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Education stays shut inside BDR HQ

Around 10,000 students pass days in utter frustration

SURANJITH DEABNATH

The four schools and colleges inside the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters bearing evidence of atrocities during the February 25-26 bloody mutiny are unlikely to reopen immediately to the frustration of around 10,000 students.

The authorities have kept Bishreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College, Bir Shrestha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College, BDR Government Primary School and Fazlur Rahman Bir Protik English Medium School at the BDR headquarters closed as the classrooms, teachers' rooms, playgrounds and premises of the institutions are considered

vital to investigation into the BDR mutiny. Newly appointed BDR Director General Brig Gen Md Mainul Islam said the four educational institutions will not be allowed to repair their classrooms and other rooms or reopen immediately until they receive any court order.

"We are trying to reopen the schools and colleges soon considering the future of the students. But they cannot be reopened until all evidence is collected from there," the BDR chief told The Daily Star.

Neither the teachers nor the BDR authorities could confirm the date for reopening the institutions.

However, on March 8 the teachers, principals and the governing bodies of

the institutions at a meeting set March 25 as possible date for reopening the four educational institutions.

The meeting also decided to allow teachers and Secondary School Certificate (SSC) science students to enter the schools from February 17 to 19 by school buses through gate-4 for practical examinations, said teachers.

Many examinations including monthly tests scheduled for February 28, first-term examinations from class-I to X slated for March 28, evaluation exam for HSC examinees scheduled for March 01 have already been postponed following the mutiny.

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Little-known militant behind Lahore attack

Lankan official suspects LTTE link

HINDUSTAN TIMES, PTI, Lahore

A little-known militant Muhammad Aqil has been identified by Pakistani security agencies as the mastermind of the audacious attack on Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore, but raids across the city to nab him proved futile on Monday as he managed to escape.

The security agencies conducted raids at several places after identifying Aqil, who has links to a banned militant group. However, the name of the group was not revealed.

Though Aqil, who hails from Kahuta, managed to escape, his accomplice Talat was captured, Geo News channel quoted sources as saying.

Meanwhile, a top Sri Lankan official has said

that the needle of suspicion for last Tuesday's attack on the country's cricketers in Lahore was also on the LTTE.

Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Palitha Kohona said it was possible that the Tamil Tiger rebels were trying to distract the governments attention from the ongoing offensives against the guerrillas.

We have heard that Pakistani authorities are also concerned that an external element may have contributed to the attack on our cricketers in Lahore. We also have this suspicions from the beginning, Kohona said.

"We will recall that on the first day of the attack itself certain suggestions were made that the LTTE may have had a hand in it. It would be

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WB to help ensure food security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) will assist Bangladesh in building modern silos and food warehouses to increase stock and ensure food security in the country.

The WB would also continue its cooperation in renovating the storehouses at upazila level. It has also expressed willingness to cooperate in social security programmes.

A visiting five member WB team led by its vice president Isabel Guerrero expressed WB's interest when it met Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak at his office yesterday.

The food minister said

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PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

The Oriental White-eye, locally known as Shet-ankehi or Udoi Dholachokh, is a small bright yellowish-green resident bird with a conspicuous ring of tiny white feathers around their eyes. A sociable bird once found in small parties of up to 30-50 in all the forests, groves, gardens, orchards, villages and mangroves of Bangladesh is now becoming less in number due to habitat loss. It feeds on insects, spiders, caterpillars, berries, buds, seeds and nectar and thus helps control pests and promotes pollination, said Anwarul Islam, professor of Department of Zoology, Dhaka University. The photo was taken at Gazni in Sherpur.

POWER CRISIS PM asks for all-out steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to take both short-term and long-term initiatives to tackle power crisis by generating more electricity.

She made the directives at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Cabinet Division where members of her cabinet and secretaries from different ministries and divisions were present, sources at the meeting said.

"We had a lengthy discussion on how to produce more electricity and resolve the power crisis," Food and Disaster Management

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ROK-US EXERCISE North Korea warns of war

AFP, Seoul

North Korea put its military on combat alert yesterday as US and South Korean troops began a major joint exercise, and warned that any attempt to block its upcoming satellite launch would spark a war.

The communist state also severed its last communications channel with South Korea for the duration of the 12-day exercise, which Pyongyang has branded a rehearsal for invasion.

Last week the North threatened South Korean civilian airlines using its airspace, forcing them to re-route flights.

The North Korean military described the exercise as "unprecedented in the number of the aggressor forces involved and in duration."

DETAILS ON PAGE 7



UK minister for int'l dev due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK Minister for International Development Mike Foster MP arrives here today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh.

This is his first visit to Bangladesh and first UK ministerial visit after the current

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APRIL 2 BY-POLLS Ministers asked not to visit 7 constituencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has requested ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and other individuals enjoying similar status not to visit the seven constituencies during the April 2 by-polls.

In a letter sent to the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday, EC made the request in a bid to hold the by-elections in a free and fair manner.

The EC has also sent separate letters to Speaker Abdul Hamid and the Cabinet Division requesting the lawmakers and government high-ups to avoid such visits.

Talking to reporters yesterday at his office, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain revealed it and said the commission seeks cooperation from all to hold the by-elections free and fair.

Asked whether Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief

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29 aspirants to contest by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 29 aspirants filed nominations to vie for upcoming by-elections in seven constituencies, which fell vacant after elected representatives of three major political parties including President Zillur Rahman opted to leave those seats.

Of them 18 candidates submitted their nomination papers for Rangpur-3 and 6 and Kurigram-2 constituencies, five for Bogra-6 and 7 and three each for Bagerhat-1 and Kishoreganj-6.

Yesterday was the last date for filing nomination papers.

Sources said the respective chiefs of those parties gave nominations unilaterally and

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Arms-laden boats anchored at CUFL without permission

Officials say during questioning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former officials of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) during the grilling yesterday claimed that the engine boats did not have permission for using CUFL jetty on the day of seizure of huge amount of arms and ammunition on April 2, 2004.

The matter raises questions as to how then the illegal offloading went unchallenged and what responsibility did the CUFL security personnel do, sources said.

Sources said investigators questioning of the former officials of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) yesterday tried to know how the engine boats carrying arms and ammunition could anchor at the restricted CUFL jetty

"All the officials declined to shoulder the responsibility and blamed each other," said investigation officer (IO) Muniruzzaman, also the senior ASP of CID (Chittagong).

The former CUFL officials who were questioned included Managing Director Mohsin Talukder, General Manager (admin)

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180 rebels killed over weekend

Says Lanka govt; ex-LTTE rebels join govt as warlord Col Karuna becomes minister

AFP, Colombo

The Sri Lankan military said yesterday its troops had killed at least 180 Tamil Tigers during a weekend of fierce fighting around the rebels' shrinking fiefdom in the northeast of the island.

Army spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said the Tigers, boxed into an area of less than 50 square kilometres (19 square miles), had launched a series of counter-attacks against advancing troops in the district of Mullaitivu.

Meanwhile, some 2,000 former Tamil Tiger guerrillas joined Sri Lanka's ruling party yesterday, formalising a political alliance, officials said.

The former rebels are followers of former war-lord Colonel Karuna who defected from the separatist Tamil Tigers in 2004 and formed his own political party which went onto win local elections in the island's east last year.

They enrolled with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) at a

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INDIAN ELECTION Opposition loses crucial partner

AFP, BHUBANESWAR, India

India's main opposition alliance suffered a blow yesterday with one of its oldest partners cutting ties just weeks ahead of the April-May general elections.

The regional Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which administers eastern Orissa state with the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, said it was pulling out after the two disagreed over seat-sharing for the April 16-May 13 polls.

The BJD's Secretary

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Prayer Timing		
March 10		
	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



PHOTO: STAR

Several streets of Sutrapur Mill Barrack area have been dug for work on sewerage line. The trenches put the residents of the area at risk and make it difficult for them to move around.

BDR MUTINY

Probe on to find JMB patron link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Investigators in Rajshahi are trying to detect whether there is any link between BDR rebels and the patrons of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The investigators have information about recruitment of a number of JMB or other out-

fits' operatives as border guards since 2004 on political recommendations, say officials involved in the Operation Rebel Hunt.

A number of politicians were arrested, went into hiding, or were affected in some ways since the 1/11 changeover following their alleged patronage of militancy.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

NTV STAFF MURDER Key suspect arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Detective Branch (DB) team arrested Shakil, the prime suspect in the ntv's video editor Atiqul Islam murder case, from the city's Dakkhin Khan on Sunday night.

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