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Interrogation cell at BDR HQ closed
80 jawans appeal for retracting confession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to shut the temporary Taskforce for Interrogation cell, set up at Bangladesh Rifles headquarters after the February 25-26 mutiny last year.

A three-member committee, headed by Additional Home Secretary Md Ghulam Hussain, took the decision at a meeting at the home ministry on Tuesday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

16 jawans confess to BDR mutiny

Beg mercy from Satkhira special court

STAR REPORT

Sixteen BDR jawans of 7 Rifle Battalion yesterday admitted to their involvement in mutiny and begged for mercy in writing before BDR Special Court-1 in Satkhira just a day after they pleaded not guilty.

This is the first instance that any suspected BDR mutineers admitted to their guilt since the trial began in four BDR courts on November 24 last year.

The three-member court headed by BDR Director General M Mainul Islam received sixteen petitions for mercy, reports our Satkhira

correspondent.

The court said it would consider the petitions as per the BDR Act.

Sixteen of the sixty accused BDR jawans of 7 Rifle Battalion submitted the mercy petitions to the court confessing to their involvement in the BDR mutiny at Nildumur of Shyamnagar upazila on February 26 last year.

In their statements, they said they took part in the revolt in gross violation of the BDR Act at the instigation of other mutineers and out of greed.

The BDR jawans include Lance Nayek Minhaj Uddin, Nayek Subedar Akmal Hossain,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Religion studies at primary level: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will introduce religion studies at primary level through the new education policy and raise allowances for the imams.

The government will also chalk out plans and programmes for creating employment opportunities for all who are educated on madrasa and other religious curricula, she said.

"You [imams] are the real

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Dhaka City expansion plan revealed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament said that her government has a mega-city plan to expand the areas of Dhaka city.

Hasina also said her government had taken massive initiatives to digitise land survey records in efforts to build modern land administration.

The government is seriously considering giving approval to the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (1995-2005) covering 1528 square kilometre, she said.

According to the plan, boundary of Dhaka city will be extended to Shitalakhya river, a part of Sonargaon thana, Meghna river in the east, Bongshi river in the west, Dhaleshwari rivers both in the west and south, and north boundary of Gazipur municipality.

EXPANDED BOUNDARY

EAST: Shitalakhya, Meghna rivers

WEST: Bongshi, Dhaleshwari rivers

NORTH: Gazipur municipality

SOUTH: Dhaleshwari river

As per the plan, municipalities of Narayanganj, Tongi, Gazipur, Savar, Kadamrasul, Siddhirganj and Tarabo will be incorporated into Dhaka City Corporation.

"The government is planning to build several satellite towns under the plan and those will be implemented in phases," she said in a scripted answer.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

FREE TEXTBOOK Edn official suspended for delayed distribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka district education officer was suspended yesterday on charges of negligence in duties, irregularities and delay in textbook distribution.

The decision to suspend Ruhul Amin Khan came at a meeting of the high-powered national monitoring committee on printing, preservation and distribution of textbooks for 2010 academic year at the secretariat.

"He was suspended on 'specific' allegations of negligence in distributing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority excavates the Turag river as part of Dhaka Circular Waterways project. The photo taken recently shows a scavenger piling up soil removed from the riverbed right on the bank.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

DU VIOLENCE 20 armed cadres identified

KAILASH SARKAR and RAKIB AHAMMED

Police have identified 20 persons who wielded firearms and various sharp weapons during Monday's clashes between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on Dhaka University campus.

Among them, the three arm-wielding men seen in newspaper photos and TV footages of the clashes were identified as former leaders of JCD, the student wing of BNP.

They are former JCD organising secretary Ahsan Uddin Shipon and assistant organising secretary Abdul Halim Khokan, and Khaleda Zia Mukti Parishad leader Saiduzzaman Pasha.

Apart from the mysterious inaction of law enforcers, the whole incident now seems even more mysterious as a number of leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League equipped with firearms and sharp weapons were found involved in the clashes.

Ramna Zone Additional Deputy Commissioner Nurul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday evening that they identified around

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

PM for action, Khaleda wants judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked authorities concerned to take tough actions against people involved in Monday's violence on Dhaka University campus while BNP chief Khaleda Zia demanded a judicial enquiry into the attack on Chhatra Dal leaders that day.

"Students should concentrate on studies. Their involvement in violence and criminal activities in educational institutions across the country would not be tolerated and tough actions will be taken against them irrespective of their political affiliations,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CTG TEST Tigers up against history

BISHWAJIT ROY from Ctg

Gautam Gambhir slammed a blazing hundred as India tightened their grip on the first Test against Bangladesh at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in the port city yesterday.

Gambhir's 116, his fifth in as many Tests, saw the visitors putting up a commanding total of 413-8 before stand-in captain Virender Sehwag declared the innings minutes

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Brac chief for unity among NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac chairperson and founder Fazle Hasan Abed yesterday said NGOs should remove all sorts of differences between them and unite to work for the country's development.

"From the very beginning of the country's freedom, NGOs have been working with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

JS passes nat'l ID registration bill

ID card with 15-yr validity; punitive action for giving false info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a bill keeping a provision for registration of national identity and issuance of identity cards to all citizens of Bangladesh.

As per the bill, the government will issue national identity cards to all citizens and the cards will remain valid for 15 years since its issuance.

However, no gazette notification will be issued making it mandatory for the citizens to show or submit the cards to get access to any service or facility before the completion of issuance of cards to all citizens, said a provision of the bill.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed proposed the bill and it was passed by voice votes.

The bill also has the provision for punitive measures against those who will distort information on the cards by giving false information to the registration authorities. One cannot have more than one card.

The bill empowered the Election Commission (EC) look after all procedures of registration till the issuance of the identity cards. The government departments and individuals concerned will assist the commission in this regard.

According to the provisions of the bill, the card of an individual will be cancelled if he or she loses citizenship.

If an individual loses the cards, they can apply for a fresh card with payment of a certain amount of fee, said the bill.

The EC has already prepared over eight crore ID cards since 2007. The previous caretaker government promulgated an ordinance to this end, which has ceased to have effect from February 25, as it was not ratified in parliament within the stipulated timeframe.

On expiry of the effectiveness of the ordinance, the government placed a bill on October 28 last year to make laws on registration of national identity.

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shop corner 24 hours security system
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location map:



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