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BDR CARNAGE
23 eminent citizens shocked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-three eminent citizens have expressed deep shock and grief over the death of army and BDR personnel and civilians brutally killed during the mutiny at BDR headquarters in Pikhana on February 25-26.

In a joint statement, they said it is a loss for the entire country-not only to the distraught families and to BDR and army.

"We wish the families could heal the pain soon though it is not possible to recover such intense loss for the families," the statement reads, urging all to be alert so that the blow cannot mislead the process of democracy.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Petrobangla's U-turn to get tied Polish loan for Dighipara coal

SHARIER KHAN

In a self-contradictory move, Petrobangla has asked the government to obtain a Polish-tied aid credit to assign Polish company Kopex for a techno-economic feasibility study for development of coal deposit in Dighipara.

In a letter to the ministry on February 24, Petrobangla sought clearance for this credit deal saying if it is cleared, the exploration activities in 40-square-kilometre Dighipara coal deposit can be launched within 2009.

But on January 21 last year, on the basis

of Petrobangla's opinion the government informed the Polish government that it could not accept the tied aid credit because as a licence holder of the Dighipara coal deposit, Petrobangla was set to find a strategic partner for exploration and later development of the deposit.

Petrobangla in 2005 estimated that such a study would require 18 months to complete at a cost of Tk 26.8 crore.

But it was Kopex that proposed this feasibility study. Serving as a consultant of the struggling and very poorly implemented Maddhyapara hard rock mine project, Kopex proposed to Petrobangla

on May 17, 2007 that it was interested for this feasibility study.

As a follow-up, the government wrote to the Polish government and received a proposal of a tied aid credit on October 11, 2007.

Back then, Petrobangla was seeking the ministry's clearance of an Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) to find a strategic partner. It viewed the Kopex proposal as an independent move and it rejected the idea.

Till now Petrobangla has not published the Invitation for Expression of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

8 labourers killed in truck crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Eight day-labourers were killed and three others injured when a salt-laden truck fell into a roadside ditch after breaking the railing of a bridge on Dhaka-Bogra Highway in Bagbari area of Kamarkhanda upazila yesterday morning.

Police said the accident occurred at about 6:00 am when a Bogra-bound truck from Chittagong, carrying the day-labourers along with salt, fell into the ditch after breaking the railing of the bridge No 9 near NDP office as its driver lost control over the steering.

Ferdaws Ali, 25, son of Nayeb Ali, Akram Ali, 35, son of Sabder Ali and Altaf Hossain, 30, son of late Mozahar Ali of Satra village and Abu Sayeed, 28, son of late Boytullah Sheikh and Mosharrar Ali, 25, son of Ibrahim of Bhardowl village in Sherpur upazila of Bogra district died instantly.

Of the injured, Yusub Ali, 22, of Jhajhor village in Bogra district, died on the way to district sadar hospital.

Identities of other deceased could not be known immediately. The injured were admitted to the hospital in critical condition, police said.

Jamuna Bridge Western Police Station Sub-Inspector Atik Hassan told The Daily Star that the day-labourers died on the spot as they were trapped under the sacks of the salt. He

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Mutiny upsets economic policy decisions

Says finance minister

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the BDR mutiny has pushed the economic policy decisions as well as the whole administration on the verge of a stalemate due to a sort of fear over the unrest.

"The apprehension and the stalemate will be over within a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Development won't be hurt by mutiny

Hopes Faruk Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economic development of the country will not be affected by the recent incidents at the BDR headquarters, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan said yesterday.

Inaugurating a three-day international construction fair in the capital yesterday, he

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

SC Appellate Division gets 2 new judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior most judges of the High Court (HC) Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Md Abdul Aziz

have been elevated to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to fill the vacancies.

Law ministry sources said President M Zillur Rahman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Cha-wallah's dream ends in mutineers' bullets

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Akhter Hossain, in his early teens, was groaning in a bed of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after being sprayed with stray bullets off mutineers' guns in his chest and hand on the day of fateful February 25 for no fault of his own.

Akhter, a tea vendor in profession, was selling tea at Jigatola when, out of nowhere, bullets pierced through his chest and hand pitching him onto the ground just after the mutiny broke out.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO STAR

Fourteen-year-old tea vendor Akhter lying in hospital bed. He was hit by stray bullets during the mutiny at the BDR headquarters on February 25-26.

AUDIT OBJECTIONS
No pension for health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque did not get pension in last seven years after his retirement from the government service as audit objections involving Tk 93 lakh are still pending against him.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam, also minister in charge of establishment in parliamentary affairs, disclosed it in parliament yesterday.

Replying to a query of AL lawmaker Moazzem Hossain Ratan, Ashraf Islam in his scripted

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

10 HC judges to get back job soon

Says law minister

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The 10 judges of the High Court (HC) Division of the Supreme Court (SC), whose job was not confirmed during the BNP-Jamaat government despite the Chief Justice's positive recommendations, will be reappointed soon as per the SC guidelines.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday at the Secretariat, Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed said the ministry will start the process of the reappointment within one or two days.

He also said the appointment of two judges to the Appellate Division is under process as the post of two judges have been lying vacant since long.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

2 grenades found in Rangpur hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur Kotwali Police yesterday recovered two Arges grenades abandoned in a ground floor toilet of Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

A female outdoor patient discovered the grenades and informed the RMCH authorities around 11:00am.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the police station Abdur Rashid said "GREN-84, B.D. B.O.F" mark was engraved on the grenades.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Iran urges world Muslim 'resistance' against Israel

AFP, Tehran

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called yesterday for world Muslims to join the Palestinian "resistance" against Israel as he kicked off a summit in aid of war-torn Gaza.

His statement came as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met Palestinian leaders during her first visit to the region since taking office.

Clinton was meeting prime minister Salam Fayyad in the occupied West Bank's political capital of Ramallah, and was later to meet Western-backed president Mahmud Abbas, a day after her talks with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem.

"The only way to save Palestine is resistance," Khamenei said in his address to start a two-day international summit organised by Tehran in aid of Gaza and the Palestinians.

"Support and help to Palestinians is a mandatory duty of all Muslims. I now tell all Muslim brothers and sisters to join forces and break the immunity of the Zionist criminals," Khamenei said.

He also called for putting Israeli political and military leaders on trial for the December-January assault on Gaza in which 1,300 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, and 13 Israelis were killed.

"This is the first step that should be taken," Khamenei said. Iran does not recognise Israel and Khamenei has repeatedly rejected a two-state solution to solve the Israel-Palestinian issue.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

DARFUR WAR CRIMES

Arrest warrant against Sudan president

AFP, Khartoum

The International Criminal Court yesterday sought the arrest of Sudan's President Omar al-Beshir for war crimes in Darfur, issuing the first ever warrant against a sitting head of state.

The government in Khartoum immediately dismissed the move as thousands of Sudanese took to the streets to vent their anger while allies of Beshir, including the African Union and Russia, said it could undermine peace.

Security was beefed up around foreign embassies amid fear of reprisals by Beshir supporters, while diplomats urged expatriates to avoid public places and stock up on essential supplies.

Ahead of the announcement by the ICC of the unprecedented warrant against a sitting head of state for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, the Sudanese army broadcast a stark warning on state radio against anyone trying to exploit the court's decision.

"The armed forces will firmly deal with whoever cooperates with the so-called International Criminal Court, and uses it as a platform for political blackmail and for destabilising the security and stability of the country," spokesman Osman al-Aghbash said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timings

March 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

রক্তাক্ত ফেব্রুয়ারি ২৫

শুষ্টিত দেশবাসী, হতবাক পৃথিবী

বাকরুদ্ধ ও শোকাহত আমরা

একসি

United in grief

Our homage to the martyrs who lived to protect our country

The brave die never, though they sleep in dust:
Their courage nerves a thousand living men.

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