers, identified as Abdullah Al Mamun, 33, and Kamruzzaman Kamrul, 34, at about 11:35pm on charge of carrying a foreign pistol and three rounds of ammunition.

In another drive, Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two listed criminals, Aiyub Jahedul Islam Ranju and Mohammad Masum, and seized a foreign pistol and seven rounds of bullets from their possessions before T&T wireless gate in Gulshan at around 11:20pm, said Mashirul Rahman, senior assistant commissioner of DB police.

Police arrested Abdur Rahman, 45, and Parvez Alam, 19, members of a drug smuggling gang, along with 580 bottles of phenethyl and a private car at Tilpa Para in Khilgaon at about 4:00pm.



Black smoke billows from burning tyres as Dhaka University students set them on fire at Shahbagh intersection in the capital, protesting a recent attack on religious minority people in Sathkhira. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ctg scientists show off today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A day-long programme, "Chattogram O Bigyan Charcha" (Practice of Science in Chittagong), starts with the participation of Chittagong scientists today.

Over 100 budding scientists of Chittagong alongside recognised scientists will showcase their innovative projects and talents at the event.

The science programme is hosted by The Daily Star as part of its initiative of 'Odommo Chattogram' (Indomitable Chittagong) festival.

Chittagong University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Alauddin is expected to be present as chief guest at the opening ceremony to be held at the auditorium of Fulki, a cultural and educational institution of the port city, at 10:00am. Engineer Md Harun, president of Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong, will be present as special guest.

The event will start with the presentation session on "Advancement of Research in Science in Chittagong City in the Last 20 Years" at 10:40am at Fulki auditorium.

Dr Hanif Siddiqi, chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), CU will make his presentation on "Computer Science and Software"; Prof Dr Imran Bin Yunus, ex-principal of Chittagong Medical College (CMC), on "Health and Medical Research"; Prof Md Jahangir of the Department of Civil Engineering at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), on "Environment, Disaster and Civil Engineering"; and Prof Dr Mohammad Al Forkan of the Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, CU on "Life, Science and Biotechnology Research".

ASROW, Cuet and Premier University Robotics Club will present "Robotics Show" while Students Climate Cell, Cuet, will present "Climate Change Show". Students of Chittagong University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CUVAS) will present "Experimental Animal and Alternative Medicine Exhibition".



Majumder, teacher at University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) will be present among others as judges.

Students of different reputed educational institutions in the port city, including CU, Cuet, USTC, AUVAS, BGC Trust University, Southern University, IUB Chittagong, Chittagong College, Mohsin College, Ispahani Public School and College, Chittagong Grammar School, Chittagong Government High School, Bangladesh Women Association School and College Dr Khastagir Government School and College, and Sunshine School and College will participate in the event.

SAMPAN BAICH

Port city people will be delighted with a "Sampan Baich" (boat race), a waning heritage of Chittagong, on the river Karnaphuli today.

The rowing contest, beginning at

3:00pm, is another programme being hosted under the 12-day Odommo Chittagong festival by The Daily Star.

In the sampan race, the contestants will have to row about an 850-metre watercourse from South Ghat to Firingi Bazar Bridge Ghat in the Karnaphuli within 25 minutes.

Around 30 teams, each comprising some nine oarsmen, will take part in the competition to win the prize to be the fastest sampan team.

"The Karnaphuli's heritage of sampan and sampanwala (boatmen) is dying out slowly. The contest has been arranged to inspire people about the glorious tradition", said Shahriar Khaled, coordinator of the Sampan Baich Competition.

Only those sampanwala who regularly ride sampans are taking part in the race, he added.

About security measures, he said, Coast Guard, fire workers, police and volunteers would be present to maintain order during the race.

The winner and runner-up teams will get colour television sets, while the remaining teams will be awarded with consolation prizes.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Abdus Salam will be present as chief guest at the prize giving ceremony along with councillor Lutfannahar Dovas and Jahurul Alam Dovas.

The sampan race will be followed by a cultural show featuring Kobi Gaan (a genre of Bangla song) and songs, poetry recital in Chittagong dialect.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD CEREMONY

The prize giving ceremony of an eight-day Odommo Chittagong photography exhibition, "Chitromoy Chattala", will be held at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) at 7:00pm today.

Nine group-theatre organisations, which also participated in a five-day Natya Utsab (Theatre Festival), as part of Odommo Chittagong programme will be awarded.

The photography exhibition started on March 30 and ends today.

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HSC AND EQUIVALENT EXAMS

8,310 absent on third day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of expelled students exceeded those of the previous two examinations with 80 candidates being expelled for resorting to unfair means on the third day of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations yesterday.

It was 33 on the first day while the second day was marked by 50 expelled examinees.

Meanwhile, 8,310 students were absent in the English First Paper examination yesterday.

Eight education boards, one madrasa education board and one technical education board are conducting the HSC and its equivalent Alim and Business Management examinations for 2012. Yesterday each of the board except madrasa board had examinees expelled.

Among the expelled, 22 examinees were from technical board while 13 from Dhaka board, 10 from Comilla, eight from Jessore, six from Dinajpur, four from Barisal, three from Rajshahi, two each from Chittagong and Sylhet boards.

The highest number of absentees yesterday was from Dhaka board where 2,270 students did not turn up to the examination hall. Jessore board also had a big number of absentees with 1,183 candidates missing the examination.

However, Barisal Board had the lowest number with 379 absentees.

The students will sit for English Second Paper examination on April 9. The written examinations will end on May 20.

10 robbed by augyan party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people, including a hospital director, were robbed by "augyan party", a mugger gang, which drugged people to cause unconsciousness, in the capital yesterday.

All of them received treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Anwar Hossain, 58, director of Dhaka Eye Hospital Mirpur, was traveling on a bus from the hospital to his Gulshan residence.

Some people took him to DMCH after he was found unconscious in the bus, said Nazrul Islam, deputy director of the eye hospital.

The mobile phone and money of Anwar went missing, he added.

DMCH officials said police and general people took the victims to the hospital from different parts of the capital during the last 24 hours till midnight yesterday.

Call to bring communal forces to book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, a platform of religious minority people, yesterday urged the government to bring to justice the vested quarters who are trying to destroy the country's communal harmony through propaganda against and torture on minorities.

The association leaders made the demand at a press conference at Dhaka

Reporters Unity, organised in protest of torture on some Hindu families at Fatehpur, Sathkhira on March 31.

In a written statement, advocate Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of the platform, said communal forces were running their activities ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections, and they were working to split the nation by distributing propaganda against the minorities.

The platform along with Bangladesh Puja Uddyan Parishad announced a countrywide rally and demonstration on April 13, protesting repression on minorities and demanding trial of the communal forces, which have recently attacked them in Sathkhira and Chittagong.

No plan yet to deploy army in DCC polls

CEC reiterates at Ctg meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The Election Commission has no plans yet to deploy the army in the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) polls, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad at a meeting in the port city, yesterday.

"It is too early to be concerned with taking such steps as the situation seems okay at present" the new CEC said adding, necessary measures would be taken if required.

The CEC was replying to the queries of journalists after a view-exchange meeting with the regional officials of the EC at the Chittagong Circuit House.

"We will deploy law enforcers at the poll centres so that voters can cast votes smoothly without facing any hassle," he said.

Regarding army deployment in the DCC polls, the CEC said, "It is not possible to forecast the situation right now".

Earlier, elections were held without any violence or disorder in various districts of the country with the help of law enforcers, he said.

"However, in case of large-scale elections we are yet to achieve peaceful elections like those held in developed countries," he observed.

The meeting titled "Task of Updating Voter List" was organised by Chittagong Regional Election Office with Divisional Commissioner Sirajul Haque Khan in the chair.

Addressing the election officials in the meeting, the CEC said proper enrolment of voters is a major prerequisite for free and fair elections.

He said updating the voter list which began last month should be complete by December this year, following which a fresh list would be made by January 2013.

"The voter list would be updated round the year at the upazila level after setting up the server stations in each upazila", he said.

Deputy Commissioner Foyez Ahmad, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abul Kashem, Chittagong Range Deputy Inspector General, Nowsher Ali and Superintendent of Police ZA Morshed were present among others at the meeting.

Nilufar Kaiser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Today is the third death anniversary of Nilufar Kaiser, former president of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, Chittagong unit.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at her Bangsal Bari residence in the port city, said a press release.

Foods will also be distributed among the orphans.

Cheholum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cheholum of Lion Mir Ramzan Ali, a freedom fighter, will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and feast will be held at Bahadurpur Lane Community Centre at Faridabad in the city after Juma prayers, said a press release.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Khandaker Ahmed Jaman, a social activist and senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, will be held today at his Mohammadpur residence at Noorjahan Road in the city after Asr prayers.

He passed away at a city hospital following a cardiac arrest on April 1 at the age of 73, said a press release.

Relatives, well-wishers and friends are requested to attend the programme.

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