

Army Act sought to try 19 offences

Star obtains a copy of BDR draft of references; it spells out limitations in BDR, civil laws for mutiny trial; wants president to refer the issue to SC for opinion

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Bangladesh Rifles has formally suggested applying the Army Act 1952 to try the BDR personnel and civilians who committed 19 offences in and outside the Pikhana headquarters during February 25-26 bloody mutiny.

BDR Director General Md Mainul Islam sent the draft of a reference proposal to Commerce Minister Faruk Khan on August 4, in which he has strongly justified their position on trying the

offenders under the army act.

Faruk Khan is the head of the high-powered government committee for coordinating activities of the Prime Minister's Office, the home and defence ministries following the BDR mutiny.

In the draft, the BDR has suggested president's intervention to overcome some limitations in trying the mutineers under the army act as there appear to be a lot of inadequacy and limitations in the BDR's and the country's laws to try the offenders of February 25-26 mutiny that killed 73 people

including 57 army officials.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the draft that points out 15 reasons to try the mutineers under the army act.

"It is felt to be expedient and appropriate to apply the Army Act, 1952 to the BDR force for the fair, effective and speedy trial of the offenders involved in BDR mutiny by ensuring all the administrative and legal requirements," the draft says.

The 15-page reference proposal speculates that applying the army act might

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Obama puts the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Prof Yunus at the White House Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ministry to sue Matin for container deal

Accused of graft, violation of constitution

RASHIDUL HASAN

The shipping ministry will take steps to file cases against former shipping adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin for alleged violation of the constitution and irregularities in awarding a deal to a non-responsive company for container handling in Chittagong Sea Port.

The ministry will take legal actions in line with the parliamentary sub-committee report against former adviser MA Matin and eight other government officials for their involve-

ment in awarding a container handling deal to Ishaque Brothers, violating laws," newly appointed Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

He said the ministry will also take measures to realise Tk 9 crore from three of the accused including the former shipping adviser in light of an investigation report of the sub-committee.

Earlier in the day, the sub-committee revealed that it has all evidence and documents

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

BD Thai goes to court

Challenges sale bar on its shares

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has set October 15 for further hearing of Bangladesh Thai Aluminium Ltd's (BD Thai) writ petition challenging the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) imposition of a lock-in on sales of new convertible shares or shares against warrants issued by listed companies.

SEC imposed the lock-in through a notification in order to protect local investors' interest through averting short-term speculative trading by non-resident or foreign investors, or by local companies or investment firms, and to prevent flight of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

BNP prepares to hold council by year-end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition BNP is making preparations for holding its long overdue national council at the end of this year after reorganising the party's grassroots level.

Sources said BNP has outlined some sub-committees in regard to the national council. A committee on preparation for the council would also be announced soon.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and a number of senior

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Yunus changed the world

Says Obama as he confers US Presidential Medal of Freedom upon micro-credit guru

AFP, Washington

"Muhammad Yunus was just trying to help a village, but he somehow managed to change the world," said President Barack Obama as he conferred America's highest civilian honour upon Prof Yunus Wednesday.

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus received the Presidential Medal of Freedom Wednesday. Economist Yunus lifted millions of people out of poverty by offering them small loans.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Mugger killed in cop firing

Jubo League men clash with cops to snatch fellow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mugger was shot dead by police in the city's Sutrapur yesterday.

He was identified as Roman, 19, from Postagala in Shyampur.

Meanwhile, Billal Sardar, 30, and Mohammad Babul, 35, were shot by a gang of three criminals in the city's Gulshan yesterday.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Hell on wheels

Black cab sends chill down passenger's spine

SHARIER KHAN

When Ashish got a black taxi cab at the busy corner of Karwan Bazar, he could not afford the luxury of noticing its appearance. He was rather grateful that during the rush hour the young cab driver at least did not behave as if he was the king of the world like his colleagues.

Hopping in the cab, Ashish got himself buried in his office documents he was carrying to his Dhanmondi destination. But in just a few minutes his concentration was snapped, and he noticed in addition to the fast running cab's sound and fury, it was also shaking like a rail wagon. He felt the wheels of the cab were not properly aligned and might come off any moment.

He raised his worried eyes to look at the cab driver and express his concerns. But his tilting gaze got stuck half way on what

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Bangladeshi descent found terror guilty

STAR REPORT

A US court in Atlanta yesterday convicted Bangladeshi origin US national Ehsanul Islam Sadeque on terrorism

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

3 suspects arrested

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested three suspects for their involvement in the gang rape of a 14-year-old schoolgirl in Faridpur but the FIR named accused are still at large.

The arrestees are Shourav, an alleged miscreant with knowledge on Internet browsing, Masud and Tushar's brother-in-law Tohu Tohu Kazi alias Tohurul. Police said they would be taken on remand for interrogation.

Locals alleged that though the incident took place on July 9 and the news spread as the rapists took footage of their savagery, uploaded it on Internet and printed CDs, police said they were totally unaware of the incident.

The locals also said when a case was filed with the Faridpur Women and Children Repression Prevention Court on August 11, the rapists were still in their localities and Faridpur town.

"Had police launched a massive dragnet, they could have arrested the two FIR named accused Tushar Khan and Kalam Khan," said a local schoolteacher.

The victim's family members and the locals said after

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

FARIDPUR GANG RAPE

Hunger, threat, shame torment victim's family

SHARIFUL ISLAM and REZAUL KARIM from Faridpur

Family members of the recently gang raped schoolgirl in Faridpur are now facing serious economic hardship as the rickshaw-puller father of the family cannot work following threats to his life.

The family is going through the tremendous social humiliation in empty stomachs, as the sole breadwinner cannot work and the criminals are yet to be arrested.

"It is afternoon. By this time everybody has had their second meal of the day, but I could not even provide a fist full of rice to my five-year-old boy since last night," the mother said as a weak child on her lap uttered, "Ma give me some rice."

The mother said they used to live from hand to mouth on her husband's earnings but he has been unable to work for the last one month after a man identifying himself as Sumon over cellphone threatened to sever his head if he took legal action against the criminals--Tushar Khan and Kalam Khan.

"The caller told my husband that he would chop off his head if he goes to Charbhadrashan to pull his rickshaw," the mother told The Daily Star.

She said she has not cooked anything for the last 15 days, as her husband could not buy anything.

"We have been living on neighbours' handouts," she said. She said they are virtually under self-imposed house arrest as the social humiliation is unbearable.

"How can we go out? Everybody knows our daughter was raped. It would be better for us to die..." the mother said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Since the incident the news spread like wildfire in two upazilas and it finally got to us," she said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

সময়ের শ্রেষ্ঠ বিনিয়োগ

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