

Carnage plotted at least 2 months back

Investigators cite phone records; so far 100 people's involvement found in Pilkhana killing

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Citing telephone records of some suspects, investigators yesterday said the February 25 massacre at BDR Pilkhana headquarters might have been planned at least two months back.

They said so far they have collected the last two months' phone records of the suspects.

"Most likely the networking between them had begun much before that. Further investigation will shed light on that," said a high official of a law enforcement agency, requesting anonymity.

The information obtained in interrogations of the arrested mutineers bears out what has been gleaned from analysis of the phone records, he added.

As of yesterday, the investigators have gathered that at least 100 people were involved in the vicious killings of scores of

army officials deputed to BDR. "However, this number [of mutineers] could shoot up to 1,000 in the end."

Another investigator who too would not speak on record said the maximum participation was from Rifles Security Unit, intelligence wing of BDR, a certain battalion and Regimental Police (RP) of the paramilitary force.

He said the suspects being grilled have disclosed that plotters who include outsiders had been motivating the border guards against their commanding officers. Particularly, the ones who joined the service around two to three years ago had been more involved.

"Some of the mutineers were told that only a few officers would be killed while others were told that none would be killed. The officers would be taken hostage only to be released after the demands are met," the investigator continued.

But as the revolt began, things went beyond their control and an orgy of killings took place.

Investigators said they believe most of the border guards inside the Pilkhana compound knew that something was going to happen.

They said they would not face any major difficulty detecting the BDR troops now that they have access to a database containing details of the 67,000-force.

"Initially, there was no reliable source of information as the mutineers have burnt or destroyed most of the documents at the headquarters," said an investigator.

A member of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) tasked with investigation of the bloodbath said they are sure the runaway rebels have taken with them small arms and grenades.

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BDR carnage part of grave conspiracy

PM tells Asean envoys

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BDR carnage was staged as part of a bigger conspiracy to put the country's democracy into peril.

She made the remarks when ambassadors and high commissioners of eight Association of Southeast

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More valuables looted from BDR HQ recovered 2 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the mother and uncle of a mutinous BDR soldier along with the booties worth about Tk 6 lakh from their

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Barapukuria coal mine in trouble

800 miners lose job; production stopped since Feb 18; villagers press for compensation

KONGKON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur and SHARIEF KHAN in Dhaka

Just when Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) was dreaming about making profit for the first time, its coal production became uncertain due to resistance against mining by villagers and retrenchment of at least 800 miners yesterday.

While villagers stopped the company from mining coal from a new area since February 18 demanding compensation for loss of arable land, the mine's Chinese operator CMC-XMC yesterday served notice to retrench 800 miners. The CMC-XMC paid the miners and told them not to attend work from today.

This prompted miners to protest and bring out a procession inside the mine against the CMC-XMC decision. Later, the BCMCL authorities quelled the agitating miners and requested CMC-XMC to extend their deadline for resuming coal mining to Sunday. Sources said CMC-XMC agreed with BCMCL.

The CMC-XMC had given a deadline that expired yesterday to BCMCL to resume coal extraction.

While the company incurred a loss of Tk 156 crore between 2005 and 2008 due to poor coal production and excessive production cost, its performance drastically changed from June-July last.

With an increased coal production, the BCMCL sold around 1.5 lakh tonnes of coal to private buyers--mostly brick kilns--at \$110 per tonne. This sale alone fetched around \$16 million till February giving the company the hope of making profit. The remaining coal, more than four lakh tonnes, is being sold at \$70 per tonne to the Power Development Board (PDB) to run its 250 megawatt power plant at the mine site.

Now, as the mine could not continue coal production as per schedule, its Chinese operator is threatening to leave Bangladesh. The mine's inventory now has about one lakh

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PM consoles army officers' families

Enquires about families of civilian victims

UNB, Dhaka

Grief-stricken family members of 10 more army officers brutally killed in the BDR headquarters met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna yesterday.

The officers include Col Gulzar (missing), Col Akhter, Col Nafiz, Col Imdad, Lt Col Sazzad, Maj Mokbul, Maj Mosharraf, Maj Humayun

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PHOTO: STAR

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles a family member of an army officer killed in the BDR Headquarters when members of 10 bereaved families called on the PM at her residence Jamuna yesterday.

Screening of BDR jawans continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities are screening both the runaway jawans and those who stayed back inside the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters and then reported back.

"We are trying to identify the persons involved in the mutiny by examining the

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Lahore attackers identified

Says Pak official; top cop admits security lapses; MPs blast govt

AP, ANI, AFP, Lahore/ Islamabad

A Pakistani official says authorities have identified the men behind the attack on Sri Lanka's cricket team but declined to name any of the suspects.

Punjab province Gov. Salman Taseer says he will share details in the next few days.

The attack in Lahore on Tuesday killed six police men and a driver and hurt several of the Sri Lankans while underscoring the poor security in country beleaguered by al-Qaeda and Taliban violence.

Taseer also told reporters Thursday that investigators have found a large amount of weapons and made several arrests. He says he did not want to give more details yet because of the situation's sensitivity.

Pakistan investigative agencies are of the view that militants are using Tuesday's attack on the Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore to facilitate the release of Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Zakir-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.

Lakhvi is currently detained at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi and is facing trial for his alleged role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

According to sources, investigation agencies are saying that the attack was planned and carried out by a Lashkar operative.

Earlier another Pakistani official admitted that "very vivid" security lapses allowed gunmen to ambush Sri Lanka's cricket team and escape, local media reported yesterday, as investigators chased down leads in hopes of a breakthrough in the case.

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Cricket series with Pakistan postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has postponed Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh as advised by the government authorities.

There was no explanation in the Home Ministry letter to the BCB why the series is to be deferred but it seems that the recent mutiny at the Bangladesh Rifles headquarters in Dhaka, which killed

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ARMS CASE

Babar lands in jail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar to jail after he surrendered and sought bail in an arms case in which he was earlier sentenced to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment.

This was the second time

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Killers hired from outside: Khaleda

BNP mourns for BDR carnage victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia said yesterday the killers in the BDR massacre were 'foreign spies' and it needs to be known whether they are from 'within the present government'.

"I don't believe any Bangladeshis were involved in this killing. The killers were hired from outside and entered the Pilkhana headquarters in BDR uniform," the BNP chairperson said while addressing a mourning procession organised by her party to pay respects to all killed in the BDR mutiny.

"Bangladesh is under attack. A conspiracy is going on, that is why unity is necessary now," she said calling on all people to remain united and alert to safeguard the sovereignty of the country.

Khaleda alleged that delays were caused in the name of dialogues during the mutiny to give the killers a chance to escape.

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CTG ARMS HAUL

Investigators act on confession of prime accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Acting on the confession of a prime accused, investigators collected in the last two days the names and addresses of some persons allegedly involved in the smuggling of deadly weapons and ammunition hauled in Chittagong back in 2004.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials now prepare to interrogate these persons, who were responsible for checking transport and offloading of the illegal weapons at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty.

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