



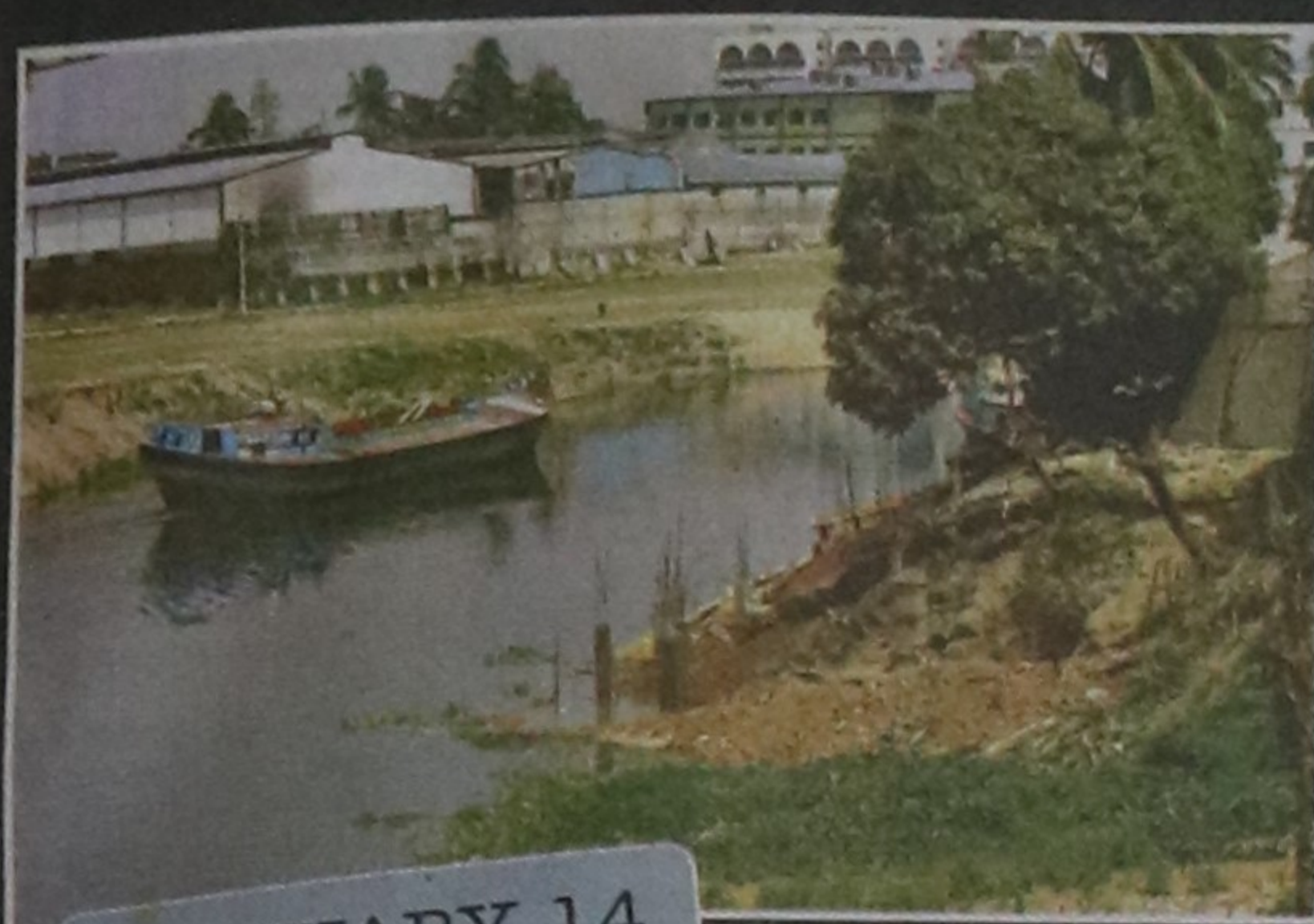
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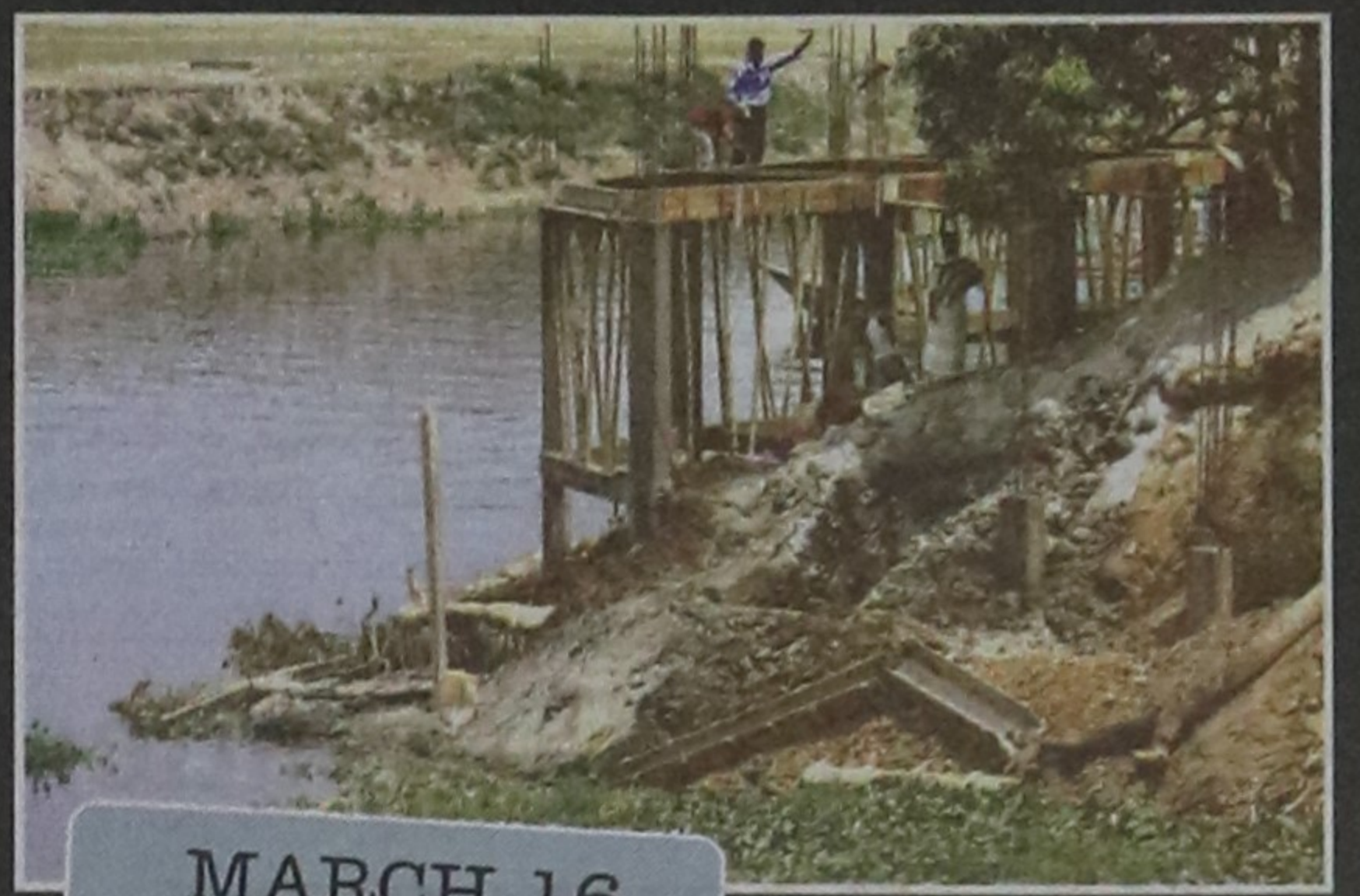
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JANUARY 14



FEBRUARY 08



MARCH 16



APRIL 09



MAY 09

This series of pictures taken from January 14 to May 9 this year traces the illegal construction of a three-storey building on the encroached Turag riverbed. PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Caught in the act

A Turag-gobbling in progress under Star lens

PINAKI ROY

The Turag takes a sharp turn just opposite the Bishaw Ijtema ground near the place where the sand traders have massively grabbed and narrowed down the river.

The Ijtema authorities have recently further developed and extended the ground towards the river. Signs of recent earth filling are apparent as the mud

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Mutiny followed failure in getting political response

Only a few BDR men knew about killing plot; govt hands summary of national probe report to media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Failing to get expected response from political leaders regarding their demands, a group of BDR personnel planned to hold their director general and other army officers hostage at the Darbar on February 25, says the national probe report on the carnage at BDR headquarters.

"Only a few hardcore mutineers knew about the plan of killing army

officers, including the DG, and other heinous activities while others only knew that a tough stance would be taken at the Darbar to realise their demands, but they did not have clear knowledge about the real nature of the stance," the report says.

Breaking previous governments' tradition of not making any probe report public, the Awami League government yesterday formally disclosed the findings of the probe into the sen-

sational incident that took place on February 25-26 at Pilkhana.

After working for about two and a half months, the probe committee headed by former bureaucrat Anisuzzaman Khan submitted the 309-page report to the home minister on May 21.

Yesterday, however, the home ministry distributed a seven-page summary of the report among journalists at a press briefing held at the ministry.

The summary report under a sub-head "Plan of the mutiny and earlier efforts" says, "Centring the election (ninth parliamentary election) a section of BDR personnel started uniting for their demands and got an opportunity to meet political personalities." It says unrest was instigated among BDR members after failing to get expected response from the political leaders.

The summary report does not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Food, drinking water crisis in the coast

Death toll in Cyclone Aila rises to 155

STAR REPORT

An acute shortage of food and safe drinking water scourges the south-western districts hit by Cyclone Aila, which has left at least 155 people killed and scores missing.

Two days after the Monday's storm, thousands of people were still marooned in remote areas. Starving and desolate, they were waiting for the government and non-government volunteers carrying out relief efforts with the help of the armed forces.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night directed the ministers concerned to step up measures to help the Aila victims. She also asked them to take immediate steps to repair the embankments and other infrastructures left battered by the cyclone.

Earlier in the day, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said the government volunteers are distributing food and other essentials throughout the coastal districts. Helicopters are being used to send relief materials to faraway places.

People have been facing water crisis as saline water inundated their areas, he said in a press conference at the ministry. So, the government has been distributing drinking water along with foods and medicines.

At least 13 water purifying plants have been set up in the affected areas, the minister said. So far, around 10,000 tonnes of rice and Tk 2.23 crore in cash have been dispatched.

Aila victims, however, give a different picture. "Almost all people in our union have been

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Barapukuria runs short of coal storage space

Coal piled up as limping power plant consuming less; authorities may be forced to suspend extraction

SHARIER KHAN

With its storage capacity getting almost exhausted with the quantity of 'self-combustible' coal growing, the struggling Barapukuria coal mine may be forced to suspend production on safety grounds, and incur a huge financial loss.

"The mine has a capacity of storing 2,05,000 tonnes of coal as per international safety stan-

dard. We already have 2,00,000 tonnes due to a serious reduction of coal consumption by the Barapukuria power plant since late last month," says a well-placed mine source.

The 250 megawatt power plant is the main consumer of the mine's coal. But the plant -- recently taken over by the Power Development Board (PDB) from its Chinese builders and operators -- has drastically slashed coal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL

Rahim tells of ARY meeting, a foreign embassy link

But denies his involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detained former director general (DG) of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Brig Gen (ret) Abdur Rahim yesterday made a confessional statement denying his involvement in the smuggling of 10 truckloads of illegal arms and ammunition in Chittagong.

The Ex-chief of NSI made the statement under section 164 of Criminal Procedure Code on completion of his six-day remand on Tuesday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Osman Gani recorded the eight-page confessional statement from 3:15pm to 5:15pm.

In the statement, Rahim mentioned the names of a foreign embassy and Dubai-based business firm ARY admitting that he along with his wife visited Dubai and held a meeting with ARY officials.

He claimed that they discussed business-related issues including appointment of ARY agents and setting up of a TV channel (Q-tv) in Bangladesh, said sources quoting the confes-



sional statement. Rahim also admitted that the ARY bore a major portion of his tour expenses.

The former NSI DG also said former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar informed him over the phone about the haul of 10 truckloads of illegal arms and ammunition at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 2, 2004.

"The former state minister wanted to know whether the NSI men were aware of it or involved in transporting the consignment," said sources quoting the statement.

Rahim received the phone call from Babar at Daudkandi when he was on the way to his village home to attend the funeral of a relative.

The former NSI chief mentioned neither the name of any other person in the then government nor Hawa Bhaban, said sources.

He also did not say anything about the involvement of the other detained former NSI chief Maj Gen (ret) Rezaqul Haider in the arms smuggling.

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VACATING CANTT HOUSE

Third Khaleda notice stayed for 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the government's third notice that asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to vacate her cantonment house by June 30.

The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks as to why this notice should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench comprising Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury issued the order and the rule after Khaleda Zia filed a writ petition challenging the legality of the government notices concerning the allotment of the cantonment house.

Lawyers of both sides said the HC issued the rule and the stay

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