

SC asks for security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) authorities have requested the government to take immediate steps to ensure security on the court premises.

In letters sent to home and law secretaries and inspector general of police on March 11, the SC Registrar's Office said judges, lawyers, litigants and staff at the apex court have been "feeling insecure under the present circumstances".

Mentioning deaths of several people including judges and lawyers in militant attacks in the recent past, the letter says the government should make foolproof security arrangements including deployment of additional police at the courthouses.

Thousands of justice-seekers gather at the SC compound

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Sircar sees bid to tarnish image before by-polls

Denies all graft allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday rejected outright all graft allegations against him and said the aim of forming a parliamentary probe body by the present speaker is to tarnish his image ahead of the by-election.

He, however, admitted that financial irregularities did happen in sectors like maintenance of lift, lighting, furniture, gardening and grass cutting of the parliament but he was not involved in those incidents.

"Public works department

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BDR jawan dies, 7 others hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) member died yesterday at Pilkhana and seven other BDR personnel with various diseases were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The BDR man who died was identified as Sepoy Monir Hossain, 32.

Earlier, two BDR members allegedly committed suicide -- one at Pilkhana and the other at Joypurhat BDR barracks -- while the pesh imam of BDR headquarters mosque died of a cardiac arrest during interrogation over the carnage and mutiny at Pilkhana.

The seven BDR personnel

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Ship-breaking ordered shut

HC gives 2 weeks for closure as none of 36 yards has environmental clearance; asks govt to ensure no toxic ship enters territory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the government to close in two weeks operation of all ship-breaking yards for running without environmental clearance.

None of the existing 36 ship-breaking yards, which are identified as category Red (extremely dangerous), has taken or applied for environmental clearance from the government, reveals a report submitted to the court by the Department of Environment.

The HC considering the country's environmental degradation also ordered that no ship would enter Bangladesh territory for breaking without cleaning its hazardous materials at source or outside the territory.

The HC bench of Justice Md Iman Ali and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal gave the directives following a writ filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA).

The court also clearly imposed a bar on any Greenpeace listed toxic ship's

entry into the waters of Bangladesh.

The court ordered the DoE to implement the directives within two weeks from receiving the order and directed the government to form a committee to monitor the implementation process.

As per the HC order, no ship-breaking operation will take place from now on without environmental clearance. The government has to ensure that ships are broken after safe working condition for the workers is guaranteed and shipyards,

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This file photo shows ships beached at Sitakunda for dismantling. None of the 36 ship-breaking yards in the county has environmental clearance from the government.

PHOTO: FILE

Killer of Gen Shakil, 2 others identified

Investigators so far find 650 involved in BDR carnage

SHARIFUL ISLAM

At least three of the detained BDR men were among the mutineers who gunned down their DG Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed and some other senior army officers at the Pilkhana Headquarters.

The three have been identified by suspected mutineers now being grilled at the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) Cell. The BDR men claimed a group of six to seven who first opened fire at the Darbar Hall were riflemen, not outsiders.

"None has so far revealed the names of the initial shooters during interrogation, though it seems they know them," said a top law enforcer tasked with investigation into the carnage.

He however hopes they will get important breakthrough once the shooters are identified

and quizzed.

"We've identified the killer of BDR DG Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed and at least two others who gunned down other senior officers," said the investigator speaking anonymously.

He however did not reveal the names of the three now in custody.

They have earlier arrested the BDR jawan who killed the wife of Maj General Shakil, he added.

The investigator also said they have so far detected around 650 riflemen who had involvement in the mutiny.

Those mutineers have been detected through examination of video footage, interrogation of arrested jawans and from the statements of the survived officers and family

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Iskandar asked to give wealth report in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday issued a notice on Major (ret'd) Sayeed Iskandar, younger brother of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, asking him to submit wealth statement in a week.

ACC sources said the commission served him with the notice after a primary enquiry found a mismatch between his legal sources of income and the huge wealth he amassed.

The notice was issued under sections 26 (1) of the ACC Act, 2004 and section 17 of the ACC Rules, 2007.

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Chy Tanbir expelled from BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee has expelled its member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky from the party for his son's "derogatory remarks" about party chief Khaleda Zia and some other leaders in his presence.

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No bailout package for poor: Yunus

AFP, Tokyo

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday warned that the global economic crisis will hit the world's poorest people the hardest and that "there is no bailout package for them."

The microfinance pioneer, speaking during a visit to

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CHINA HARBOUR, SIEMENS

ACC sues Koko for money-laundering

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued Arafat Rahman Koko for laundering money he had illegally taken from a Chinese company, Siemens and other sources in exchange for helping them get government contracts.

In the case, the ACC pinpoints Koko's dealings with

China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd over a Tk 351 crore contract for constructing the New Mooring Container Terminal and Siemens over a Tk 239 crore contract for supplying and setting up equipments for Teletalk mobile phone company.



A few other persons also gave money to the youngest son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia in two of his five Singapore bank accounts detected by the ACC--four accounts with the United Overseas Bank and the other with the CIC Bank.

ACC Deputy Director Md Abu Sayeed lodged the case against Koko with Kafrul Police Station yesterday after noon, stating that using his influence as the son of the then prime minister, Koko illegally earned the money between 2001 and 2006.

"The allegation that Arafat Rahman...has illegally sent abroad 28,84,603.15 Singaporean

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

EC moves to get back its registration power

Decides to ask govt to put things right

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to ask the government to reinstate its power to take action against political parties breaching certain registration provisions.

It thinks the government did not mean to curtail the commission's authority to cancel a political party's registration for violating the provisions regarding nomination of parliamentary candidates and formation of associated bodies.

About the latest amendments to the electoral laws clipping the EC's wings, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain yesterday said, "We want to believe the government made those [changes] by mistake, and if so, we'll request them to put things right."

Talking to The Daily Star, he said the EC would write to the government on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda's return from abroad at the end of this month.

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News analysis

Stop running probe commentary, please

INAM AHMED

An investigation starts and before it reaches halfway to filing of its report, people know from the horse's mouth what it is gunning for. Yes, we are talking about the probe in the recent BDR massacre and what its chief coordinator has been dishing out on a daily basis, almost like a running commentary.

Any probe is supposed to be a discreet affair. It has to be done in a way so that one hand of the investigator does not know what the other hand is groping for. And then all information has to be pieced together--like in a jigsaw puzzle--to find out the broader picture. If everybody knows what strings the investigators are touching on, what new shapes the information are taking, then

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Vigil upped for fugitive BDR men with arms

Says Faruk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Lt Col Faruk Khan said yesterday that 'if any links are found between any militant group and the BDR mutiny' then the government would take steps against them as per the law of the land.

He was replying to a question put to him by a reporter at the end of a seminar he

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NOTICE RELATING TO FUNCTIONS OF THE CORPORATE OFFICE OF BASHUNDHARA GROUP

In spite of the recent inferno that has damaged 15th to 19th floor of Bashundhara Corporate office, different departments of Bashundhara Corporate office have resumed functioning normally at the following addresses :

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1. Marketing and Sales [East West Property Development (Pvt.) Ltd, Industrial Units and Bashundhara Amusement Park Ltd.]
2. Local and Foreign Purchase
3. Banking and Commercial
4. Logistic and Shipping

Bashundhara City, Level - 7, Block - B

1. Registration and Mutation [East West Property Development (Pvt.) Ltd.]

Bashundhara City, Level - 7, Block - D

1. Land Purchase [East West Property Development (Pvt.) Ltd.]
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