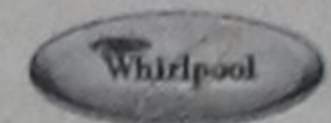


**PRAN**  
**HOT Line**  
For any PRAN products at your PICNIC  
Call : 0191 2256 723  
get the products at your door step

# The Daily Star

Plus Star Lifestyle

PHILIPS TRANSTEC



think electronics... think @ DISCOUNT

TRANSCOM

Your Special Electronic Partner

Computer, Video, Peripherals, etc.

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XIX No. 56 • DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2009 • FALGUN 26, 1415 BS • RABIUL AWAL 12, 1430 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00 •

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

## Admin may get back judicial horns

JS body agrees to the demand amid opposition from judicial representatives; govt asked not to amend separation of judiciary bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday agreed in principle to recommend that the House reinstate the executive magistrates' power to take cognisance of offences for trial.

The standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry, which is now scrutinising a bill to introduce laws on separation of the judiciary, will consult Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

before finalising its recommendations next Thursday.

"We are staying in contact with the prime minister. I've already talked to her. If necessary, the state minister for law will meet and inform her about the outcome of today's meeting," Suranjit Sengupta, chairman of the committee, told reporters after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday evening.

Leaders of judicial service, administrative cadres and police associations were

present at the meeting to air their views and demands.

Replying to a query, Sengupta said the admin cadres' demand for getting back the judicial authority is under consideration.

Another member of the committee however said they have agreed in principle to empower the executive magistrates with the authority to take cognisance of some offences.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## RESERVED SEATS 2 relations of mutiny victims among 36 picked by AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance has nominated 36 candidates to contest the election to reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad.

AL Assistant Office Secretary BM Mozammel Haque MP announced the names of the candidates at a press conference yesterday afternoon at the Dhanmudi office of the party chief Sheikh Hasina.

The candidates are: Ashrafunnessa Mosharrif (Dhaka), Jahanara Begum (Dhaka), Shahida Tarekh Dipti (Dhaka), Safia Khatun

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Jessore GOC killed in chopper crash

Pilot Lt Col Shahidul also dies

STAR REPORT

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 55 Infantry Division and Jessore Area Commander Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam and pilot Lt Col Md Shahidul Islam died in a

helicopter crash at Rouha of Kalihati upazila in Tangail yesterday morning.

Co-pilot of the helicopter Major Saif sustained serious injuries in the accident.

An Inter-Services Public Relations

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Wreckage of the army helicopter that crashed at Rouha in Kalihati upazila of Tangail district yesterday morning. Inset, deceased Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam, left, and pilot Lt Col Md Shahidul Islam.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/ISPR

## BDR subedar 'kills' himself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A naik subedar of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in a bathroom of BDR headquarters in Pilkhana yesterday morning.

Police said Mozammel Haq, 45, hanged himself with a napkin (gamchha) from the ventilator of the bathroom on 4th floor of the BDR 44 Battalion building.

Sub-Inspector of Lalbagh Police Station Delwar said on information they rushed in and recovered the hanging body of Mozammel from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## 450 BDR men found involved so far

Investigators say about 12 led several groups of mutineers

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Investigators have so far found involvement of around 450 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel in the mutiny at the BDR Headquarters while at least 12 of them led several groups of mutineers.

An investigation into the BDR mutiny revealed that some outsiders had knowledge about the rebellion, said a top official of a law enforcement agency investigating the mutiny in which 74 people including 51 army officers got killed.

"We are now investigating whether they took part in the bloody mutiny," the official said wishing anonymity.

Meantime, the 11-member enquiry committee, formed by the government to probe the mutiny, interrogated a few accused at Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell in the capital for about four hours from 11:00am yesterday.

"We have found involvement of around 450 BDR officials and jawans in the mutiny scrutinising the video footages and photographs,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Probe body gets 7 more working days

CID seeks specific help from FBI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local investigators have sought help for ballistic and forensic examinations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States for a proper probe into the carnage at the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters.

The request was made at talks with the visiting FBI team

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

## No bail or no jail for at least 15 convicts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

At least 15 people including some high-profile politicians, who have been sentenced to imprisonment in absentia in different criminal cases, are now in the country, but not on bail or in jail.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam has termed their legal status as a "peculiar situation", while some other legal experts said the convicts now seem to be above the law and it is not a good sign for the society.

They said the convicts will remain in this

situation until a special bench of the High Court (HC) constituted by the chief justice delivers the final decision on their bail petitions.

A division bench of the HC on February 23 delivered split orders on whether these people can directly come to the HC for bail without surrendering to the trial courts.

Following the dissenting orders, the bail petitions have been sent to the chief justice for constituting a special bench of the HC for the final decision, sources said, adding that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A shopkeeper at New Market in the capital starts a generator as frequent power cuts put city life in distress. The power cuts in the capital have been increasing in duration and frequency as the summer approaches.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Solution lies in 4 hours outage gas supply a day in Dhaka

Gas, other problems deter power sector from achieving 5,500MW capacity

SHARIER KHAN

Unless the government improves gas supply to the existing and emerging power plants, load-shedding scenario will turn worse throughout this year, sources say.

The total gas shortfall in the power sector will be 340 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) this year.

If this gas could be ensured, the Power Development Board (PDB) would be able to generate and supply around 4,900 megawatt (mw) power and keep another 600 mw under maintenance, enough to make the country happy. But that is not happening.

Availability of natural gas remains a major issue also for the developing 700 mw new gas-fired power plants to be launched by this July.

But Petrobangla sources say they are not sure if enough gas is ready for this 700 mw new power.

Right now, different power plants are unable to produce as much as 559 mw power due to gas supply problem, which was created due to lack of initiatives by the past four-party alliance government.

Even the caretaker government could not take speedy decisions to address this problem.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

WASIM BIN HABIB

Frequent power outages, over four hours a day, amid hot and humid conditions have made the life of city people miserable.

Residents alleged that erratic electricity supply is hampering their daily activities and the situation is becoming unbearable day by day although the scorching days of summer are yet to come.

They said they are experiencing one to three-hour long power cuts, in cases four to five times a day on an average. Power outages are taking place in unusual time and they have never witnessed such thing, they added.

"In our area, power does not go off rather it comes sometimes," Abu Sayeed, a resident of Pirer Bagh of Mirpur area, lamented when asked about the power situation in his area.

"Although we are pretty much used to the load-shedding, things have become utterly intolerable in the past few days or so. Power went off at 12:30am Sunday night and remained off for about an hour," he said, adding that it went out again at 7:00 in the morning.

Kabir Ahmed, a resident of East Razabazar, alleged that there was no power for over five hours starting from 11:00am on Sunday, hampering their day-to-day activities severely. Yesterday's situation was also bad as power remained off for two to three hours each time at both day and night, he adds.

"We are already facing power cuts every day. God knows what will happen during the upcoming summer," he said.

Shamima Nasrin, another resident of Kakrail, said power is

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## Miladunnabi today

BSS, Dhaka

Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the birth and death anniversaries of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), will be observed today across the country.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages greeted the countrymen on the occasion.

The president said overall welfare and freedom of mankind lie in pursuing the ideals of Prophet Muhammad (SM).

The prophet has set a bright example in the world by preaching the message of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Notice

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on account of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

## BDR HQ hardly cordoned off

Rebels fled in hundreds through gate 1

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Hundreds of rebels of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) could flee from Pilkhana headquarters almost unobstructed during the 33-hour bloody mutiny as law enforcers and security personnel did not cordon off a vast stretch of areas alongside the boundary, people of nearby areas said.

A large portion of the boundary wall around the BDR headquarters in between BDR gate No 1 and Bay Tannery used by fleeing BDRs as a safe passage remained totally unguarded.

No law enforcers were deployed over the long stretch of one

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Tight security planned for JS Bhaban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered committee yesterday decided to ensure foolproof security in and around Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, as it finds the present arrangements inadequate in the wake of recent terrorist attacks at home and abroad.

Formed on March 6, the 11-member committee headed by Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali has been assigned to assess the safety measures in parliament compound and make recommendations.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

### FROZEN FOODS LIMITED

(A CONCERN OF AFTAB GROUP)

100% EXPORT ORIENTED FISH PROCESSING PLANT

E.U. APPROVAL NO: CTG-60, US FDA REG. 10551108192, USA FDA CODE BC- 11

AFTAB GROUP recently purchased "Frozen Foods Limited". It is 100% export oriented frozen fish processing plant located at the center point of Chittagong city (Golondaj Road, South Kattali, Hallsahar). The plant is on 61 decimal of its own land with the production capacity of 540 tons per month.

**We request frozen fish importers and buying agents to contact us.**

HEAD OFFICE: Uttara Bank Bhaban (4th & 5th Floor), 90 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Phone: 9554236 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-7162252  
FACTORY & AFTAB GROUP CHITTAGONG OFFICE: Golondaz Road, South Kattali, Hallsahar, Chittagong. Phone: +88-031-713921, 723418, E-mail: agfisheries@aifbd.net