

4kg crystal meth seized in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 4.025 kilogrammes of crystal methamphetamine and detained a man during separate drives in Teknaf and Ramu upazilas of Cox's Bazar on Thursday night.

The detainee is Md Nur Mohammad, 39, of Paschim Paglir Beel area of Ukhiya upazila of the district.

Lt Col Md Mohiuddin, commander of the BGB-2 in Teknaf, said they conducted a drive in Lambori Ghat area adjacent to Teknaf-Cox's Bazar Marine Drive Road, after being tipped-off that a haul of drugs would be smuggled from neighbouring country Myanmar via waterway.

As a man was spotted coming to the Marine Drive Road from the Ghat with a bag, the frontier forces signalled him to halt. The suspect then fled towards a forest, leaving the bag, said the BGB official.

A total of 2.045 kg drugs was recovered from it. Efforts were on to find the drug dealer.

BGB's Ramu zone commander Lt Col Syed Wahiduzzaman said they also conducted a drive in the Goaliya Link Road around 11:00pm.

They intercepted a Cox's Bazar-bound bus and recovered 1.980kg of crystal meth from a shopping bag belonging to passenger Nur Mohammad. The detainee was handed over to Ukhiya Police Station after filing a case, he added.

EC seeks action

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The letter said the EC has directed to take action against the official concerned, mentioning that the action of Moniruzzaman is a violation of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979.

It also requested the home ministry to inform the EC about the action taken, including the departmental proceedings against Moniruzzaman.

Wearing his official uniform, Moniruzzaman went to the Awami League office on April 29 and submitted his brother's party nomination paper.

His brother, Shaillupa AL General Secretary Wahiduzzaman, was the AL candidate in the Jhenaidah-1 by-election.

AL is the strongest

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ending six years of forced exile, the AL president said she had been welcomed by hundreds of thousands of people defying the storm and rain on that day.

She said when she returned to Bangladesh in 1981, the country was then run by war criminals and the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members.

The prime minister said she returned to the country despite knowing she might have been killed as she had

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AMTALI OF BARGUNA  
**18 years on, no dedicated building for police outpost**

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

There is no dedicated building for the Gazipur Bazaar police outpost in Amtali upazila of Barguna for 18 years.

The police outpost was set up on October 19, 2006 at Gazipur Bazaar, about 10 kilometres east of Amtali town, considering the security of the traders and local residents.

The 18 police personnel -- including two police inspectors, three assistant police inspectors and 13 constables -- posted to this outpost have been using an old, abandoned warehouse to set up the office as well as their accommodation since then.

Visiting the place recently, this correspondent saw the warehouse does not have proper ventilation due to inadequate doors and windows, causing much sufferings to the policemen amid the heat.

The two doors of the warehouse on both sides are damaged and cannot be closed, thereby posing a security risk. Therefore, the policemen sleep with the lights on at night. A few makeshift beds can be seen inside, which are being used by the staff to sleep, while the office is set up in one corner.

"Without necessary accommodation, alongside insufficient light and ventilation,



we are living an inhumane life in this abandoned warehouse," said a policeman wishing anonymity.

Another policeman echoed him, saying they can hardly sleep at night due to the heat after toiling for work all day long.

Both of them urged the authorities concerned to ensure them proper accommodation.

Inspector Dibakar Chandra, officer-in-charge of the outpost, said, "We are having a lot of trouble living and working in this way. A new building for the outpost is needed to solve this problem."

Contacted, Md Mozammel Hossain Reza, additional superintendent of police in Barguna, said the Police Headquarters has been informed of the matter.

"A new building will be constructed if funds are available," he added.

Govt, NGO officials

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region and shared their experiences from the project titled "Introducing Efficient Technologies".

She also called for reducing the water-requiring rice cultivation in the region, saying rice fields are emitting methane, accelerating global warming.

Following her presentation, the minister asked agricultural officials what they have been doing regarding the rice cultivation issue.

He also asked why they cannot perform like NGOs.

In response, Dr Fazlul Haque, head of Rajshahi regional office of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), said the idea of reducing rice production in Barind would be fatal for the country.

Moreover, a BRRI research disagreed with the concept of rice fields harming the environment by generating methane, he added.

Barind region has contributed to the country's food safety by producing 6 crore tonnes of rice annually, Haque said, adding, "Research proved the rice fields in the tonnes absorb 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide."

Md Abdur Rouf, programme development lead of Syngenta Foundation, said BRRI's calculation might be wrong as methane emissions are globally acknowledged.

Meanwhile, Abdur Rashid, executive director of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority, said they reduced 2 percent of water use by introducing pre-paid meters and Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) projects.

On the other hand, Dr Md Shakhawat Hossain, senior scientific officer of On-Farm Research Division of BARI, said they identified that AWD projects will not be successful without precision land levelling.

Then the minister asked the officials not to argue with each other and to work together instead.

He also directed agricultural officials to ensure proper extension of agriculture in the country.

Female RMG

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Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, said, "Female industrial workers are increasingly empowering themselves to support their partners and kids. We are steadily making progress in the RMG sector."

Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog, said, "The economy of Bangladesh is heavily dependent on garments and migrant workers.

Before the national budget, there needs to be a serious discussion on what is required to create a better society for these workers."

More initiatives must be taken to ensure proper safety on the roads and workplaces, as well as at the homes of these women garment workers, he added.

Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan, joint chief secretary at Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, and former lawmaker Afroza Haq Rina also spoke at the event.

Barishal museum fails to attract Ansar-VDP eyes

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individuals visit the museum daily.

Arif Ur Rahman, assistant custodian of the museum, said the lack of funds prevented them from undertaking any significant initiative aimed at preserving the antiquities in the region.

"There is not even a separate office for the museum at the divisional level," he said.

"There are at least 25 archaeological sites in Barishal division, including Tagore estate of Barishal Sadar, Mallikpur Mosque in Nalchhity upazila, Sikdar Bari Mosque in Kathalia upazila, Kalsakathi Zamindar Palace in Bakerganj upazila and Sher-e Bangla AK Fazlul Haque's ancestral home. Of those, only two structures could be brought under conservation scope," he said.

Arif informed that a museum was established in 1978 in a part of the ancestral residence of Sher-e

Bangla on 27 decimals of land in Chakhar union under Banaripara upazila.

However, a bungalow used by Sher-e-Bangla there, as well as a "kachhari ghar" owned by Sher-e-Bangla in Jhalakathi, were not placed under the museum, he added.

"There are 75 pictures, 30 handwritten letters, other documents, and furniture on display here," said Balram Das, in-charge of the Sher-e-Bangla Museum in Chakhar.

"Due to a lack of initiatives to make the museum attractive, people are losing interest in knowing more about our heritage," said Md Ziaul Hasan, principal of Fazlul Haque Institution.

Shah Sajeda, an educationist, echoed him.

Contacted, Lovely Yeasmin, regional director of Barishal and Khulna divisional museum, said, "The scope of conducting renovation works for heritage sites under the Barishal Divisional

Museum is vast, but this cannot be done with general budget. We have submitted a separate proposal in this regard."

"We will also present our plans to expand activities of the museum to the authorities concerned soon," she added.

Recognise 1971

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over 10,000 pictures, 10,300 books on the war, and 2,000 videos are kept here, while 65 memorial plaques on spots of killing and torture have already been set up in and around Khulna city. The museum has also published 148 booklets and 130 genocide torture indexes focused on the killing grounds.

A six-storey building for the museum is being constructed by the Public Works Department in Khulna, under supervision of the Bangladesh National Museum, at a cost of Tk 32.22 crore.

take necessary measures to deploy members of the force to countries in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, for security purposes.

Deputy Director General Fakhru Alam told The Daily Star that the process is in an initial stage.

"During the recent visit of the deputy foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, the issue was discussed with the home minister. In light of that discussion, we sent a letter saying that our members are ready to serve in foreign countries."

"We requested the ministry to consider Ansar-VDP as a top priority if a window of opportunity opens," he added.

"The deployment will be different than police or other forces who are serving abroad. And this will not impact the service we are providing within the country," he added.

Spice prices shoot up

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trust in the countrymen and leaders and activists of AL.

She said now her government has been able to implement at least to some extent the desire and the spirit with which Bangabandhu made the country independent.

Earlier in the morning, AL leaders and activists led by its General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader greeted their party chief with flowers at Gono Bhaban, marking her 44th Homecoming Day.

"We have no choice but to comply with their pricing directives," he added.

Md Gofran from Cumilla General Store at Karwan Bazar said, "The price hike effects are currently limited to the wholesale market. But it will soon affect retail

prices, especially with Eid-ul-Azha approaching."

Contacted, SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of Consumers Rights Association of Bangladesh, said, "They increased the price as the dollar rate was raised. But do they reduce the price when the dollar rate is reduced?"

Contacted, Helal Uddin, president of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association, said, "It's normal that the prices of commodities have surged due to an increase in dollar rates. However, I call upon traders to not increase the prices too much."

DNCC

FROM PAGE 3

Last year, DNCC gave a tender to Marshall Agrovet to import Bti. Accordingly, five tonnes of Bti were handed over to DNCC. The importing contractor claimed that the pesticide was produced by Best Chemical Company Limited of Singapore, but the Singaporean company refuted the claim and issued a warning in this regard on its Facebook page. After this, the order to Marshall Agrovet was cancelled and DNCC blacklisted the company.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. 35.01.7895.461.07.001.21-836 Dated: 16/05/2024

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Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of works	Invitation Date & Time	Last Selling/ Downloading Date & Time	Tender Closing/ Opening Date & Time
1	985207	46e-GP/PATRD/2023-2024	Maintenance of Existing pavement with Aggregate Base Type - II, Permex Bituminous Carpeting, Seal Coat and other congenial work at 66th (Sheikh Rasel Bridge) km of R-881 and Flexible pavement respective Bridges under Road Division Patuakhali During the Financial year 2023-2024	15-May-2024 12:00	29-May-2024 16:00	30-May-2024 12:10
2	985208	47e-GP/PATRD/2023-2024	Maintenance of Existing pavement with Aggregate Base Type - II, Permex Bituminous Carpeting, Seal Coat and other congenial work at 49th (Sheikh Kamal Bridge) & (Sheikh Jamal Bridge) km of R-881 and Flexible pavement respective Bridges under Road Division Patuakhali During the Financial year 2023-2024	15-May-2024 12:00	29-May-2024 F16:00	30-May-2024 12:00

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**Invitation to submit proposals for two Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh**

RFP No. LRPS-9190106 for Spot Check on behalf of UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office and other UN agencies under Long-Term Arrangement (LTA) for a period of 24 months with a possible extension for another 24 months.

RFP No. LRPS-9190107 for Micro assessment of the partner's financial and operational management capacity under Long-Term Arrangement (LTA) for a period of 24 months with possible extension for another 24 months.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under the contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to [supplybangladesh@unicef.org](mailto:supplybangladesh@unicef.org)

The pre-bid meeting schedule and bid submissions deadlines are mentioned in the respective bid document.

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
MAY 18  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30  
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