

# BDR TRIAL A mutineer looked for spirit to burn bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Habildar Humayun Kabir of BDR hospital unit at the Palkhana headquarters had intended to burn the bodies of army officers killed during the carnage to wipe out all evidence, said a prosecutor of a mutiny case yesterday.

Humayun of 18 Rifle Battalion, one of the accused of last year's BDR mutiny, was attached to the hospital unit as his sick wife's attendant at the time of the BDR carnage. He had aggressively asked Ward Master Nayek Subedar Hashem Uddin to give him spirit so that he could burn the bodies, said Prosecutor Lt Col Mohammad Abdul Aleem at a press briefing.

The press briefing was held after the Special Court-10 adjourned the trial proceedings of 256 accused of the unit until today at 10:00am.

The prosecutor said, "The ward master, however, managed to calm Humayun down saying that spirit is used to sanitise injuries and it will not work for burning bodies."

He placed charges against the accused briefly after the special court headed by Col Khondokar Obaydul Ahsan began yesterday's proceedings at 10:30am at the Darbar Hall of Palkhana. The three-member court also read out individual charges against 99 of the accused jawans.

The charges include leaving the Darbar Hall defying the orders of the

then director general (DG) Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, establishing control over the subordinates at the BDR hospital, not informing the higher authorities about the mutiny, not taking any steps to prevent the mutiny, and collecting arms and ammunition from the armouries.

The prosecutor also played a slide show of the accused of the unit raising indecent slogans to incite the unruly soldiers.

A total of 182 witnesses will give statements against the accused before the court.

As many as 74 people including 57 army officers were killed during the carnage on February 25-26 last year in the Palkhana headquarters.



Sector Commanders Forum places wreath at the grave of Mir Shawkat Ali at the Cantonment Graveyard of Banani in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16) PHOTO: STAR

## War museum invites reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Museum has invited reports from the journalists of print and electronic media on liberation war for the Bazur Rahman Smriti Padak 2010.

Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali, in a letter yesterday, requested the interested journalists to submit their basic, investigative and feature reports, published in the national dailies and broadcast by television channels in 2010, to the museum at 5 Segunbagicha, Dhaka 1000 and email at mukti@citechco.net, by January 31, 2011.

With the financial support from the family members and friends of late famous journalist Bazur Rahman, the museum authority has been giving the award to journalists -- one from print and one from electronic media -- since 2008.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributed the Bazur Rahman Smriti Padak among the winners as the chief guest in 2008 and President Zillur Rahman as the chief guest in 2009, says a press release.

## Ties with Bangladesh to strengthen further

Hopes Japanese emperor

BSS, Dhaka

The newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan, Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan, presented his letter of credence to Emperor of Japan Akihito at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday.

During the credential presentation, Tomiko Okazaki, State Minister for Consumer Affairs and Public Safety was also present on the occasion.

The Emperor wished the ambassador for his successful tenure and was hopeful that Bangladesh Japan relations would be strengthened further in the coming days.

The credential presentation was held in an impressive ceremony following the Japanese tradition.

## CONSERVATION OF ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS

# Indo-Bangla protocol soon

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and India will sign a protocol very soon to conserve the endangered species of Royal Bengal Tiger.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said this while speaking as the chair of the plenary session of the Tiger Summit being held at Saint Petersburg in Russia.

The draft of the protocol has already been prepared and it will be finalised very soon, Dr Hasan said.

Heads of the governments and environment ministers from 13 tiger range countries including Bangladesh, China, Russia, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, India and Indonesia are taking part in the four-day summit.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh

Hasina will speak in the high segment of the summit.

Dr Hasan called for stronger collaboration among the tiger range countries to conserve the habitats of the wild cats to double their population by 2022.

Termining the habitats of the tigers as the haven of the bio-diversity, Dr Hasan said, "We have to identify the tigers' habitats and take all efforts for their protection".

Eco-tourism could be promoted through conservation of tigers and involving local people with the initiative, he said adding that all habitats of tigers must be brought under close vigilance so that none can take the tiger killing as a leisure pursuit.

Dr Hasan also urged for strong collaboration among Convention on International Trade in Endangered

Species (CITES), Interpol and other international agencies to stop illegal trafficking of tigers, their skin and body parts.

The state minister highlighted the initiatives undertaken by Bangladesh for conservation of tigers and said the government is implementing a nine year Bangladesh Tiger Action Plan in this regard.

Besides, he said the government with the support of Global Tiger Initiative has prepared a National Tiger Recovery Programme (NTRP) to increase the population of tigers.

He said Bangladesh Forest Department and Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh are jointly working to reduce the tiger-human conflict in the villages around the Sundarbans, a habitat of Royal Bengal Tiger.



A fire last night completely burned the main server of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh at its head office in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Tender for elevated expressway today

BSS, Dhaka

The tender of the much-awaited elevated expressway, to be built in Dhaka city to remove its notorious traffic jam, will be accepted today.

The organisations, which have been pre-qualified in the international tender floated earlier for investment in expressway, will submit tender documents today.

The expressway will be constructed in the public-private partnership (PPP) under the supervision of Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

These were informed at a meeting to review the progress on different ongoing projects of the Bangladesh Bridge Authority yesterday.

Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain presided over the meeting held at Setu Bhaban.

The meeting was also informed that December 8 has been fixed as the last date for submission of the tender for repairing the cracks in the Bangabandhu Bridge.

It was also informed that rehabilitation work for the affected people due to Padma

Bridge has begun at four places simultaneously.

"The work for providing compensation to the affected people due to construction of the main bridge and approach roads has started at four places simultaneously," an official release said, adding that the communications minister will visit Munshiganj next week to see the work.

Abul Hossain directed the concerned authorities to complete the evaluation work of the river control to construct the Padma Bridge.

The meeting apprised the minister of the progress of upgrading the Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mymensingh Highways to four lanes.

He also directed the concerned authorities to finish the important projects quickly to mitigate the sufferings of the people.

Secretary of Roads and Railway Division Md Mozammel Haque Khan, Bridge Division Secretary Mosharrar Hossain Bhuiyan and other concerned officials were present at the meeting, the release said.

## LankaBangla under SEC scanner

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday launched a probe against LankaBangla Securities after the brokerage house failed to settle share transactions within the settlement period.

The stockmarket regulator has formed a two-member committee, which has been told to submit its report by December 9.

It comes after SEC found that LankaBangla failed to settle the share transactions of Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO) within the settlement period.

On November 8, a total of 15,000 shares of DESCO were traded through LankaBangla, but the brokerage house failed to secure the shares for its clients on that day.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Hajera Khatun, mother of Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr A T U R Rahman, passed away

on the way to Dhaka from Jamalpur for treatment on Sunday, at the age of 85.

She left behind her five sons and three daughters to mourn her death, says a press release.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at Shahbagh in the city on Sunday. She was buried at her family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at her village home in Purbo Par Dikholia of Jamalpur yesterday.

Her quikhwani will be held at Gulshan Jame Masjid after Asr prayers on November 26.

## Dr Faruque's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Dr Omar Faruque, a renowned sports organiser and panel doctor of FIFA and AFC.

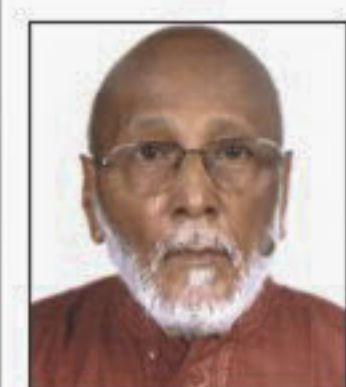
On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at the mosque adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the mahfil.

Faruque was a senior consultant at the Suhrawardi Hospital and the medical committee chairman of Bangladesh Olympic Association. He was also actively involved with the Bangladesh Football Federation.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Prof. Badruddin Khan, former head of the Department of Pathology of

BSMMU (the then IPGM and R), will be held at his Bashundhara residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Prof. Badruddin died of cardio respiratory failure at Apollo Hospitals in the city on November 19.

He left behind his three sons and one daughter to mourn his death, says a press release.

During his professional life, Prof. Badruddin was councillor of the Bangladesh College of Physician and Surgeons, president of Asia Pacific Association of Society of Pathologists and Bangladesh Society of Pathologists.

## AUGUST 20, 2007 DU VIOLENCE

# CG adviser, IGP likely to give statement to JS body tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former education adviser to a caretaker government, the then education secretary, inspector general of police, DMP commissioner and several other government officials are likely to appear before a parliamentary probe body tomorrow.

They are due to give their statements on the violence that occurred on the Dhaka University (DU) campus on August 2007.

The parliamentary sub-committee, probing the incident at DU, already sent invitation to the individuals to give their version of the violence between army personnel and DU students at the campus.

The violence on August 20, 2007 ensued when army personnel, temporarily camped on the university's gymnasium, assaulted some DU students and two of the university's teachers while a football match was in progress.

"We have invited former education adviser to a caretaker government Ayub Quadri, the then IGP Noor Muhammad, DMP commissioner and several other officials

concerned to appear before the sub-committee's meeting and deliver their views about the incident," lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, chief of the sub-committee, told The Daily Star last night.

"They are likely to be present at the meeting which will help the probe body to find the reasons behind the violence," said Menon, also president of Workers Party of Bangladesh.

Menon also said they will invite some high officials of the army, concerned with the violence, to appear before the committee to give their statement.

"We want to find out the reasons behind the violence and people involved in it so that such untoward incident do not recur," he added.

The parliamentary standing committee on education ministry formed the sub-committee on August 19 to probe the violence incident, triggering unrest at other universities and educational institutions.

Menon said they have already collected statements from the then DU vice-chancellor and several other officials.

## Three cheats held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-1) personnel yesterday arrested three alleged cheats from the city's Uttara on charges of misappropriating money and valuables from people by identifying themselves as 'Badshahs of Jinn' (king of supernatural spirits).

The arrestees are Kafil Uddin, 22, son of Abdul Kuddus, Abul Bashkar Milton, 25, son of Abu Bakkar of Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district and Saju Miah, 22, son of Shah Zamal of Shahjahanpur upazila in Bogra district.

Rab-1 officials said the arrested had been identifying themselves as 'Badshahs of Jinn' and mislead people into paying them money and valuables.

The Rab officials said they arrested the three from city's Abdullahpur in Uttara following an allegation from a woman in Bogra that the cheats had misappropriated about Tk 4,00,000 and 10 tolas of gold ornaments from her.



## Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:19 am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.1 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 12.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.1	17.4	54	49
Chittagong	28.5	21.0	87	46
Rajshahi	28.0	13.5	84	76
Rangpur	26.8	14.5	98	79
Khulna	29.5	17.0	68	73
Barisal	29.5	16.8	75	95
Sylhet	28.7	17.0	73	74