

READERS

respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* report headlined "Govt looks to AL left-outs".

Nasarullah

We hope Khulna would have a full cabinet minister and that the honourable prime minister would nominate those who contributed well and were honest and sincere in work.

Tajul Islam, Beijing

This has been long overdue. Adding old politicians is not going to do much. Many of the politicians are too old and lack in energy and ideas. Most grew up as student leaders with no real credit of managing development or running businesses. They are good orators but not good managers or workers. We have seen their performance during the last Awami League's term.

A Bangladeshi, USA

Thanks for the speculation. A long awaited decision of the prime minister. The prime minister already knows that she has been put to carry all the load of failures and wrong decisions of the government. But why? The Awami League has two third majority in parliament; more than 4 dozen ministerial aides including 7 formally appointed advisers; names and numbers of the informal policy makers were not made public; and the whole set of bureaucracy is working for the government.

Besides, there are parliamentary committees and standing committees of the Awami League to support the prime minister for policy making and execution. But what we see in reality is that the prime minister is shouldering responsibilities of all wrong policies. All the above bodies and aides are not in the picture at all, making the prime minister a helpless defender or offender.

The two recent cases like the Arial Beel project and crossfire issue are glaring examples.

Dr Karim

The cabinet should not be reshuffled to satisfy group A or group B including leftists. Rather efficiency should be a cost effective decision because she is the prime minister of the nation, not Awami League.

Reshuffle in administration is also mandatory from top to bottom and only meritorious people, regardless of seniority, is the only criteria through which good governance can be confirmed, if we really want a 'Digital Bangladesh'.

Msa

What will the new ministers do? Get rid of your advisors and the cabinet will properly function automatically.

Mahboob Hossain, Hamilton

I hope and wish our honourable prime minister will appoint Menon, Inu and one or two more from Jatiya Party. That will give you more support from people and you will see the change in people's eyes. It is a win-win situation and will improve your image.

Manzoor

High performers, who are not short in supply in Awami League, should be inducted in the cabinet replacing the non-deliverers without any further delay. Time is fast running out.

Wind Peace

Honourable prime minister and the Leader of the Opposition of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh. Please take lessons from the recent Arab world politics and people's movements. Please do not day-dream that your sons would one day be able get the dynasty. Democratic mass movements in Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen will influence the whole African, Asian and Latin American countries. Please go for good governance otherwise people will throw you and your family out from the dynasty. History comes and goes around.

London Eye

With due respect, honourable prime minister is advised to kindly bring in someone from Jatiya Party this time. In Britain, the conservative democratic coalition has more heads of liberal democratic MPs than the conservatives. Their sacrifice worked well and I am sure this will work on Bangladesh's part too.

Anonymous

Although it is necessary to reshuffle the cabinet, we have been only hearing this for a long time. Two years have passed with unsatisfactory performance of several ministries. I hope the prime minister keeps her promise.

DOMESTIC HELP TORTURE

OC asked to explain action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

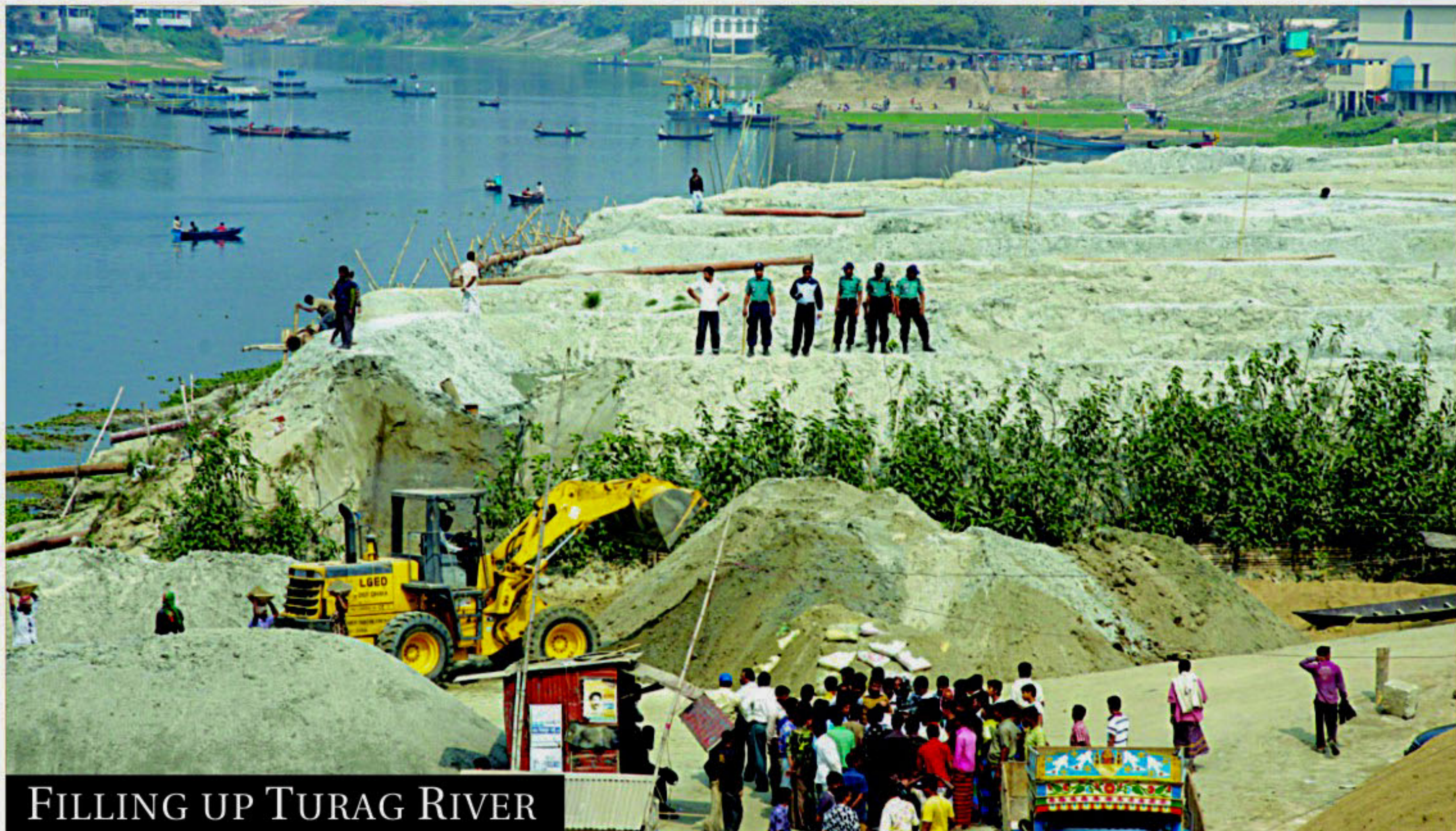
The High Court yesterday summoned the officer-in-charge (OC) of Lalpur Police Station in Natore to explain what action he had taken against Captain Shafiqul Islam and his wife for allegedly torturing a nine-year-old child.

The couple reportedly tortured and injured Tohidul Islam, a domestic help, of Lalpur village in Natore, in April last year at their Pallabi residence in Dhaka.

Hearing a writ petition yesterday, the HC bench of Justice M Imman Ali and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif ordered the OC to appear before it on February 9.

The court also asked the OC of Pallabi Police Station to inform it about the whereabouts of the couple within two days.

A report was published in the daily Prothom Alo on May 3 last year saying that Shafiqul and his wife tortured Tohidul and confined him in a bathroom for three days for stealing Tk 500.



FILLING UP TURAG RIVER

Six sand traders fined Tk 14.6 lakh, one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government authorities during a drive against earth filling of Turag River yesterday fined six sand traders, arresting one of them, and removed a huge amount of sand dumped beyond the river foreshore on the eastern bank of Gabtoli area.

A Department of Environment (DoE) enforcement team carried out the drive, inspired by news reports of *The Daily Star* during the current week on mindless river encroachment, said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, DoE director (monitoring and enforcement).

DoE in a press release said the team realised Tk 14.6 lakh from the traders for filling up the river and removed 30,000 square feet of sand dumped on the river and another 200 sacks of sand.

It also evicted three makeshift structures of the sand traders and seized four

metric tonnes of iron equipment used for sand extraction.

The team arrested one Hazi Shahabuddin, a sand trader who piled up sand on the river foreshore, and fined him Tk 1 lakh.

The other trading organisations penalised include Elin Enterprise, Saralata Sand Suppliers, Ismita Traders, Adi Rahman Enterprise and Babul Enterprise.

DoE declared Turag River an ecologically critical area in September 2009 and earlier conducted two similar drives.

Munir, who led the team, told *The Daily Star* that Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority should stop randomly renting out river foreshore for sand trading.

According to a competent source, unscrupulous sand traders, in most cases, indulge in river grabbing in connivance with local police.

MORE STORY ON PAGE 1

Security blanket before World Cup Cricket: DMP

UNB, Dhaka

Police will carry out special operation in the city to build up general security blanket before the World Cup Cricket, to be inaugurated here on February 17.

Briefing reporters after a mock security drill at Mirpur stadium yesterday afternoon, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said nine hotels in the city were given security clearance after examining all security aspects and requested the Bangladesh Cricket Board to circulate it worldwide.

Security measures will also be in place at other hotels in the city as well.

Charges against five Jamaat men adjourned till March 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed March 14 for framing charges against five Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, including its Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, in a case filed against them for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

The four other leaders are: Secretary General of Jamaat Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid, Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee, city unit Chief Rafiqul Islam Khan and Islami Chhatra Shibir President ASM Yahia, now on bail.

Of them, Nizami, Mojahid, Sayedee and Rafiqul Islam were arrested and they are now in jail while Yahia is now bail.

First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan passed the order after jail authorities produced the detained four before the court while Yahia appeared before it.

Earlier on February 1, the same court asked the jail authorities to produce them before it on Sunday.

Syed Rejaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, filed the case on March 21 last year against the five Jamaat leaders.

BDR MUTINY TRIAL

Two give depositions against 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two witnesses, including plaintiff Subedar Ismail Hossain, yesterday gave depositions against 27 mutineers and were later cross-examined by them before the Special Court-11 at the Darbar Hall in Pilkhana.

Another witness is Lt Col Reazul Karim who was in-charge duty officer at Central Quarter Guard.

Sector Commander of Mymensingh Col Iftekhar Mahmud presided over the court that is trying 675 accused mutineers of 44 Rifles Battalion of Pilkhana headquarters in

a mutiny case.

The court was adjourned till 9:00am on February 8.

The plaintiff earlier read out the charges against the accused in the makeshift dock.

Meanwhile, three accused claimed themselves guilty and sought mercy of the court. The court would consider their plea.

A total of 74 people, including the then BDR DG and 56 other army officers, were massacred at Pilkhana and a mutiny spread from the headquarters to other units across the country on February 25-26, 2009.



One of the victims wounded in a bomb explosion at TSC of Dhaka University near Ekushey Book Fair venue being taken inside Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



(From left) ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir, one Asia Begum, Ain O Shalish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir at a press conference titled 'Bhumi Jar Adhikar Tar -- Prekhhit Ruppganj' at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

MARITIME CLAIM AT UN

Dhaka to place 'position paper' on Feb 25

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will place its 'position paper' regarding its maritime claim in the Bay of Bengal to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in New York on February 25.

Talking to reporters, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said that the cabinet has already approved the 'position paper' of Continental Shelf and a delegation will submit it to UN on February 25, which is four months ahead of the deadline.

Official sources said Bangladesh in its position paper claims over 450 nautical miles from its coastline in the Bay of Bengal. The document was prepared following the Gardiner method under Article 76 of the UNCLOS.

Referring to the prime minister's recent meeting with three eminent personalities of right bodies during her visit to UK, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni contradicted with media reports that the PM tried to hide human rights situation in Bangladesh.

She said that HR situation now in Bangladesh is comparing much better than the previous regime and the government is trying an end of HR violation in the country.

On a question about killing of innocent people, especially murder of teenaged girl Felani by the BSF in the border, she said the government has lodged strong protest to India and demanded proper investigation into the killing.

DHAKA TODAY

Convocation
Brac University will hold its convocation;
Venue: Bangabandhu International
Conference Centre; Time: 7:00pm.

Seminar
Dhaka University Department of World
Religion and Culture will hold a seminar;
Venue: Arts Building, DU; Time: 3:00pm.

Rally
Amra Muktijoddhar Shontan will hold
a protest rally; Venue: Muktangan;
Time: 10:30am.

Book launching
Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan

bddl PROPERTIES LTD

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Water Front

গ্যাস ও বিদ্যুত সংযোগসহ
৩৬৪০ বর্গফুটের রেডি ফ্ল্যাট
বিক্রয়

০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৬, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৩, ০১৭৩০৭২৬৪১৫