

Kurd MP breaks law in Turkey

BBC ONLINE, Ankara
A prominent Kurdish politician has defied Turkish law yesterday by giving a speech to parliament in his native Kurdish.



Emergency services work at the scene of a Turkish Airlines passenger plane which crashed yesterday while landing at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam. Officials in Turkey confirmed the death of nine people in the crash landing. Twenty-five people were also seriously injured. Bottom picture shows rescue workers evacuating passengers from the crash site.

India files charges against Mumbai attack gunman

AP, PTI, Mumbai
Investigators charged the lone surviving gunman from the Mumbai attacks with 12 crimes yesterday including murder and waging war against India.

charge sheet, special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said yesterday.
If convicted on the two most critical charges murder and waging war against India the 21-year-old Kasab will likely face the death penalty.

BDR arsenals

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triggering tense among the locals.
Our correspondent from Lalmonirhat reports: BDR soldiers of 22 outposts at Battalion-31 headquarters had deserted from their routine duty. They assembled at the outposts and observed the situation.

How it began

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version of how the mutiny began.
The lower tier BDR personnel (recruited directly by the BDR authorities) have been demanding solution to a number of problems related to pay and benefits. These demands were raised before the DG so that he places them before the Prime Minister who came to Pilkhana yesterday (Tuesday) to inaugurate the BDR week," he said, wishing anonymity.

He however declined to say how many officers were killed or injured or how many of them were held hostage. "You will get to know that in due time," he added.
Army officers told The Daily Star that they received calls between 9:00am and 10:00am from some of the BDR officials held hostage at Pilkhana who pleaded for immediate action to rescue them. After that they did not receive any call from the BDR officials. When they called back they found the BDR officials' mobile phones switched off or they did not respond to their calls.

thought-out plan hatched over a long period of time. "We did it almost suddenly," he claimed.
"Those who took part in it are sepoys, nayaks, lance nayaks, havildars and JCOs," he added.
MUTINEERS TELLOF PENT-UP FURY
The BDR mutineers claim the mutiny was not culmination of any long-term plan, rather results of long-repressed feelings of being deprived of financial and other in-service benefits and being ignored by the authorities.

Contempt rule

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Petitioners' counsel Ramzan Ali Sikder told newsmen that Rafique, who was a counsel both for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, had abruptly stood up and shouted abusive and objectionable languages at Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury during the delivery of a dissenting judgement on February 23.

from 'district court.' And he also dictated to the judge how to deliver judgement, the petitioners said.
Such conduct is punishable as contempt as it tends to create distrust in public mind and impair public confidence in courts. If such acts are tolerated, grave concerns will arise regarding dispensation of justice and public confidence in it, the petition said.

During the heated argument, disgruntled jawans asked the DG about the profit made during the Dal-Bhaat programme. They said after the programme ended, they were told that they would receive bonuses from the profit. Accordingly they had put their signatures on money receipts, but never got the money, claimed the mutineer.

Asked if there was no opposition, why did the mutineers fire so many shots throughout the day, the mutineer said over the phone, "Just to make sure that nobody tries to enter Pilkhana from outside and foil our effort." Most of those were not aimed at any particular target.

It was not possible for The Daily Star to avail the version of the BDR officers on the mutiny till filing of the report last night.
During the BNP rule between 1991 and 1996, the BDR lower tier staged mutinies in Dhaka, Chittagong, Feni, Jessore, Khulna and Naogaon expressing similar grievances.



This handout photograph released by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence yesterday, shows government troops just outside the small town of Puthukkudirippu in the district of Mullaitivu on February 24, 2009. Government forces have cornered the Tamil Tiger rebels in a narrow strip of land and are close to completely crushing them after 37 years of heavy fighting.

US reviews Afghan policy

ANN, Islamabad
Amid strategic incoherence and resurgence of the Taliban, the United States formally begins a comprehensive review of its policy on Afghanistan, with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was due to meet her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi Tuesday evening.

"We are having an Afghanistan-Pakistan review - and we've worked very hard to get our allies on board and looking at both countries, not just at Afghanistan, which took some discussion - is because we see them as inter-connected," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters while travelling in South East Asia ahead of her meetings with FM Qureshi and Afghan Foreign Minister Ranganath Dadas Spanta, who had a bilateral meeting Tuesday morning.

Demands they put forward

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Speaking out at different times of the mutiny, the mutineers spoke and wrote to the media also saying they had their backs to the wall and were forced to move forward with arms.
They vented their anger to the media over low salary, lack of benefits, holidays and the bar on them from going to UN peacekeeping missions.

BDR, Ansar, Fire Brigade, Jail Guards and Rab are under their command and control?"
The military was also accused of controlling other state organisations such as schools, hospitals, universities and various federations.
The border guards went on to accuse the military of conspiring to raise food prices, saying they forced people to buy rice worth Tk 17-18 at Tk 42 and doubling the price of oil.

6,500 crore earned from its Daal-Bhaat programme.
The mutineers lamented that even Ansar members can go abroad for UN peacekeeping mission but army bosses bar them from going abroad.
They also said army assassinated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other leaders, but BDR members are truly patriot and performed their duty in all the crises of the nation.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রিন্সিপালের কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী
স্মারক নং-বিপিএ/প্রশাসন/৭৪৬
তারিখঃ ১৯/০২/০৯
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Table with 5 columns: ক্রমিক নং, কাজের নাম, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমীর ২০০৮-২০০৯ আর্থিক বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টারের আন্তঃবর্ষিক অর্থব্যয় (হোলা, বিচালী, গমের জুই, ধব, বিবিধ) ও বেপন স্টোরেজ বেপন সামগ্রী (মতর ডাল, সয়াবিন তেল, ছালানি কাঠ) সরবরাহ।, স্থান, দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য (অধিকৃতমূল্যে), দরপত্র জামানত, মাসামালের পরিমাণ.

India declares

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alerted and all commandants and assistant commandants were instructed to mobilise them and intensify patrols.
"We have alerted the people living in border areas and instructed the officials not to interfere in any way if clashes take place between the BDR and Bangladesh army as it is their internal matter," he told PTI.

They flee

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Close to each sack was a gathering of people either cowering inside a nearby grocery shop or in front of the main gate of the building.
They had to flee in civil dress as the army and law-enforcement agencies were out already to suppress the mutiny. They looked panicked and tensed," said Sohrab Uddin, a resident on Nizam Uddin Lane.

At 3:30pm the inside of the headquarters looked deserted, empty and barren with flocks of crows flying in the sky. Armed BDR mutineers were seen patrolling the roads inside the headquarters and boundary walls.
Locals said several hundreds of BDR personnel fled in the same manner since 10:00 in the morning. They made the escape through the areas including Hajaribagh Methorpotti, Nijhum, and New Market.

US raps Israel for delaying aid to Gaza
AFP, Jerusalem
US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is pressing Israel to stop blocking aid to the besieged Gaza Strip and will raise the issue during a visit next week, an Israeli newspaper reported yesterday.

US Middle East envoy George Mitchell is expected to issue a strongly worded statement on the situation when he travels to Israel this week, Haaretz said.
"Israel is not making enough efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza," the paper quoted US officials as telling their Israeli counterparts last week. "The US expects Israel to meet its commitments on this matter."