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ARMED FORCES UNDER BNP, CG RULE Review starts to find out 'irregularities'

SHAKHAWAT LITON AND RASHIDUL HASAN

An authoritative committee of the armed forces has started examining alleged irregularities in forced-retirements, promotions and punitive measures in the armed forces during the last seven years.

Following an order from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who also holds the defence portfolio, the committee began reviewing the measures.

"A committee is investigating the irregularities that took place in the armed forces during

the tenures of BNP and the caretaker governments," M Idris Ali, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry, yesterday said after its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said the army chief informed the meeting about the committee working to make a report on alleged irregularities in promotions, forced-retirements and superseding senior officers for so-called political reasons in the last seven years.

After the parliamentary standing committee

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Farm loan target raised by 23pc

BB announces Tk 11,512cr for this fiscal year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank yesterday announced an agriculture credit policy to revamp rural economy and set a target of Tk 11,512 crore agriculture loan disbursements for this fiscal year.

This year's loan disbursement is going to be 22.74 percent higher than that of last fiscal year, say the bank officials.

"These initiatives will help offset the impact of global recession and make rural economy vibrant," Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman said at a press conference in the conference room of his office.

Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda told reporters the central

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

HC outlines steps to protect city lakes

Asks govt to evict encroachers, carry out survey on Gulshan-Baridhara-Banani lakes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a set of directives to the government for preserving and protecting Gulshan-Baridhara and Gulshan-Banani lakes in the capital from illegal encroachments and structures and to shield the environment.

The HC said surveys should be conducted to demarcate the lakes. It asked the government to identify and evict all illegal occupants and demolish temporary and permanent structures

on the lakes. The court ruled that the surveys and evictions must be done by January 31, 2010.

It, however, said, "If there are legal and authorised occupants, they should either be provided with plots or alternative rehabilitation along with compensation for their loss."

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed also directed the government to inform the court about the implementation of the directives by February 15, 2010.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Tigers win away Test, at last

AFP, Kingstown

Mahmudullah completed a memorable debut Test, when he cruelly exposed West Indies' frailty to spin, and bowled Bangladesh to a historic 95-run victory in the opening Test here on Monday.

The 23-year-old off-spinner captured five wickets for 51 runs from 15 overs, as West Indies, chasing 277 for victory, were dismissed for 181 in their second innings about 20 minutes before the scheduled close

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Bangladeshi cricketers celebrate their victory at the end of the final day of the first Test match between West Indies and Bangladesh at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent.

PHOTO: AFP

BSF won't kill innocents

BDR assured as border conference ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief of Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday assured Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of putting an end to killings of innocent Bangladeshis on the borders.

ML Kumawat, director general of the Indian border guards, also vowed to show zero tolerance to human rights violation on the frontiers.

Speaking at a joint press briefing on the concluding day of the three-day director general-level conference of the border forces at Bangladesh Rifles headquarters, BSF director general said 85 percent of the killings take place at night.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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