

Liquid Cocaine Haul Two more labs confirm

One suggests retesting
contents of second barrel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two more laboratory tests have confirmed the presence of liquid cocaine in one of the 107 barrels seized at Chittagong Port recently with one opining retesting contents of another barrel suspecting it too contains the contra-band drug.

The confirmation letters from the labs of Criminal Investigation Department and the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) were received yesterday, the haul case's investigation officer, Md Kamruzzaman, also an assistant commissioner at the detective branch (DB), told The Daily Star.

Samples from the 107 were sent to the labs of the aforementioned two and to the Armed Forces Food and Drugs Laboratory on July 8 as per a court order.

The DNC suggested the retesting, said DB Additional Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Arafat, adding that they would seek the court's permission in this regard.

The initial confirmations came from the drug testing laboratory of the Directorate General of Drug Administration, and the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research where the samples were sent on June 8.

The barrels, with labels claiming the contents to be sunflower oil, arrived at the port on May 8 in a container shipped from Uruguay's Montevideo on being brought from Bolivia on a truck, according to investigators.

Customs officials sealed the container on June 6. Police filed a case with Bandar Police Station on June 27 under the narcotics control act and six persons have so far been arrested.



Gulshan Lake in the capital filled to the brim, a result of the continuous downpour in the last couple of days. The looming black clouds above promise more rains in the coming days, prompting apprehensions that the lake may flood its banks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
BANGLAR CHOKH

HC to hear challenge to Maya's ministership today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to hear today a writ petition challenging the legality of ruling Awami League leader Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya's holding onto the office of the relief and disaster management minister and his parliamentary membership.

Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal set the date after the petitioner, Eunus Ali Akond, prayed to it for hearing the petition.

Eunus, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the petition on July 7, saying Maya could not hold onto the two posts because he was convicted in a corruption case.

He cited Article 66 (2) (D) of the constitution that says, "A person shall be disqualified for election as, or for being, a member of Parliament who -- has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral

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INVERSION OF MALE-FEMALE VOTER RATIO

EC's ill motive is the reason: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday expressed grave concern over the inversion of the male to female voter ratio in the updated voter list, and alleged that it was Election Commission's ill motives that led to the inversion.

Addressing a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan office, BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon said in 2008, there were 14.13 lakh more female voters than male voters, but in the updated list of 2013, male voters surpassed female voters by 2.91 lakh.

Ripon said the present "subservient" commission was not interested in eligible

female voters as they vote in favour of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Pointing to the EC's move to collect data of people under 18 and above 15, Ripon said the commission's move is unlawful.

Meanwhile, EC Secretary Sirazul Islam denied having any ill motive behind relatively smaller increase of female voters, and stressed that the electoral roll was updated following proper procedure.

He believes females are less interested in being on the list.

In Bangladesh, at the moment there are 50.39 percent male voters and 49.61 percent female voters, he told The Daily Star.

Taher, Nani tortured man, later killed him

Testifies freedom fighter at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday testified witnessing Obaidul Haque Taher, Ataur Rahman Nani and other Razakars torturing a man in front of the Netrakona district council rest house on October 4, 1971 and hearing the next day that Taher and Nani had killed him near Moktarpura Bridge in Netrakona town.

Abdul Hamid of Tenga village of Netrakona Sadar told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he heard in the first week of that month that Razakars had killed 27 more people near



Taher

Nani

Trimohoni Bridge in Netrakona. He, however, did not name any of the killers.

The Pakistani occupation army entered Netrakona town in late April and set up camp at the rest house, said

the 13th prosecution witness in the case against Taher and Nani.

Then, the Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, was formed under the leadership of Taher's father, Manjurul Haque, along with the the Razakar Bahini, said the 62-year-old.

Taher was appointed commander of Razakar Bahini while Nani and many others joined the Pakistani army's auxiliary force, said Hamid.

Hamid said the Razakars started committing atrocities around Netrakona setting up camp at the house of one Malay Biswas in the town.

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An exhibition truck highlighting The Daily Star's achievements and projects starts a two week countrywide tour yesterday aiming to engage with its readers. Inset, the exhibits inside. The photos were taken in front of The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

PHOTOS: STAR

Rajshahi divisional round starts today

While The Daily Star exhibition truck starts
its countrywide tour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the divisional round Spelling Bee beginning today in Rajshahi, a truck highlighting The Daily Star's achievements and projects also embarked on a two week journey marking the occasion.

The fourth edition of the English spelling competition was launched on June 16.

Hosted by Champs21.com, an initiative of The Daily Star, the competition first started in 2012 and is aired on Channel i.

This year Summit Group joined as sponsor of the event and Golden Harvest's Bloop became a partner.

The truck filled with photographs, posters and banners summing up the newspaper's journey, started off from The



Daily Star Centre aiming to reach out to more than 3,000 students in the seven divisions.

The tour aims to accomplish The Daily Star's goal of engaging more with its readers.

The truck will travel to the venue of Spelling Bee in Rajshahi where it will endeavour to inspire youngsters to read the newspaper. The newspaper will extend

an offer to Spelling Bee contestants, in which if the participants subscribe to The Daily Star for three months on the spot, they will get free subscription for three more months.

Once the programme is over in Rajshahi, the truck will head out to Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong before finally coming back to the capital.

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Ship Recycling Bill approved in principle by cabinet

Tk 30 lakh fine and one
year's jail sentence set as
maximum punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owners of ship-breaking businesses would face a minimum of Tk 10 lakh and a maximum of Tk 30 lakh in fine or the maximum one year's imprisonment or both if they import, break or anchor ships at the coast without taking permission of the authority concerned, according to a draft law.

The "Bangladesh Ship Recycling Bill, 2015" also proposes formation of a regulatory body, "Bangladesh Ship Recycling Board", to enhance monitoring and minimising environmental hazards in the industry.

The cabinet, at a meeting

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CONGRATULATIONS RAJSHAH DIVISION SPELLERS!

Hello participants from Rajshahi Division! Those who have qualified for the Divisional Round, be at the **Rajshahi Medical College Auditorium on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 11:00 AM sharp.**

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