

## 250 BDR men

**FROM PAGE 1**  
had been directly involved in the vicious killings, looting, arson and other crimes during the fateful 33 hours at the BDR headquarters.

Another officer concerned said some 451 rebels stayed put at Pikhana after laying down arms in response to the prime minister's general amnesty, but the rest 6,750 escaped.

Those who surrendered on announcement of the amnesty have been kept in BDR hospital," he continued.

Following the government notice for them to report for duties within 24 hours ending at 4:00pm on March 1, around 6,500 BDR men returned to the headquarters.

"Around 250 border guards who did not get back to barracks yet will be considered deserters," noted the officer.

Around 6,500 BDR troops who had fled despite the amnesty but later joined in response to the 24-hour notice will be considered to have been 'absent without leave', he added.

According to rules and regulations of the force, they will face minimum 15 days' rigorous imprisonment and maximum 28 days' for absence without permission.

Sources said the BDR DG can hand down an offender up to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for grievous offences like mutiny.

If those at large return they will face departmental actions both for not joining in time and mutiny.

The officials are preparing a detailed list of border guards who were inside the headquarters during the mutiny and from where they came.

"Of the 7,500 troops, more than half were from battalions based in Dhaka. Some of them were staying at Pikhana as it was their station, while some were there for training and other purposes," said an army officer.

## Security

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star that Sanju was talking with his friends Kabir, Zulhaj and Fazlu at a shop at Kawa market in the civil aviation area.

Quoting locals, OC Sirajul said Sanju, at one stage, had a row with Kabir who shot him in his throat, mouth and abdomen around 12:30am leaving him severely injured.

Police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 5:00am.

Family members of the victim said Sanju had an enmity with his friends over the lease of ponds at civil aviation staff quarters in Kawa.

Police said following the killing Kabir and two others went into hiding.

Sanju's father Mohammad Ali filed a murder case with Airport Police Station accusing Kabir, Zulhaj and Fazlu of the murder yesterday.

The remaining BDR jawans came from battalions outside the capital.

"We are working to draw up separate lists of those who were in Darbar Hall when the mutiny began and those who were inside the compound at that time," he added.

They are also making lists of weapons to know the volume of firearms and ammunition mutineers used in the butchery and took away while fleeing.

Meanwhile, the BDR DG told The Daily Star that families of those who have reported back in compliance with the government's instructions need not worry.

He said it would take some time to create order and control in BDR whose system has suffered a huge shock.

"The troops and their families will surely get their salary and rations. We are trying our best to ensure those for them as soon as possible."

DG Mainul urged all staff of the border force to cooperate in the investigation and efforts to hunt down the culprits in the massacre.

The BDR authorities might soon issue a circular to that effect.

## Pakistan

**FROM PAGE 16**  
don't know who is in control there," he said.

"Whether it is the army or the president or the government... We are in a difficult situation (as Pakistan's neighbours)."

His statements come after a brazen commando attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team earlier in the week in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, near the Indian border.

Eight Pakistanis were killed and seven Sri Lankan players and an assistant coach, as well as a Pakistani umpire, were wounded when they were ambushed by gunmen firing automatic weapons, grenades and a rocket launcher.

The attack has subjected nuclear-armed Pakistan, teetering on political and economic crisis, to mounting international concern about its ability to combat Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants holed up in its tribal areas.

New Delhi has blamed the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba for the Mumbai attacks last November in which 165 people died and has said Pakistan must step up efforts to clamp down on extremist activity on its soil.

Lashkar has denied involvement in the carnage in Mumbai.

Chidambaram told Pakistan it must fully dismantle "the terror infrastructure" in the country, saying large swathes of Pakistan were under Taliban control.

Mukherjee meanwhile appealed to the world community to ensure the threat emanating from Pakistan was "eliminated on an urgent basis."

"Otherwise, no part of the world will remain immune to the flames being ignited there," Mukherjee told a conference in New Delhi on Friday.

## Govt waits

**FROM PAGE 1**  
tribunal act--the culprits will be tried and punished.

However, according to the legal experts, the highest punishment against the offences under these laws is death penalty.

Talking to reporters after inauguration of basic training for new assistant judges and judicial officials at Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI), he said the disposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case is at the final stage at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The chief justice will take necessary steps for constituting a bench of the apex court for hearing this case after the attorney general's office submits a prayer, he said.

Shafique Ahmed said if the paper book on this case is ready, it will not take too much time for disposal of Bangabandhu murder case.

He said the International War Crimes Tribunal Act enacted by the Bangabandhu government in 1973 for trying the criminals involved in the offences against humanity and committing genocides, rape and torture against the country's people are still in force and if it is proved that such crimes were committed during the BDR mutiny, the criminals will be tried under this law.

The constitution will have to be amended to constitute the special tribunal for trying the culprits of Pikhana but all things regarding the trial will depend upon the investigation, the law minister said.

Presided over by JATI Director General Justice Hamidul Huq, the meeting was addressed, among others, by its director Md Ashrafur Islam.

The law minister at the meeting urged the new judges and others concerned of the lower courts to make a work plan to resolve those problems, which prolong the judicial functions.

The judges' responsibility is not only to deliver verdicts, but also to identify the problems for which the litigant people suffer in getting justice, and to resolve those, he said.

Shafique also said if the normal cases are disposed of through the arbitration system outside the courts, time and money of the litigants and others concerned will be saved.

## Bangabandhu

**FROM PAGE 16**  
general (prisons) and officials concerned were present at the programme.

Architect Shamim Shikder designed the sculpture. After unveiling the sculpture, they prayed for peace of the departed soul of Bangabandhu.

The home minister then visited the museum in memory of Bangabandhu and asked the officials to preserve his personal belongings properly.

Later she visited the rooms of four national leaders who embraced martyrdom in the central jail and asked the officials to take proper care of their personal belongings.

## WB assistance

**FROM PAGE 1**  
told journalists, "Huge foreign investment is required in the energy sector. We discussed how the World Bank can help us in this regard."

Guerrero came to Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to assess how the World Bank can assist Bangladesh in facing the fallout of the global economic crisis.

In the meeting they discussed in which sectors of Bangladesh economy the World Bank can assist. They also talked about the impact of global recession in Bangladesh.

Muhith told reporters, "They want to help the private power sector with their ordinary resources [World Bank's private sector financing]."

On global recession, Muhith said, "We can face it this fiscal year. We are concerned about how to face the impact in the next fiscal year."

World Bank Country Director in Bangladesh Xian Zhu said energy, infrastructure, safety-net programmes and agriculture were identified as key sectors for World Bank assistance.

Zhu said they discussed how World Bank can effectively help Bangladesh in attracting more FDI in energy and power sectors.

## Chumkis seek

**FROM PAGE 16**  
months ago, after he raped her and the two families came to a mutual agreement to save both the families' names after her parents filed a rape case against Shubho.

Since then the unfortunate girl's life has been a series of mental and physical tortures. "My husband used to beat me regularly, he even hit my mother when she protested. There was no end to his demands for money and other dowry," Chumki said as she broke down into tears at the hospital bed.

Chumki's CNG driver father has lodged a case against Shubho with Sabujbagh Thana. This time though, Chumki is wiser and determined not to let her parents settle out-of-court.

The Sub-Inspector of Sabujbagh Police Station said the accused Shubho is absconding and also that police were not able to trace the burnt clothes of the victim as firsthand evidence.

The police are waiting for Chumki's medical report before taking any further action.

Chumki is not an isolated case. According to Ain O Salish Kendra's annual reports 2007 and 2008 on women's rights, a huge number of girls and women from different age groups across the country are subjected to domestic violence.

According to the reports, 528 women were killed in domestic violence incidents in 2008. In 2007, 1,424 cases of domestic violence were reported while 1,304 incidents were reported in 2008.

Victims of only 38 per cent of these reported incidents went for legal support, showing the unwillingness of most victims to seek justice.

## 1 killed, 40 hurt

**FROM PAGE 16**  
of the factory by driving away the officials, workers and others.

Police later cleared the highway by charging batons and firing teargas canisters on several hundred stick-wielding workers of the factory.

Sreepur Thana Officer-in-Charge SM Monzur Quader said police fired four to five rounds of teargas canister and resorted to baton charge to bring the situation under control. The workers also threw bricks at police and vehicles passing through the area, he added.

The agitating workers claimed that 25 fellow workers were injured in teargas and baton charge.

In the afternoon, another group of people conducted a house-to-house search in the neighbouring area and beat up the workers of the factory. Some miscreants also looted houses of the workers during the melee.

Jubo League leader of local Beltoli village Kabir Hossain, 38, and Pandora Sweaters worker Shohag, 20, received serious injuries and they were sent to DMCH. Injured Rubel, 25, Kenu, 27, Kalam, 29, Sayeed, 32, and Atique were admitted to different hospitals

## Give proofs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
7 speech organised by Awami League (AL) at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. Senior leaders of the AL-led 14-party combine also spoke at the discussion chaired by Hasina.

"I'm pledging again that proper investigation will be carried out and stern punishment will be handed down to the people responsible," said Hasina, adding, "I will ensure punishment to the culprits at any cost."

In her 24-minute speech, the premier also urged the people not to be deluded by propaganda and rumours. "Rather you [general public] will have to remain united and alert so that no further conspiracy is plotted," she said seeking cooperation of all.

Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, termed the killings of army officers at BDR Headquarters something beyond imagination. She said those who wanted a civil war in the country designed the incidents in a bid to destroy democracy.

"The incident has been carried out at a time when we made a move to try the killers of Bangabandhu, four national leaders, and the war criminals and when names of many big fishes involved with the 10 truckloads of arms smuggling and the August 21 grenade attack were surfacing through fresh investigation," Hasina said.

Saying that her government took all necessary measures to save the country from a civil war during the BDR mutiny, Hasina pointing her finger to BNP said those

Experts feel the necessity of a total review of existing laws to uphold women's rights in the country and also to ensure strict implementation of the laws to check these violence.

Executive Director of Bangladesh National Woman's Lawyers Association (BNWLA) advocate Salma Ali recommended strict implementation of existing laws to cope with violence against women. She emphasises coordination among the government and non-government organisations in addressing the issue.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra, blamed the entire social structure for treatment of women as subordinates to men -- both across educated and uneducated masses.

"Ignorance about existing laws and lack of information about how to get help hinders most of the victims from getting justice. The tendency to settle issues informally through negotiations is seen among all parties, the victim, the accused and even the law enforcers. This allows the criminals to go scot-free", Sultana said pointing out the unwillingness of victims to file cases against the culprits.

She suggested review of the mechanism at government level, which would make law enforcers accountable for handling of their responsibilities in these issues.

"As long as the society accepts these incidents, violence will not end", said Munira Khan, Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

"Violence has to be stopped at grassroots level for which local government bodies can be authorised with responsibilities to curb these kinds of violence against women," she said.

in Dhaka.

Besides, Anis, 32, Azizul, 28, Mahmuda, 22, Ruma, 21, Rial, 24, Mohammad Ali, 23, Masum, 19, Hamida, 25, and Altaf, 28, were taken to Sreepur upazila health complex for treatment.

Sources said five of the injured were in a critical condition.

When the death news of Saiful spread businessmen and common people of the area became agitated and brought out a protest procession at Masterbari Bazar. They also held a rally there.

Agitating workers, local people and police sources said workers unrest was going on at the factory for over a month. The crisis intensified when factory authorities on February 6 terminated jobs of 137 workers showing different reasons and closed the factory.

The factory opened on February 28 after remaining closed for 22 days but the crisis persisted.

Local businessmen and other people blamed factory owners and a section of local politicians for the incident.

Police arrested four workers who were undergoing treatment at Sreepur thana health complex.

## Coal production

**FROM PAGE 16**  
And without resolving their demands, he switched the buttons on to restart coal production Friday night, the miners said at a rally in the mine area yesterday.

Protesting the state minister's action, the 821 Bangladeshi miners did not join their work and demonstrated outside the mine to realise their two-point demand including unconditional apology from CMC-XMC and payment of three days' wages, which were deducted, said Rabiul Islam, convener of BCMCL Miners Association.

On Thursday, CMC-XMC retrenched 800 Bangladeshi miners without prior notice, sparking protest from them. But at the meeting on Friday, the minister and CMC-XMC agreed on reinstating the miners with three days' wage-cut.

Considering Tk.3 crore losses a day due to production suspension and CMC-XMC's ultimatum, the BCMCL authorities urged the striking miners to join their work for coal production from today.

BCMCL sources quoting the technical committee said they are looking for ways to resume coal production without sealing off the boreholes at Jhigari village surface points of 1114 coal phase as villagers resisted sealing off those in presence of the state minister on Friday.

Contacted, Samad Master, leader of the landslide victims, said the state minister is visiting the BCMCL area looking for a solution to the crisis.

At a meeting, they placed a 9-point demand to the minister that include stopping open pit mining.

"We want compensation to the landslide victims in the area and effective measures to prevent land subsidence in future," he added.

At Jhigari village, people said the minister along with BCMCL high-ups came to the village on Friday for sealing off the boreholes but they resisted it.

"We want our compensation before sealing off the boreholes and resuming coal production. We have no enmity with BCMCL" said Belal Hossain, a villager.

The minister urged them to be patient and sought time for meeting their demands, he said.

## 2 more BDR

**FROM PAGE 1**  
A total of 36 BDR men have been arrested in connection with the case since the 'Operation Rebel Hunt' began.

Fire brigade sources said no more body was found during their on going rescue operation in Pikhana area yesterday.

On the other hand, relatives of BDR personnel gathered at the gates of the headquarters yesterday like other days to know about the fate of their near and dear ones.

For the first time, some army personnel let them contact the BDR jawans over cell phone yesterday.

## CUFL

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Thursday sent a letter to the then CUFL managing director (MD) Mohsin Talukder, now retired and living in Dhaka, about questioning him. The CID, however, interrogated a few incumbent CUFL officials including its current MD Abdus Sobhan Khan.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of CID Chittagong zone and the investigation officer (IO) of the arms case Muniruzzaman Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that they were informed that Mohsin is at his village home in Faridpur due to personal reasons.

He hoped that they would be able to quiz Mohsin in a day or two.

CID Chittagong zone Special Superintendent Mohammad Muslimuddin, also supervisor of the case, Thursday said, "Abdus Sobhan Khan told us that no goods can be loaded or offloaded at the CUFL jetty without permission of the managing director. So, the former MD will be interrogated."

Investigators are also looking for any document the then CUFL authority might have received from high officials of the then government with instructions regarding the offloading.

The prime accused of the case Hafizur Rahman in his confessional statement on March 2 quoted Ulfa (United Liberation Front of Assam) leader Pares Barua as claiming to have permission from CUFL and government offices for offloading the arms and ammunition.

Ansar members on duty on that April night at CUFL might also be interrogated. ASP Muniruzzaman said they are going to issue a letter to the District Adjutant of Bangladesh Ansar seeking a list of Ansar members on duty at CUFL on April 2, 2004.

## Consignment

**FROM PAGE 16**  
He said that intelligence agencies like that perform their jobs so subtly that it is very hard to get any documentary evidence.

Ruling out any possibility of the presence of any Bangladeshi at the meeting held in a hotel in Bangkok about arms purchase and transportation planning, Davis said that nobody from Bangladesh knew about the matter.

But, it was supposed to be in the knowledge of intelligence agencies of Bangladesh that arms would be delivered over the land of Bangladesh, as it was hard to believe they wouldn't know about such a huge consignment of arms haul being transported through the country, he continued.

Davis believes that people involved in transportation of arms and ammunition knew the matter.

Mentioning the huge network of India's United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa), he said it was gathered from different sources that Ulfa owns the two trawlers for reshipment at the outer harbour and ferrying them to the Chittagong coast.

"A reliable source of Ulfa confirmed me that they own some trawlers that travel to Chittagong," he said, adding, "Which is why, I think, they use their own trawlers for smuggling arms for their own safety and security."

When asked about his report on the Chittagong arms haul and his sources of information, he said "I have been working on such issues for long 30 years."

"Besides, I mentioned in the report what I made out after close scrutiny of opinions of intelligence officials, information provided by people involved in the international network of arms smuggling and some reliable sources."

WHY JANE IS IMPORTANT  
Jane's Information Group is known worldwide as the most acceptable and information provider on defence and terrorism. About 180 government and non-government agencies are Jane's subscribers.

[Judging importance of the Prothom Alo news, we decided to re-run the report for our readers in English]

formation of a national consensus government by the end of this month, the statement said.

Fayyad, a politically independent former World Bank economist, was appointed premier following the Islamist Hamas movement's bloody takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007, which cleaved the Palestinians into two hostile camps.

Palestinian factions met in Cairo on February 26 to launch a reconciliation process aimed at forming a national unity government in the wake of Israel's massive offensive against Gaza at the turn of the year.

The factions, including Hamas and Abbas's secular Fatah party, agreed to form five committees to oversee the creation of a government that would supervise Gaza reconstruction and prepare for presidential and parliamentary elections in January 2010.

"We consider that the positive climate seen in the first round of dialogue offers an opportunity that has to be exploited to put an end to divisions and as a basis on which to reach unity and reconciliation," Fayyad's office said.

The committees are set to convene in Cairo on Tuesday, and Abbas said Fayyad would remain as acting prime minister while the talks continue.

"We have asked Salam Fayyad to continue his work until we see the results of the dialogue," Abbas told reporters in Ramallah.

Israel, the European Union and the United States continue to blacklist Hamas as a terrorist organisation and in the past have boycotted any Palestinian government that includes the group, which is sworn to Israel's destruction.

The Palestinians formed a unity government in March 2007, but it was boycotted by the international community because it included Hamas and came to an end three months later with the Hamas takeover of Gaza.

Hamas, which won an upset victory in parliamentary elections in 2006, never recognised the independent Fayyad-led government appointed after its takeover of Gaza.

"Hamas is not sorry to see the resignation of Fayyad and his government," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhum said.

"This is the end we expected because this government is illegitimate and illegal and built on failed and mistaken policies connected to American agendas."

Later, the Prothom Alo contacted the JIR and fixed the date of meeting with Anthony Davis. In the last week of February last year, the Prothom Alo correspondent met Davis in Bangkok.

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## Help new ROs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
April 6 to some upazilas, sources at the meetings said.

The meeting attended by senior officials from the security agencies also decided to beef up security during the by-polls with deployment of sufficient numbers of police and ansar, as army and BDR will not be assigned to the election duties.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said the commission will take all necessary measures to ensure credibility of the by-elections.

For the first time in its history, the EC has made its divisional deputy election commissioners and district election officers returning officers (ROs) while district election officers assistant returning officers (AROs) as part of efforts to train up its own officials for the polls.

Usually, the DCs are appointed as ROs and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) as AROs for both general and by-elections.

The by-polls will be held in Rangpur-3, Rangpur-6, Kurigram-2, Bogra-6, Bogra-7, Bagerhat-1 and Kishoreganj-6 constituencies as President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and JP Chairman HM Ershad vacated their seats.

Two election commissioners -- Muhammad Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, Home Secretary Abdul Karim, ROs, AROs, DCs and SPs from districts concerned where the by-election to be held were present at the meeting at NEC conference room.

About the appointment of EC's own officials as ROs and AROs, the CEC said the EC Secretariat is now free from

the control of other government ministries and divisions and it wants to train up its own officials to conduct the elections.

"However, it does not mean the election commission does not have confidence in the top officials of local administration," said a source quoting the CEC as saying at the meeting.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, the CEC said 14 security personnel of police and ansar would be deployed in all ordinary polling centres while 21 security personnel in the vulnerable polling centres.

He said members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Armed Police Battalion (APBn) would be deployed as striking force five days before the polling. Besides, five judicial magistrates will be assigned at each parliamentary constituency to hold trial of electoral offences.

CEC Huda observes that the ongoing 'Operation Rebel Hunt' being conducted by the army may impact on the development of the country's law and order during the by-elections.

Re-polling to be held in six upazilas are Dighinala of Khagrachhari, Ukhia of Cox's Bazar, Belkuchi of Sirajganj, Brahmanbaria Sadar, Ramganj of Laxmipur and Barura of Comilla.

Re-elections will also be held in some centres of eight upazilas on March 16. The upazilas are Chouhali of Sirajganj, Gazaria of Munshiganj, Nandail of Mymensingh, Rupanj of Narayanganj, Laxmipur sadar, Swandip of Chittagong, Islampur of Jamalpur and Faridganj of Chandpur district.