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Residents around BDR HQ questioned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators, assigned for investigating the last month's BDR carnage, started collecting witness accounts yesterday from the residents living around the BDR headquarters.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) sources said on the first day, one of their teams talked to around 30 people on what they witnessed and knew about the mutiny at BDR headquarters.

Besides, another team

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20,000 ring Thai PM's office

Demand his resignation

AP, Bangkok

More than 20,000 protesters ringed the prime minister's office Thursday, demanding the government resign, deriding its distribution of checks to millions of low-income workers as a payoff.

The demonstration began shortly after the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva began doling out 2,000 baht (\$55) checks to millions of Thais to stimulate an economy battered by the global financial crisis.

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Dirty water supply spreads diarrhoea

Record 700 patients admit to ICDDR,B a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every day more than 700 diarrhoea patients from different parts of the capital flock for treatment at ICDDR,B as the government is yet to take effective measures for clean water supply. About half of the patients are infants and children.

The hospital sources said the number of patients is shockingly higher than that of last March because the diarrhoea broke out early (end of February) this year, which usually happens from early April.

The patients are mostly coming from Mir Hazaribagh, Siddique bazar, Mirpur, Khilgaon, Sabujbagh, Shyampur and Rayerbazar, the hospital sources added.

Nasima Begum, a resident of Mir Hazaribagh brought her five-month-old daughter at the hospital yesterday afternoon.

She claimed that though they drink water from tube well, her daughter got sick two days ago. She rushed her to the hospital, as her daughter's condition turned serious last morning.

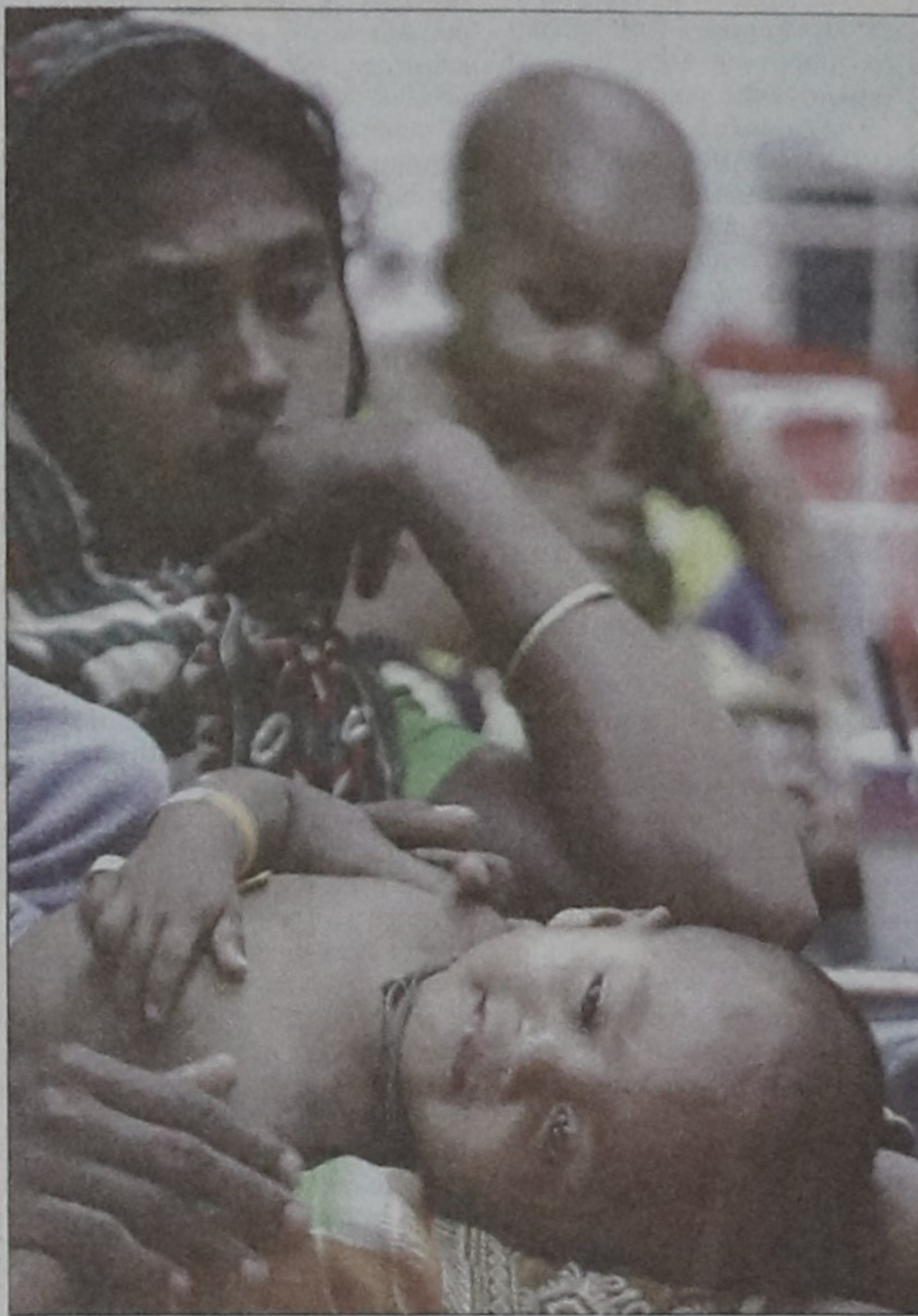
Habib, a patient from Siddique Bazar, got admitted to ICDDR, B two days ago. They drink WASA supplied water at home, he said.

Display board of ICDDR, B yesterday showed that a total of 704 patients got admitted at the hospital on Sunday, 721 on Monday, 705 on Tuesday and 716 on Wednesday. The number of patients had already mounted to 365 till 2:00pm yesterday.

"Crisis of pure drinking water is the main reason for the diarrhoea outbreak," said the duty doctor of ICDDR, B yesterday. The number of patients may escalate to a frightening stage this year, he added.

The Water and Sanitation Authorities (WASA) sources said the water pollution has reached such a level that it has become almost impossible to purify it. Besides, supply water is getting contaminated through the pipeline leakages due to lack of WASA maintenance.

Every day WASA supplies more than 22 crore litres of



A child admitted with diarrhoea cries in discomfort and pain as his mother (not seen in picture) tries to soothe it at ICDDR, B in the city. Over 500 children suffering from diarrhoea were admitted to the hospital yesterday.

54 civilians killed in SL 'no fire zone'

Army repulses LTTE attack: 30 rebels killed

AP, PTI, Colombo

Shelling killed 54 civilians in a supposed "no-fire" zone in Sri Lanka's war between the government and separatist Tamil rebels while 30 more Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in fresh fighting in the island's north yesterday.

The victims were among the tens of thousands of terrified civilians trapped in a sliver of jungle and beach along the island's northeast coast fomenting the exodus of people fleeing the fighting where government troops are battling to dislodge remnants of the Tamil Tiger rebels, officials said.

Earlier four top LTTE commanders were among 30 rebels killed as Sri Lankan troops

beat back a massive Tamil Tiger counter attack in Pudukudiyirippu, the last town held by them in the embattled north. After repulsing the Tiger attack Wednesday night, troops in retaliatory action wrested more areas from the rebels confining them now to 21 sq kms out of which 20 sq kms forms the 'No-Fire Zone'.

"The troops killed senior LTTE leaders Varada Annan, Kadar, Sooriyan and Eelawan in the attacks as they pushed back the rebel attack on their forward lines in Iranaipalai in which 30 militants were killed," Army spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said. Security forces recovered five dead bodies of rebels including three females along with a vehicle, a communication

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9 picnickers killed in Ctg bus crash

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least nine people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident yesterday morning at Lohagara upazila of the district.

Nine picnickers including a child and two women were killed when their bus plunged into a roadside ditch around 9:30am at Chunati under Lohagara upazila as the driver lost control over steering.

Eight of the deceased identified are Sunny, 02, Sajeda, 45, Halima Khatun, 52, Kamruzzaman, 70, Shahidul Islam, 32, Anwar Hossain, 65, Matiuur Rahman 47, and Mohammad Ali, 60. The name of the dead bus conductor, aged around 40, could not be known.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place when around 55 to 60 people including teachers of Koichar Siddika Dakhl Madrasha and Fapor High School of Bogra sadar upazila and their families were returning Bogra after a picnic at a Cox's Bazar tourist resort.

The injured were sent to Lohagara and Satkania health complexes and later four of them were shifted to Chittagong Medical

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Super Cup's Tk 1 crore final today

SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain will drop on the country's most expensive football tournament today when archrivals Abahani and Mohammedan lock horns in the Citycell Super Cup final.

President Zillur Rahman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
March 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

10-TRUCK AMMO HAUL CASE Arms-laden vessel not identified yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The investigators of Chittagong arms haul are now trying to identify the vessel that carried the huge cache of deadly weapons to the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 02, 2004.

"We will try to know the names of vessels that arrived at the Chittagong Port at that time, the consignments they were carrying and the dates of their arrival," said CID Chittagong Divisional Special Superintendent Mohammad Muslim.

In reply to a question, investigation officer CID ASP Muniruzzaman Chowdhury said they might seek help from the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) in this regard. "But we are yet to send any letter to the port authority requesting them to help us with information," he added.

When contacted CPA Director (traffic) Ahsanul Kabir told The Daily Star that they would be ready to help the investigators with any information they may want.

Sources said investigators had information that one vessel named the Banga Borak left Singapore for Chittagong Port on March 24 and among the containers it was carrying three were empty.

The vessel had scopes to load the empty containers somewhere on the way and offload before reaching Chittagong Port, said the sources.

Following news reports published yesterday that mentioned the Banga Borak as the suspected vessel, officials of the shipping lines concerned rushed to the Criminal Investigation Department's Chittagong divisional headquarters at Dampara

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

100 more workers return from KL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 100 Bangladeshi workers returned home from Malaysia due to joblessness yesterday, the day when Foreign Minister Dipu Moni went there likely to discuss labour issue with the leadership of the country.

Besides, around 70 workers returned from Saudi Arabia, 50 from the United Arab Emirates and 26 from other countries on special travel passes issued by Bangladesh missions for over-stays or unemployment, said an official at Zia International Airport.

The number of returnee workers has already crossed 7,000 this month while over 8,000 workers came back home in February. More workers have been returning to the country in recent months because of the global financial meltdown.

As a representative of the prime minister, Dipu Moni left for Kuala Lumpur by a flight of Malaysian Airlines at 1:40am to attend Malaysia's ruling party Umno's general assembly. She will try to talk with the leadership of the country on labour issue, sources said.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain, who is now attending an ILO meeting in Geneva, will also fly to Malaysia on March 28 to talk on the problems of workers.

His visit comes following Malaysian government's cancellation of 55,000 work visas for Bangladeshis.

During his three-day stay in Malaysia, Mosharruf is likely to visit workers in Penang and Johor Bahru where many Bangladeshis work. He may also meet Malaysia's human resources and home ministers.

ডায়রিয়া!

- প্যাকেট স্যালাইন ও অন্যান্য তরল খাবার যেমন- ডাবের পানি, চিড়ার পানি, ডালের পানি, ভাতের মাড়, চালের গুড়ার জাউ ডায়রিয়া আক্রান্ত রোগীকে খেতে দিন।
- রোগীকে স্বাভাবিক খাবারও খাওয়ান।
- ডায়রিয়া আক্রান্ত শিশুকে মায়ের দুধসহ অন্যান্য খাবার বারে বারে খেতে দিন।
- ডায়রিয়া বেশী হলে রোগীকে অবশ্যই হাসপাতালে নিন।

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GD-1669



The National Memorial at Savar is bathed in floral tributes as the nation paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War yesterday marking the 39th Independence Day of the country.