

## Foreign enemies

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must have benefited someone. Our enemies have benefited.

"It has to be remembered that Bangladesh is not free from enemies in the international arena. Bangladesh's enemies definitely exist. When Bangladesh's people thought of autonomy by casting vote, Pakistan's occupying forces attacked us. Therefore, there are still many people against us," said Mainul.

Yesterday's BDR Darbar held at the Darbar Hall of the force's headquarters in Pikhana was the first such conference after the bloody mutiny in February, which started from a Darbar at the same place.

The mutiny left 74 people, including 57 top- and mid-ranking army officers including the then DG, killed.

BDR officials said in the history of BDR this is the first time journalists were allowed inside the Darbar Hall during a BDR Darbar.

Explaining the unprecedented presence of journalists in the Darbar Hall, the BDR DG told The Daily Star, "After the mutiny people have become curious about BDR and how it functions and the media have been called in to satisfy their curiosity and to get people more involved in the functioning of BDR."

After the Darbar, the DG met journalists briefly to speak about the programme.

When journalists asked whether foreign enemies were involved in the mutiny, he said, "Under the current global geo-political situation, there exists a power of some sort against each country. I am not saying anything about foreign nationals or people of our own country [were involved in the mutiny]."

"There must be someone working against the sovereignty of the country. Someone must be working against us somehow. That is why soldiers said in Darbar that BDR has not gained anything, so I said surely the enemy of the country has been benefited from the carnage. But I cannot say now the names of the enemies, as I do not know the names. But we certainly have enemies," Gen Mainul said.

Keeping in mind the horror of the mutiny at the Darbar Hall in February, BDR authorities yesterday took huge precautionary measures to ensure security.

Sources said around 2,500 BDR soldiers attended the Darbar and the same number of people from the army, Rab and police were deployed to ensure security in every places there including the main entrances, the arsenal and the kote (ammunition depot).

Emphasising the need for ensuring fair trials for the crimes committed during the mutiny, Gen Mainul told the Darbar, "It is everyone's duty to provide facts about the mutiny if we expect justice."

He asked BDR soldiers at Darbar, "You will give the right information about the mutiny with one hand and receive justice with the other."

Gen Mainul repeatedly said there would be very little possibility of getting justice if BDR personnel do not provide the correct information about the massacre.

Many among the soldiers who attended yesterday's Darbar were also present at the last Darbar in February.

Gen Mainul expressed his disappointment over the lies some soldiers told about the carnage.

Citing an example he said 50 soldiers claimed separately that they took shelter in a bathroom in Pikhana during the period from February 25 afternoon to February 26 but the bathroom only has room for seven people at best.

When The Daily Star asked the DG whether they are facing any large obstacles in getting information and evidence, he said, "We have information and evidence and the CID has got plenty of information and evidence but what we want is spontaneous flow of information."

The BDR DG also said he had observed many of the soldiers prefer to keep quiet when they go on leave or speak to people over phone following the advice of their "well-wishers."

"I would like to tell you clearly that it would be entirely impossible to ensure justice if you hide information whether it is for yourself or for others," said the DG.

He told soldiers, "Leave the friends of outside [people who do not belong to the force] and accept the friends from the inside [people in the force]."

When the soldiers told the DG that they have confidence in him, the DG said, "Take me with you if you have confidence in me, I am with you too, we must ensure justice together."

Forty minutes into his

speech the DG asked journalists to leave the Darbar Hall as he wanted to speak to the soldiers in private about the flow of the information regarding the carnage.

**SITUATION IN BDR**  
The BDR chief asked soldiers over a dozen of questions. The soldiers answered all of them except the one on whether they are discharging their duties like they used to before the mutiny.

After a silence, the DG said, "I know the army, navy and policemen are now discharging their duties at different gates of the Pikhana headquarters and the BDR arsenal and the kote. We have failed, as we could not take up this responsibility, especially in Dhaka. This is a regretful situation for any force."

Through the questions and answers between the DG and the soldiers in the Darbar Hall it was learnt that the BDR soldiers have been getting their salaries, food, rations, have been doing exercises and taking part in sports but they are yet to start discharging their professional duties in Pikhana.

Gen Mainul said the soldiers have not been doing their duties or even cleaning their arms for the last six months in Pikhana.

"Thousands of arms have remained unused for the last six months. Soldiers' arms rusting before their own eyes is a dark chapter for any force," the BDR chief said, adding, "Arms are our power. The government handed those arms over to us to guard the borders."

The BDR DG said when an investigating authority seizes the arms for the soldiers' mistake and those rust and get wasted, nothing could be more tragic for a force.

**SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE MUTINY**

BDR DG Mainul said he observed that when BDR soldiers return to Pikhana after enjoying their vacation, they come in without wearing their Identity Cards.

"When I enquired, the soldiers said they do not wear the IDs outside the compound as they feel ashamed of their identity after the mutiny," he said.

The mutiny stopped the marriage of a BDR soldier's daughter, said the DG citing it as an example of a negative social impact of the mutiny.

He said the groom's family thinks that if the subedar gets arrested for any reason, they would not be able to show their face in society.

**ABOUT THE MUTINY**  
The wife of a freedom fighter, who embraced martyrdom during the Liberation War, wrote to the BDR authorities after they arrested her son, a BDR soldier.

The DG told the soldiers at the Darbar Hall, "She says in the letter that her husband wished his son would serve the country but the BDR authorities arrested that son. She also said that she believes a son of a freedom fighter can never do such an evil act."

"After conducting an investigation, I found that her son with arms and a grenade in hand gave a statement near a Pikhana gate during the mutiny," the DG said, adding, "I had to write to the mother 'your son couldn't uphold the principles and values of your husband.'"

He said it has been evident in different reports and investigations that some BDR soldiers, especially who are young, forced many BDR subedars and other personnel to take up arms and join the mutiny.

"This country is a democratic country, this independence has been gained in exchange of millions of lives. Independence did not come due to anyone's kindness."

"The inciting remarks made against army officers, to show grounds for the mutiny, remind me the statements made during our war of independence," said Mainul, adding, "In those days Al-Badr, Razakar and Al-Shams used to circulate rumours against freedom fighters like it was circulated on February 25."

The BDR DG said most of the BDR force stay at the border operation posts (BOPs). During the mutiny they maintained their chain of command and carried out their duties preventing the inferno of Pikhana to reach the BOPs. "For this reason BDR has been able to function the way it is functioning today and for this reason I was able to hold the Darbar today," he said.

## Criminals

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He sustained bullet injury to his leg, hospital sources said.

Zahir said the criminals demanded Tk 1 lakh a few days ago and threatened him of dire consequences as he refused paying.

Officer-in-Charge of Darussalam Police Station Lutfur Rahman said they picked up two local criminals from the spot for interrogation.

## Rab captures criminal after shooting him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested bullet-hit criminal Al-Amin at Rampura in the capital yesterday.

Also known as Pichchi Al-Amin, 18, of Banasri was accused in several arms, murder and extortion cases with Khilgaon and Rampura police stations.

Al-Amin is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police guard.

Sources said Rab-3 men cordoned off an area in Banasri on information that Amin and his accomplices were holding a meeting around 2:10pm.

Sensing presence of Rab, Amin and his accomplices tried to escape. But Al-Amin sustained bullet injury to his leg when Rab opened fire to arrest them.

Rab personnel said Amin confessed in preliminary interrogation to his involvement in realising extortion from jhoot (garment scrap) traders and garment factories in Rampura and Khilgaon areas.

## TCB fixes

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ministry presided by Commerce Minister Faruk Khan.

TCB will start selling the aforesaid products to dealers from its warehouse on August 19, the release added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce during a separate meeting held at its office yesterday formed four new committees to streamline the government's market vigilance activities in Dhaka.

Headed by a deputy secretary of the ministry, each committee will visit the city's markets to monitor whether price charts are displayed properly in line with the government directives, said another press release issued by the ministry.

The committees will also watch whether anyone is doing brisk business, selling commodities at higher price, selling adulterated products, or manipulating weights.

They will be authorised to take instant actions if anyone is found making a windfall profit keeping the consumers under pressure.

The committees will have to report to commerce ministry and, if necessary, the ministry will take legal steps against the unscrupulous businessmen.

Representatives from different ministries, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka District Commissioner, BSTI, and also the members of law enforcement agencies have been made members of the committees.

The government has also decided to form district taskforces headed by the Deputy Commissioners and upazila taskforces headed by Upazila Nirbahi Officers in each districts and upazilas across the country.

## Army pulled

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official residence Jamuna yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the commission delegation led by its co-chair Lord Eric Avebury apprised the premier of their recent visit to the three hill districts -- Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

The commission hailed the government move to fully implement the CHT peace accord, saying that the progress in the process of implementing the deal is "significant."

Hasina told them that all the people in the hill districts are living there collectively.

"The government is strongly committed to ensuring maximum socioeconomic welfare of everyone living in the hill tracts through implementing the peace accord," she said.

The PM said the government would initiate various development projects, including construction of roads and other necessary infrastructures in the CHT areas, which will create huge employment opportunities for the indigenous as well as the Bengali people there.

She observed that Bangladesh Awami League is a secular democratic party and it believes in people's dignity and rights.

"That's why the previous AL government had been successful in signing the CHT peace accord in 1997 at its own initiative and efforts."

LGRD Minister and AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafat Islam, former adviser Advocate Sultana Kamal and PM's Principal Secretary MA Karim were present.

## Bangladeshi forced

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diplomatic ties with Taiwan, has not taken any steps on his behalf despite India and Philippines taking steps for their citizens who were detained on the same case.

Rezaul was detained on May 3 while working as a second officer for MT Tosa vessel, managed by NYK Line Ship Management Singapore and owned by NYK Line Japan.

However, maritime experts say since the alleged incident took place in international waters, the case jurisdiction lies with the flag state, which is Panama where MT Tosa was registered, or the home state of the person concerned -- Bangladesh, according to the International Maritime Conventions like Conventions on the Law of Sea 1982 or the Convention on the High Seas 1958.

Rezaul said there is no proof of his vessel hitting the trawler on the Simplified Voyage Data Recorder or during the underwater inspection of the ship and fishing trawler by Singapore and Taiwan authorities.

Two other officers -- Master and AB Seaman -- were also detained for allegedly hitting a Taiwanese fishing trawler on April 16, which later capsized and left two Taiwanese fishermen dead.

Hearing of the case will be held on August 20.

NYK Line's country representative Captain Sufian Mahmood said that the allegations have not been proven in court and the Bangladesh government should play a role in bringing back Rezaul.

Rezaul's anxious family in Bangladesh have heard no response from the Bangladesh government despite repeatedly seeking their assistance to bring Rezaul home.

Rezaul's parents, Mohammad Abdur Razzaque and Mahbuba Khanam, sent a letter to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and director general (DG) of Department of Shipping two weeks ago seeking assistance.

Rezaul's family said he is sole breadwinner of the family since his father retired from his job a few months ago.

The company's country representative also sent a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director General (DG) of Department

## Yet another

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Prof Hanif, chairman of the department of Paediatric Nephrology of the hospital, said Cynthia was given Rid Pharma's Temset paracetamol syrup of batch No 5 with manufacturing date May 9, 2009.

Cynthia's grandfather, who himself is a doctor, bought the drug from a nearby village market at the end of July, said Runa Akhter, mother of the unfortunate child.

As many as 26 children died of renal failure after taking Rid Pharma's toxic syrup in July and August in two hospitals in Dhaka and another at her Rangpur residence prompting the government to seal the company's factory on July 22.

Later an official probe on July 29 found presence of toxic compound in Rid's syrup.

Abdul Khayer Chowdhury, assistant director of Bangladesh Drug Administration of Comilla zone, filed a case with Brahmanbaria Court accusing five officials of Rid Pharma on August 11. Four other cases were filed in Dhaka, Sylhet, Comilla and Narayanganj.

In his plea Abdul Khayer informed the court that Paracetamol Syrup of Rid Pharma Ltd has caused death of so many children across the country and the company's all 12 items including vitamin syrups are of low quality.

The items are: Ridaplex (vitamin B-complex syrup), Temset (paracetamol suspension), T-zinc (zinc sulphate syrup), Bromosol (bromohaxin syrup), Resectol 20 (omiprazol capsule), Citapen Cafil (paracetamol tablet), Ridocin (ciprofloxacin tablet), Dioxipac (doxycycline capsule), Ridzol (metronidazole tablet), Thouridec (sheofillin tablet), Banaltab DS (albendazole tablet), and Ridaplex (vitamin B-complex capsule).

Rid Pharmaceutical Limited was established on July 07, 2006 at Nandanpur BSCIC Industrial Estate in Brahmanbaria.

In 1992, at least 339 children died taking toxic paracetamol syrup. The then government cancelled registrations of five pharmaceutical companies in this regard.

of Shipping and Shipping Master, Chittagong on June 23 seeking assistance.

Captain Sufian told The Daily Star the company has been and will continue to support Rezaul and his family.

He said, however, "Although we don't have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, the government should do whatever is needed to secure the earliest release of one of our citizens detained in Taiwan."

Department of Shipping DG Commodore Bazul Rahman told The Daily Star that they are working on it and they are maintaining communication with the vessel company.

"Our boy is not guilty and offence against him cannot be proved," he said adding his company is dealing with the issue as it is supposed to do.

"The government really has nothing to do in these situations. It's the company's duty and the company is doing that," he said adding the company is negotiating with Taiwan to withdraw the case.

Bazul said they would take the next step on the basis of these negotiations.

## Jet Airways

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Jet Airways authorities said another aircraft had landed at ZIA around 5:00pm yesterday to take the stranded passengers of the flight to their destinations.

Wing Commander Saeedul Hasan Khan, director ZIA, told The Daily Star that the nose wheel of the aircraft got stuck in the mushy ground as it was raining then.

After pilot Chowdhury Subroto Kumar informed authorities concerned about the aircraft being stuck, the fire brigade unit of ZIA, engineering division of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Air Force engineering corps rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation.

Sushmita Bhoumik, a passenger of the aircraft, told The Daily Star, "Passengers especially women and children panicked as the aircraft experienced moderate shaking."

"The crew urged us to be calm and advised us to use the emergency exits for safe evacuation," she added.

With utmost effort of the rescuers, all the passengers and crew managed to come out of the aircraft unhurt, Saeedul Hasan Khan said.

The passengers were taken to Balaka, head office of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Saeeduladded.

The plane was towed to a safe area, said airport officials.

Departure of two international flights of Gulf Air and Emirates Airlines and the arrival of three flights had to be suspended, Wing Commander Saeeduladded.

Of the three incoming flights, one Biman flight from Rome was diverted to Chittagong International Airport.

## Bolt shatters

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zone undreamt of before his arrival on the scene.

American Tyson Gay, the 2007 world champion, finished second in 9.71, the second-fastest time ever before Sunday's fireworks and Jamaican Asafa Powell claimed bronze in 9.84.

"It's a great time but I felt good in myself," Bolt told the BBC. "I knew it wasn't going to be an easy race but I did what I had to do."

Bolt, who false-started in the semifinal, made a flying getaway in the final and was clear by 20 metres.

He crossed the line watching the clock before blowing kisses to the crowd, hugging his friend Powell and completing a lap of honour roared on by some 70,000 cheering fans in the Olympic stadium.

## Shopping time

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briefing at the conference room of press information department.

The cabinet also cancelled the decision of presenting report before it on outstanding telephone bills of the members of the parliament (MPs) till the commencement of the eighth parliament.

In 2001, the cabinet made it mandatory that the ministries would place regular reports on the outstanding bills of the MPs before it, Azad said.

The post and telecommunications ministry will now take measures to recover the outstanding bills, he added.

## Nato launches new anti-piracy operation off Somalia

AFP, Lisbon

Nato yesterday launched operation Ocean Shield to help fight rampant piracy off the Horn of Africa after the alliance's North Atlantic Council approved the mission, it said in a statement.

"No timeframe has been set for this long-term operation, which will last as long as it's deemed necessary," Major Stefano Sbaccanti, a spokesman from the alliance's Joint Command Lisbon, told AFP.

It takes over from Nato's sea-based operation Allied Protector, launched last year, but with a new mandate to also "assist regional states, upon their request, in developing their own ability to combat piracy," a statement said.

The operation "will contribute to a lasting maritime security solution off the Horn of Africa," Nato said.

Nato's Joint Command Lisbon is in overall command, with day-to-day operations controlled out of the alliance's Maritime Component Command Headquarters Northwood in Britain.

British, Greek, Italian, Turkish and US warships are involved in Ocean Shield, but "other countries are thinking of coming to reinforce the operation which could evolve at any moment," Sbaccanti said.

The world's naval powers have deployed dozens of warships to the lawless waters off Somalia over the past year to curb attacks by pirates threatening one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes.

Pirates attacked more than 130 merchant ships last year, a rise of more than 200 percent over 2007, according to the International Maritime Bureau.

## BDR mutiny

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the Army Act 1952 or the same law by issuing a notification as per Section 5 of the act," it said.

The SC registrar Shawkat Hossain received the reference from a law ministry official in the afternoon and produced it before Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin.

The chief justice might decide the next course of action on the matter today, added Shawkat.

After forwarding the president's reference to the SC office, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam at his secretariat office told journalists that the president sent the reference to the SC to know whether there is any bar to holding trial of the perpetrators of the BDR mutiny and massacre under the Army Act.

He hoped that the apex court would advise on the matter before it goes into annual vacation on August 28.

The state minister said the government decided to seek SC's opinion through the president lest anyone should challenge the legality of holding the trial under the army act.

He also said people involved in the massacre at the BDR headquarters should be given exemplary punishment.

The government will take steps to hold the trial of the accused as per the apex court's opinion.

## SQ Chy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Shamim Azad around 2:30pm yesterday.

The complainant demanded Tk 10 crore as compensation from the BNP leader for hurting her sentiment by making the offensive comments.

The chief metropolitan magistrate has ordered Metropolitan Magistrate Swapan Kumar Sarkar to make judicial enquiry into the allegation and submit a report on the findings as soon as possible.

The complainant filed the petition under the penal code 500 and 501 stating that Salauddin made offensive remarks while addressing a seminar at the National Press Club, Dhaka on August 13.

In that seminar Salauddin said if 1/11 changeover in the country was necessary then the incidents of August 15, 1975 was also necessary.

The complainant said Salauddin's insolent remarks severely hurt her as it was targeted at the father of the nation and his family members who were killed by a group of misguided army officers on August 15, 1975.

## 31 militants

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broadcast on local television, adding that at least eight people were also injured.

Surviving passengers told AFP they were from the village of Ambar in Mohmand district, where local tribesmen had raised a militia to fight against Islamist extremists.

A Taliban commander from Mohmand called an AFP reporter in Peshawar and claimed responsibility for the bombing.

"The people sitting in the vehicle were from Ambar. These people attacked Taliban," Qari Shakeel said from an undisclosed location.

Earlier the bodies of nine policemen taken hostage last month by separatist rebels were discovered in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province on Monday, a police official said.

"We have recovered nine dead bodies of policemen. They were kidnapped by the Baluchistan Republican Army," said senior local police officer Kaleem Ullah.

The corpses were found in the area of Naseerabad, some 390 kilometres (242 miles) southeast of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan, and the police officers were thought to have been killed about four days ago, Ullah added.

The northwest has seen a wave of suicide blasts and attacks this year, most blamed on Taliban rebels avenging a punishing offensive against them.

Pakistan's military claims to have cleared Swat, Lower Dir and Buner districts of insurgents after launching a push in late April to dislodge extremists bent on imposing a harsh brand of Islamic law in the Swat Valley.

But sporadic outbreaks of fighting continue.

Overnight in Swat's main town Mingora, a suicide bomber blew himself up, wounding four soldiers as they tried to arrest him, a military official said.

In Kabal village about 20 kilometres northwest of Mingora, seven suspected Taliban militants were killed during a gunfight with soldiers late Sunday, the senior official told AFP, asking not to be named.

Elsewhere in the valley, seven fighters were killed by security forces in Shaheed Sar village in northern Swat, the army said in a statement Monday.

Islamabad's attention has now turned to the wild and lawless tribal belt along the Afghan border, the heartland of Pakistan's umbrella organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has alleged links to al-Qaeda.

On Saturday, air strikes by Pakistani fighter jets killed 16 militants and destroyed several Taliban hideouts in tribal South Waziristan.

Security officials had been unable to confirm the deaths until Monday, as the strikes hit a far-flung area largely outside the government's control.

"Pakistani warplanes pounded the Maken area of South Waziristan, killing 16 militants and injuring 30," a local intelligence official told AFP.

A security official confirmed the toll, while locals alleged that civilians had been hurt when the bombs struck a bazaar, clinic and hotel.

In an apparent blow for the militants, TTP chief Baitullah Mehsud was this month reported killed in a US drone missile strike in South Waziristan.

The prime minister also said India faced another serious challenge from left-wing extremism, namely Maoists who have inflicted heavy casualties on security forces.

India's Maoists, also known as the Naxals, say they are fighting for the rights of neglected tribal people and landless farmers.

They are now active in more than half of the country's 29 states -- particularly in the east, the poorest part of India.

Estimates of their numbers nationwide range between 10,000 and 20,000, but little is known about their shadowy leadership.

To deal with the Maoist crisis, Chidambaram announced a multi-pronged strategy at the summit.

"We will talk, we will act, we will restore order and we will undertake developmental activities in Naxal-hit areas," he said.