



5 rebels remanded, quizzed by CID

Another army officer's body identified, BDR soldiers who did not return are now fugitives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the Operation Rebel Hunt enters the fourth day, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) started interrogating five BDR mutiny suspects including suspected ringleader Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Syed Towhidul Alam after a Dhaka court had placed them on a seven-day remand yesterday.

The other suspects being grilled are DAD Abdur Rahim, Habibler Azad Ali, Nayek Mohammad Firoj Ahmed, and Jawan Zakir Hossain.

Meanwhile, another victim of the mutiny was identified in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue yesterday, by matching of fingerprints provided by the victim's family members and colleagues. The victim is now identified as Lt Col Elahi Manzoor Chowdhury.

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Towhid and other BDR mutineers being taken to court yesterday.

Goods looted during BDR mutiny seized in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested father of a BDR jawan at Chalitabari in sadar upazila and recovered valuables worth about Tk 12 lakh looted during BDR mutiny.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Rab-12 conducted a raid and arrested Nannu Miah, father of the BDR member Abdur Rahman.

Rab said after BDR mutiny at Pilkhana on February 25, Rahman took his father to his rented house in the city's Hazaribagh area and handed him over Tk 3 lakh, 40 bori gold ornaments, a cellphone set and a wristwatch from the looted goods.

On interrogation, Nannu Miah confessed that the looted booty was kept in his

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CTG ARMS HAUL

4-party bigwigs were in plot, accused say

Ministries concerned and intelligence agencies were 'aware of the smuggling'

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

The process of 2004 botched attempt to transport 10-truck load of arms and ammunition to the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) started in late 2001, involving some big time political honchos of the last four-party government, according to confessional statements of two persons accused in the Chittagong arms haul case.

The two accused -- Md Hafizur Rahman and Din Mohammad -- also said on Monday afternoon that the huge cache of weapons was being smuggled under the direct supervision of Ulfa

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FILE PHOTO

This file photo shows the huge cache of arms and ammunition seized in Chittagong in 2004.

Govt plans to set up courts at upazila again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has plans to set up civil and criminal courts at upazila headquarters again, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafiq Ahmed said in parliament yesterday.

In reply to a call attention notice from former president and Jatiya Party Chief HM Ershad, the law minister said, "There are some difficulties in reintroducing the courts at upazila level right now."

He also mentioned about the shortage of judges and skilled lawyers and said the government will take necessary steps on time.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the House that local government institutions will look after primary and secondary-level education as part of decentralisation of power.

However, in a scripted answer to a lawmaker's query during the question-answer session earlier the law minister said the government has no plan right now to re-introduce criminal courts at upazila level.

In defence of reintroducing courts at upazila levels, HM Ershad, who introduced the judicial system during his tenure, said the people living in villages suffer immensely to run their cases in district courts.

"I appeal to the law minister to reintroduce courts at upazila level," the Jatiya Party Chief said.

Earlier, during the question-answer session the law minister

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Family members of 15 army officers meet PM

UNB, Dhaka

Grief-stricken family members of 15 martyred army officers, including the BDR chief, met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna yesterday.

The officers include Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, Col Jahid, Col Mashru, Col Mujaeen, Col Aftab, Lt Col Badru Huda,

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JS session adjourned for quorum crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sitting of the House was adjourned last night because of quorum crisis for the first time since the new parliament began its journey on January 25 with overwhelming majority of the treasury bench.

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24 detained after Lahore attack

Probe begins; unexploded bombs found at the scene

AFP, Lahore

Pakistani officials said yesterday around two dozen people were detained over the ambush on Sri Lanka's cricket team, which has raised new questions about the government's war on militants.

The detainees were being questioned as police widened the hunt for clues in Tuesday's brazen attack, which left six police and two civilians dead. Seven Sri Lankan cricketers and a coach were among 19 people wounded.

Up to 12 men armed with grenades, a rocket-launcher and automatic weapons opened fire in an assault which has stirred up doubts about Pakistan's control over militants linked to Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan had set up a special investigation committee which had "carried out very good work in very short time" but he refused to elaborate.

Around two dozen people have been picked up -- most of them belonging to banned or outlawed organisations -- in the hope of finding a clue to the identity of the escaped terrorists, one police official told AFP.

The official, who was speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to release the information to the media, indicated the gunmen were not among those detained.

Officials have offered a reward of 125,000 dollars for information about the men behind the well-planned attack. A large

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BNP ready to help govt
Says Khaleda on facing crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia once again said the opposition is ready to cooperate with the government to overcome the ongoing crisis centring Pilkhana carnage so that it will not hurt the country's democratic process.

During a meeting with US

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Scrutiny of RTI bill complete
JS body makes no major changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on information ministry yesterday completed scrutiny of the Right to Information Bill-2009 to place its report in parliament in next week for passage of the bill in the current session.

"We are not proposing any major change in the bill. If

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CANTONMENT AREAS
Civilians asked to carry NID card

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People residing in cantonment or civilians who use it as a passage have been requested to carry national identity card for the sake of safety.

"For the sake of security, people are requested to carry their national identity card while crossing the cantonment," said an ISPR release

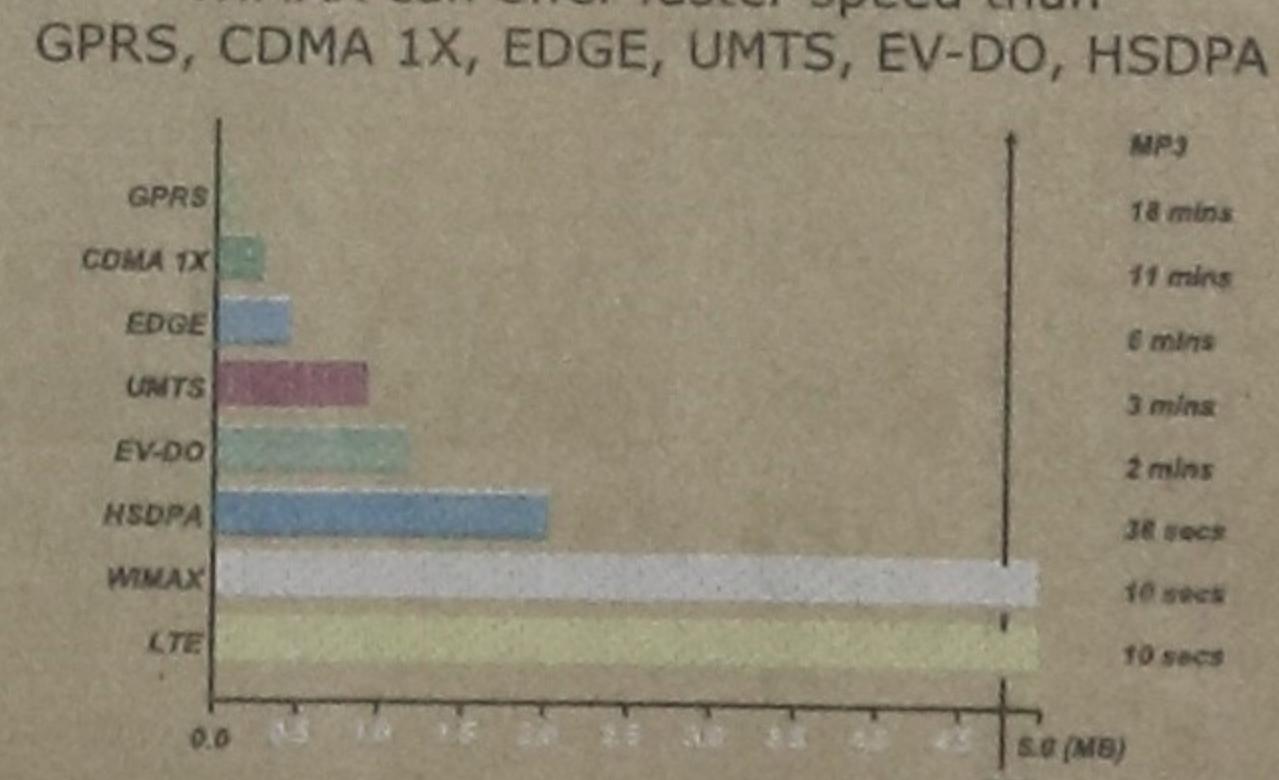
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