

Ctg port security men's firearms in bad shape

JS body told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the firearms used by the security personnel in Chittagong seaport area are in bad shape causing threat to the port security, a parliamentary body was informed yesterday. Officials of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) also informed members of the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry that over 90 per cent of the security personnel of CPA are working on deputation which is also a major problem for the seaport. The parliamentary watchdog asked the ministry and the port authority to build up its own manpower to overcome the present shortcoming. "Security director of the Chittagong Port Authority informed us as many as 20 firearms out of 24 do not work which is major shortcoming to ensure the port security," Mostafa Kamal Pasha, a member of the committee, told The Daily Star after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Kamal Pasha, also a BNP lawmaker from Chittagong said, "Security personnel comprising of members of Ansar and Army keeps watch on the port area are working on deputation." The committee members said security management of the country's main seaport cannot go in this way. They asked CPA top officials to take immediate measures to address all the issues.



Journalists stage a sit-in programme in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday to press home demands including the arrest of the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Press Club, and Dhaka Reporters' Unity jointly organised the programme in the capital. (Story on Page-1)

Arrest warrant for Destiny chairman

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Monday issued arrest warrants for three people including, Destiny-2000 Ltd Chairman and Boishakhi Media Ltd Managing Director Rafiqul Amin, hours after a fraud case was filed against them. Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Saifur Rahman passed the order after MNH Bulu, chairman of BNS Group of Companies, filed the case against Rafiqul Amin and two directors of Boishakhi Media, a concern of Destiny Group. The directors are Irfan Ahmed Sunny and Sayed Sajjad Hossain. The court also directed the officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station to submit by June 10 a report on execution of the warrant for arrest of Rafiqul Amin and the OC of Ramna Police Station to do the same for Sunny and Sajjad. Bulu filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka for not returning the shares of Boishakhi Television to him. In the complaint, Bulu alleged that he entered into an agreement with Boishakhi Media and bought shares worth Tk 64,000. He also gave Tk 3 crore to Boishakhi Ltd as loan with a condition that the company must return the money by November 30, 2008, but the company has yet to return the money. Later, the complainant came to know that his shares were transferred to another shareholder, Saiful Alam, without his knowledge. The complainant also came to know on October 1, 2009 that the accused submitted an annual report to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms making a false claim that the complainant had transferred all his shares to Destiny-2000 Ltd on September 29 of 2009.

BANSKHALI CARNAGE Deposition recording begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Recording of deposition of the witnesses in the Banskhalhi carnage case began in a Chittagong court yesterday. The recording of deposition started at third Additional District and Sessions Judge (Acting) Syeda Hosne Ara Begum's court in the morning. Prosecution lawyer Abul Hashem said complainant of the case Dr Bimal Kanti Shil, also the lone survivor of the carnage, gave his statement before the court. The court adjourned recording of the deposition till May 23 when Bimal would give further statement before it. A group of attackers on November 18, 2003 night set the house of Tejendra Shil at Shilpara in Banskhalhi to fire that killed 11 members of his family, including an infant. Tejendra's son Bimal Shil, the lone survivor of the attack, filed the case the next day. On September 12, 2011, the court framed charges against 38 accused, including Amin Chairman on charges of arson, robbery and murder.

Lessen extra burden of books on children

PM renews call to teachers

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that from now on the job of the assistant teachers of the government secondary schools will be treated as 'second class' instead of 'third class'. "From today you are second class job holders," she said while addressing a grand rally of teachers organised by Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers Association on the Residential Model College premises in the capital. Hasina reiterated her call to lessen the extra burden of books on the children and make learning enjoyable for them. She said the Primary School Terminal, Junior School Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate examinations have been introduced to bring qualitative changes in the country's education sector. Besides, she said her government

emphasised imparting training to the teachers to raise their standard of teaching and the academic activities of a number of renowned schools in Dhaka city were being recorded and telecast through state-run BTV five days a week. The premier requested the teachers not to torture the students physically or mentally, rather teach them with affection and love, saying that the teachers have a more important role than the parents in building the future of their students. Putting emphasis on building strong morality and character of the students, she asked the teachers to create facilities for games and sports for the students. Hasina said the attraction of the students towards education has increased as the government was reaching free textbooks to them on the first day of the academic year as well as

supplying educational materials. She mentioned that the real history of the war of liberation has been incorporated in the textbooks so that the tender hearted children could have knowledge about the thousand years of heroic tales and history, and traditions and culture of the country. She said her government had removed gender discrimination in the education sector and was providing stipends to 40 per cent of the students up to higher secondary level, of which 30 per cent are female. The government has created the facilities of coeducation for the disabled students through reserved admission quota for them, she added. Hasina said the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund has been formed under public private partnership with Tk 1,000 crore

as seed money to help the poor and meritorious students to continue their studies up to secondary level. Hasina said her government formulated a modern, time-befitting, and science and technology-based education policy, which was under implementation now. She said considering the increased number of students in the country, second shift has been introduced in 83 government secondary schools across the country. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, director general of Secondary and Higher Secondary Directorate Prof M Noman Ur Rashid and general secretary of Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers Association M Insan Ali also spoke at the function, chaired by Association President M Shamsul Huq.

Assistant teachers of government secondary schools from now on are second class job holders

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HR body offers help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday urged women to come to the commission breaking their "silence" if they face any violence against them. The human rights commission would investigate the matter and recommend the authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this regard, he assured. The HR chief made the call while addressing as the chief guest at a roundtable on "Writing Wrongs against Woman Journalists in Bangladesh" at the Jatiya Press Club. ARTICLE 19, a London-based human rights organisation, organised the event. The organisation takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, also a lawmaker of the ruling grand alliance, urged the government to ensure security of women at workplaces to stop harassment against them. Tahmina Rahman, director of Bangladesh and South Asia of ARTICLE 19,

presented a report made based on a study of women journalists in Bangladesh saying 52.70 per cent of the women journalists face some form of sexual harassment while 47.30 per cent face other forms of censorship at workplaces including obstruction to reporting, assault and threats. It said over 40 per cent of women journalists in Bangladesh who have harassed sexually do not raise their voice against the harassment fearing of social stigma and losing their jobs. Shah Husain Imam, associate editor of The Daily Star, said mass media houses should bring about a gender balance in the recruitment of journalists and introduce good culture in the houses. Nasimun Ara Haque Minu, president of Nari Sangbadik Kendra, urged the media houses to keep at least 25 per cent quota for women to do journalism and introduce a code of conduct in the houses to ensure their security. Abdul Quayum, joint editor of Prothom Alo, Shahnaz Munni, news editor of ATN Bangla, Quinn Parker McKew, senior director (global operations), ARTICLE 19, also spoke.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a grand rally of teachers organised by Bangladesh Government Secondary Teachers Association on the Residential Model College premises in the capital yesterday.

35 Myanmar citizens held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Police arrested 35 Myanmar citizens (Rohinga) in different areas of Chandanaish upazila yesterday. Chandanaish Police Station Assistant Sub-Inspector Mohammad Jasim said they were arrested on charges of entering into Bangladesh illegally. The arrested were produced before a Chittagong court while the court passed an order to send them to jail, he said.

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The last date of application is May 31, 2012

