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## BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS 54 detained in Malaysia in 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-four Bangladeshis were arrested in Malaysia during a joint operation carried out by the country's Immigration Department and Road Transport Department (RTD) between Monday and yesterday, reports the New Straits Times.

The Bangladeshis were among 238 foreigners arrested during the three-day operation conducted simultaneously in 72 locations of the country, the report says.

A total of 5,285 foreigners were screened for various offenses under the country's Immigration Act, the report adds.

Of the arrestees, 58 are Myanmar nationals, 56 Indonesians, 23 Pakistanis, 21 Filipinos and 26 from other countries, said Immigration Department Director General Khairul Dzamee Daud.

"The focus was on foreign drivers, who were found driving commercial vehicles in the country. Most are found to have overstayed [their visas] or [were] staying without valid documents.

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## Legal entities, illegal sales

*Licensed dealers join syndicates  
smuggling firearms from India*



- Transnational gangs are using 10 border points
- They smuggled at least 200 firearms in last 2 years
- Charges pressed against 41 including 9 licensed dealers
- 41 firearms, 3,097 bullets seized since March 2018

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Several syndicates are smuggling firearms from India using 10 border points of Bangladesh and selling those to criminals and political goons through some legal firearm outlets.

A section of legal arms dealers has been working closely with these syndicates that have hundreds of members in both the countries.

They smuggled in at least 200 firearms in the last two years, and also sold dozens of legally imported arms in grey market removing the barcodes.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police found these while investigating 14 cases filed under the Arms Act since March 2018 against 47 people including nine authorised arms dealers.

The CTTC unit already completed probing 12 cases and submitted charge sheets against 41 people, while investigation into two other cases is on, according to its officials.

The unit made its latest arrest relating to this illegal arms racket on October 14 when they held Abdul Hamid alias Babul, 50, from the capital's Paltan area with two associates -- Jalal Uddin, 40, and Shaiful Islam alias Bitu, 48.

Babul, owner of arms shop "Foyez Box and Arms", had been selling

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## DAP FERTILISER

## Govt moves to cut price by Tk 9 a kg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to reduce prices of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser by Tk 9 a kg at farmer and dealer levels.

When the new prices come into effect, farmers will be able to buy one kg of this fertiliser for Tk 16 in retail. The price for dealers will be Tk 14 a kg, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque told a press briefing at his secretariat office yesterday.

At present, farmers can purchase one kg of the fertiliser for Tk 25 and dealers for Tk 23.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina already approved the new prices, while his ministry would need some time to issue an order to make the new prices effective.

The use of DAP in the country is about 4 to 5 lakh tonnes at present, said the minister.

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## Continue drive against graft

*AL grassroots urge Hasina*

STAR REPORT

The Awami League grassroots yesterday called upon Sheikh Hasina to carry on the anti-corruption drive, saying it would help increase the party's popularity and acceptability among people.

The call was made at a meeting of the AL National Committee at the Gono Bhaban in the evening.

Hasina, the prime minister and also AL president, assured them of continuing the drive her government launched in September, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

The grassroots leaders also requested Hasina to remain life-long president of the party but she kept mum, said the sources.

According to the AL charter, the National Committee must meet once a year. But yesterday's meeting was convened after around three years, keeping in view the party's 21st council slated for December 20-21.

The 180-member committee is comprised of 81

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## Gold hope dashed by Priya injury

ATIQUE ANAM from Kathmandu

Marzan Akter Priya saw both sides of the coin in less than 24 hours. On Tuesday morning, the 29-year-old karateka was basking in the glory of winning a gold medal in the South Asian Games.

The following morning, as Priya and her teammates warmed up in their bid for another gold medal in women's team kumite at the Satdobato Sports Complex, fighting for a place in the final, Priya

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