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# Govt to probe BDR intelligence failure

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and  
HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government considers the carnage at the BDR headquarters last month a consequence of "massive intelligence failure" and decided to launch an enquiry into the matter.

The issue came up for discussion in the meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order at the home ministry. The committee itself would be enquiring into the intelligence failure.

Many members of the committee suggested that radical changes be brought in the intelligence wings to prevent recurrence of such terrible incidents.

Chaired by Home Minister Sahara Khatun, the meeting decided to hold in the near future a special sitting of the committee to discuss the BDR mutiny, how it took place, who were the perpetrators and what roles did the intelligence agencies play to prevent it.

"More or less all the members of the committee questioned the role of the intelligence agencies and blasted them for their failure in the February 25-26 mutiny at Pilkhana," a minister, also a member of the committee, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

"They [intelligence agencies] are supposed to inform the authorities concerned beforehand about any saboteurs

or conspiracies in the country," said the minister, regretting the failures of the intelligence agencies in the past.

A senior home ministry official said some committee members at the meeting alleged that most of the intelligence agencies were preoccupied with political affairs rather than doing their basic job. A few members blamed previous governments for using them for other purposes.

Sources said the intelligence agencies that came up in the discussion are the National Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Military Intelligence (MI), Rifles Security Unit (Bangladesh Rifles

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## Iraq jails Bush shoe attacker

AFP, Baghdad

An Iraqi court yesterday jailed for three years the journalist who shot to fame in the Arab world for throwing his shoes at former US president George W Bush.

Muntazer al-Zaidi, a 30-year-old television journalist, had pleaded not guilty at the hearing in the Iraq Central Criminal Court to assaulting Bush during his farewell visit to Iraq last year.

"He was sentenced to three years in jail," defence lawyer Yahia Attabi told reporters outside the Baghdad court.

"We expected the decision because under the Iraqi criminal code he was charged with assaulting a foreign leader on

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All containers aboard a vessel that arrived from Singapore were scanned at the Container Terminal Jetty-3 at Chittagong Port yesterday after receiving information about the possibility of explosives onboard.

PHOTO STAR

## Ctg rain trees back to life

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Ctg

Hundreds of century-old rain trees at different locations around the port city which were struck by a fungal disease about two years ago prompting authorities to start cutting down the trees, have begun growing new leaves and branches over the last week.

Rain trees (Albizia saman) at the Central Railway Building (CRB), Polo Ground, Tiger Pass and Lalkhan Bazar

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PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SHIKDER

Rain trees in Chittagong city previously infected by a fungal epidemic have begun growing new leaves and branches over the past week.

## SC stays bail of ex-forest boss Gani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed the High Court (HC) order granting bail to former Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Osman Gani in a corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

A special court in Dhaka, earlier, sentenced Osman Gani to 12 years' imprisonment in the case for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in wealth statements

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## Free ACC vital Says EU

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union (EU) thinks it is very important for the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Bangladesh to remain as an independent institution for the continuation of the country's democratic government.

"(For) the continuation of democratic government in Bangladesh, there are (some) fundamental institutions (that are) needed -- and anti-corruption (watchdog) and

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## CTG AMMO HAUL 2 top ex-CUFL officers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two former high officials of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) were arrested in connection with the sensational 10 truckloads of arms haul case yesterday.

The then managing director Mohsin Talukder and general manager (Admin) Enamul Haq of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) have been shown arrested on charge of non-cooperation with the interrogation.

They were hauled before a Chittagong court in the

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## Clashes mark Pak protest Cops detain marchers, seal Karachi exit

AP, AFP, Islamabad

Cheering opposition activists and lawyers set off for the Pakistani capital yesterday vowing to stage a sit-in outside the parliament building, defying a government ban on protests and hundreds of arrests nationwide.

With the showdown threatening to destabilise the country's one-year-old democratically elected government at time of rising militant violence, US Ambassador Anne Patterson met with top opposition leader Nawaz Sharif in a bid to resolve the crisis, a Sharif spokesman said.

Former prime minister Sharif and the country's lawyers' movement are demanding President Asif Ali Zardari fulfil a pledge to restore independent-minded judges removed in 2007 by former president Pervez Musharraf whom some believe could be hostile to Zardari.

Sharif is also furious over a Supreme Court decision last month that barred him and his brother from elected office. After the ruling, the federal government dismissed the Punjab provincial administration led by Sharif's brother, stoking popular anger at Zardari.

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## Murals of Zia removed from Ctg airport

CU CORRESPONDENT

Some wooden murals of former president Ziaur Rahman were removed from the lounge of Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city Wednesday night.

Chittagong Airport Security Officer Nasir Uddin

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The picture on the left shows the empty wall inside the lounge of Shah Amanat Airport in Chittagong while an older snap, right, shows the mural of late president Ziaur Rahman on the wall.



PHOTO STAR

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