



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Star Campus

PHILIPS
DVD Player
RSP: 4,250/-
Customer Service Department: 8853366-8, 01712-665463
TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 52

DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2010

FALGUN 23, 1416 BS

RABIUL AWAL 20, 1431 HIJRI

28 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00

JS body vows action against CHT arsonists

To discuss hills violence with PM on March 9

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Rangamati and Khagrachhari

A parliamentary panel yesterday assured the arson victims here of efforts to ensure a proper probe into the recent spate of violence and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

The standing committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs ministry gave the assurance while visiting the areas affected by the recent fighting between settlers and indigenous people.

Mohammad Shah Alam, who led the five-member team in the daylong visit, told newsmen, "We are here to gather information. The culprits in the arson will be identified and given exemplary punishment."

The committee members went to Baghahat of Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila in the morning and the affected neighbourhoods in Khagrachhari town in the afternoon.

They had separate meetings with indigenous people and Bangalee settlers in the areas where rioting and arson cost three lives in February.

The committee told the press that they would meet Prime

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



This part of the Buriganga, to the west of the first Buriganga Bridge, is being filled for a BIWTA-authorized tax collection centre, inset. The BIWTA is entrusted with preserving and managing rivers in and around the capital. The photo was taken yesterday. The Daily Star published a photo of this encroachment on October 17, 2009. Despite government order and court ruling against river filling, it seems nobody is there to save the city's lifeline.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Sylhet tension may boil over into major conflict'

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh Rifles has recommended that the government take diplomatic steps immediately to see the Indian Border Security Force change its aggressive attitude on the Jointapur border in Sylhet.

In a letter to the ministries of home and foreign affairs, BDR Chief Md Mainul Islam said if BSF continues to act aggressively, it might trigger off a major border conflict anytime.

BDR officials said frequent intrusion and killings of Bangladeshis in indiscriminate firing by BSF heightened tension on Jointapur border.

BSF members in the bordering area have been very aggressive since early February to capture

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Policy friendly, BSF unfriendly

BDR chief points at need for making the border guards aware of Delhi's intention; plans to take it up during 6-day meeting of two frontier forces in India from today

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam said the desire of Bangladesh and Indian governments for a new phase in bilateral relations should travel down to all levels of Indian border guards.

Unfortunately, this common desire has not been echoed in many cases in the field level personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) of India, he observed.

Referring to the desire reflected in the joint declaration of Bangladesh and India during the first Delhi visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January, the BDR chief expressed the hope the same would be reflected in all levels of BSF.

"This desire is reciprocal, never one-sided," Gen Mainul told The Daily Star on



Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam

Thursday before his visit to New Delhi today to attend a six-day DG level conference between BDR and BSF.

He was talking at his office about his first fully-fledged meeting with his Indian counterpart. He will lead a 19-member delegation comprising high officials of

BDR, home ministry, foreign ministry, Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission and Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

"We have hundred percent will to fulfil the desire of the two leaders of the two countries. But in many cases we don't see the same spirit in the ground level on their side," observed the BDR DG.

He put emphasis on "political will" to solve the problem and improve border situation.

"But this will should be communicated with the true spirit of the political decisions," he said, adding, it is necessary to build confidence between the two nations.

"I would like to tell my counterpart that they must understand the spirit of the two prime ministers," he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BNP terms it delayed step

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque here yesterday raised doubt about the neutrality of Speaker Abdul Hamid.

He also termed "a late step" the speaker's recent move against unruly behaviour of lawmakers and use of indecent words on the floor of parliament.

Zainul asked, "Why didn't he [the speaker] take steps against the leader of the House and some senior lawmakers of treasury bench who made disrespectful remarks about late president Ziaur Rahman during our absence in the last sessions of parliament?"

He was addressing a discussion on "Present Perspective: Future of Democracy and Our Duty" organised by Swadhinata Forum Chittagong

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

TACKLING INVECTIVE

Speaker amply empowered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad provides the speaker with sweeping authority to maintain order during debates in parliament and punish errant legislators.

According to the rules of procedure, the speaker may withdraw or suspend a lawmaker from the House for his or her disorderly behaviour.

But non-enforcement of the rules, gave room for the shocking event on Wednesday that undermined the sanctity of the House, observed senior parliamentarians.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Historic March 7 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic 7th March. On this day in 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared, "Ebarer Sangram Amader Muktir Sangram, Ebarer Sangram Swadhinatar Sangram" (the struggle this time is for our liberation, the struggle this time is for independence).

The watershed speech at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

TRIAL OF ELECTORAL OFFENCES Law ministry against EC plan to empower executive magistrates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry has opposed the Election Commission's move to empower executive magistrates to hold trial of some electoral offences in mobile courts in city corporation polls saying it contradicts the Code of Criminal Procedure, said EC officials.

"In the draft rules for conducting city corporation polls, the commission gave executive magistrates the authority to hold trial of some electoral offences. But the Code of Criminal Procedure doesn't approve of such delegation," a senior EC official told The Daily Star last week referring to the law ministry's opinion.

Executive magistrates presiding over mobile courts cannot sentence anyone more than two years' imprisonment. But the EC draft rules

allowed them to hold trial of those electoral offences for which an individual could face up to seven years' imprisonment.

The EC sent the draft rules to the law ministry for vetting. The ministry disagreed over the commission's move saying the electoral offences should be tried summarily according to the Code of Criminal Procedure, said the EC officials.

Legal experts said the Code of Criminal Procedure clearly specifies the functions and jurisdictions of judicial and executive magistrates, and does not allow executive magistrates to hold trial of any electoral offence or imprison such offenders.

On receipt of the law ministry's opinion at the end of last month, the EC officials have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Hasina renews pledge for dev Inaugurates work schemes for jobless in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said none would be allowed to play ducks and drakes with people's lot.

"Terrorists and the corrupt will not get shelter on the soil of Bangla. None will be given chance to play ducks and drakes with people's fate. Bangladesh will be a developed, prosperous and poverty-free Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Bangabandhu," she told a huge public rally.

The rally was held at Kurigram Government Degree College on the occasion of her visit to the northern district to inaugurate the newly conceived National Service Programme for giving works to the jobless in the lean period under a social safety net scheme.

Listing newer packages of development programmes, Hasina reaffirmed her commitment to work for the cause of people's welfare without indulging in corruption.

"We came to power aiming to work for the people, not for making money," she said at an exchange-of-views meeting with district government officials at the circuit house.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

www.modhumotigroup.com

Partner of national development

Modhumoti Eco-City
Planned eco-city of Modhumoti Group
(In different Zillas & Upazillas of Bangladesh)

To meet your long cherished dream of home
Think Modhumoti Eco - City,
Planned eco-city of Modhumoti Group

Integrated housing comprising Row-House / Duplex (with land), Flat, Plot, Shopping Complex with modern eco-friendly civic amenities.

Our Office remains open everyday (9am - 9pm) including holiday.
Transport facility is available for site visit (9am - 5pm).

MODHUMOTI GROUP
For the development of the country and the society

Corporate Office : 25/2 Green Road (Between Road no. 6 & 7), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Phone : 8624607-8, 8620455, 8620466, 9671044, 9671175, Mobile : 01713-017368, 01819-411099, 01711-541689, 01711-385974, 01715-407345, 01711-312423, 01714-013566, 01713-048905, 01712-261284, 01714-005792, 01714-043369, 01199-824562, 01711-359309, 01556-332601, 01552-471740, 01552-449080, 01720-052633, 01818-985094, 01717-534530, 01815-691765, 01718-532454, 01712-927235, 01718-340302, Fax : 880-2-8629141, E-mail: info@modhumotigroup.com

Star HELPLINE

YOU cannot get work done unless you pay bribes? You are being diagnosed wrongly for your illness or your hospital sends you false bills? You are being harassed at the land office? You had a nasty delay at a government office which could have been avoided easily?

Every day of our life, we face such troubles, stumbling blocks which cost us time and money. Such corruptions and harassments should be exposed so that the system is corrected.

We at **The Daily Star** want to help you out by reporting on such injustices if proven correct.

Write to us about your trouble story with evidence. We will follow the clue and dig out the whole story. Your complaints must be authentic and backed by proof.

dshelpline@thedailystar.net