

Shady project in river

Developer filling up Turag, claiming it private property

PINAKI ROY

Bamboos and goran logs which arrived last Tuesday were piled up at the roadside, workers were sawing the bamboos into pieces, while some were carrying those to a newly filled up patch of land in the Turag river.

It was apparent some more areas would be demarcated for earth filling.

The workers were very busy there. For around one month they were working on this site. Once a patch of land was fenced and filled up, their supervisor asked them to repeat the process in the next stretch of water in a silent and slow move to grab the river.

Asked about the supervisor, one worker pointed to a bearded man standing on the edge of a filled up area, which was part of the river just a month ago.

"This is private property. Locals are filling it up," commented the bearded man and tried to walk away.

As The Daily Star correspondent stopped and asked him his identity he introduced himself as Zakir Hossain and said he works for a construction project of 'DOMINNO'.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Real-estate developer DOM INNO is gradually filling up the flood plain of the Turag at Kamarpara village under Turag Police Station. Inset, the company fills up a bit of the flood plain and then extends the encroached area with bamboos to gobble up more land.

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN



Let's rally together

We've started to expose some of the many outrageous encroachments on four Dhaka rivers--Turag, Buriganga, Balu and Shitalakhya--with a plea to the government to go and check grabbers' claims.

We invite all including our readers to join our campaign for free rivers, lifeline of the capital. Lend your hands and together we can win a war against these powerful, rich and ruthless river-gobblers.

... The Daily Star

BDR mutiny for 'Dal Bhat'

No militant, political, foreign links found in national probe; 309-page report submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national probe committee on BDR mutiny did not find any militant, political or foreign links to the carnage at Pilkhana headquarters.

"BDR jawans committed the murders on their own. Our investigation did not find any involvement of outsiders--

political leaders, militants or foreign forces," a member of the government probe body told The Daily Star yesterday evening, requesting not to be named.

According to the inquiry report submitted to Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday, the BDR rank and file already had grievances pent up for years. Their resentment over 'Operation Dal-Bhat' made

matters even worse, and it all boiled over into an orgy of killing on February 25-26.

It also says the mutiny was continuation of the revolts in 1973 and 1991 over leadership in the border force, added the probe body member.

Some sources close to the committee said several jawans had claimed the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

INTERNET BACKBONE Hasty BTCL deal raises questions

MD HASAN

The haste of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) in awarding the Tk 140 crore project for installing modern internet backbone to Korean KT Corporation bypassing the BTCL board's observations has raised questions.

The project titled "Internet Information Network Expansion", also known as Info-Bahan project, will be jointly financed by the governments of Bangladesh and South Korea.

The new authority of BTCL hurriedly signed the deal although the previous board recommended re-examination of the bid documents following an allegation of the other bidder that KT Corporation submitted an invalid document to win the bid.

Interestingly, new BTCL Managing Director SM Khabiruzzaman issued the letter of intent to KT Corporation on March 2--even before his own appointment

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CTG ARMS HAUL Rahim brought to Dhaka for further quizzing at TFI

STAR REPORT

Law enforcement agencies yesterday brought former National Security Intelligence (NSI) director general Brig Gen (retd) Abdur Rahim to Dhaka for quizzing him at the taskforce for interrogation (TFI) cell in connection with the sensational Chittagong arms haul case.

Meanwhile, intelligence personnel raided the Banani home of Abdur Rahim to seize "valuable documents" of the Chittagong arms haul yesterday evening, UNB reports. Intelligence sources said they conducted the raid along with Abdur Rahim.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



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