

## Barapukuria

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tonnes of coal to cater the needs of PDB's power plant. This is not enough for the BCMCL to sell coal to the brick kilns and make enough money to pay damages to villagers.

Production in this first underground coalmine in Bangladesh is done in different parts and in different "Faces", each of which allows extraction of a few lakh tonnes of coal.

On February 18, the BCMCL finished coal extraction from Face-1104. It was preparing to begin coal production from Face-1114 from February 25.

Face-1114 is close to village Jhigadari.

As many parts of Kalupara and Moupukur villages have already subsided due to the mining, the villagers of Jhigadari resisted drilling of a borehole there for mining purpose. They said each time a borehole is drilled, the land around it subsided. This should not go on, they added.

The villagers want the BCMCL to pay damages to villagers of Kalupara and Moupukur first. If the payment is satisfactory, then they would allow mining under Jhigadari.

This situation developed after three minister-level leaders visited Barapukuria to discuss with locals how they want the compensation. They went there following reports of large-scale land subsidence. A committee was formed with representation from villages to determine the amount of damages.

The BCMCL, meanwhile, told villagers that since policymakers have already assured them of damages, it would be provided and the villagers should give the government a few months' time. They said the locals should not resist mining work.

"We told the villagers that if mining is resisted, the mine's Chinese operators will leave. The workers will be retrenched and it will cause unrest. The mine's structure will be damaged. The PDB will no longer be able to generate power. And eventually, the villagers will suffer tremendously during the irrigation period. The BCMCL's financial health will also suffer and may not be able to pay the compensations," said an official.

"But the villagers are sentimental and do not want to

## Carnage

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The efforts are on to know the number of missing firearms and grenades.

Asked about reports that some mutineers have managed to flee the country by air and through Comilla border, the investigators said they too have such information, but could not yet confirm if it is correct.

The law enforcement agencies and security forces will bring back the suspected rebels to the capital immediately after capture in the country-wide drive styled 'Operation Rebel Hunt'.

They have a helicopter all ready and waiting to fly the rebels back in the city.

Sources in the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) said over 200 suspected mutineers have already been held in custody.

Besides, they said, they have identified all 14 BDR personnel who participated in negotiations with the government.

Of the 14, five are deputy assistant directors (DAD), two havildars, two nayaks, one lance nayak and four soldiers. The sources, however, declined to divulge the names that are yet to be known like DAD Syed Touhidul Alam's.

Intelligence agencies and committees formed to probe the carnage are working in coordination to help CID come up with a strong charge sheet after investigation.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday granted a petition for permission to defuse 17 grenades seized from BDR headquarters.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque passed the order following a prayer submitted by CID ASP Abdul Kahar Akand, also investigation officer (IO) of the case filed with Lalbagh Police Station in connection with the mass killings at Pilkhana.

In another development, 22 BDR jawans held in Tangail were shown arrested in the case yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rahim granted the prayer for the jawans to be shown arrested.

The IO said the border troops have been rounded up at different parts of Tangail district for alleged links to the bloody mutiny.

The court also ordered that they all be shifted to Dhaka Central jail.

listen to anything," he added.

General Manager (mining) of BCMCL Md Mir Abdul Motin told The Daily Star that they formed a technical committee to resume coal production from Face-1114 without sealing off existing boreholes. They were optimistic about starting coal extraction from Sunday.

Sources said the BCMCL paid Tk 24.22 lakh as food-grain damages to owners of 60.76 acres of land that subsided since 2006.

BCMCL sources said a high-level meeting was held in Dhaka Tuesday. This meeting recommended paying villagers the damages and convincing them to cooperate with coal production. This decision has to be implemented quickly or it would become difficult to motivate locals to cooperate.

Besides, the payment of damages required huge capital.

The authorities are yet to make any assessment for damages but sources in the Barapukuria coalmine said whatever the damages are, at present the mine does not have enough money to pay the villagers without help from the government.

Source said Tuesday's meeting was headed by Adviser to the Prime Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury. State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Haque, State Minister for Forest and Environment Mostafizur Rahman, Energy Secretary Mohammed Mohsin and senior officials of Barapukuria project were also present in the meeting to review the present crisis of BCMCL.

At the meeting, Towfiq-e-Elahi and Shamsul Haque directed the committee, which is preparing a list of the affected villagers, to submit its report immediately, sources said.

Mostafizur Rahman is scheduled to visit the coalmine site Saturday to talk with agitating villagers.

## Ctg arms haul

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Earlier, accused Hafizur Rahman had made the confessional statement to Metropolitan Magistrate Md Osman Gani.

Responding to a time petition, a Chittagong court has already extended the time limit for investigation into the case up to May 13, said Investigation Officer (IO) Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, senior ASP of the CID, Chittagong zone.

The IO had made the time petition before expiry of the previous time limit—March 04.

Muniruzzaman said, in his confessional statement Hafiz quoted Ulfat leader (United Liberation Front of Assam) Paresh Barua as claiming to have permission and help from the CUFL coast guard and the then chiefs of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and National Security Intelligence (NSI).

"We would be making appeal soon for allowing us to interrogate officials concerned of the organisations and agencies mentioned in the confessional statement," he said.

In reply to a question, the IO said, "The confessional statement (of Hafiz) did not specify any minister or government official."

Contacted, CID Chittagong zone Special Superintendent (SS) Mohammad Muslimuddin, said, "We would first interrogate officials of the organisations concerned, who are directly responsible for taking care of the matter."

He said, "We visited Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited on the other bank of the Karnaphuli on Tuesday and came to know that the CUFL managing director enjoys the authority to permit use of the jetty by any vessel or vehicle."

"So, the then CUFL managing director might be interrogated first. After that, we can say if those in the upper tier such as (the then) BCIC chairman, secretary or minister for industry had any involvement, or if they should be interrogated," said Muslimuddin, who is entrusted with supervision and monitoring of investigation into the sensational case.

"We want to proceed step by step following appropriate procedure, and won't do anything in a haste that might hamper investigation and trial of the culprits," he said.

In this regard, he referred to submission of charge sheet twice, change of four previous IOs and further investigation and reinvestigation into the case over the last five years.

## BDR jawans

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video footages, photographs and through interrogation," Director General of BDR Md Mainul Islam told The Daily Star last night.

He said both the identified and suspected persons would be thoroughly interrogated about the mutiny in which a total of 74 people including 55 army officers were killed.

"BDR jawans are being asked about their positions during the mutiny, how and why they fled the headquarters and where they stayed," an army officer told reporters at the BDR Rifles Square Gate.

When asked about the conditions of BDR jawans who rejoined the service he said they all are well and doing their routine works.

The army officer said one jawan was held yesterday with the help of video footage. Another BDR jawan Abdur Rahman was rounded up on Wednesday from his village home in Bogra and gold ornaments and cash looted during the massacre were recovered from him.

Meanwhile, both the law enforcement agencies and the army officers continued their search inside Pilkhana to find missing arms and ammunition. "We are also continuing our search to find if more bodies are left," said the officer.

A criminal investigation department (CID) officer said they were yet to complete collecting evidences of the bloody mutiny. "We will complete the process soon," he added.

Meanwhile, several hundred family members and relatives of jawans were seen crowding at the BDR Rifle Square Gate to know about the fates of those inside the BDR headquarters.

"I am not getting any information about my father, who reported back three days ago," said Jasim Rana, son of a BDR jawan.

None excepting 56 nurses and female staff, who reported back after the mutiny, are allowed to come out of Pilkhana.

About border security, the BDR DG said, "All the borders are fully secure."

## PM consoles

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Kabir, Maj Khalid and Capt Tanvir.

During the emotional meet, the prime minister said the loss suffered in the Feb 25-26 carnage is irreparable.

"As long as I live, I would stand beside the family members of the martyred army officers in their weal and woe," he said. Hasina assured the children of the martyred families of providing educational expenses and other necessary expenses to be borne by the government.

"The government has already announced financial assistance to the members of the martyred families," she said, adding that the government would also try to make arrangement of ensuring their livelihoods.

"Have patience... I will be with you at all times," the premier said emotionally embracing the family members.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday enquired about the welfare of the bereaved families of poor vegetable-vendor Hridoy Hossain and rickshaw-puller Amzad Ali who were killed amid a fusillade during the BDR mutiny.

On behalf of PM, Assistant Personal Secretary Saifuzzaman Shekhor visited the shanties of Hridoy at Hazaribagh and Amzad at Jigatola and enquired about their family conditions. Saifuzzaman assured them of all assistance from the prime minister and her government.

## BDR carnage

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Asian Nations (Asean) countries called on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the morning.

The envoys are Vietnam's Nguyen Van That, Thailand's Chalermphol Thanchitt, Myanmar's U Phae Thann Oo, Philippines' Zenaida Tacorda-Rabago, Brunei Darussalam's Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Mohd Hussaini, Singapore's Tan Kok Nam, Indonesia's Tri Surya and Malaysia's Hamizan bin Hashim.

"Primarily it is being thought that the BDR mutiny was staged to put the democratic government in danger and embarrass it," the PM was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad at a press briefing after the meeting.

The envoys expressed deep shock at the death of the army officers and sympathies for the bereaved families.

Abul Kalam Azad said the envoys highly praised the PM's wisdom and foresightedness in resolving the recent BDR crisis peacefully.

The diplomats also assured the PM of providing all-out cooperation to the government for safeguarding the democracy. The PM said the brutal incidents at Pilkhana stunned the nation and the deaths of efficient army officers are irreparable loss to the nation.

The Asean envoys expressed their interest in investment in Bangladesh's various sectors, particularly energy and tourism.

The PM and the envoys also exchanged views on how to deal with the challenges the country is facing following the global climate change.

The two sides also focused their discussions on working together for regional peace and prosperity during the meeting.

## Janatar Mancha sedition case withdrawn

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday withdrew the Janatar Mancha sedition case filed against Awami League (AL) lawmaker and former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and seven other bigwigs in April 2002.

After taking power, AL government decided to withdraw several cases filed by the BNP-led four party alliance government to harass them politically.

Earlier, the home ministry sent a letter to Dhaka metropolitan public prosecutor asking for taking steps for withdrawal of the case. But the case was not withdrawn as the High Court (HC) had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case.

Judge Fazila Begum of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order following a petition submitted by Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu. The court also discharged all the eight accused from the charges.

In the letter of January 27, Deputy Secretary (Law) of Home Ministry Mohammad Sujayet Ullah said the government has decided not to proceed with the case.

The then public prosecutor Ehsanul Haq Samaji after receiving the letter informed the home ministry that the HC had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case following separate writ petitions filed by Dr Alamgir and others.

Stay order on the case was vacated following the prosecution had submitted a non-prosecution petition with the

HC.

The seven others who were made accused in the case are former home secretary and election commissioner Shafiur Rahman, former students relationship officer of education ministry Abu Alam Shahid Khan, former joint secretary of the women affairs ministry Sirajuddin Ahmed, former assistant secretary of establishment ministry Rabiul Alam Mohammad Obaidul Muktafir Chowdhury, former director of narcotics control department Syed Bazul Karim, former DIG of police Prokriti Ranjan Chanda and former president of the Secretariat Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad Syed Mohiuddin.

Seven accused, including Dr Alamgir, were granted bails from different courts while Prokriti Ranjan Chanda went into hiding.

Mohammad Saifur Rahman, the then officer-in-charge of Ramna police station filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on April 8, 2002 accusing Dr Alamgir and six others.

The CID on December 26, 2002 pressed charges against Alamgir and seven others. Prokriti Chanda was first time included in the charge sheet.

The complainant in the case says the accused had set up the Janatar Mancha (people's dais) in front of the National Press Club in March 1996 and instigated government officials and employees to join the agitation to dislodge the then BNP government.

## Fake TINs

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including jail terms and fines.

The offer is part of the NBR's efforts to widen the tax net and increase revenue.

NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid at a press briefing yesterday, called on all concerned to legalise the fake TINs within this deadline.

"Those who hold fake TINs can avail this opportunity by paying Tk 3,000 in advance income tax, or the entire amount of tax payable, to the deputy tax commissioner of tax circle," Mazid said.

Those who do not have taxable incomes can still legalise their TINs by paying Tk 3,000 in advance tax, which would be refundable.

Quoting different reviews of the NBR, the chairman also said that the high rate of fraud in registration of land or flats by the Land Registration Authority, motor vehicle registration and fitness issuance and renewals by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), renewal of trade licenses by the city corporation and issuance of credit cards by commercial banks is very alarming.

## Ensure power

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Shamsul Haque Tuku however assured the lawmakers of taking necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply for irrigation.

"The farmers in my constituency could not run their pumps due to shortage of power," AL lawmaker from Mymensingh-10 Gasuddin Ahmed said during the question-answer session.

Shahiduzzaman Sarkar, AL lawmaker from Naogaon-2, also echoed him.

"If the situation does not improve, it will not be possible to achieve the target of food production," AL lawmaker from Naogaon-3 Akram Hossain Chowdhury said while speaking on a call-attention notice.

He also demanded formation of an enquiry committee to investigate whether any power official is involved in creation of artificial power crisis.

During the question-answer session, AL lawmaker from Chapainawabganj-2 Ziaur Rahman urged the state minister for power to find out the reasons behind power shortage in his constituency. Ruling party lawmaker

## Khaleda

**FROM PAGE 1**  
She said the BDR incident proves that spies of foreign forces have infiltrated into all sectors of the country and have been launching attacks from 'within'.

Terming the Pilkhana carnage a deep-rooted conspiracy against the security of the country, Khaleda Zia said more serious problems would crop up if the incident is not investigated properly and the culprits brought to justice.

She warned that 'More blood would be spilled and more damage incurred' if the real criminals are not punished.

"We guessed the conspiracy before the election, even our arrests were part of it to place the army in this difficult position before the people," the former premier alleged.

She said the nation's independence and sovereignty had been affected by this incident.

"The force protecting the borders of the country has been destroyed through outside instigations and a large number of army officers killed—this was nothing but a deep rooted conspiracy to divide the country," Khaleda said.

She called on the members of the armed forces to show patience and the people to remain united during this tough period of time.

The BNP leader also claimed that a huge number of lives would not have been lost if action was taken on time. She also questioned why delays were made and the army was 'prevented' from entering Pilkhana.

Referring to the prime minister's meeting with BDR rebels Khaleda Zia asked, "Did you (the prime minister) ask the rebels if the army officers were still alive?"

"People understand the intention behind announcement of a general amnesty without asking rebels about the officers and their family members," she told the gathering of her party activists and leaders.

The leader of the opposition also called on the government to admit its failure and take quick action against the rebels.

She said, "We are still ready to respond if the government wants cooperation," but alleged that the government was not willing to discuss the matter with the opposition.

Expressing her deep condolence at the killing of army officials, Khaleda Zia said the families of those killed should be compensated and properly rehabilitated.

Wearing black badges and carrying black flags, hundreds of BNP leaders and activists attended the procession led by its chairperson from the party office at Naya Paltan to the National Press Club at Tophkhana Road.

## Cricket series

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about 74 people including 56 army officers, was the main concern in addition to the heinous attack by gunmen on Sri Lanka cricket team's bus in Lahore last Tuesday, which left at least eight people killed and seven Lankan cricketers injured.

Pakistan were scheduled to land in Dhaka tomorrow to play two Twenty20 and five one-day internationals in Dhaka and Chittagong from March 10-22.

BCB officials yesterday confirmed that they are in talks with Pakistan about rescheduling the series. The board is also to send the ICC a revised security plan for this purpose.

"It is a source of embarrassment at the international level," said Ahsan Iqbal, an opposition lawmaker. "This government should be ashamed and make those responsible for criminal negligence in their duties accountable."

Meanwhile, Pakistan lawmakers Thursday accused the government of a "serious security lapse" over the Sri Lankan cricket attack and cited reports that the authorities were warned of a possible attack.

The foreign relations' committee of the Senate, or upper house of parliament, expressed "deep sorrow and regrets" for Tuesday's attack, which left six police and two civilians dead, and seven Sri Lankan cricketers wounded.

It "urged the government to investigate how such a serious lapse of security could occur when there were reports from within the government agencies that such an attack could be in the offing," the committee said in a statement.

The statement followed international criticism over security arrangements in Lahore, where the attack raised questions about the effectiveness of Pakistan's war on Islamic militants.

"This attack has inflicted a serious damage to the image of Pakistan and to the game of cricket in Pakistan," the foreign relations committee said.

Lawmakers urged the government to "fully investigate this crime, trace the terrorists and punish the perpetrators of this crime."

Police have given conflicting accounts of the investigation. One top police official said

## Sudan expels 10 aid agencies

### Beshir attacks West at protest rally

AFP, Khartoum

Sudan warned yesterday it could expel more aid agencies, after Khartoum ordered 10 relief groups to leave, accusing them of collaborating with the International Criminal Court.

"More NGOs are under focus and investigation," Humanitarian Affairs Commission chief Hassabo Mohammed Abdel Rahman told reporters, without identifying them. "If we find evidence we will expel them."

On Wednesday, Sudan ordered the expulsion of 10 international agencies, which provide essential aid to the estimated 2.7 million people made homeless by the war in Darfur.

It followed the decision by the Hague-based ICC to issue an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Beshir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

"They cooperated with the ICC -- some sent fabricated to the ICC about genocide," Abdel Rahman said of the expelled agencies.

Earlier Sudanese president lashed out at the West yesterday at a mass rally in Khartoum called to protest the international arrest warrant against him for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

"The true criminals are the leaders of the United States and Europe," Beshir told the angry crowds, waving banners and portraits of the veteran leader.

Beshir, who seized power in a coup 20 years ago, is accused by the International Criminal Court of masterminding a campaign of extermination, rape and pillage during the six-year conflict in Darfur.

More than 5,000 people joined the rally in Khartoum's Martyrs Square shouting support for Beshir and denouncing ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, who called for the arrest warrant in July.

## Cabinet okays

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The meeting also approved four other proposals for enactment of laws, Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad said in a post-meeting briefing.

The approved acts are: the Bangladesh Economic Zone Act 2009, the Members of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Act 2009, the Bangladesh-Uzbekistan Cultural Cooperation Agreement 2009 and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Ratification).

Besides, the Local Government (Union Council) Act 2009 was presented before the cabinet but the cabinet sent it back for further scrutiny.

## Lahore attackers

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The acknowledgment followed allegations by a referee caught up in Tuesday's attack that police abandoned him like a 'sitting duck.' Video from the area showed the gunmen sauntering down a deserted side street, apparently leaving with no fear of pursuit.

But other Pakistani officials have defended the security measures, noting six policemen guarding the convoy were killed when it was attacked by up to 14 heavily armed men near a stadium in the heart of the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore.

Seven players, an umpire and an assistant coach were wounded. The attack occurred despite government pledges to give the Sri Lankan players and match officials the same level of protection afforded a head of state.

Lahore commissioner Khusró Pervéz admitted in an interview with local media that the gunmen should have been battled by "back-up police support, which didn't arrive."

"All convoys are provided outer cordons, but in this case the outer cordon did not respond or it was not enough. The vehicles used for escorting the Sri Lankan convoy were not adequate," the Dawn newspaper quoted him as saying to a television news show owned by the same media company.

"There are certain security lapses which are very vivid and very clear," he said.

The lapse was all the more shocking because Pakistan knew any incident would end, perhaps for years, its hopes of regularly hosting international sporting events. Even before Tuesday's ambush, most teams chose not to visit this cricket-obsessed country because of rising violence by Islamic extremists.

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"This attack has inflicted a serious damage to the image of Pakistan and to the game of cricket in Pakistan," the foreign relations committee said.

Lawmakers urged the government to "fully investigate this crime, trace the terrorists and punish the perpetrators of this crime."

Police have given conflicting accounts of the investigation. One top police official said

several suspects had been taken into custody in connection with the attack. Hours later, however, another denied anyone had been detained or even questioned. Officials reached on Thursday said they were pursuing clues in several cities.

Islamic militants were widely suspected in the attack, but authorities did not explicitly say so.

Pakistan has a web of extremist networks, some with links to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, that have attacked foreign civilians in a bid to destabilize the government and punish it for supporting the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

Referee Chris Broad was travelling in a van in the same convoy as the Sri Lankan team bus when the attackers opened fire with automatic weapons, grenades and at least one rocket launcher, killing his driver and critically wounding a fellow official.

"There was not a sign of a policeman anywhere," Broad said Wednesday after flying back to Britain. "They had clearly left the scene and left us to be sitting ducks."

He did not say how he managed to escape. Other witnesses described police trading fire with the gunmen for about 15 minutes, but at least one of the Sri Lankan players said the attackers appeared to fire at will at the bus.

"They were not under pressure ... nobody was firing at us," team captain Mahela Jayawardene said after returning to Sri Lanka.

Players said their bus stopped for around 90 seconds while under attack, before the driver stepped on the gas and drove them to the safety of the stadium. Broad and the players said Pakistani officials had promised to give them "presidential style" security as part of efforts to convince them to make the trip.