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**BDR TRIAL
SC decides today on reference**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) is set to decide today its next course of action on the president's reference seeking the apex court's opinion on whether the people charged with mutiny and massacre at the BDR headquarters can be tried under the military law.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**AUG 21 ATTACK
Cases shifted from speedy trial court**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The August 21 grenade attack cases were sent back from speedy trial tribunal to the previous courts yesterday, as the trial of the cases would not be completed in 135 workdays as per the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act.

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**CHT PEACE ACCORD
Implement to ensure justice for all**

Lord Avebury stresses need for strategic framework so none can reverse the process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should have a strategic framework to implement the CHT Peace Accord and should implement it in such a way that ensures justice for all so that none can reverse the process, said Lord Eric Avebury.

Avebury, co-chair of the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission, said this while talking to The Daily Star after a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on the CHT Commission's recent six-day visit to the three hill districts.

"The government [Awami League-led] in their earlier tenure signed the Peace Accord, and now initiated its implementation. So it should have a timeframe, say four years, for its completion so that the next government, even with different ideology cannot reverse it," he said when asked about BNP's opposition of the



Lord Eric Avebury

CHT Peace Accord implementation.

Different political parties have different ideologies and a democratic government will do what it thinks best, he said.

"Therefore, the present government should have a strategic framework, and set appropriate rules to settle the land disputes based on justice," Avebury said.

CHT Commission co-chairs Ida Nicolaisen and Sultana Kamal. The Sami Parliament President Lars Ander Baer of Sweden, Hideaki Uemura of Japan, Shapan Adnan and Sara Hossain are also included in the commission's tour.

Members of the commission, which was formed in Copenhagen in the 90's to create pressure on the then Bangladesh government to stop human rights violations in CHT, also met the prime minister, foreign minister,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Ashraf expects nat'l dialogue on CG system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said a national dialogue could be held to decide the fate of the non-party caretaker government system.

"The Election Commission (EC) can hold the national dialogue with all political parties on whether the caretaker government system will remain or not," Ashraf, also LGRD and Cooperatives minister, said while speaking at a discussion.

Awami Jubo League organised the discussion at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh marking the 34th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15.

The AL general secretary observed that the caretaker government system was launched for an experiment. But this system has failed for three times, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Govt moves to clamp down on outlaws

Police, Rab chiefs hold meeting in Kushtia tomorrow; 228 killed in southwestern districts since January

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Top bosses of different law enforcement agencies are set to hold a meeting with the police officials of 10 southwestern districts in Kushtia tomorrow amidst an alarming resurgence of so-called outlawed gangs.

Inspector General of Police and Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) are scheduled to reach Kushtia tomorrow while the superintendents of police (SPs) of these districts have been asked to be present also.

The districts are Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat since January this year. At least 228 people were killed in these districts since January this year.

Khulna Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Sheikh Hemayat Hossain confirmed about the schedule but declined to disclose any details of the meeting's agenda to the press.

At least five out of 12 outlawed parties have backed to crime spree after further regrouping under the command of 20 kingpins in southwestern region in recent months, the DIG said. "We've put in our best efforts to root out activities of these parties but it is not possible to do so

overnight as this menace is there for about 40 years." A special operation of police to nab all the listed criminals is on track, he said.

Sources close to the outlawed party men and law enforcement agencies pointed fingers at a group of political leaders who allegedly give patronage to the outlawed cadres to get 'benefits' by using their strength.

With the number of killings on the rise, the law and order situation in 10 southwestern districts is getting deteriorated--Kushtia being the worst victim, sources said.

According to police records and press reports, at least 228 persons were killed in the region in last seven and a half months. Of them, around 150 were killed, some of them brutally, by the outlawed party cadres.

In most of the cases, different factions of the outlawed parties almost immediately claimed responsibility for such killings. Tenders of construction work, establishing control over bus and ferry terminals, roads and bazars and extracting illegal tolls are said to be the reasons behind most of these killings.

The five outfits that become criminally active in recent months are Purbo Banglar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A mobile court accompanied by Rab-2 and BSTI officials in an anti-adulteration drive yesterday conducted a raid on the factory of Enni Food Product Company Ltd in the city's Badda and recovered different food items in unhygienic condition. The court arrested Mohammad Enayet Hossain from the spot and awarded him three months' imprisonment along with a fine of Tk 1 lakh, in default of which he will have to suffer one more year in jail. PHOTO: STAR

Sue river sand lifters

BIWTA writes to police stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in a letter has asked four police stations to take legal actions against any unauthorised sand lifting from Buriganga and Turag river beds near Basila and Jhaochar.

BIWTA Senior Deputy Director Md Golam Kabir, who is Dhaka River Port Officer, informed the officers-in-charge of Keraniganj, Keraniganj Model, Kamrangirchar and Hazaribagh police stations that no organisation has permission at present to extract sand from the riverbeds stretching from Kholamora to Basila. The said river area is a part of Dhaka River Port.

The letter dated August 10 mentioned that any sand extraction in the said river areas at the moment would be illegal and violation of port act, port rules and inland water transport ordinance of 1976 and requested the police to take legal action against any illegal operation and owners of dredgers used for sand lifting.

The letter said that a work order was issued to Messrs Ali

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

Baby girl molested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-year old girl was molested by a 16-year old boy in Savar yesterday morning.

The victim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she was seen screaming in pain in a bed in the afternoon. Her taxicab driver father, and grandparents were not being able to stop her from screaming, the pain was so severe.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing		
August 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-38	7-41
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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FARIDPUR GANG RAPE IO closed for torture on remanded accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Charvadrason police station in Faridpur who is the investigation officer (IO) of the sensational gang rape case was closed yesterday for torturing three men accused in the case during remand.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Faridpur Mizanur Rahaman told reporters that the OC, Ariful Haque, was closed and attached to Faridpur Police Lines.

Another officer, Azim Uddin, has taken over as the OC of Charvadrason police station and also the charge of investigation of the case.

Sources said that the closed OC Haque had also picked up the victim's father to Charvadrason police station on August 11 following filing of the case and detained him at the police station for about 15 hours in the name of interrogation.

The victim's father later said that during these 15 hours he was not served any food.

Sources said following the torture of the three suspects --

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you support the Prime Minister's decision of keeping markets and shopping malls open till 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays during Ramadan?

Yes (69.29%) No (20.66%)
 No Comments (10.05%)

Total votes: 547

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam that the country's foreign enemies benefited from the Pilkhna massacre on February 25-26?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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