

# The Daily Star

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PHOTO: ABU AHMED

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel take position on the bank of the Kalindi yesterday morning after skirmishes with the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Friday night and yesterday morning over construction of a jetty on the river by the Indians.

## BDR,BSF trade fire over Kalindi jetty

### Over 1,800 rounds fired, flag meeting today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Border Security Forces (BSF) of India traded heavy fire at two border outposts (BoP) in Satkhira district Friday night and yesterday morning.

The BSF fired about 1,500 rounds of machinegun shots during the skirmish beginning at 11:00pm, while the BDR responded with 300 shots. No casualties were however reported.

BDR Commander of Nildumur Battalion No. 1 Lt.

Col. Ramzan Ali said the BSF tried to build a jetty on the other side of the Kalindi, an international river opposite the Kaikhli BoP, at 9:00pm, violating an earlier flag meeting decision.

If constructed, the jetty would change the course of the Kalindi river, devouring Bangladesh territory. Two flag meetings were held on November 13 and 15 in which the Indian side agreed to refrain from constructing the jetty, Ali said.

But on Friday night, the Indians backed by the BSF

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## Army corporal axed for graft during drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An army corporal was sacked yesterday on charge of corruption while he was posted at Karimganj in Kishoreganj during the ongoing anti-crime crackdown.

Following an investigation, a court marshal found the corporal, Mohammad Abdul Hai Akand, guilty of realising money from the criminals on the assurance that they would be spared by the joint forces.

The accused was demoted to the rank of soldier and given a one-year jail term.

Army sources said the investigation and the subsequent punishment followed several allegations that since the start of the Operation Clean Heart some army men on different occasions favoured some criminals. Later, the army authorities issued a circular saying that any

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## Arms deposit deadline now Nov 21

REZAUL KARIM

The government yesterday extended the deadline for depositing licensed firearms by five more days and warned of stern actions against anyone for failing to surrender weapons by November 21.

Firearm licences of those who will fail to deposit their weapons by the new deadline will be cancelled.

The time extension came as only about 30,000 out of a total 189,265 licensed firearms were deposited till Friday, the original deadline. In the capital, 11,291 arms were deposited.

On November 5, the government ordered licensed arms holders to deposit their weapons within 15 days.

Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar said the new deadline will not be extend anymore and violators of the order will be severely punished as possessors of illegal weapons.

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## 11 BNP men picked up from Hannan Shah's iftar party

### Arms cache found in Ukhia jungle, criminal Swapan held in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army yesterday picked up 11 activists of ruling BNP's youth and student fronts from an iftar party at the house of party leader and former minister Brig (Rtd) Hannan Shah in Shafaisri village under Kapasia thana in Gazipur district.

When contacted over phone last night, Hannan Shah said the army personnel told him that they were picked up on charges of extortion. The arrested include Sohail, Kapasia thana unit president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, BNP's student front.

In Cox's Bazar, the army in a single haul recovered 24 firearms from a jungle near Palangkhali School in Ukhia upazila. The cache comprise 12 single-barrel guns, 11 LGs and a pistol. But none was arrested.

Three members of the notorious Kajol Bahini were arrested from in front of Niribili Hotel at Cox's Bazar yesterday afternoon. They are Sanaullah Abu, Shafiuddin and Ataur Rahman alias Rokon. The hotel belongs to Lutfur Rahman Kajol, leader of the Kajol Bahini.

In another raid at Tulatoli Bazar in Ukhia upazila yesterday afternoon, the army arrested 'identified crimi-

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## Damaged Sangu pipeline to be reconstructed

### Supply to remain suspended for two weeks

SHARIER KHAN and SHAHRIAR KARIM

The energy ministry yesterday decided to reconstruct a part of the damaged offshore pipeline of the Sangu Gas Field, suspending supply to gas-based power plants and fertiliser factories in the Chittagong region for about two weeks in mid-February.

Petrobangla will negotiate with the gas-based units to synchronise their annual maintenance tasks with the pipeline work, sources

said. The Power Development Board (PDB) would be asked to arrange alternative power supplies.

Shell Oil, the operator of the Sangu field that supplies up to 180 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas to Chittagong, has proposed a US\$15 million fund to repair the pipeline.

Petrobangla would however review the fund to see if the cost, which Shell will recover as per terms and conditions of the production sharing contract (PSC), could be cut. Shell and Cairn set up the

Sangu system at a cost of \$178 million. However, the companies later said the actual cost was \$264 million, a claim still contentious.

Since 1998, production in the Sangu field has been interrupted more than 40 times due to technical reasons.

A Shell official, however, had earlier said there was nothing to worry about. "Those interruptions were during the initial period of operations. Now, the system is functioning steadily."

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### Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
11	17		5-16
12	18	4-52	5-15
13	19	4-53	5-15