

## BDR men

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Investigation Department (CID) yesterday arrested four more mutiny-suspects in the HQ.

Talking to The Daily Star, the BDR director (operation and training) confirmed the initiative and said the boarder guards are being taken back as part of official formalities because they were supposed to join here.

He however declined to say how many members had joined the camps outside the HQ.

Asked whether the BDR men are being taken back as suspects, the director said, "Until the investigation is completed, it is not possible to say who was involved in the carnage and who was not."

Contacted, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Kahar Akand of CID, the investigation officer (IO) of the mutiny case, said the BDR men are being taken to Pikhana as per a move by the BDR authorities.

"Until they are handed over to us, we cannot make any comment on them", the IO said. "Four more jawans were arrested in connection with the mutiny case," he added.

Some 70 BDR men from three districts under the Rajshahi sector were sent to Dhaka yesterday, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

Among them, 33 are from Naogaon, 24 from the Rajshahi sector headquarters, eight from Chapainawabganj and five from Rajshahi battalions.

The soldiers were taken to Rajshahi sector headquarters from their districts and sent to Dhaka under huge police escort.

At least 33 jawans from Naogaon were sent to Pikhana for quizzing, according to BDR officials of 43 and 46 Naogaon Battalions, writes our Dinajpur correspondent.

Besides, 42 more from Dinajpur sector would be sent today, said Dinajpur Sector Commander (acting) Lt Col S Saheed Islam.

Sources say the 33 BDR men were sent to Dhaka under

## Delwar

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urging the government to cancel its decision to revoke the allotment of the house to Khaleda.

The cantonment house has been leased out to her for 99 years and she has been living there for the last 27 years. You [government] can go to the court and we will face you there," he said addressing a meeting in front of the party's central office.

Jasas, cultural wing of BNP, organised the meeting protesting the government decision to cancel the allotment.

"Find another place to rehabilitate the family members of army officials killed in the BDR carnage. Is there any dearth of land in Dhaka city?" he said.

Delwar said, "Public opinion is against the government decision, so the government should refrain from implementing such narrow-minded plan. Instead of giving threats please try to accept the cooperation of the opposition in running the country."

Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Babul Ahmed, MA Malek, Mosharraf Hossain also spoke at the meeting presided over by Fayezullah Fayez, president of Jasas Dhaka city unit.

## Counter-terrorism

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Various issues including counter-terrorism, border security, money laundering, the funding of militant organisations, human and drug trafficking were also discussed at the meeting.

"If everything goes along well, the memorandum of understanding will be signed next month," the home secretary told The Daily Star.

The MoU will be based on five aspects -- civil aviation security, international and regional cooperation on counter terrorism, border security and management, crisis and consequence management. Both the sides will share information on the matters after the MoU is inked.

But before signing the MoU, both the sides will exchange draft proposals on the JWG. Bangladesh will soon convey its decision to the home ministry of UK and seek a draft proposal on the matter. After scrutinising the UK proposal, the government will ask for the UK government's opinion on the modality of the JWG, sources said.

Besides, Bangladesh will also evaluate the JWG that UK signed with India and Pakistan.

The home ministers of the two countries will lead the JWG comprised of officials

Maj Aftab and will be quizzed in Pikhana.

According to the BDR officials of Naogaon 43 Battalion, at least 19 jawans surrendered to the Battalion at the end of February or early March and 14 others surrendered to 46 Battalion.

As many as 57 jawans were sent to Dhaka from Jessore Jhumjhumpur camp, the headquarters of the 22 Battalion, says a correspondent in Jessore.

Earlier, two jawans were sent to Dhaka for quizzing.

## Sircar

**FROM PAGE 1**  
prime minister Khaleda Zia refused two times and did not approve his medical bill," Fazle Rabbi said.

"It's really unfortunate how Sircar gave an undertaking and received money giving a wrong interpretation of law," Rabbi added.

The all-party parliamentary committee to probe widespread allegations of financial anomalies and waste of public money against Jamiruddin Sircar decided to summon him and to give him opportunity of self-defence.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque, the lone member in the committee from BNP, boycotted the meeting alleging that the probe body will not be able to investigate the matter impartially and fairly.

The committee found that the former speaker drew Tk 27.86 lakh giving a wrong interpretation of the law after being refused by the then prime minister Khaleda Zia two times to get approval of his medical bill.

Rabbi said the then prime minister was right by not approving Sircar's medical bill. "If the medical bill of any executive official or minister or speaker crossed the fixed limit, then it requires approval of the head of the government."

Fazle Rabbi said the note under which the former speaker drew Tk 27.86 lakh goes against him as Sircar himself admitted that the then prime minister refused to approve his medical bill on two occasions.

He said that the speaker and deputy speaker of parliament jointly can spend about Tk 2.5 lakh as medical purpose in a year.

The probe body found that Sircar had drawn Tk 1.5 lakh in 2001-02, Tk 58,000 in 2002-03, Tk 10.81 lakh in 2003-04, Tk 22,000 in 2004-05, Tk 85,000 in 2005-06 and Tk 27.86 lakh in 2006-07 as medical bill.

Rabbi said they would summon the former speaker after examining other allegations against Sircar.

"We will of course give him the opportunity of self-defence and if Sircar wants he will be allowed a hearing (before the committee)," said the committee chief.

Speaker Abdul Hamid on March 19 constituted the all-party parliamentary body, first time in the parliamentary history of Bangladesh, to probe widespread allegation of financial anomalies, misuse of power and waste of public money against the immediate past speaker.

The committee was also assigned to investigate any other allegation of corruption occurred in the Parliament Secretariat during the seven-year tenure of Sircar.

Abdul Hamid also said the comptroller and auditor general (CAG) would soon send a special team to audit the expenditures of the Parliament Secretariat since 1972.

## Private car

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the vehicle from city's Uttara area Saturday night.

Local people rescued Faruque Hossain, 26, driver of Nanak's PS-2 Matiur Rahman, with bullet wounds from Kaliakoir road and admitted to a local hospital. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from Enam Medical College and Hospital at Savar.

Faruque at DMCH told The Daily Star that four muggers got into his car taking him to Uttara area while he was returning to LGRD office at Agargaon after leaving his boss Motiur Rahman at Sector-6, Road-14 of Uttara at about 10:30 pm.

The muggers first shot in his left arm and took control of the steering, he said adding "Then they fired five more shots my chest and two legs when I resisted tying me up with a rope inside the car."

The criminals drove the car towards Ashulia from Uttara and while it reached Kaliakoir, they dropped him from the running car and later local people rescued him from the road, he said.

## PM flies

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visit scheduled on March 7 in the wake of the BDR mutiny at Pikhana.

Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi told UNB that the prime minister would meet with the Saudi King on April 21 to discuss various issues of mutual interest.

This will be Hasina's first trip abroad after assuming the office of Prime Minister on January 6.

She will perform Umrah at Makkah and offer feteah at the Rouza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) at Madinah during her stay.

## Nestle denies

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expiry date to ensure that no expired product is sold to consumers. Stock withdrawn from the market is supported by documents from distributors," it said.

There are well-established procedures and guidelines, which are strictly followed for withdrawal of stocks and destruction of date expired stocks, it added.

## Sheikh Helal

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press briefing at the Jatuya Press Club.

The firm has appealed to the court and the home ministry to have the cases dropped.

The allegation brought against Sheikh Helaluddin is not true, said Sahel.

"During the tenure of the last caretaker government some members of the joint forces intimidated the high-ups of the firm to file the case," Sahel said in a written statement.

"Joint forces prepared the draft of the first information report and compelled the firm owner to sign the papers," said Mamta Uddin in a statement submitted to the home secretary on April 8 requesting to cancel the case and have the lawmaker cleared of the charge.

Aftab Uddin, managing director of the firm, in another statement rendered to the home secretary said joint forces tortured him both physically and mentally keeping him detained for a few days for making him agree to file a case against the AL lawmaker.

"When they failed to do so, joint forces intimidated Mamta Uddin to file the case," Aftab Uddin said in the statement.

Helaluddin was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in the case filed on May 21 last year for extorting Tk 1.02 crore from the construction firm owner.

However, the High Court has stayed the conviction order. The firm said it was also compelled to file three cases against Giasuddin Al Mamun, a close aide to Tarique Rahman.

## 20 hurt

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ple, including three policemen, injured.

Traffic movement on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway was disrupted for one hour.

The clash started around 11:30 am between the supporters of AL lawmaker of Sonargaon Abdullah Al Kaiser and his uncle Upazila Chairman Mosharraf Hossain over hiring of a microbus two days ago.

Sources said an altercation had erupted between Kaiser's personal secretary Masum Chowdhury and chairman Mosharraf Hossain's supporter Lincoln on Friday.

Masum and his men beat up Lincoln yesterday morning. Mosharraf's supporters and locals chased them into a market. Masum and his men started pelting bricks at the chairman's adherents and they too retaliated.

Seriously injured Lincoln was sent to Orthopedic Hospital in Dhaka while Sohag, 22, Nilu, 48, Taposh, 28 and Jasim, 30, were given treatment at a local hospital.

Sub-inspector Habib, constables Humayun and Sohel were injured while trying to stop the feuding groups.

Shahin on behalf of Kaiser's supporters and Shahidul Islam on behalf of Mosharraf's followers filed separate cases in this connection.

## 8 JMB men held

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by the execution of its six top brass around two years back.

He is brother of Salahuddin, a JMB Majlish-e-Shura (highest policy-making body) member now on death row.

The rest four are the Islamist outfit's Dhaka north zone commander Mohammad Hasanuzzaman of Sakhira, part-time members Tariqullah alias Rubel of Tangail and Anwar Hossain alias Baten of Sirajganj, and IT expert Zahidur Rahman alias Zahid of Pirojpur.

Those detained are aged between 18 and 32.

Back in 1998, Matin played a vital role when JMB supreme Shaikh Abdur Rahman founded the militant organisation at Mohamma Arabia Madrasa in the city's Jatrabari area.

He later went to Saudi Arabia for work. He would regularly send money to Jama'atul Mujahideen until his return from the Middle East in 2007, the year Rahman was executed along with five other top militant leaders.

Yesterday's recovery includes 10,000 lithium batteries, 10 detonators, and five packets of high power gel explosives.

Rab Additional Director General Col Rezanur Rahman Khan said, "We don't yet know if the arrestees posed a threat to Pahela Baishakh (Bangla New Year) celebrations. Neither are we ruling out the possibility that they might have been plotting terror attacks."

However, he added, people need not worry as the law enforcers are working round the clock to ensure foolproof security tomorrow.

The arrestees were paraded before the media at a press conference at Rab office in Uttara in the afternoon. Reporters were not allowed to speak to them.

Rab-1 Commanding Officer Bakhtiar Alam said a team made up of members from Rab-1 and the Rab intelligence wing began raiding the house of one Moulana Owaz Uddin at Tekpara village in Khilkhet area around 3:30 am yesterday.

"We found out about the militant network during interrogation of JMB Dhaka divisional commander Mohtasim Billah alias Bashir alias Nasir. After working for about a month and a half on the leads,

we finally managed to bust the den and nab the eight early today."

Nasir was arrested in Gazipur on February 20.

Referring to the recovery of lithium batteries, he said they [militants] must have procured those for making time bombs.

The seized JMB leaflet reads, "Here comes the Jibadi Kafilah (caravan). It will destroy the enemies of Allah and his Prophet (S). It will bury the tyrants, exploiters and the dishonest leaders to bring about an Islamic state."

The leaflet says the "Christian-controlled media gives a distorted view of the Mujahideen's noble campaign to free the country from the unbelievers."

It goes on to describe the country's press as "spokesmen for the non-Islamic forces."

## Tight security

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install at least 80 CCTVs and set up 19 check-posts and eight archways while the law-enforcers and plain-clothed intelligence personnel would remain vigilant at every point in and around the venue.

DMP Commissioner Shahidul Huq said they made the plan to ensure foolproof security for celebration of the Bangla New Year.

"A total of 6,153 uniformed and plain-clothed policemen from DMP would be deployed at various points", he said adding "No one will be able to enter the venue avoiding checking of the law enforcers."

Shahid also said no hawkers would be allowed in and around the main venue but only Suhrawardy Uddyan area will be open for them.

At least 60 CCTVs would be installed under Rab while 16 others under DMP at various strategic points, Rab sources said.

When contacted, Col Rezanur Rahman, additional director general of Rab, said they would deploy around 3,000 Rab men in the city while 7,000 others elsewhere in the country to ensure the foolproof security.

He said 40 CCTVs would be installed in Ramna and Suhrawardy Uddyan areas while 20 others in Dhanmondi Lake area.

## PM asks for import

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top officials of the ministry at Shilpa Bhaban in the morning.

Hasina said it is urgently needed to reopen all the closed mills and factories to make Bangladesh self-dependent in all respects.

She said she does not want to see Bangladesh as an import-based country in future. "Everything will be produced here to meet demands of the people."

Termining the decision of bringing down the workers' working period from 60 years to 57 years was unrealistic, Hasina said: "I don't see any logic behind the decision."

She directed the industries minister to re-fix 60 years as the workers' length of service.

Unveiling her government's plan, Hasina said the government would modernize Mongla port through necessary dredging and neighboring country Nepal will also be able to use the port, which will give Bangladesh financial benefit.

"I do not understand why we fail to make public sector enterprises profitable. All should work to make those profitable," she said referring to the profit scenario of the private sector enterprises.

Emphasizing on public-private initiative, the PM said the public sector and the private sector should work together to ensure a vibrant and smooth economy for Bangladesh.

"It was a general conception earlier that all should be kept under government control. Later, it was said all should go to private sector for real development. But now the trend has changed."

She said: "Ours is an agro-based economy. We always emphasize on agriculture... if an agricultural country tries, it also can be an industrial country. Japan is a big example for us. Like Japan, we also have lot of opportunities to make our country industrially developed."

Hasina said Bangladesh must reduce dependence on other countries. "We do not want to live as a country, which is dependent on others."

Underlining the importance of industrialization, she said the key to development truly lies in industries though Bangladesh is an agriculture-based country.

The premier also stressed the need for increasing the people's purchasing capacity saying that unless it is ensured, it will not be possible to create market for local products.

"Local industries will have

## Indian FS

**FROM PAGE 1**  
in Dhaka Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Special Assistant Abdus Sobhan Golap and former ambassador Ziauddin were present.

They discussed the country's own market in the country," PM said. Recalling the Awami League rule in 1996-2001 period, Hasina said some had tried to shut down Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory and Khulna Shipyard.

"We handed over those to Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy (respectively) and they converted both into profitable ventures."

She said they had no plan to close down Adamjee Jute Mills. "We (rather) invested Tk 12 crore there for research."

The prime minister lamented that Khulna once was a vibrant city and they had a plan to set up an industrial park there.

She alleged that the previous BNP-Jamaat alliance government had closed down many mills and factories.

Speaking on the occasion, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said the government as part of its plan to reopen the closed mills and factories has taken steps to make Chittagong Chemical Complex functional again.

"We also have a plan to reopen Khulna Newsprint Mill and North Bengal Paper Mill."

He said the government would soon set up an industrial village at Keraniganj in Dhaka and an industrial zone in Munshiganj for light engineering and pharmaceutical sectors respectively.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Office Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman, Industries Secretary and other senior officials also joined the meeting.

## Garment makers

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BGMEA president, said the competing countries are enjoying the facilities of lead-time, higher cash incentives, higher productivity from the workers and policy supports, whereas the Bangladesh manufacturers are struggling to get "basic support" from the government.

Tipu Munshi MP, another former BGMEA president, said the government would not lose anything if it offers any package for the garment sector, as the sector directly employed three million workers and involved 20 million people indirectly.

Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express, urged garment manufacturers to assess the impact of global price fall of basic commodities and demand drop of locally made garment items.

## Rental power

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additional liquidated damage after extending the first deadline.

Outside the official extension of the deadlines, both of these companies are spelling out various deadlines and failing to achieve them on their own.

The PDB board has decided to seek the consent of the power ministry to cancel the contracts for both these plants.

On the 20mw Bogra power project of Energy Prima that also failed to meet deadlines twice, the last one expiring on March 31, PDB has decided not to give it more time. The Bogra plant was supposed to come into operation in mid-May 2008.

However, as the Energy Prima had filed a case against PDB to stop it from taking liquidated damage, PDB would not cancel the contract and follow the court's directive.

On the 50mw Ashuganj plant awarded to an unknown Precision Energy, PDB gave it an extension till March 31. But it failed to do so and also did not give PDB any additional liquidated damage coverage for recent times.

The Ashuganj project was originally supposed to come into operation on October 27, 2008. But Precision Energy told PDB it has not been able to arrange loan for the project.

Besides, there is no visible progress for the plant. In this situation, PDB recommends cancelling this deal.

Meanwhile, Energy Prima is trying to dictate terms for payment of its liquidated damage. Against a contract of three years, it is asking PDB to take monthly liquidated damage in 36 instalments.

When PDB pointed out that out of these 36 months, Energy Prima has already exhausted nearly 12 months, the power company suggested that the rental scheme should continue for 10 years.

The Power Cell floated the rental power bids in October-November, 2007 drawing 15 offers from six companies in eight locations totalling 300mw generation capacity.

The contracts for most of these were signed in January 2008. Of these deals, two 50MW power plants of Energy Prima came into commercial operation many months behind schedule and one 40MW plant of British Aggreko came into commercial operation 15 days behind schedule.

## State of emergency

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The latest escalation in the country's chronic political turmoil came after police arrested the leader of activists loyal to ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra who had targeted Saturday's summit.

Colonel Sunsern Kaewkumner told AFP the army, navy and air force had been deployed to ensure the security of public buildings, junctions and transport hubs at 50 spots in Bangkok.

Military and police reinforcements were also seen arriving to protect the Royal Palace compound.

Earlier, Abhisit's deputy Suthep Thaugsuban appeared on national television to appeal to soldiers and police to enforce the emergency measures, amid signs they were reluctant to intervene.

"Police and military -- you must carry out your duty to your best ability and restore normalcy as soon as possible," said Suthep, who is responsible for implementing the measures.

"These are not constitutional demonstrators. They have injured senior officials."

The army has generally shied away from confronting protesters since action against riots in 1992 left dozens dead, and police moves against anti-Thaksin demonstrators last October left two dead.

As tanks and soldiers fanned out, television showed red-shirted protesters armed with sticks and paving slabs smashing a car they mistakenly believed was carrying the prime minister and a separate vehicle carrying Suthep.

It is the third time in eight months that authorities have imposed a state of emergency in Bangkok.

The move bans public gatherings of more than five people and empowers the police and military to detain suspects for up to 30 days without charge.

However, police said the rally outside Abhisit's offices swelled to 15,000 after the declaration, with its leaders sounding a defiant tone.

"I don't care for this state of emergency, it's just paper dirtied with ink," protest organiser Nattawut Saikuar told the crowd.

The demonstrators' political hero Thaksin later addressed them by telephone from exile.

"I will closely monitor the situation and if there is any violence I will return to Thailand immediately. I will not allow them (authorities) to use force," Thaksin said, urging army troops to join his movement.

Pro-Thaksin protesters took to the streets two weeks ago demanding Abhisit quit. They

## deep-sea port

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Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

The study suggested that the impact of regional transit cargoes for the proposed deep-sea port would be marginal.

The PCI predicted that cargo volume would increase to around 32.53 crore tonnes by 2055 from around 3.38 crore tonnes from 2010.

The PCI study, predicting to attract up to 50,000 dead-weight tonnage (DWT) vessels a year, said the deep-sea port would generate additional income as it would attract new cargo that cannot be loaded or offloaded in Mongla and Chittagong ports.

## 380 workers

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returned from Dubai to Saudi Airlines and Emirates flights. Besides, 50 labourers returned from Malaysia onboard a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, 100 on GMG Airlines flight and 50 onboard a Malaysian Airlines flight.

According to sources, 80 of these labourers returned home after they were freed from Malaysian jails.

"I borrowed Tk 1 lakh on high interest to go to Dubai but I was jobless for around seven months," said Mizan.

Another worker said his visa was valid for six more months but he was laid-off with unpaid wages.

Asad Ali and Rakib Uddin of Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah were among the 50 workers who went to Dubai just six months ago and had to return home empty-handed after being deceived by the recruiting agency Shariatpur Overseas Ltd.

Rezaul Islam, relative of Asad and Rakib, said they obtained visas to work for Trans Guard LLC Construction Company but Seagull Company received them instead in Dubai.

Workers remained jobless there for two months and later Seagull Company sent them to different places for jobs, said Rezaul quoting his relatives.