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BDR MUTINY TRIAL
Officer tells of torture in confinement
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An army officer, also a witness of a BDR mutiny case, yesterday narrated before a special court at Pilkhana how 20 BDR jawans tortured him and confined him along with his family members.

Lt Col Asif Ahmed Rouf, former commander of 24 Rifles Battalion, gave his deposition and placed evidence including mobile phone call list and video footage as BDR special court-7 resumed the trial against 667 border guards of the battalion.

All the defendants were produced before the court headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam.

Asif said when he was released from confinement on February 26 last year, he saw Subeder Major Gofran Mallick, prime accused of the case, talking with Deputy Assistant Directors (DADs) Towhidul Islam, Nasir and Abdur Rahim -- three alleged top planners of the mutiny. This suggests he was one of the planners, he told the court.

He submitted that he saw Gofran leading a group of BDR jawans who were dragging Lt

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The parked cars on the right lane of the road are actually a huge queue at a CNG fillings station. The photo was taken at 12:00 pm yesterday at Kuril Bishwa Road in the capital.

Two more suspected militants held in city
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel yesterday arrested two alleged operatives of Pakistan-based militant outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen from the Airport Railway Station area in the capital.

The arrestees are LeT activist Abdul Malek alias Golam Mohammad, 45, of village Indranagar in Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira and his associate, Pakistani citizen Md Shafi alias Shamiullah alias Mostak, 30, a Hizbul Mujahideen operative.

In a press briefing held at the elite force's headquarters, Rab Director General (DG) Mukhlesur Rahman said they had information about the LeT operative trying to enter into a neighbouring country through Bangladesh.

"Malek was coordinating Lashkar activities in Satkhira area in Bangladesh and 24 Parganas in India since 2006," claimed the DG.

Malek in his childhood went to Kolkata where he worked as a labourer. Later he joined LeT in 2000 and moved to Pakistan in 2003, where he

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Russian-born scientists win Nobel in physics
AP, Stockholm

Two Russian-born scientists shared the Nobel Prize in physics yesterday for "groundbreaking experiments" with the thinnest, strongest material known to mankind -- a carbon vital for

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170 duty-dodging doctors identified
They remain absent from workplaces for even months without permission
ALPHA ARZU

At least 170 doctors of the country's different public hospitals will face departmental action for being absent from workplaces without prior approval of the authority.

The punishment includes cutting of their yearly increment and sending them on "punishment posting," said Dr Md Abul Hasnat, director (administration) of the directorate general of health services (DGHS).

Punishment posting refers to posting of government officials in some of the country's remotest areas.

The health and family welfare ministry conducted 16 surprise visits in the last two months at different district, upazila

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Gas venture along border approved
4 wells to be drilled under the project
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved a project for digging gas wells to bring down the gap with India in terms of extracting gas near Salda borders.

The Ecne meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair sanctioned seven projects at a cost of Tk 5,241 crore that include digging gas wells and setting up two new railway networks.

The PM expressed disappointment over the delay in tabling the proposals in Ecne meeting whereas gas is available as soon as wells are dug, said meeting sources.

She directed the officials concerned to present any such projects to Ecne immediately.

The premier said the whole country including Barisal would be brought under the railway network since it is a low-cost mode of communication. She directed the ministry concerned to put all the abandoned rail tracks into operation.

According to the planning ministry report, Bangladesh has been extracting much less gas than India from the field near Salda borders. From 17 gas wells in the territory, India extracts 50 million cubic feet (cft) of gas every day while Bangladesh only 8 million cft from

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Nizami showed indifference
Ex-BCIC chairman tells magistrate in 10-truck arms haul case
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Matiur Rahman Nizami, the then industries minister, showed indifference to the seizure of 10-truckload of arms and ammunition on April 2, 2004.

He also asked the then BCIC chairman not to do anything since the home ministry was going to take steps regarding the incident.

Maj Gen Mohammad Imamuzzaman, former chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), said this in his judicial statement before a Chittagong court yesterday.

Chittagong Metropolitan Judicial Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman recorded his 12-page statement under section 164 in the afternoon.

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Govt to set up Rabindra University
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a Rabindra University and a Rabindra Academy will be established in Bangladesh for higher studies and research on poet Rabindranath Tagore.

She said the government is also contemplating to set up a Bangladesh Bhaban at Shanti Niketon in West Bengal to provide housing facilities to Bangladeshis who are studying there.

The premier made the disclosures while presiding over the first meeting of the National Committee for

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Modasser hits out at Prothom Alo
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the lawmakers came down heavily on the press on September 21, Prof Syed Modasser Ali, prime minister's health and social welfare adviser, yesterday reiterated his discontent over the role of a Bangla daily and its editor.

This time his criticism was directed towards the Prothom Alo and its Editor Matiur Rahman.

Prof Modasser Ali said, "Mati bhai [Matiur Rahman], sitting on top of all the power and authority, perhaps all the news of your newspaper do

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Rajuk workers demolish the risky top floors of a six-storey structure at the capital's Madhya Kunipara in Tejgaon industrial area yesterday.

Rajuk, Wasa demolish risky, illegal buildings
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eviction team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished the illegal portion of a six-storey structure at capital's Madhya Kunipara in Tejgaon industrial area.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday demolished three buildings constructed illegally on the K a t a s h u r canal in Mohammadpur as part of its canal recovery drive.

The first two levels of the six-storey structure were made of concrete whereas the top four floors were made of wooden frame with tin-roof.

Executive Magistrate Rokon-Ud-Dawla, who led the Rajuk drive, said more than 2,000 people of 270 families used to live in the six-storey structure built on an eight-katha plot.

Two weeks back, at least 50 people, mostly women and children, fell sick after inhaling toxic fumes emitted from a dyeing factory on the ground floor of the house. Of them, 25 were rushed to local hospitals.

Shafiqul Islam, a Rajuk officer, said, "We started demolishing the top four floors of the house as they were built without approval from the housing authority."

Though Rajuk earlier issued eviction notice to the

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FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW
6-month jail for offenders
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a bill making strong provisions to protect women and children from family violence and repression.

The legislation styled 'Family Violence (prevention and protection) Act 2010' authorises the court to hold trial in camera on consensus of both parties to dispose of cases filed under this law.

"A person might be punished with up to six month's jail term and a fine of maximum Tk 10,000 or both for committing offence," says a provision of the bill.

It also says a person, filing false case with ill motives, will face up to one-year jail term and a fine of maximum Tk 50,000 or both.

According to the legislation, family violence means physical and mental torture, sexual harassment and financial loss caused by a person who has family relation with the victim -- woman or child.

Interfering in personal freedom, hampering normal movement, communication or expression of personal will or opinion would be considered as mental harassment.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury proposed to pass the bill.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the government will be able to demolish illegal BGMEA building at Hatirjheel in the capital?

Yes (20.1%)
 No (78.0%)
 No Comments (2.0%)

Total votes: 304

TODAY'S POLL

The government has claimed that the overall power situation has improved in the country. What do you think?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing
October 6

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Congratulations

Al-Haj Abu Taher
Chairman

Mr Zainal Abedin Zafar
Vice-Chairman

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