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PILKHANA CARNAGE CASE Gen Moeen asked to give deposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked former army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed and three other high-profile witnesses to give their testimonies in connection with the carnage at BDR headquarters in 2009.

The three others are prime minister's Military Secretary Maj Gen Miah Md Zainul Abedin who was then the chief of Special Security Force, former inspector general of police (IGP) Nur Muhammad, and Lt Col (retd) Dr Jahan Ara Begum, who was serving at the BDR hospital.

"A metropolitan sessions judge's court summoned the four witnesses to appear before it as soon as possible and give their depositions," Public Prosecutor Mosharrar Hossain Kajol told The Daily Star.

Gen Moeen is now living in the US, while Nur Muhammad is serving as the Bangladesh ambassador to Morocco.

The court began its proceedings around 9:30am at the makeshift court set up at Dhaka Central Jail and contin-



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Reconditioned generators are placed for sale right on the footpath and road at Chankhar Pool in the capital yesterday. The demand for generators is on the rise in the wake of frequent load shedding in the capital and many low-income people seek low-priced reconditioned ones.

HILL CUTTING Industrial group fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chittagong

The Department of Environment yesterday fined Abul Khair Group Tk 40.23 lakh for cutting hills illegally at Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong. A DoE enforcement team on June 11 found that the company had razed hills on 1.85 acres of land, for which it did not have the permission.

That day, DoE Director Munir Chowdhury summoned Abul Khair Group's managing

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HOUSES ON CTG HILL SLOPES

Authorities to cut power, water supplies

Utility agencies asked to take step in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Utility service providers here have been directed to cut power, gas, and water supplies to people on risky hillsides in seven days to discourage habitation there.

The directive came from a meeting of divisional Hill Management Committee (HMC), formed in 2007 following a devastating landslide that left 127 people dead on June 11, 2007. The meeting was held at Chittagong city's Circuit House yesterday.

On June 26, downpour and landslides

left 114 people dead in Chittagong, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar.

High officials of government organisations, law enforcement agencies, and NGO representatives discussed the recent mudslides and took the action plans.

They directed Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd, and Power Development Authority to disconnect water, gas, and power lines to risky hillsides within the stipulated time.

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ABUSE OF STUDENT BCL activists assault protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

Five students including two female students of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) were attacked and assaulted yesterday by the activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League for protesting alleged sexual abuse and blackmailing of a fellow student last month.

The students were

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SQ CHY'S TRIAL

Defence questions witness Prafullah about his book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday completed the cross-examination of the fifth prosecution witness, Prafullah Ranjan Sinha, in the case against BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury in connection with crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

The tribunal also recorded the cross-examination of the last and 28th prosecution witness Helal Uddin in another case against Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

Salahuddin's counsel Ahsanul Huq cross-examined

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Rangpur city polls on time

Says CEC

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakib Uddin yesterday said preparation for holding election to the newly established Rangpur City Corporation was underway.

"The commission is working seriously to arrange the polls of Rangpur City Corporation in due time," he told journalists after a meeting with officials of Election Commission (EC) at its conference room.

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Even though landslides claim lives every year, the number of houses at the feet or slopes of the hills keeps rising. The photo was shot in Matijhorna area of Chittagong recently.

PHOTO:
ANURUP KANTI DAS

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BSF kills 2

STAR REPORT

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed two persons including a Bangladeshi cattle trader early yesterday.

The Bangladeshi cattle trader was Altaf Hossain, 22, a resident of Boalia village in Kolaroa upazila.

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PRAYER TIMING July 3		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Japan's PM, ruling party in trouble

Dozens quit over tax hike row

AP, Tokyo

A powerful politician and dozens of his followers quit Japan's ruling party yesterday and are likely to form their own rival bloc, dealing a blow to Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda.

Ichiro Ozawa and 49 other lawmakers submitted their resignations to the Democratic Party of Japan, and others could follow later, party officials said.

Thirty-eight are members of the lower

house of Parliament, where a loss of 11 more seats would end the ruling party's majority and could force Noda to call new elections.

Ozawa, 70, played a key role in the party's rise to power in 2009, defeating the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He has been a vocal critic of Noda's plan to double Japan's sales tax to 10 percent by 2015.

The tax hike has passed the lower house

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INDIAN PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Sangma challenges Pranab's candidature

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Opposition nominee PA Sangma yesterday tried to put block ruling UPA candidate Pranab Mukherjee's presidential poll candidature by seeking cancellation of his nomination under the Office of Profit rules.

But Mukherjee's office and the govern-

ment rejected it.

Sangma wrote to Rajya Sabha Secretary General V K Agnihotri, who is the returning officer for the presidential election, claiming that Mukherjee was the chairman of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) near Kolkata and therefore his

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