

## BDR carnage staged to foil poll verdict, start civil war

Says prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the brutal killings at the BDR headquarters on February 25 was staged to foil people's verdict in the last parliamentary polls and push the country towards a "civil war".

"They [evil forces] wanted to foil the December 29 poll verdict and push the country towards a civil war by creating anarchy," she said while addressing the distribution ceremony of Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak 2008 at the National Museum.

The Liberation War Museum honours journalists with the award after the late editor of the daily Sangbad every year for their work on the history of the Liberation War.

Sheikh Hasina asked all to remain alert about the conspirators. "They will not sit idle. They will continue to try to create conflicting situations again and again. So, remain highly alert against the plotters," she said.

The evil forces have engaged in brutal killings one after another, trying to destabilise the country, since they were defeated in the Liberation War in 1971, Hasina said. Whenever the Awami League comes in power, evil forces are busy to implement their anti-people blueprints, added the Awami League chief.

Hasina pledged to try the war criminals and eliminate militancy from the soil and build Bangladesh as the most peaceful country in South Asia.

Three journalists—two from the print media and another from the electronic media—won this year's awards for reporting on and documenting the Liberation War.

Azizul Parvez of the daily Samakal received the award for his series reports on 1971 genocide at the grass roots level, Rukunodoullah of the daily Sangbad for his series reports on repression and genocide in Jessore, and Amjad Kabir Chowdhury of ATN Bangla for his report

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Mohammedan's match-winner John Godwin, left, leaps in the air to win a header during their Citycell Super Cup final against Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Godwin goal gives MSC Tk 1cr win

SPORTS REPORTER

A 21st minute goal by Nigerian midfielder John Godwin gave Mohammedan the Citycell Super Cup title with a solitary goal victory against their tradition rivals Abahani in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

An otherwise defensive Mohammedan, who received Tk one-crore as prize money, survived the rival onslaught before a 40,000-strong crowd, which proved that football has managed to revive its past glory with the tournament worth Tk two-crore.

President Zillur Rahman was expected to attend the final as chief guest but there was surprise for the spectators as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the final and distributed trophies.

In a passionate but brief speech, Sheikh Hasina congratulated both the finalists.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## No video footage of killing by mutineers

All but one CCTVs damaged

KAILASH SARKAR

The investigators have no CCTV footage showing the vicious killings at BDR Pilkhana headquarters on February 25-26, said CID sources.

Most of the videotapes retrieved so far contain scenes of mutineers looting arms and ammunition from armouries and trying to break the surveillance cameras.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## 20 hurt as Tahrir men, cops clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between police and members of Hizb ut-Tahrir in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the city after Jumma prayers yesterday.

Witnesses said police charged baton on Hizb ut-Tahrir activists to disperse them as they brought out a procession by blocking the road at about 1:30pm.

The Hizb ut-Tahrir activists threw brickbats at police, ensuing the clash that lasted for half an hour.

Traffic movement in the Baitul Mukarram mosque area was halted and hundreds of panicked devotees ran helter skelter to save them.

The Hizb ut-Tahrir men brought out the procession demanding release of their leaders and workers arrested by members of the law enforcement agencies in different times on charge of distributing leaflets containing anti-state and provocative contents.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## BHOLA ARMS HAUL Russel brought to Dhaka for quizzing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mohammad Russell, one of the four suspected militants, detained in connection with Tuesday's discovery of a mini-ammunition factory inside a madrasa in Bhola, was sent to Dhaka yesterday for interrogation at Taskforce Interrogation Cell.

Joint forces will interrogate Russell, the main accused in two cases filed in connection with the recovery of firearms, ammunition and explosive substances from Green Crescent madrasa at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Suicide attack on Pak mosque kills 50

AFP, Jamrud

A suicide bomber blew himself up in a packed mosque in northwest Pakistan during Juma prayers, killing 50 people and wounding dozens in one of the deadliest attacks in the nuclear-armed nation.

The bombing took place on the weekly Muslim day of rest in the town of Jamrud in the restive Khyber tribal region, which is located on a key road used to ferry supplies to Western troops across the border in Afghanistan.

It came just hours before US President Barack Obama was to unveil a new offensive against terror havens in Afghanistan and Pakistan, aiming to deal a death blow to al-Qaeda more than seven years after the September 11 attacks.

"Forty-eight bodies have been pulled out of the debris and many others may still be trapped under the rubble," Tariq Hayat, the top administration official in Khyber, told AFP by telephone.

"More than 70 people were wounded. There may be many more dead," he said.

"The bomber was present inside the mosque and blew himself up when Friday prayers began," Hayat said.

"The entire building collapsed," a top security official said, referring to the temporary mosque, which had been set up by local police and paramilitary troops who have a camp in the surrounding area of remote, mountainous Khyber.

It was the deadliest bomb blast in Pakistan, a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Sharp weapons recovered from DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered 12 sharp weapons including machetes, swords and knives from Mohsin Hall at Dhaka University early yesterday.

Law enforcers raided the hall at around 3:00am following a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, over gaining control of Mohsin Hall, sources said.

During the two-hour-long raid police searched about 50 rooms and recovered four swords, two machetes, two knives, four other sharp weapons and 32 iron rods, sources added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Activists of Hizb ut-Tahrir threatening police at Paltan in the city yesterday for arresting members of the outfit on charge of holding procession blocking the road in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

## MIGRANT WORKERS Dhaka demands compensations for returnees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The countries hiring workers from other nations must pay damages to migrant workers if they are forced to return home, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud.

If migrant workers are forced to leave due to the global recession, it must be ensured that they get compensations and are allowed to stay in the country for a reasonable period to seek remedy for unpaid wages, he told an international dialogue on 'Effective Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants: a Shared Responsibility' in Geneva, Switzerland on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## DISTRICT COMMITTEES Controversial BNP men out to capture posts

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Ignoring the grassroots' recommendations, the BNP high command might appoint controversial leaders as convenor and joint convenor at the district level.

Many of those who cost the party dear by their corruption-tainted image have already shored up their place due to slow pace of the efforts to reorganise BNP, said insiders.

Though the six central teams commissioned to gather opinions of the grassroots-level leaders submitted their reports about a month ago, the standing committee has begun discussing those only recently.

As a number of its present members have graft allegations against them, the committee, highest policy-making body of the party, will not be able to go tough on the corrupt and controversial leaders, fears the party rank and file.

The persons widely blamed for the decisions leading to 1/11 are now triumphing over those who remained dedicated to the party during the troubled time over last two years, they observe.

Though Chairperson Khaleda Zia on several occasions said leaders with clean image will be picked to run the party, the latest nominations suggest quite the contrary.

"The chairperson's announcement gave us hope. We thought we'll see a reflection of her announcement in the nominations for the upcoming Bogra by-elections," a former lawmaker told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

In response to the drubbing it received in the December 29 national election, BNP decided to form convening committees to replace the district committees long past their tenure.

The committees will be tasked with organising councils to elect full committees within two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Taliban and al-Qaeda must be stopped

Says Obama

AP, Washington

President Barack Obama yesterday ordered 4,000 more military troops into Afghanistan, vowing to "disrupt, dismantle and defeat" the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

The new troop build up he announced is aimed principally at bolstering the Afghan army and turning up the heat on terrorists that Obama said are plotting new attacks against Americans.

He called the situation in the region "increasingly perilous" more than seven years after the Taliban was removed from power in Afghanistan.

"If the Afghanistan government falls to the Taliban or

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 58 killed as dam bursts its banks in Indonesia

AFP, Cireundeu

A dam burst its banks near the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Friday, drowning at least 58 people in a torrent of muddy water that flooded hundreds of homes, officials said.

Dozens remained missing after a huge wall of water broke through the man-made earthen dam as residents slept, giving them little chance to flee their low-lying homes.

One resident compared it to a tsunami, recalling the 2004 disaster that killed 168,000 people in Indonesia.

Houses and concrete buildings were flattened and buckled by the force of the water, which left many survivors in the suburbs of Cireundeu and Ciputat trapped on rooftops waiting to be rescued.

said Danang Susanto, an official with the health ministry's crisis centre. "Because people were sleeping, they couldn't get away."

He estimated up to 500 homes were destroyed or submerged after heavy rains caused the breach in the dam at the edge of Situ Gintung lake in Cireundeu.

The flooding in some places was six metres (20 feet) high.

Crisis centre head Rustam Pakaya put the death toll at 58, saying dozens more were injured.

A nearby university assembly hall was converted into a makeshift morgue, where mud-smeared residents searched for missing loved ones among the bodies of the dead lined up on the floor.

Ghufron, a 17-year-old student, said he narrowly escaped waters that crashed into his home, but an uncle was dead and three other relatives were missing.

"By the time I woke up the water was up to my nose. I climbed to the roof to save myself. I heard people screaming and shouting," he said.

Dewi Masitoh, a 40-year-old housewife, said she narrowly escaped with her husband and two daughters after they saw rising water reach the door of their stilt house.

"We were on the second floor but my daughter went back downstairs when the window broke and water gushed in. My husband jumped in and pulled her out of the water by her neck."

"I punched a hole through the roof and we all climbed up through," she said, showing cuts and scratches on her arms.

Television images showed bodies floating through the twisting streets nearby and water rushing through the breach in the dam, emptying the lake.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

Members of a search and rescue team continue to look for victims after a dam wall burst in Tangerang, Indonesia, yesterday, flooding hundreds of homes and drowning at least 58 near capital Jakarta overnight.