

## BDR MUTINY CASE 15 cross-examine two PWs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen accused of a BDR mutiny case yesterday cross-examined two prosecution witnesses while one of the witnesses gave depositions against 40 accused at a special court set up in Darbar Hall of BDR Headquarters at Pilkhana.

Court proceedings, headed by BDR Deputy Director General Brig Gen Obaidul Haque, resumed after November 10 to try a total of 621 accused of 13 Rifles Battalion and attached signal sector.

Witness Nayek Abu Bakkar Siddique in his depositions screened video footage and photographs of 32 accused during the mutiny, with almost all carrying firearms and heavy ammunition.

Sepoy Faruk Alam said the photographed man, claimed to be him, was of another accused sepoy Monirul Islam.

When Obaidul asked Monirul, he denied the photo was his. The court later asked Faruk not to blame another to conceal own guilt.

Earlier, Prosecutor Lt Col Jayed Hossain pleaded to exonerate one of the accused late Nayek Md Hanif from the case, which the court accepted. Hanif died at Kashimpur Jail on November 11 due to cardiac arrest.

The court was adjourned till 10:00am today.

The charges against the accused include leaving the Darbar Hall during a Darbar on February 25, 2008, not informing higher authorities about the mutiny on time, disobeying lawful authorities and illegally taking up arms and ammunition.

CID charge-sheeted 138 accused of the case.



Former adviser to a caretaker government M Shahjahan speaks at a press conference organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Syed Abul Maksud and Badiul Alam Majumder. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

## DRUG ADDICT DROWNS BOY AT GENDARIA Injured father yet to know fate of son, 'killer' held

M RAHMAN

Bibhuti Ranjan Das, father of Shuvo who was drowned during a robbery at Gendaria on Saturday, is yet to know that the drug addict neighbour drowned his minor son.

Ranjan with stab injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) kept saying, "Bring my son to the hospital for treatment with me. My son even did not take breakfast in that morning when Sagar snatched my son from my room. I fetched him from his school around 10:30am when Sagar took him away around 10:45am."

Drug addict Shakil alias Sagar allegedly drowned 10-year-old Dipto Das Shuvo, the first boy at class-IV, in a water drum and stabbed his father Ranjan at their house.

The body of Shuvo was released yesterday from DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Faruk Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gendaria Police Station, told this correspondent last night that they have arrested Sagar from one of his relative's house at Kalkini in Madaripur at 9:30pm.

Ranjan told the reporter that Sagar tried

to kill them over a past enmity and then to loot his belongings.

"Sagar's mother had a quarrel with my wife on June 23, 2009 over entering my house and since then a hostile relation developed between the two families that led to the incident," he said.

"Sagar entered my house just few minutes after I with my son reached there," he said adding, "At my bed room taking my son at his grip, Sagar wielded a pistol and a knife asked me to lie on my bed to tie my hands and legs to the bed."

He said at that moment Sagar's four cohorts also entered the room but he could not identify them, adding, immediately they took out Shuvo of the room and reappeared again and asked for the keys to the locker.

He added the gang took around Tk 30,000 from the locker and then all on a sudden Sagar reentered the room and started stabbing him.

"As I lost all hopes of surviving and feared that they will also kill my son I got violent, raised screaming and managed to free my legs, at this Sagar got scared and fled," he said adding that locals later rescued him.



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Member REHAB

## Media safeguards HR, says int'l NGO

METRO DESK

The media serves a significant role in safeguarding human rights in democratic countries; so media professionals can advocate for the rights, says RELIEF International (RI), a US based international NGO.

According to RI, civil society organisations can promote human rights and democratic principles with wide use ICT in developing countries.

RI Country Director Nazrul Islam says RI has been implementing a two-year project on human rights titled "Transparency for human rights in Bangladesh" in 20 districts of Bangladesh with this view in mind.

Islam said this to the inaugural session of capacity building two-day workshop for journalists, which began yesterday at the city's Biam Foundation and ends today.

Supported by European Commission, RI organised the programme along with Democracywatch, says a press release.

Mir Masrur Zaman, director of Society for Media and Suitable Human-communication Techniques; Md Rahmatullah Faruque, RI programme officer; and Mostofa Sohel, director of Democracywatch moderated the workshop.

## 3,000 textbooks seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special team of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) yesterday recovered over 3,000 copies of extra textbooks from a city school.

Meanwhile, seven schools in the capital yesterday returned around 16,324 copies to the district education office fearing government punishment.

As allegations of taking extra books than demand by some city schools arose, government warned school authorities to return extra copies by January 7.

The punishment included temporary suspension or transfer of the headmaster of public schools, cancellation of monthly pay order (MPO) of the headmaster of private schools and cancelling approval of private schools.

On Saturday, the team recovered over 15,000 copies from three city schools.

## 'Remove overhead cables by Jan 31'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Technical committee formed to supervise government's removal of city's overhead cables yesterday served notice to Internet Service Provider Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) and Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) to remove the cables by January 31.

In the second phase, overhead cables from Shahbagh to Dainik Bangla intersection and from Gulshan-2 to Moghbazar intersection will be removed.

The notice was issued following the committee's first meeting held at the power ministry, said Emdadul Hoque, a committee member.

Power ministry's Deputy Secretary Anwar Hossain chaired the meeting, with representatives of ISPAB, COAB and two Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) companies present.

## BNP programmes to celebrate Zia's birth anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition BNP chalked out an 11-day elaborate programmes to celebrate the 75th birth anniversary of party's founder chairman Ziaur Rahman on January 19 in a befitting manner.

Party Vice Chairman Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury presided over the meeting held at party's central office.

The programme will start on January 18 when JCD, student front of BNP, will organise a drawing competition for children.

On January 19, party flags will be hoisted at party offices across the country at 6am.

Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will hold a voluntary blood donation and free treatment in front of party's Naya Paltan central office at 9:00am on the day.

Wreaths will be placed on the Zia's mazar at 10:30am and a discussion on the Zia's life will be held at Mahanagar Natya Mancha at 2:00pm on January 19.

## JAIL KILLING CASE SC order tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed January 11 (tomorrow) for passing orders on the leave-to-appeal petition against the High Court verdict in the jail killing case that had acquitted six former army personnel.

The three-member bench of Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque set the date after hearing arguments from Anisul Huq, chief state counsel for the case, and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

They told the court that the conspiracy of killing the four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail had been hatched in Bangabhaban.


Anisul Huq said that the HC verdict in this case was distorted, since it was delivered on the basis of inconsistent statements of witnesses. He said he would place the inconsistent statements of witnesses before the court, if it grants the leave to appeal petition.

## 4 JMB suspects admit crimes

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four suspected members of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday declined to give confessional statements before magistrates though they admitted their involvement in anti-state activities.

SM Abdul Goni, SM Ashrafuzzaman, Abu Huraira Bin Aman alias Shams, and Mohammad Shahnewaz Al Maruf declined to give the statements after Sub-inspector (SI) Riad Mahmud produced them before three magistrates.



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## OBITUARY



Mr. Kafiluddin Mahmood, Director of United Insurance Company Ltd. and Supernumerary Chairman of United Leasing Company Ltd. died in Dhaka on Friday, January 7, 2011 at the age of 85. May Allah rest his soul in peace.

Mr. Mahmood was associated with Duncan Group since 1985 after his retirement from the government services. He was a guardian to United Insurance and United Leasing from the very inception. Both the Companies benefited greatly from his wealth of knowledge, wisdom and prudence and prospered over the years.

In his death the Group has lost a caring friend, a guardian and the country has lost one of its very worthy citizens.

The members of the Board of Directors, executives and the employees of Duncan Brothers, United Insurance and United Leasing mourn the death of this outstanding personality and offer their deepest condolences to the members of his family and pray to Allah to give them the strength to endure this irreparable loss.

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