

Army quizzes

FROM PAGE 1

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Major Mozaffar Hossain, Friday's target of Rab, is one of the 10 accused in the Zia killing case. Major General Manjor, the prime accused in the case, was killed in Chittagong Cantonment soon after Zia's assassination. Four other accusees — Col Delwar Hossain, Lt Col Shah Mohammad Fazle Hossain, Capt Rafiq and Capt Jamil were awarded capital punishment.

The rest — Major Rezaul Karim, Capt Ilias, Major Dost Mohammad and Manir — were sacked from the army and awarded imprisonment of different terms, with Major Mozaffar absconding since 1981.

The police after investigations submitted a final report in the Zia killing case in 2001, which the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong accepted. The court acquitted the rest of the living accusees in the case from the charges.

Since Major Mozaffar had been on the run since the killing, he was not tried at the court martial for mutiny, Ainuddin said.

Thirteen army men were sentenced to death for mutiny by the court martial. Of them 12 were executed. Only Major Abdul Qayyum Khan escaped death as the then chief martial law administrator HM Ershad pardoned him for ambiguous reasons. Sources said Qayyum left the country soon after his release. However, he is now working in a French organisation in Dhaka.

There was no report that Moin was involved in Zia killing, while Rousan claimed he was not even in Chittagong when Zia was killed.

"Moin, while working as an instructor at the Infantry School of Tactics in Sylhet in 1981, took a one-month leave and travelled to Dhaka, Barisal and some other districts with his family," she added.

Asked about the reason for his deserting the army, Rousan said it was because Moin feared he might fall prey to the then ongoing 'wholesale trials of freedom fighters' in court martial. Moin also sent a resignation letter to his office and left the country for the USA and later shifted to Canada in 1989.

Retired Major General Mohammad Ainuddin, who was then a colonel, and one of the officers defending the accusees in the court martial confirmed to The Daily

Adamjee EPZ tangled

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process of readying the site.

Upon the buyers' repeated pleas for early delivery of the machinery and spare parts worth over Tk 40 crore and fearing legal backlash from them, BJMC Chairman AFM Solaiman Chowdhury on July 17 sought immediate intervention from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the matter.

Ten days later PMO Director AHM Ahsan wrote to Bepza Executive Chairman Brigadier General (Retd) M Zakir Hossain, directing him to hand over the machinery to the purchasers immediately. Accordingly, the Bepza gave them notice to receive and remove the machines and vacate the mill premises within the two-week time from August 16 to 30.

But, in practice, they were denied the goods, as the Bepza in the meantime had floated a fresh tender and issued work orders to new parties to shift the machinery from a particular shed of the mills to another.

The Bepza claimed it had rushed for the second tender to vacate the shed immediately in order to get 29 plots ready by November for a foreign investor.

When asked why did the Authority avoided the BJMC-awarded buyers for permanent disposal of the machinery, Hossain said they did it just to clear the place immediately.

AEPZ Project Director Shamsul Haq said as they are getting very good responses from foreign investors to set up industries at the new EPZ, their priority now is to vacate the area and prepare the industrial plots.

But the quarters concerned are sceptic about their success in meeting the second deadline, too.

Meanwhile, the factory authorities have planned to begin reconstruction work on their own without taking any assistance from insurance companies concerned to avoid delay.

"Now we are trying to rebuild the factory considering our employees' joblessness," said Tapan Kumar Majumder, chief of administration and import of the factory.

He speculated that the loss would be around Tk 200 crore.

As the entire plant is burnt down, construction of the factory building and installation of equipment will be required, sources said.

But the factory authorities can not begin the work until the fire is completely extinguished. Besides, approvals of Customs Bond Commissioner (CBC) and DEPZ authorities are required to remove the burnt materials and begin the work.

"We got approval from DEPZ authorities and will meet CBC tomorrow [Sunday] to get their permission," Tapan Kumar Majumder said, adding that the chairman of Kung King International Development, mother organisation of Kung King Textile (BD) Co Ltd from Taiwan gave direction to take immediate steps for the factory's operation.

Meanwhile, the factory employees were seen waiting outside the factory in mild rain at around noon yesterday but the on-duty security guards could not tell them anything about the future plan of the factory.

No probe body was learnt to have been formed to investigate the incident.

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Nat'l convention

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climate of impunity'. Prof Ajay Roy on 'State terrorism vs rule of law' and Wahidul Haq on 'Bangladesh minorities: intolerance and denial rights'.

Advocate Sultana Kamal will present a keynote on 'Repression on woman', Abul Momen on 'Freedom of expression under attack' and Dr Abul Barakat on 'Extremism and fanaticism: response' on the concluding day.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haq Inu, Amir Hossain and Abdul Jalil will take part in the concluding session of the convention to be chaired by Awami League leader Zillur Rahman.

The convention will end with the 'Dhaka Declaration' to fight against terrorism.

A video presentation and a photo exhibition on the victims of different terrorist attacks will also be arranged on the sidelines of the convention.

India's river

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in terms of water sharing, land mass loss and rehabilitation and displacement of people around Jhansi.

The link will submerge several areas in both the states including a portion of the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

Officials, however, said the DPR would give concrete shape to the Ken-Betwa project taking into account in minute details environmental and rehabilitation issues, after which the two states have to agree and funding has to be arranged.

Concerns of Uttar Pradesh regarding environment and rehabilitation and riparian zone near Jhansi will be addressed while preparing the DPR, Indian Water Resources Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunshi said, adding that four more river linking projects were in the pipeline.

Mulayam Singh Yadav said the "historic" MoU with Madhya Pradesh could be a role model for other Indian states to resolve their water-sharing disputes.

Ken-Betwa link was chosen to be the first link project because these are shorter rivers and involve fewer states, officials said.

Thirty years ago, the then Congress government first thought of the river inter-linking project.

Put on the back burner for long, the BJP-led government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee revived the project proposal in 2003.

Moreover, a BB source said a large portion of the increased FDI was not in cash from outside but was actually reinvested locally. That is why, the current account balance is now in deficit after showing surplus in the previous two consecutive years, he said.

Since March 2004, the letter of credit (LC) opening has surpassed \$1 billion every month. But in comparison to the rise in import, export growth has significantly fallen. In FY03-04 the rise in export was 16 percent while it came down to 13.83 percent in the last fiscal.

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36 submit nomination

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to import of duty-free cars." ruling BNP candidate Shahana Rahman Rani told reporters at the EC Secretariat.

Another candidate, Sultana Ahmed, demanded cancellation of the government order. "Why should we be deprived of this privilege when all the lawmakers in this parliament were allowed to import duty-free cars?" she asked in an angry voice.

Selima Rahman, state minister for cultural affairs, filed her nomination, but said she is not very much interested in importing cars.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on August 22 in an order said all the new MPs will be allowed to import one duty-free car, but the tenure of parliament must be at least two years from the day of their oath.

The current parliament, which began its journey on October 28, 2001, has only 14 months left of its tenure.

Some of the candidates, however, are not aware whether it is a government order or party decision. "We are bound to obey it as the party took the decision," Tasmin Rana told reporters after filing nomination, while Helen Zerin Khan said she would protest the order if it is unjust to them.

All the ruling BNP candidates after getting party tickets donated Tk 3 lakh each to the party coffers on Friday as they had promised in black and white. The aspirants to parliament had to spend Tk 30,000 each to appear before the BNP Parliamentary Board seeking party tickets.

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Meantime, Kazi Hena, who was replaced despite having party ticket, told the reporters she relinquished her government service on August 9.

With an attested copy of her resignation letter, she said, "The EC officials told me I can file nomination attaching the photocopy and I must submit the main copy before scrutiny."

"But my party leaders prevented me from filing the nomination," Hena told reporters weeping.

Hena claimed she was confined in a room at the EC Secretariat so she could not submit her nomination paper.

The ruling BNP picked up Zahan Panna instead, who filed her nomination in time.

The returning officer (RO) today scrutinises the nominations, of which the BNP filed 30, Jamaat three, Jatiya Party (Ershad) two, and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Matin) filed one with the support of the Islami Oikya Jote.

The last day of withdrawing candidature is September 1, and the RO is likely to declare the candidates elected uncontested.

After declared elected, the women lawmakers will join the parliament session slated for September 8.

On the nine seats allocated in favour of the main opposition AL, RO Mohammad Zakaria said after publication of official result of the 36 seats, the EC will declare a fresh schedule in 21 workdays.

The election to these nine seats will be open for all political parties, he added.

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