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## BDR jawans to get back arms soon

### They will also get Pilkhana's security charges again

**KAILASH SARKAR**

The Bangladesh Rifles authorities will soon start handing over firearms to the jawans at the Pilkhana headquarters. Gradually the jawans will also be given security charges.

Thirty-three jawans were given firearms for a few minutes yesterday during the Independence Day guard of honour.

This was the first time that BDR soldiers were given weapons to carry after they had to surrender their weapons following the February 25-26 mutiny last year, in which at least 73 people, including 57 army officers, were killed.

"A process to formally hand over firearms to the jawans in phases is going on," BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam told The Daily Star.

The BDR jawans had taken part in last year's Independence Day guard of honour without arms.

However, jawans deployed in bordering areas are armed.

The BDR chief said the authorities have decided to install archways at all the entrances to the Pilkhana headquarters and deploy BDR soldiers, replacing the armed forces personnel who have been providing security at the entrances since the mutiny.

Sources said the armed forces personnel would be deployed inside Pilkhana.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Yesterday was the 40th Independence Day of Bangladesh. Flowers at the National Mausoleum, the pride and symbol of country's independence, seem to bloom in honour of the Liberation War martyrs. People pay tribute to the war heroes by placing wreaths here and remember the war with joy and sadness. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Children must know real history of independence

### PM tells rally of children, youths

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the children to prepare themselves to lead the country in the near future and free the country from poverty and hunger.

"You will build the country as a developed and prosperous one by 2021. I have strong optimism that you will be able to do it. So, prepare yourselves in that direction," she said addressing the National Children-Youths rally at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The PM said the children of the country will have to grow up fit to lead the country. They have to know the real history of the country.

"It is our responsibility to provide the real history of the country and of its independence," she said adding that the guardians and teachers have a vital role to play in this regard.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## AL, BNP men clash over celebration

### 19 hurt in 2 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 19 people were injured as Awami League and BNP activists clashed during Independence Day programmes in Cox's Bazar and Noakhali yesterday.

A Cox's Bazar correspondent reports: At least nine people were injured in a clash between AL and BNP in Teknaf upazila over playing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech.

The clash erupted when Teknaf upazila BNP leader Zafar Alam turned off Bangabandhu's speech which was being played through a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Call for quick trial of war criminals

### Nation celebrates Independence Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation paid tribute to its Liberation War martyrs yesterday celebrating the 40th Independence Day, with citizens of all walks of life expressing their expectation that the government will soon start fair and expeditious trials of war criminals.

Hundreds of thousands of people of different generations thronged Liberation War memorials across the country all through the day.

Amid the jubilant celebration of independence and solemn remembrance of the martyrs a feeling of resurgence of the spirit of the Liberation War permeated the country.

This year Independence Day was observed at a time when the government had initiated

the process for trying the war criminals by forming a tribunal, an investigation agency, and a prosecution team.

On March 26, 1971 valiant Bangalees of the then East Pakistan, on declaration of independence by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, picked up arms to resist Pakistani occupation forces, who had unleashed a genocide on the Bangalees the night before.

Victory was finally achieved on December 16 after a nine-month long struggle, and Bangladesh was born.

Yesterday began with 31 gun salutes at dawn in the capital, while President Zillur Rahman, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar, and stood in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Sylhet Women's College Prime suspect of teacher murder held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Kotwali police Thursday night arrested the prime suspect and his accomplice from the city's Chara Dighirpar area for killing a Sylhet Government Mohila College teacher.

The arrestees, Dulal Ahmed, son of Habib Ullah, and his associate Ataul Gani alias Umon, are activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Ali.

With the arrest of the two, a total of three people have been detained in connection with the killing of Harun-Ur-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Ashraf asks BNP to provide info on war criminals

### Says int'l standards will be maintained in trial; Delwar says 'no objection' to fair trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday called on the main opposition BNP to come forward with information about war criminals.

He also dismissed BNP's doubts about transparency and fairness of the investigation in the much-awaited war crimes trial.

The trial process will be hundred percent transparent. International standards will be maintained at every phase, and there will be observers from abroad as well, added Syed Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister.

He made the remarks while speaking to reporters first at the National Mausoleum in Savar and later at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi.

The same day BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said his party has no objection to a fair trial of the war criminals.

But, he added, the question is whether the investigation and the trial would be transparent.

Talking to the media after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, he also said, "I think no one will oppose trial of the real war criminals."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## APOLOGY

Due to delay in packaging and distribution failure, many of our readers did not get our gift -- National Flag -- with yesterday's issue while in many areas the paper reached very late. We express our profound apology for the inconvenience caused to our valued readers.

## Boy beaten to death

### Mason murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction workers yesterday beat an adolescent boy to death at Badda for his alleged attempt to steal a cell phone while a mason was stabbed to death at Khilgaon in the capital.

In another incident, an angry mob caught two muggers and beat them up after they fired shots at a plastic

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Agitated miners of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company block Phulbaria-Parbatipur rail line with trees Thursday night. The photo was taken yesterday around 11:00am. PHOTO: STAR

## Barapukuria miners block roads, rail

### Strike enters day-4 as talks fail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Local miners of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) had blocked the rail and road communication after the mediation meeting with two state ministers ended without any outcome Thursday night.

As the talks ended inconclusively around 9:30pm, the miners, who work under Chinese contractor company CMC-XMC Consortium of BCMCL, brought out a procession in BCMCL area. Most of them were carrying sticks.

They blocked the rail line and Barapukuria-Madhyapara link road felling hundreds of trees.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Nurul Islam, station master of Phulbari Rail Station, told The Daily Star that rail communication with Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi and other northern and southern districts remained suspended since Thursday night.

The officials and staff of BCMCL and CMC-XMC remained confined to the company complex for the fourth day of the miners' strike yesterday.

The miners went for the strike Monday midnight demanding pay hike according to a 2008 agreement signed by BCMCL, CMC-XMC and Bangladeshi miners.

## Reckless driving destroys a family

### 2 sisters die in another accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, his pregnant wife and their child were killed yesterday morning as a bus hit the motorbike they were riding on Dhaka-Khulna Highway at Sonakur in Gopalganj.

The wife, Sheuli Akhter, 27, gave birth to a stillborn baby soon after the accident and then died, said police.

A Dhaka-bound bus of Parjatak Paribahan hit the motorbike at about 10:00am while Babul Sheikh of Nakrirchar village was returning home with his wife Sheuli and six-year-old son Rakib from his friend's residence.

Babul and his son died on the spot.

Angry people put barricades on the highway for two hours after the incident.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Top outlaw captured in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Founder of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party Shailendra Nath Biswas has been arrested in Bongaon of West Bengal, India, Khulna police said yesterday.

Shailendra, 46, of Dumuria upazila of Khulna district, was arrested at 11:30am on Thursday while he was entering Bangladesh along with his six followers.

Officer-in-Charge of Dumuria Police Station Ashraf Islam confirmed this information quoting high-level West Bengal police officials.

After the founding of the organisation in 1999, Shailendra committed several murders and extortions, and grabbed shrimp enclosures in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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