

40 BDR men

FROM PAGE 1 himself spread bullets on officers there and two of them confessed to having shot officers to death after chasing them down.

One of the arrestees used a vehicle to carry firearms to kill officers at Darbar before armories inside the BDR headquarters, he said.

He added they had also detected the BDR jawan who had killed the wife of slain BDR director General Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed.

Rab Director General (DG) Hasan Mahmood Khandker at a press briefing at Rab headquarters, however, said, "After primary investigation it seemed 12 border guards took part in the bloodbath and other offences during the mutiny."

When asked about the involvement of Islamist militant outfits and the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) in the mutiny Rab DG averted the query and said the Islamist militants are now under complete control of the law-enforcement agencies.

The arrestees were paraded before the journalists at the press conference but journalists were barred from asking them any questions.

DEATH OF BDR CENTRAL MOSQUE PESH IMAM Pesh Imam of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) central mosque Mohammad Siddiquar Rahman died at the DMCH yesterday afternoon.

He was admitted to the DMCH Tuesday evening following a cardiac arrest. Rahman, 45, fell sick Tuesday afternoon when investigators interrogated him as a witness to the carnage at BDR headquarters, said his son Mohammad Naim.

He was then rushed to the DMCH and admitted to the coronary care unit (CCU) where he died at about 3:00pm, hospital sources said.

His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Six mutineers on further remand.

Our Court Correspondent reports: A Dhaka court yesterday placed six mutineers including Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Tauhidul Alam on a three-day fresh remand for interrogation in connection with the BDR mutiny case.

The court passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is investigating the case, produced them before it with a five-day further remand prayer.

The other arrestees are DAD Abdur Rahim, Habibur Azad Ali, Nayek Mohammad Firoz Ahmed, Jawan Zakir Hossain and cook Amirul Islam.

Tauhid, Rahim, Azad, Firoz and Zakir were produced before the court after completion of their seven-day remand while Amir of a five-day remand in bullet-proof vests and helmets with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

Eight other mutineers were earlier taken on remand on different terms and they were being quizzed about the carnage.

Moreover, 52 BDR mutineers were shown arrested yesterday in the same case. A total of 161 mutineers arrested so far from different places were also shown arrested in the case.

Meanwhile, Rab members held nine BDR men from BDR Training Centre at Baiful Iqat under Satkania in Chittagong Monday night in connection with the mutiny, reports our staff correspondent from Chittagong. Rab did not disclose their names.

AL leader COL Reza-nur-Rahman Chowdhury, additional director general of Rab, told The Daily Star, "Since he is a former BDR member and resides near Palkhona, he may have knowledge about the mutiny."

"He was arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code. He would be interrogated to find out whether he was involved in the mutiny."

Rab-2 officials said they handed over Torab to Hazaribagh police at about 8:00pm after primary interrogation. Sources said Torab's son-in-law Rezaul Karim Razu works as a contractor at the BDR headquarters while his son Liton, charged with the murder of film actor Sobel Chowdhury, has links with arms smugglers.

Torab, who joined the BDR as a Subedar about 20 years ago, owns a sawmill in front of BDR gate-5 where BDR members often gathered.

Buriganga and other rivers. Using excess chemicals in water creates such bad smell, he added.

The meeting identified three reasons - increasing demand of water, declining ground water level and power-outages - behind the existing water crisis.

Wasa officials informed the meeting that a project involving \$2 million has been taken to repair the water and sewerage lines.

Lawmakers Fazole Nur Tapos, Aslamul Haq, Mizanur Rahman Khan, Nasim Osman, Illius Molla and Additional Secretary of LGRD Kamal Naser Chowdhury also addressed the meeting.

50 hurt Earlier, Siraj Mahaldar's brother Chan Miah beat up Alauddin, 48, of Chakmahati area over the dispute. Both the groups equipped with weapons and sticks locked in fierce clash for an hour, leaving 50 people on both sides injured.

Eleven of the injured were admitted to local health complex. Upazila

FROM PAGE 1 arrange training programmes for chairmen and vice-chairmen so they can perform their tasks properly. He said any dithering could demoralise the elected representatives.

Chairmen and vice-chairmen said they are eagerly waiting to know their line of work. "We want to start work for the people, but the authorities did not give us any directions on it," Akhtar Jahan Lucky, vice chairman of Atrai Upazila in Naogaon, said.

She said they have only got an office room without proper facilities. Humayun Islam Kamal, vice chairman of Golapganj upazila in Sylhet, said, "We're just hanging out at our office without any tasks."

Government officials said they would be able to provide directions to upazila parishads once the parliament session the bill during its ongoing session.

HC issues FROM PAGE 1 opinions from advocate Mahmudul Islam and Dr M Zahir, who were members of the government-formed special committee on the ordinances.

They told the court that they suggested passage of the ordinance in parliament.

Scotland Yard

FROM PAGE 1 teams. Faruk Khan told reporters that the investigators had so far identified 30-35 people involved in last month's carnage in BDR headquarters. He said some of them had confessed to their involvement.

Scotland Yard detectives started their work yesterday afternoon meeting the investigators of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

CID officials briefed the UK team about the situation, investigation officer of the BDR mutiny case Abdul Kahar Akond told The Daily Star after the meeting at CID headquarters in Dhaka.

Akond said they sought help from Scotland Yard for forensic and ballistic tests, technological assistance and their expertise in performing DNA tests.

The two agents of FBI, accompanied by two senior officials of the US embassy in Dhaka, had a series of meetings with CID officials Monday.

According to sources, the FBI and Scotland Yard personnel visited Darbar Hall, residences of the slain BDR officers, mass graves and other spots in Palkhona.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner Stephen Evans said the Scotland Yard team will not investigate the BDR carnage but advise local law enforcement agencies on how to investigate into a matter of this magnitude.

"They are here to offer our own experience," said Stephen Evans at a press conference yesterday afternoon at a city hotel.

The high commissioner said the members of the Scotland Yard team are very senior and experienced. When asked whether the UK will provide any specific technical assistance, Evans said they would consider it after receiving the request.

The diplomat did not name the team members saying the officers are working in a sensitive area.

The Scotland Yard team is expected to leave Saturday morning. Officer-in-charge of Sharsha Police Station confirmed the death and sent the body for autopsy.

A murder case accusing 12 persons has been filed with Sharsha Police Station in this connection but none has been arrested so far.

Water crisis FROM PAGE 1 Mokhelesur Rahman, a resident of Taker Gali, said they are suffering for more than 15 days as Wasa-supplied water hardly meets their requirement.

And Wasa officials admitted that there is no immediate solution to the water crisis. Asked about the situation, Managing Director (MD) of Wasa Raihanul Abedin, said "We hope to solve the water problem in the next four years as some Wasa projects including setting up a water treatment plant phase-2 and replacing old pipelines will take that time."

Blaming load-shedding for the current deficit of water supply, Abedin however said if smooth supply of electricity is ensured, they can meet almost fully the city dwellers' need for water now.

WASA has a capacity of supplying 194 crore litres of water per day against the demand for 205 crore litres, he said.

Of the 505 water pumps of Wasa, only 274 have generators, and the rest remain idle during loadshedding.

They have already sent a proposal to the higher authorities for purchase of 200 generators, and it will be placed before the Executive Committee of National Economic Council this month for approval, Abedin said.

Sirajur Islam, pump operator at Gandaria water pump-2, said Taker Gali and DIT plot areas are getting less supply of water due to load shedding for six to seven hours everyday.

"Although we have a generator, we can operate it only for two hours a day due to lack of fuel," he said.

Some officials of Wasa blamed the water crisis on wastage of water due to leaks in old pipelines. "A substantial quantity of water is wasted everyday due to leakage," said the Wasa MD. Replacing old pipes and setting up new ones of around 3,800 km length will start later this year and end by 2012.

Wasa officials also said excessive dependence on ground water is a major factor behind water crisis as ground water table is falling alarmingly.

About 85 per cent of Wasa-supplied water is ground water and only about 15 per cent is surface water supplied through four water treatment plants at Sayedabad and Chadnighat in Dhaka and Godnail and Sonakanda in Narayanganj, they said.

The Wasa MD said ground water layer in the city is dropping by around three metres a year on an average.

To reduce dependence on ground water, they have already taken initiative for setting up Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-2 with a capacity of 22.5 crore litres per day, and Khilkhet Water Treatment Plant having a capacity of 50 crore litres per day, Abedin said.

He attributed bad odour of Wasa-supplied water to the use of excessive chemicals in treating highly polluted Shitalakhya and Buriganga waters in the dry season.

Four army FROM PAGE 1 Azizul Hakim was identified through DNA test yesterday and some army officials and relatives took the body from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue late in the afternoon. With this latest identification, the death toll in the BDR mutiny bloodshed stands at 74 including 52 army officers.

Meanwhile, the nation yesterday mourned the death of two senior army officers killed in the helicopter crash. The national flag hoisted half-mast at all government, semi-government, autonomous and non-government organisation premises on this occasion.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina went to see the bodies of the officers at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka. She stood in solemn silence for a few minutes showing reverence to the deceased.

Hasina conveyed her deep condolences to the bereaved family members and assured them of her being beside in their weal and woe in future.

The coffins draped in national and army flags were brought to the army stadium amid 21 gun-salutes. The namaz-e-janaza of the four top army officers was held there with state honour.

The relatives of the deceased, a number of ministers, political leaders, chiefs of three services, top retired and in-service army officials and civilians attended the janaza.

WB offers \$62.20m

FROM PAGE 1 Md. Mosharrar Hossain Bhuiyan, additional secretary of Economic Relations Division under finance ministry, and Maria Sarraf, environment economist of WB, led the government and the donor respectively at the negotiation concluded on Monday.

WB Board will tentatively discuss the credit for approval in May. "The urban air pollution in Bangladesh causes inter-related and numerous adverse impacts on the environment, health, and general well-being," said Xian Zhu, country director of WB.

"Dhaka is one of the most densely populated and fastest growing mega cities with high risk of health hazards due to poor air quality. We are happy to support the government's effort to improve air quality and safe mobility in Dhaka," he said.

Air pollution is a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh. The project will primarily cover two key air-pollutant sectors - brick construction and transportation.

The environment component of the project will help the Department of Environment to improve overall air-quality management capacity and to introduce cleaner technologies.

"Using energy-efficient cleaner technology in brick making will significantly improve air quality in Dhaka," said Maria Sarraf, also the task leader of the CASE project.

The transport component will focus on low-cost measures to reduce conflict between motorized and non-motorized transport, reduce congestion and provide safer and cleaner mobility for those

Benapole AL FROM PAGE 16 one of the armed miscreants and handed him over to police.

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After the janaza, military secretaries of the president and the prime minister placed wreaths on the coffins on behalf of the president and the prime minister. Chiefs of three services also placed wreaths on the coffins.

Orissa CM wins trust vote

PTI, Bhubaneswar

Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today won a trust motion by voice vote but Opposition leaders rejected the victory as 'manipulation' prompting Governor MC Bhandare to seek video recording of the proceedings of the special session of the assembly.

Bhandare asked the Speaker's office to furnish the video recordings shortly after leaders of opposition Congress and BJP walked out of the house and met him saying they wanted a division in the crucial trial of strength.

The two parties asked Bhandare to dismiss the government and recommend imposition of President's Rule.

Meanwhile, on the number of members who supported the motion, Speaker Kishore Mohanty said 81 MLAs in the 147-member house were present after the opposition walked out.

"The governor has asked us to furnish video records of the proceedings and also wanted to know if there is any past record about a trust motion being passed by voice vote," he said.

Govt mulls FROM PAGE 1 NBR sources said it was not possible in the past to check every case of undisclosed-money disclosure whether people were actually legalising undisclosed money or black money.

After the independence of Bangladesh, almost all the governments gave people this opportunity. While giving the scope to legalise undisclosed money, the finance ministers of the past had always said that such an opportunity would never be given again. But it was given over and over again.

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman of the four-party alliance government, a week before presenting a budget in parliament, had said the opportunity to legalise undisclosed money would not be included in the budget. However, the opportunity was given in that budget too.

Faulty designed FROM PAGE 16 "Such accidents suggest that crews of both the vessels had serious deficiency in vessel man oeuvre training," found the joint committee, led by Barisal district magistrate AKM Abdullahel Baki and comprising members of Barisal Metropolitan Police and BIWTA.

The joint probe found the death toll was higher because of passengers were trapped under the huge amount of goods kept on the launch deck and were unable to escape as the windows were shut.

Two other probe bodies, led by Shipping Ministry joint secretary M Mahfuz Zaher and marine court magistrate Tabibur Rahman, submitted their separate reports to their concerned authorities on March 1.

The committee provided 12 recommendations, including new compliance laws, establishment of a marine police force and marine courts, and better vessel inspection and registration procedures.

They also suggested should be implemented by a 'Permanent Accident Investigation Cell'.

Barisal deputy commissioner (DC) Musfique Ahamed said families of the 41 victims were given Tk 4,000 from the DC's relief fund.

4 mutineers FROM PAGE 16 Jamloy village for interrogation. Barik was on leave during the mutiny, but he met the fugitive mutineers at Ismail's house.

During a visit to Bagnara yesterday, the JMB torture victims and villagers expressed their astonishment at the enrolment of the four as BDR soldiers despite being cadres of JMB.

JMB men beat up AL publicity secretary of Maria union Yasin Ali Mridha and later hung him upside down from a tree on Kudapara Ahadia Dakhil Madrassah premises before killing him on June 30, 2004.

Kawsar's father Abdur Rahman, a member of Maria union parishad, claimed that his son is innocent.

When contacted Superintendent of Police of Rajshahi M Shahabuddin Khan said he was unaware how those militants obtained police clearance for joining BDR. "I was not in Rajshahi then; I will have to investigate the matter," he headed.

Military officials said heavy fighting continued in the conflict zone after 250 rebels were killed over the weekend.

Sri Lankan authorities ban most journalists and aid workers from the entire north, meaning such claims and counter-claims cannot be verified.

Two years ago, the Tigers -- who have a long and bloody record of suicide attacks --

US must prevent Taliban's return in Kabul: Gates

Talking to the Taliban 'worth exploring', says Biden

ANI, AFP, Washington/ Brussels

While President Barack Obama's administration is still reviewing US strategy in Afghanistan, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has said that America, "at a minimum," must make efforts to ensure that the Taliban does not return to power in Afghanistan after being ousted in 2001.

"I would say that at a minimum, the mission is to prevent the Taliban from retaking power against a democratically elected government in Afghanistan, thus turning Afghanistan, potentially again, into a haven for al-Qaeda and other extremists," The News quoted Gates, as saying.

When Gates was asked about the possibility of negotiation with the Taliban in Afghanistan, he said, "The specific mission is clearly one of the subjects under review by the administration right now. And I think we have to wait until that's done to have real clarity on that."

Earlier, Obama had said that possibility of negotiations with elements of the insurgents should be considered, while US Vice President Joe Biden had seconded the opinion by saying it was an option "worth exploring."

Taliban insurgents, allied with al-Qaeda, have rebounded in Afghanistan in the years since the US-led invasion toppled their regime in 2001.

Earlier reaching out to Taliban moderates is a tactic "worth exploring," US Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday as he sought to engage Europe in a new strategy for Afghanistan.

During a day of back-to-back meetings with Nato and EU officials, Biden pledged to take into account European concerns about Afghanistan, emphasising the break from ex-president George W. Bush's go-it-alone approach.

"It's worth exploring," Biden told reporters after President

Barack Obama at the weekend floated the idea of talks with moderates from the Islamic militia to help stabilise the country.

"I do think it's worth engaging and determining whether or not there are those who are willing to participate in a secure and stable Afghan state," he said in Brussels following talks at Nato headquarters.

The vice president said he shared US envoy Richard Holbrooke's assessment that 70 per cent of Taliban forces were paid fighters and that only a small minority were hard-core Islamists.

Russia keen FROM PAGE 16 As the country's power crisis came up for discussion, Hasina requested the envoy to assist Bangladesh in setting up Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and small hydropower plants on the country's rivers and haors.

In reply, the ambassador said Bangladesh government can take help as his country has expertise in installing such powerplants.

The envoy also expressed deep shock at the death of country's talented army officers in the February 25-26 Palkhona carnage.

Gennady praised the prime minister for her wisdom and farsightedness in tackling the Palkhona crisis quickly and peacefully.

He also expressed interest to work for infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

The prime minister and the Russian ambassador hoped that the existing friendly relationship between two countries would strengthen further in the days to come.

In the meeting the PM was invited to visit Russia at a time of her convenience.

Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman was present.

15 killed

controlled large swathes of the north and east of this South Asian island, but have suffered a series of major setbacks.

The government withdrew from a Norwegian-brokered truce at the beginning of last year after accusing the Tigers of using the peace process to re-arm.

Sri Lanka's president has since resisted calls for another truce, saying his troops had the upper hand and were about to end a conflict that has dragged on since 1972.

16 killed FROM PAGE 16 barrier towards the motorway. "The gunman just sprayed bullets all around him," N-TV cited an unnamed witness as saying. A local radio journalist told the same channel that the ex-pupil had used a machine gun during his rampage.

The Bild daily said on its website that police commandos had stormed the home of the teenager's parents, where 18 weapons were legally held.

It was not immediately clear whether the gunman used any of these guns in his attack.

The picturesque town of Winnenden, which lies around 25 kilometres (15 miles) north-east of the city of Stuttgart in the southern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, has around 27,000 inhabitants.

Europe has been scarred by a number of fatal attacks on schools or nurseries in recent years, at least three of them in Germany.

In February 2002, a 22-year-old gunman killed the headmaster and seriously injured another person in a vocational training establishment he attended at Freising, near Munich.

Two months later, 16 people were killed at a high-school in Erfurt in eastern Germany, by a 19-year-old former student, who then killed himself.

In November 2006, a former student at a vocational school in Lower Saxony in northwestern Germany went on a shooting spree in the establishment, injuring 37 people before turning his gun on himself.

He had warned of his intentions on the Internet.

Elsewhere, in September 2008, a student at another vocational school, this time in Finland, burst into a classroom and gunned down nine students and a teacher. He then set the building on fire before killing himself.

He too warned of his intentions via an Internet video.

In January this year, a 20-year-old man armed with a knife killed two infants, aged six and nine months, and a 54-year-old nurse in a childcare centre outside Brussels.

In the US southern state of Alabama on Tuesday, a gunman killed at least ten people before killing himself, local authorities and state police said.