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Mutiny trial set to start in late Nov

Three-member BDR court to try 4,000 at 41 places

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) is set to try around 4,000 soldiers on charge of the February 25-26 mutiny from late November or early December.

A three-member court led by BDR Director General Maj Gen M Mainul Islam will sit in Dhaka and 40 other places across the country to conduct the much talked-about trial.

A highly-placed source says the paramilitary force will constitute the court next month by incorporating two BDR officers each from Lt Col and Major rank.

The BDR highest court is empowered by its laws to try those who are accused only of mutiny and committing some small offences. This implies that some accused mutineers need to be tried at the Speedy Trial Tribunal under the penal



code for heinous offences like killing, looting and arson during the carnage at Pithkhan Headquarters.

Speaking anonymously, a BDR top official says this is the first-ever instance in the history of the border guards that the trial of such a magnitude will be held under both the BDR and civil laws.

Insiders say among the BDR barracks elsewhere in the country the authorities

have identified 40 places of occurrence where the three-member court will conduct trial one by one.

"There is no timeframe to complete the trial, but definitely we would try to do justice as quickly as possible ensuring every right of the accused," says the BDR top official. It's going to be an "open trial" and to ensure its transparency and accountability the people concerned would be allowed to observe the court proceedings, the official adds.

As the court would deal with a large number of accused, it is almost impossible to forecast how long it will take to dispose the cases, continues the BDR official involved in the trial.

So far 1,700 BDR personnel have been arrested in different stations outside Dhaka and another 2,000 have been

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Land grabbers dump dirt on the Turag around Shinnirtek landing station of Dhaka circular waterway at Diabari of Mirpur under the very nose of BIWTA. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DST change awaits cabinet decision

Clock won't go back by 1-hr from Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is not putting back the clock by one hour from October 1, instead it continues the Daylight Saving Time (DST) measure till the cabinet makes a fresh decision.

The Daily Star Friday reported that the clock would go back an hour from October 1. But following the report, the power ministry yesterday said the clock will not be put back an hour till the cabinet reviews the DST measure and makes a fresh decision.

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Hasina invites US investment

Bangladesh proved resistant to global economic meltdown, she tells investors

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked US investors to consider Bangladesh as their next Asian investment destination, saying that her country's economy proved shock-resistant amid the global economic meltdown.

"You can rest assured that you will have the full welcome and support of my government," she said at a seminar on 'Why Bangladesh is an Attractive Investment Destination' at Hotel Grand Hyatt Thursday afternoon.

US-based money transmitter Trans-Fast sponsored the talk attended by representatives from leading financial companies, including JP

Morgan.

Prime Minister's son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, who lives in America, also made a presentation at the investment-promotion seminar arranged on the sidelines of the current UN General Assembly session she is attending.

Hasina highlighted Bangladesh's three key attractions for global investors and multinationals - low cost labour, large domestic market and market access to nearly three billion people in Asia.

She said it is credible for Bangladesh to emulate Vietnam's foreign direct investment (FDI) performance of tenfold increase over

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PM talks road transit, trade with Nepal

UNB, New York

Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal sought cooperation of Bangladesh in maintaining peace and stability in the transitional times of his country and strengthening its democratic foundations.

Madhav Kumar expressed the wish during his talks with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the United Nations bilateral booth Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

During the meeting, Madhav Kumar and Hasina discussed a wide range of

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Dengue back in capital

Some 10-15 patients seek treatment at hospitals every day

ALPHA ARZU

Patients with dengue fever in city hospitals are on the rise as this mosquito-borne disease takes a turn for the worse with the advent of monsoon, medical experts said.

Doctors at different hospitals and clinics said that on average 10 to 15 patients are coming to hospitals with dengue fever every day.

A medical officer of Shishu Hospital said, "If the condition of patients is serious we advise them to get admitted into the hospital, otherwise we discourage any admission as it is a mosquito-borne disease and might infect other child patients."

Only 11 patients were admitted to the hospital till Thursday night, said the on-duty doctor.

Dr Saroj, senior medical officer of Shomorita Hospital, told The Daily Star yesterday that at least 20 dengue patients had

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LAW COMMISSION PMO moves to remove problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister's office has taken initiative to remove problems like manpower shortage, fund crisis and poor logistic support in the law commission and help it function properly.

The PMO in a letter asked the authorities concerned of the government to immediately take steps to remove the problems.

The initiative was made following a report submitted by the reconstituted body of the law commission that

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2 BDR jawans die of 'liver cancer'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two BDR jawans died of 'liver cancer' in the city during the last two days.

The deceased were identified as nayek Md Moslehuddin, 47, of 43 Rifles Battalion in Naogaon, and havildar Aminul Islam, 48, of 38 Rifles Battalion of Sylhet, said BDR press releases.

Moslehuddin was admitted to BDR hospital on August 17. He was shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on September 2 as his condition deteriorated.

Later, he was taken to National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital at Mohakhali on September 17, where he died at about 9:15am yesterday.

Moslehuddin's body was sent to his village home at Dhanua village of Bhola under BDR management.

He will be buried at his family graveyard, the release said.

Aminul Islam was admitted to Dhaka Medical College

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A nearby mosque is allegedly backing this Eidgah at Block-D of Mirpur-6 to be used as a kitchen market. DCC's permission is required for setting up such markets. No Eid-ul-Fitr prayers were held there this year.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Party men attack Ctg mayor's meeting venue

His talks with SQ Chy spark discontent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League men loyal to AL lawmaker Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu attacked a public meeting of Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at Puratan Bridgeghata of Charpathar Ghata in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

The attack took place after discontent brewed in Chittagong AL over CCC Mayor Mohiuddin meeting BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury a day after Eid.

Mohiuddin, president of Chittagong city unit of AL, had called the public meeting.

The AL men loyal to Babu attacked the meeting with the mayor present around 3:30pm. They vandalised the sitting arrangement in the back rows, drove away some of the audiences and even threw chairs at the stage where Mohiuddin along with some other leaders were sitting.

They chanted slogans against Mohiuddin, who had to flee the onslaught before those loyal to him could resist and trigger a factional clash, the sources said.

Later the mayor was able to hold the meeting without further interruption.

No casualties were reported.

CCC Mayor Mohiuddin hosted a dinner party for BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury at his Chittagong home Tuesday night. This triggered a strong resentment and protest

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Rab men shoot 3 robbers in counter attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three alleged robbers were injured in a fight with Rab members on Humayun Road in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday.

Injured Shakil, 21, Rana, 27, and Faruque, 23, of Mohammadpur were admitted to Pongu Hospital with bullet wounds in hands and legs.

Sources said Rab-2 received information that a gang was preparing to commit a crime near block-B in the area.

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2 outlaws killed in 'shootouts'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two outlaws were killed in separate "shootouts" with police in Kushtia in the early hours of yesterday.

They are Aroz Ali, 36, and Edu Mondol, 40. Both were members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party.

Police said Aroz came in the line of fire as a gunfight ensued between his cohorts and the members of Kushtia sadar police at Mollateghori in Kushtia town.

One shutter gun, four bullets and two improvised bombs were recovered from the spot.

He was accused in seven cases including three for murders and four for extortions filed with Gangni Police Station in Meherpur and Kushtia Sadar Police Station.

In another incident, Edu was shot dead in Mirpur upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, police cordoned off a field at Ursha as a

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11 lakh ultra poor to get work from October 15

Areas affected by Monga, Aila get preference

PORIMOL PALMA

Around 11.20 lakh people are going to be brought under the newly devised "Employment Generation Programme (EGP) for Hardcore Poor" starting on October 15 to help the poor in lean seasons and improve rural infrastructure.

Initially, the programme will be implemented for one and a half months on pilot basis in 124 upazilas of five monga-prone northern districts and 11 Aila-hit coastal districts. A total of Tk 1120 crore has been

allotted for the beneficiaries while Tk 56 crore for administrative cost.

The government will execute the EGP in March-April next year. The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management has already finalised the EGP policy.

The programme will be implemented in two phases--first during September-November and the second in March-April. In around five months of these two seasons, more poor people become unemployed.

As per the policy, unemployed and

unskilled poor of ages between 18 and 60 and landless and marginal farmers will be eligible for the programme. However, those already benefiting from other safety net programmes cannot be registered for EGP and at least one-third of the total beneficiaries should be female.

For a seven-hour work day, each person under the programme will get Tk 100 for a period of 30 days, said officials at the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management. The marginal farmers and

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Drug peddler dies in Rab custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged drug peddler died yesterday at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in custody of Rapid Action Battalion.

Doctors on duty at the hospital declared Abul Kalam Azad alias Raju, 40, dead after a team of Rab-1 took him to the hospital at about 11:00am.

Commander SM Abul Kalam Azad, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told The Daily Star that Raju was caught red-handed selling drugs in the city's Uttara

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