



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIV NO. 16 | MAGH 17, 1420 BS | RABIUL AWAL 28, 1435 HIJRI

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT



FOREIGN AID

The disbursement target may be lowered in revised budget

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A PROMISE REVISITING

Obama told America of closing US prison in Guantanamo Bay this year

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Shun anarchy

Urges president at JS without naming any political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid has urged the BNP-led alliance to help reach a consensus by shunning the path of confrontation and anarchy.

"Please extend cooperation in enhancing the image of Bangladesh, by leaving the company of communal and terrorist organisations. Please help democracy flourish through dialogue with the government," Hamid said in his address at the inaugural sitting of the 10th parliament yesterday.

He also urged the BNP-led alliance to contribute to the establishment of a tolerant democratic system through removing hatred, violence and confrontation from politics.

The president, however, did not name the

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10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL

Verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Chittagong court is set to deliver the verdict in the sensational 10-truck arms haul cases today, ending a long wait since the seizure of the country's largest-ever arms consignments about a decade ago.

The Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 will decide the fate of the 52 accused, including bigwigs like former ministers Motiur Rahman Nizami and Lutfozzaman Babar. The verdict is expected to remove the suspense created over the long-drawn trial proceedings.

The prosecution have claimed to

SECRET GAME -- PAGE 12

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Right after the 10-truck arms haul in April 2004, the then state minister for home affairs Lutfozzaman Babar appeared apparently too surprised to see the lethal weapons.

PHOTO: FILE

SHIP OF TERROR ARRIVED UNNOTICED

Only very few knew

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The distant rumble of trawler engines broke the silence of the spring night of April 1, 2004. Around 60 men shrugged off sleep which threatened to come over them as they waited in the tranquillity of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty for quite sometime. A very few of them were aware of the dangerous mission they were to embark upon.

With the clock ticking away somewhere between 10:00pm and 11:00pm, two trawlers, full of wooden boxes hidden under sacks of salt, rice and husk, berthed at the CUFL jetty. Yards away, seven drivers were ready to move their trucks to help workers load the goods on the trucks with a crane.

The men swung into action, with the crane starting to unload the cargo of boxes from the trawlers and then loading them onto the trucks. The unloading had been progressing quite smoothly, until two police officers popped up there rather unexpectedly.

"Who is the owner of the goods and what sort of goods these are?" asked one of the policemen, named Alauddin.

"These are machinery parts," answered the labourers, but could not tell the name of the owner.

In-charge of Bandar police outpost, Alauddin arrived at the spot around 11:00pm along with Havildar Golam Rasul of the same outpost. Golam was the first to be tipped off that some illegal goods were being unloaded there and he

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From Casio to arms

Babar said to be no stranger to crime world

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

A young man with origins in Netrakona, reluctant about studying beyond class-X, Lutfozzaman Babar, accused in the 10-truck arms haul cases, ventured into smuggling in the 1980s.

Already from a well-off family, he made a fortune by smuggling digital watches, especially of Casio brand, into the country in bulk when autocrat HM Ershad was at the helm of the country, claimed people who were close to Babar.

In 1996, Babar apparently washed off his smuggler image, joined the central committee of the BNP through lobbying and became a lawmaker from Netrakona-4 constituency.

To the surprise of many in 2001, he was made state minister for home affairs, the person responsible for stopping, among other crimes, smuggling. Some even thought Babar, the youngest minister in the BNP-Jamaat government, had changed for the best and that the street smart Babar would be good at curbing crime.

But black will take no other hue.

A few years after the 10-truck arms haul in 2004, investigations

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ARMS HAUL
THE INTERNATIONAL ROUTE

Terror sponsored by the state

BNP-led govt engaged security agencies to support separatist outfit in India

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Though entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring country's security, top officials of two security agencies, along with the then state minister for home and a civil servant, used their influence to supply weapons to an Indian separatist outfit in 2004.

Law enforcers had seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition on

April 2 that year at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL). The consignment was being loaded on trucks.

Top officials of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) were involved in smuggling weapons for the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), a separatist group fighting for a sovereign Assam, according to confessional statements of the accused in the 10-truck arms haul cases.

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The officials allegedly rented a house in the capital for the most-wanted ULFA military commander Paresh Barua and gave him protection to operate his outfit from inside Bangladesh during the BNP-Jamaat rule. They met frequently in Dhaka.

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Alauddin
Rezzakul
MD Abdur
Rahim
NURUL
AMIN
LIAKAT
HOSSAIN
AKBAR
HOSSAIN
State minister
for Home
DGFI
director
NSI director
general
Addl Secy,
Industries ministry
NSI deputy
director
NSI field
officer

LUTFOZZAMAN
BABAR
REZZAKUL
HAIDER
MD Abdur
RAHIM
NURUL
AMIN
LIAKAT
HOSSAIN
AKBAR
HOSSAIN
State minister
for Home
DGFI
director
NSI director
general
Addl Secy,
Industries ministry
NSI deputy
director
NSI field
officer

Bravery got 'em into big trouble

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The transfer of arms and ammo into 10 trucks from the trawlers at the CUFL jetty on the night of April 1, 2004, was going smooth until two police sergeants showed up.

The two whistleblowers who made possible the largest arms haul in Bangladesh's history did not even receive a pat on the back.

Rather, sergeants Md Alauddin, then in-charge of Bandar police outpost, and Md Helal Uddin Bhuiyan, then in-charge of Koiler Depot police outpost, faced brutal torture.

They were implicated in a false arms case (from which they were later acquitted) and sent to jail after being suspended. It wasn't until 2011 they got their jobs back.

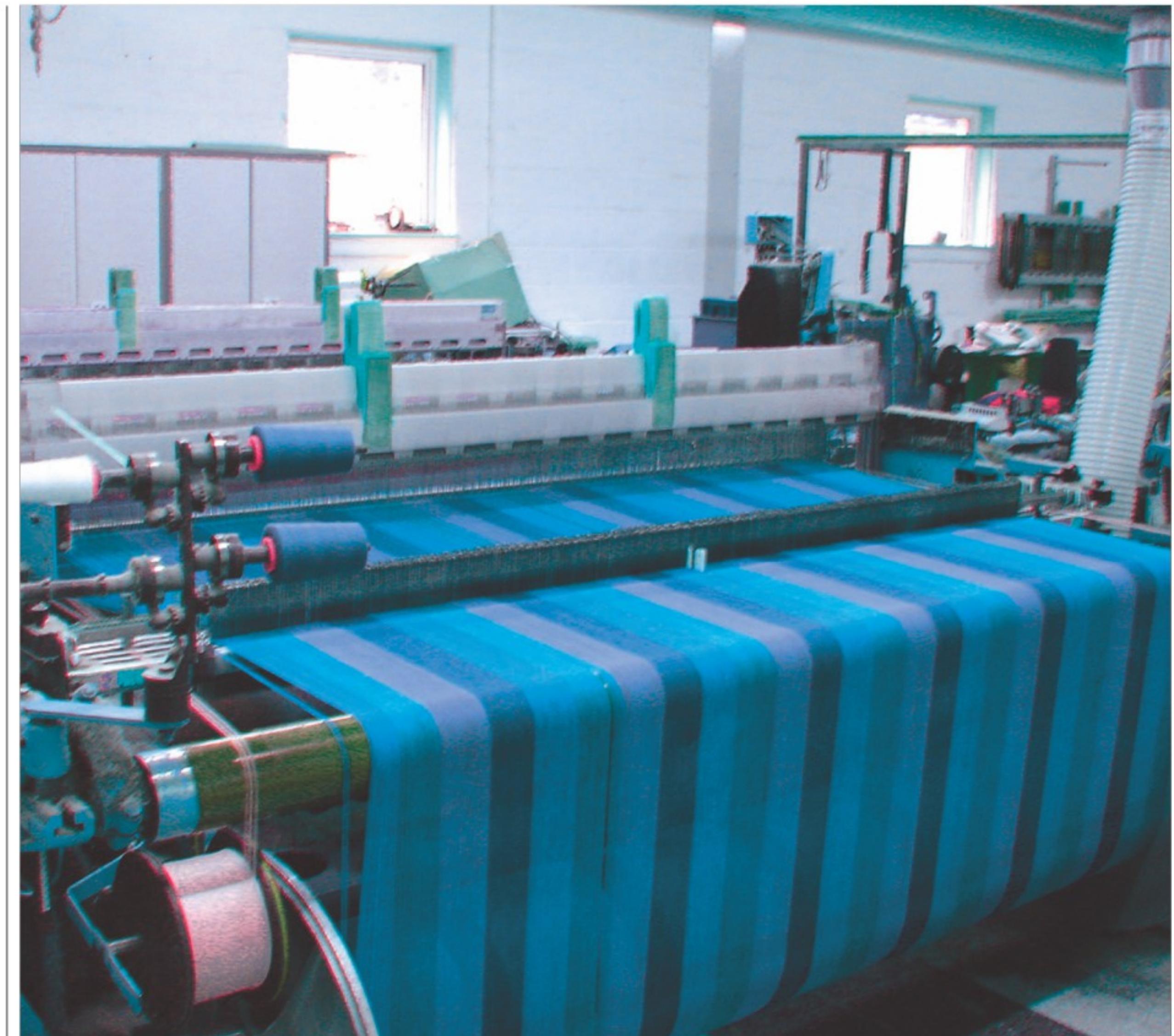
Alauddin and Helal say that they would not have had to deal with the trauma and suffer in jail for two years had they not detected the smuggling.

Receiving information on the unloading of illegal goods at the jetty, Alauddin went to Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd jetty that night with a

Alauddin
Helal Uddin
Though earlier probes into the 10-truck arms haul cases found only some local smugglers and ordinary labourers involved in the smuggling of arms, further investigations in 2009 revealed that local and foreign intelligence agencies and an Indian separatist group had executed the smuggling plan.

The names of some top politicians of the then BNP-led four-party alliance government, bureaucrats, Pakistani intelligence agency Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and Indian separatist group United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) came up during further probe into the cases.

Several meetings were held at home and abroad before April 2, 2004, when a huge

সেরা ব্যাংকিং সেবা নিয়ে
এখন আড়াইহাজারে

বঙ্গ শিল্পের প্রাণকেন্দ্র আড়াইহাজার (নারায়নগঞ্জ)-এ¹
আমরা আজ থেকে ঢাকা ব্যাংকের ২২তম শাখার
আনুষ্ঠানিক কার্যক্রম শুরু করছি।

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