

# Floods of racial divide

**FROM PAGE 16**  
abandoned along the elevated highways that criss-cross the city of 1.5m people, now mostly ending in water ramps. Bodies floated spreadeagled in the dark waters below. With rescue efforts for the living in full swing, the dead lay neglected as convoys of soldiers, police, paramedics, and boat rescue teams from as far away as California and Illinois whizzed by.

One half-naked man could have been asleep with his head on a pillow, his final repose only given away by his mightily expanded stomach in the burning heat.

The neglect of the dead despite the publicly admitted danger of diseases such as cholera reflected the compartmentalised approach to the evacuation effort that in its attempt to organise everything on military lines left victim to its rigidity.

Buses could only pick up large groups of people in large convoys, so small groups and stragglers were ignored. The city resembles the aftermath of a war zone. Largely deserted streets are full of debris and rubbish, with large crowds of displaced people gathered together to protect themselves from wide-spread looting, occasional arson, and rape.

And yet, unlike the immediate postwar trauma, there are no UN workers registering and setting up sanctuaries, no NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières assisting. This is an all-American effort and overwhelmingly official, which means very ponderous until it gets rolling. Citizens trying to get into the city to help or inspect their homes are blocked at checkpoints.

With recriminations mounting and President George W. Bush looking to apportion blame, authorities have protested that the extent of the calamity has overwhelmed them. Some 80 per cent of the city, much of it built below sea level between a large lake and a mighty river, remains under water. The coastal areas of Mississippi to the east were also devastated.

Large numbers of people tens of thousands ignored the mandatory evacuation order to flee ahead of Katrina's arrival last Sunday. But then tens of thousands had no means to get out of New Orleans.

One of them was Connie Emalle, a New Orleans hotel worker seen on Saturday pushing her belongings in a plastic bin on an office chair with wheels, inching along in a line of people towards a cordon of armed National Guards who would assign them to a bus. (Where the bus would take them, no one was quite sure. Houston, Texas, perhaps.)

The oldest, weakest and infants were among the last to leave. Nearly all were black and very poor.

All they knew is that finally they would be out of the Convention Center, a vast complex of halls, cafeterias and meeting rooms where finance ministers of the Americas had once conferred in splendour. But since the floodwaters surged on Tuesday it had become the refuge for thousands of people and then their prison.

But worse than a prison, they said, as there was no security, no food or water, no electricity for three days. During this time, they said, girls and boys were raped in the dark and had their throats cut and bodies were stuffed in the kitchens while looters and madmen exchanged fire with weapons they had looted.

No one we found could actually say they saw the bodies, but three heavily armed soldiers of the National Guard came kicking in doors and shining torches into rooms and corridors as the last stragglers left, saying they were under orders to find the bodies.

In the street outside lay the body of one man shot in the head, covered with black blankets and surrounded by office chairs as if he had been the focus of a discussion topic. A man who would only identify himself as "IP" said he had seen police gun him down the day before as he got in the way of a convoy carrying the mayor who had come to inspect the scene.

A soldier of the National Guard confirmed he had been shot by police.

The entire fetid complex reeked of excrement. Piles of litter, abandoned clothing and nappies lay everywhere. Phyllis Riley, 51, seeking to maintain her dignity in clothes smeared in vomit, apologised for her condition but said she had asthma and could hardly breathe and had not seen a single medical worker in the five days since Katrina landed.

In the sheer terror of feeling totally abandoned for several days, before an inkling of help even began to arrive, people clutched desperately at rumours. Ms Emalle had heard of three warships being diverted from Iraq, including an aircraft carrier.

"The aircraft carrier was to get people uptown where water was chest deep," she said confidently.

Geraldine Lavy said her son protected four Australian tourists from rapists in the convention centre. "Can you imagine? Four white women on their own?"

And then she cursed her government asking how the Australian embassy had been able to evacuate its citizens and she was still caught in hell, now separated from her son after being bussed to the airport.

Ms Lavy echoed the thoughts and words of many black Americans we spoke to over the weekend who, while often heroic or stoic in the face of the death and depravity around them, were deeply bitter and angry at the rich white people who run their country.

"They opened the levees to save the whole neighbourhood to protect their investments," declared Larry Crawford, 34, believing, as many sincerely do, that some districts were deliberately flooded to relieve the pressure on the dykes protect-

# India raises

**FROM PAGE 16**  
forced to continue selling fuel at June's rate.

Crude prices have risen more than 50 percent this year.

"The cabinet has decided to increase prices of petrol by 3 rupees a litre (7 US cents) and diesel by 2 rupees a litre," Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar told reporters.

The loss of revenue for the state-run oil companies as a result of the squeeze was also likely to lead to a loss of dividend earnings worth billions of rupees for the cash-strapped federal government.

"I think we will be able to substantially recover the projected losses of oil companies. However, a great deal would depend on international oil prices," Aiyar said.

Prices of kerosene and cooking gas were left unchanged.

Prices vary from state to state but using New Delhi prices as a base, the cost of petrol and diesel will be about 7 percent more, keeping Indian prices among the highest state-regulated one's in Asia. The country imports 70 percent of its oil.

US light crude CLC1 hit a record \$70.85 a barrel last week. The average price so far this year is \$54.53 a barrel, up about 30 percent on 2004.

Aiyar said the government will issue oil bonds to oil companies, the value, structure and duration of which will be decided in consultation with the finance ministry and the Reserve Bank of India.

# Elderly man

**FROM PAGE 16**  
take revenge on his another accomplice Kawser.

The criminals opened fire on Nabi, the elder brother of Kaoser, taking him to be Kawser. Nabi died on the spot.

The criminals also shot Safa who came to the aid of the victim. He was admitted to local Upazila Health Complex for bullet wounds.

Sources said Nasir was caught while committing robbery and sent to jail earlier this year. He blamed Kawser, who had a dispute with him over a piece of land, for his arrest. After being released on bail few days back, he attacked on vengeance, sources said.

# Uneasy calm

**FROM PAGE 16**  
(planning) and freedom fighter Major (ret'd) Moktar was on the top of the list while Senior General Manager Makbul E Elahi, a technical cadre official of Petrobangla, in the second position.

Petrobangla officials expressed surprise as the appointment took place at a time when the seniority list was waiting for approval by the Superior Selection Board (SSB).

The SSB is scheduled to pick up officials for appointment as Petrobangla directors in a couple of weeks.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) said the officials were given current charges, as the SSB will take time in giving the appointments. The delay will hamper the activities of the Petrobangla, it added.

However, Petrobangla officials said no temporary appointment was made although the director posts of planning and operation along with mine and minerals remained vacant for two to 11 months.

"For smooth functioning, the appointments should have been made much earlier. But the current charge appointments have been made at a time when the SSB is about to give its approval," said an official smelling a rat in the hurried appointment.

In making the current charge appointments, the EMRD said the technical posts should be filled up by the technical persons.

But officials alleged that Makbul E Elahi, who is a technical cadre official and was second on the seniority list, was not given the current charge.

Officials also alleged that although hurried appointments were made to director planning and operation, the post of director (mine and minerals) remains vacant.

# Opposition

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Earlier in the day, an emergency meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) decided in principle to go for a hartal, and asked party leaders to fix the date in consultation with other opposition parties.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Replying a query, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters that the party will not join the parliament session that begins tomorrow, and continue its boycott of the House.

"This government has increased fuel price for the eighth time, and the price is now almost double that during the Awami League rule. This will hit the low and middle-income people hard, and it will also increase inflation," Jalil said referring to discussions at the ALCWC meeting.

On the two-day weekly holiday announced by the government, the meeting pointed out that the previous AL government had introduced this system but the BNP and its allies in the opposition had staged demonstrations against it.

Demanding an explanation from the prime minister about the August 17 bomb blasts, the meeting in a resolution said, "Despite a commitment, the prime minister has not addressed the nation on the bomb blasts as her party itself was involved in it. She has nothing to tell the nation as her own people are the culprits."

The ALCWC welcomed the recent High Court verdict declaring martial law regimes illegal.

It called for building up resistance against government 'repression' on opposition leaders and activists, terrorist activities and price hike of fuel and essentials.

# Militants trained

**FROM PAGE 16**  
his involvement in the blasts to a first class magistrate on Tuesday in the district, reports BDNEWS.

In his statement, Delwar also said the banned militant outfit's network is spread over Kalihati, Bashail and Delduar of Tangail.

Hailing from Araihaazar of Narayanganji, he stands accused in several cases. He had been involved in militant activities across Tangail under different names like Rahmatullah and Moulana Samad.

In another development, police arrested five more people on Monday night in Bagerhat and Tangail, suspecting their involvement in the August 17 blasts.

Osman Gani Shamin, Asadul Islam Azad, and Obaydullah, the three men arrested in Tangail, are JMB operatives and students of Dhalapara Kawmi Madrasa. A court yesterday placed them on a five-day remand.

Those arrested in Bagerhat are Moulana Abdullah Gazi, 35, a teacher of Shalaidaha Fazil Madrasa of Chitalmai, and Moulana Daud Sheikh, imam of Saralia Ahle Hadith Mosque.

Bagerhat police made the arrests following confessional statement of JMB leader Mohammad Barkatullah.

Meanwhile, Khulna police said Masud bin Ishaque, arrested in the city on Monday, is an Indian national.

Masud, a suspected leader of an Islamist extremist group, has been living illegally in Khulna for the last 12 years. He hails from Chhabish pargana of the Indian state of West Bengal.

Police sources said Masud will be sent to Dhaka today for interrogation by JIC.

BDNEWS reports: Leaflets of JMB were found again on the veranda of Gaibandha Press Club yesterday morning. The two-page leaflets describes the history of Jama'at-ul Mujahideen's emergence in Bangladesh and details the key persons as well as their responsibilities.

Similar leaflets were found in the club on Monday.

Our Staff correspondent from Khulna adds: Abdur Rahim Salafi alias Bagerhati, arrested five days ago in Pirojpur district, was sent to Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in the capital yesterday, a day after police seized two international passports issued to his name.

Earlier Salafi was taken on a seven-day remand in a case filed for August 17 blasts in Khulna city and Bagerhat town.

Detective Branch (DB) of police said Salafi, who studied in a kawmi madrasa in Chandpur, had visited India thrice and Saudi Arabia once in the last one year.

Police were quizzing him to know the reasons for his holding two international passports and visiting India and Saudi Arabia.

UNB reports: Police on Monday night raided the house of Abdul Aziz alias Mujahid Bhai in Purbo Kachar village but failed to nab him. Aziz is

suspected to have links to the country-wide explosions.

Locals said he has gone into hiding.

Maulana Abdul Mannan, arrested on August 30 in Sirajganj, mentioned his name, along with those of others in his confessional statement.

Known as a leader of Harkatul Jihad, Abdul Aziz and 40 others were arrested with arms in the deep forest of Ukhuya in Cox's Bazar in February 1996. All of them were later convicted and awarded life term in prison. But they all secured bail from the High Court.

# Iraq

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"Honestly I wish we had never been given that programme, and I wish the UN will never be asked to undertake that kind of program again. There were failures; there were inadequacies; there were situations that we couldn't deal with," Annan said.

The Independent Inquiry Committee, headed by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, has been investigating how much Annan knew about an oil-for-food contract awarded to a Swiss company that employed his son.

In a March interim report, Volcker said there was not enough evidence to show that Annan knew of a contract bid by his son's Swiss employer but faulted him for failing to properly investigate possible conflicts of interest.

Volcker's team reopened its inquiry in June after a 1998 e-mail came to light suggesting Annan may have known more about the contract than he had claimed.

Annan said it would be unfair for the world to view criticism of the oil-for-food program as a symbol of UN incompetence and corruption.

"I don't think any institution can go through the scrutiny, the scrubbing we've gone through and come out squeaky clean," Annan said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi MPs yesterday debated behind closed doors a sweeping anti-terror bill that envisages widening the scope of crimes subject to the death penalty in order to quell the raging insurgency.

As the lawmakers discussed ways to thwart rebels, US fighter-bombers bombed two bridges on the Euphrates river to disrupt rebel movements near the Syrian border and ground troops raided a safe house nearby, killing two foreign insurgents.

The MPs were holding a second day of secret debate on a new anti-terror law which proposes the death penalty not only for those guilty of terrorist acts, but for their accomplices and those advocating "sectarian strife".

The bill, which is still subject to amendments, envisages eight offences that could qualify as terrorist acts punishable by death.

# PDB picks flawed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Besides, Harbin continued to decline to submit a technical proposal even though Chandpur Project Director Tulusi Das Saha broke the rules to seek it after the closure of the tender. Harbin claimed its technical offer placed during the pre-selection for the tender stood valid.

"This clearly demonstrates there is some built-in loophole in Harbin's financial offer. It is very strange that two Chinese companies' offers differed by as much as \$11 million. If one of them was a European or US company, it would have been logical because European service charges are much higher," a PDB source said.

"Since Harbin has not given the financial and technical offers together as per the tender terms, this has already created a legal loophole. And this might allow the company to impose an additional cost of \$10 million for power plant spare parts after the contract has been awarded to it," he pointed out.

Harbin does not have the experience to build a combined cycle power plant on its own but it has already been given the contract for 90 mw Fenchuganj power plant violating government tender rules. Awarding of the contract for the Chandpur plant would involve similar violation of rules.

The company was earlier awarded PDB's 100 mw simple cycle Tongi power project, which it completed more than a year behind the schedule. The plant is not properly functioning till date. While the PDB blames Harbin's faulty plant design for this, the company blames PDB's power distribution system.

It is alleged that a business lobby backing Harbin has bribed a section of unscrupulous officials of the PDB, Power Division, and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) that is now monitoring power projects. Officials however rejected the allegation because of its financial offer.

A source involved in the process however points out, "PDB's Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) has recommended Harbin's bid for Chandpur project despite knowing the bid grossly violated the tender rules. The pProject director has violated Regulation 31, Clause (5) of the Public Procurement Regulation, 2003 by seeking technical proposal from Harbin after expiry of the deadline for bid submission."

He mentioned that following complaints from the CMEC and an appeal to the prime minister to intervene in the project, the PMO started investigating the matter. But the business lobby succeeded to convince the PMO that delaying the Chandpur project will greatly harm government efforts to set up more power stations before the next general elections.

"The business lobby also managed to make a number of people in strategic positions happy in various ways," the source added.

How a Tk 10 lakh bribe proposal doubled the Tongi project cost

# Living turns

**FROM PAGE 1**  
100-200 a day meets up his demand of protein," he said.

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda at a meeting yesterday assigned transport owners and workers leaders of increasing transport fare.

The local buses in the city have already attached charts of the increased fares, charging the passengers accordingly. A bus on route No. 8 (from Gabtoli to Jatrabari) was found displaying a chart that declares there is no fare below Tk 2.

The fare from Gabtoli to Jatrabari was previously Tk 12, which has increased to Tk 14, while the Tk 2 fare from Farmgate to Shahbagh has increased to Tk 3.

Passengers were seen quarrelling with the conductors over the sudden increase of bus fare before any government decision.

Md Kabir, a vegetable supplier to Karwan Bazar, said he had to pay a fare of Tk 9,000, an increase by Tk 2,000, yesterday for transporting vegetables by truck from Bogra to Dhaka.

"I must cover up this extra amount of transport fare while selling vegetables to the wholesale traders, the effect of which will surely pass on to the commoners," he said.

Bangladesh Truck Owners' Association General Secretary Rustam Ali Khan said in the wake of the latest fuel price hike, the transportation fares of trucks from Dhaka to Sylhet, Sylhet to Chittagong, and Chittagong to Dhaka will increase by Tk 1200.

Meanwhile, the rice traders are fearing losses in business as the transportation fare for each truck from Dinajpur to Dhaka has already increased by Tk 3,000.

"There will be no way but to increase the price of rice," Md Sohel, a wholesale rice trader at Babu Bazar, told The Daily Star, adding, "surely we shall not go for loss."

"The common people of the country either have to consume less or earn more to survive in this situation of price hike of all the essentials. Theft, looting and hijacking might also increase under the circumstances," Mahfuz Haque, senior executive officer of Sanskriti Bikash Kendra, commented.

# Aiyar says Dhaka

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"Specific proposals have been drafted which will be vetted by the competent authorities from both sides, before a MoU on the pipeline is signed", he said, adding that the approval may come very soon.

After the signing of the MoU, a project director will be appointed and a project team will be formed to conduct feasibility study and other preparatory works, Aiyar said.

"Gas from offshore Myanmar (where Indian firms have 30per cent stake) is expected by 2009 and we hope to monetise it before that," he added.

# 18 more

**FROM PAGE 1**  
initiatives to bring them with the assistance of Unicef and International Organisation for Migration.

The UAE government is sending about 260 such Bangladesh children under an agreement the UAE had signed with Unicef in May this year that banned the use of children under 16 and weighing less than 45 kilograms in camel race, a popular sport in the Middle East.

# ACC

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the government pool," quips a source.

Yesterday's meeting was marked by disagreement about whether to screen all ex-Bac staff in one go or do the screening class-wise in separate meetings.

Maniruddin wanted the meeting to be confined to screening the third and fourth class employees only as the ACC in the first phase had screened some first and second class employees," the source said, adding, "But the chairman and the other commissioner disagreed with his argument. They preferred to finish the job once and for all."

"As Maniruddin left the meeting in disapproval, Sultan Hossain Khan, Maniruzzaman Miah, and ACC secretary finalised the decision on the scrutiny," he pointed out.

Earlier the two commissioners had a disagreement with the chairman over inducting 14 deputy directors of the Bac. Out of those 14 officials, 11 were given the jobs allegedly in violation of the recruitment process at the Bac. Still, the chairman opted to absorb those officials into the ACC, ignoring the allegation against them of being recruited through irregularities.

The ACC however has yet to declare officially the finalisation of the screening. It will announce the list through a gazette notification, which is expected to be published within a week.

The ACC officials yesterday declined to make any official comment on the issue. Some of them expressed fear that a number of Bac staff against whom departmental actions had been taken may slip through the screening and be hired by the ACC.

# Court allows

**FROM PAGE 16**  
case, sought permission to conduct the DNA test of the skeleton to confirm whether it belongs to Jamaluddin or not.

Blood samples, hairs and some other items of three sons, wife and mother of the abducted businessman will be sent to the DNA laboratory at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital for conducting the test, sources said.

Earlier, the autopsy of the recovered skeleton was done at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital.

But the family members of the businessman refused to receive the skeleton without a DNA test.

# Saudi cops storm

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Monday, a day after two militants one of them the kingdom's No. 3 most-wanted terrorist died in the fighting.

"Security forces are attempting to storm the militants' hideout and fierce clashes are going on" in the main city of the oil-rich Eastern Province, a security source told AFP, requesting anonymity.

"Three armed men were killed Monday evening by security forces," another security source said, adding to two militants killed on Sunday. Two policemen have also been killed, including one who died in a shootout Sunday, he said.

Said Saad Zaid al-Samari, a 31-year-old Saudi, was killed Sunday in Dammam, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to give information to the media. A police officer also was killed Sunday.

Al-Samari was on a list of 36 most-wanted terrorists sought in relation to multiple terror attacks launched in this kingdom since May 2003.

Security forces have since Sunday besieged what they call "members of the deviant group" -- official terminology for al-Qaeda militants -- after a shootout in another neighbourhood in which two militants and a policeman died.

Six to 10 militants are holed up in the building in the Al-Hamma district, according to local press reports.

Security sources said on Monday the authorities had no immediate plans to storm the militants' redoubt due to fears they would "go all the way" and blow up the building in a bid to cause maximum losses amongst the police.

Unlike neighbouring Dhahran, Dammam is itself not an oil centre or a hub for foreign firms, although several have offices on the street where Sunday's initial shootout took place.

The US consulate in Dhahran, home of oil giant Saudi Aramco, said Monday it would close for an undetermined period of time because of

the "standoff between Saudi security forces and an unknown number of terrorists in Dammam."

A shooting and hostage-taking rampage in the nearby city of Al-Khobar left 22 people dead in May 2004. Four Westerners were among those killed in the assault, which was claimed by the al-Qaeda terror network and came amid a spate of attacks on Western residents of the kingdom by suspected al-Qaeda extremists.

The battle in Dammam is the latest in a series of confrontations between security forces and al-Qaeda suspects who have carried out a wave of shootings and bombings in the oil-rich kingdom since May 2003, much of it targeting Westerners.

# 'Outlaw' killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
crossfire and died on the spot. His accomplices, however, managed to flee the scene, leaving behind a pipe gun and three cartridges, they added.

Four policemen-- saiful Islam, Abdul Gafur, Abdul Ali and Shamsuzzaman--were also injured in the encounter.

Santhia police said Zia was an accused in seven cases, including five for murder.

# Stop unproductive

**FROM PAGE 16**  
increasing government support for development of solar home system in the country.

He thanked the World Bank for its financial support to the IDCOL for the solar home system project.

In the function, the prime minister gave away awards to seven persons for their outstanding contributions to the development of IDCOL solar home system.

The recipients of the awards are Prof M Rejwan Khan, Raihan Elahi, Dipan Chandra Barua, Manwar Meraj Rahim, SM Maniul Islam, Engineer Ruhul Quddus and Purnima Rani Das.

# New Orleans

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the surging waters of Lake Pontchartrain on the city.

The massive round-the-clock project saw contractors drive piles into the gap and huge twin-rotor Chinook helicopters dump hundreds of bags full of sand, cement and bits of torn-up roadway.

The repair allowed engineers to start pumping water back into the lake while planning to blow holes in strategic points farther down the levee to allow water to seep out.

But authorities estimated that it would take between 36 and 80 days to drain the city, making it months before authorities could clean up a disease-breeding soup of floodwater, gasoline, sewage and

other contaminants.

In the city's relatively intact western suburbs, thousands of evacuees who fled the storm returned Monday to check on the state of their battered homes and salvage what they could.

Visits to the area were permitted only during daylight hours, with police and National Guard troops enforcing a strict dusk-to-dawn curfew to keep people off the flooded streets and to discourage looters.

Even as the suburban residents returned, police and rescue teams in the heart of New Orleans struggled to persuade some last die-hard survivors of the storm to finally abandon their homes.

# Rab empowered

authorities--inspector general of police (IGP) and the home ministry--against the verdict within 30 days of the delivery of the judgement.

The rules will be named as Rapid Action Battalion (court system and departmental proceedings) Rules 2005.

The crime-busting force, which is still operating without its own rules, came into being through the Armed Police Battalions (APBn) (Amendment) Act, 2003. Comprised of members from the army, navy, air force, police, APBn, coastguard and ansar on deputation, it launched formal operations on June 21 last year.

**PRE-TRIAL INQUIRY**  
If an allegation is found true in a pre-trial inquiry after a complaint is received, the director general (DG) will send the matter to the Special Court or the Summary Court or the departmental proceedings, considering the gravity of the findings.

If no evidence and witnesses are available for the complaint, the DG will inform the court or dispose of the matter himself. In some cases, the commanding officer (CO) will dispose of the matter himself and inform the DG.

**COMPOSITION OF COURTS**  
One or more Special Courts will be formed on the basis of the recommendation of the IGP.

Additional IGP will head the Special Court, which will also have another member equivalent to the rank of superintendent of police (SP), to try superior officials from the rank of assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and above.

But if the accused Rab officer is found to be of the rank of SP, a deputy inspector general (DIG) will replace the SP. To try the rest of the officials, one or more Special Courts will be formed with a DIG as the head. Another of the rank of inspector of police will be the other member.

But if the accused is of the rank of police inspector, an assistant SP (ASP) will be the other member of the court.

Of the two units of the Summary Courts, one will try aforementioned superior officers while the other the rest of the Rab men.

A DIG will head the court, which will deal superior officials and will have another member of the SP rank while a CO will head the other court to deal with the rest of officials and have a police inspector as the other member.

If the man to be tried and the court member are of similar rank, the latter will be replaced by an officer of superior rank.

**ARREST**  
After taking any complaint into cognisance, the Special Court and Summary Court will order the arrest of the accused Rab man.

Before the trial begins, the authorities will check the health condition of the accused and take necessary steps accordingly.

Given the gravity of the offence, the courts will give a direction whether the accused will be kept either in Rab's quarter guard or be confined to their stations or under strong watch.

As in the defence, the accused will have at least 27 days before the trial begins in the Special Court and seven days if it is the Summary Court.

The Rab rules, however, do not mention whether the accused will be allowed to appoint a defending officer.

The hearing will go uninterrupted at both the courts, but the courts will be able to adjourn the trial for a short period of time if it finds it urgent for the sake of justice.

If the accused confesses to his guilt, the court has the power to deliver the verdict instantly or to continue the trial for the sake of justice, considering that the accused has not confessed.

The court will pass the judgement on the day of completion of the trial in the next seven days.

**TRIAL IN ABSENTIA**  
If the accused absconds or hides before the beginning of a trial or during it, the concerned court will ask the DG to publish an advertisement in a widely-circulated national newspaper, directing the accused to appear before the court in 10 days.

If the accused does not comply, the court will complete the trial in his absence. It, however, may appoint a defending officer for him.

The verdict will be executed after he surrenders or is arrested.

**APPEAL**  
The convict will be able to appeal against the judgement in 30 days of its delivery.

The superior officers will appeal with the government while the others with the IGP.

If their appeal is turned down, officials under the rank of ASP and lower will be able to appeal to the president for mercy.

**DEPARTMENTAL PROCEEDINGS**  
There will also be a provision allowing the Rab authorities to discipline its members through departmental proceedings, which would not require them to set up any court or take the matter to the courts.

If the authorities find the allegation against any Rab man true and that it deserves minor punishment, the accused will be asked for his reply and explanation. The authorities will be able to award him any minor punishment after examining everything.

But if the authorities find the guilt deserves major punishment, they will investigate into the allegation, submit the chargesheet, record statements and will serve showcause notice on him asking him to reply in seven days why he will not be awarded major punishment.