

5 conditions for WB's DSC tranche

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may have to fulfil five conditions to get the fourth tranche of the World Bank's (WB) Development Support Credit (DSC).

Sources said the government had to fulfil 13 conditions to secure the third tranche of the DSC, but with the next general elections only around 10 months away, the WB may lessen the number of conditions.

A WB team led by Sadiq Ahmed starts discussion with the government today on the fourth instalment of the DSC, a finance ministry source said.

The WB will then submit a detailed report to the government, outlining the conditions Bangladesh will have to meet to get the DSC-4.

The DSC- 4 will be equivalent to

\$100-150 million, and the WB may release the fund towards July-August if the government fulfils the conditions.

The government will try hard to get the fund to keep its bank borrowing within limit before it leaves office in October, sources pointed out.

There will possibly be five conditions for the power sector, nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) and National Board of Revenue (NBR).

In the power sector, the government will have to formulate and adopt a least costly development plan for investments and ensure that all proposed investments are consistent with this plan. The government will also have to formulate a plan defining its financing strategy for investments in the sector.

It will have to develop specific Terms of Reference for the managing directors of the NCBs and spec-

ify a fixed tenure for them, keeping in view prospective corporatisation of the banks.

Besides, privatisation process of Rupali Bank will have to be completed within the time limit agreed to earlier.

Again, a new NBR board and senior management structure will have to be created in line with its strategic development plan.

As part of trade liberalisation, supplementary duties will have to be reduced by at least 2 percentage points.

Finally, the government will have to implement the agreed macroeconomic framework under the Poverty Reduction Growth Facilities.

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First hearing of sedition charge against JMB men Mar 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The hearing of the first sedition case against eight Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders and members of Dhamrai area will be held on March 19.

Judge Mohammad Rafiqul Islam of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday directed the JMB members to appear before it on that day.

The eight accused JMB operatives are Mohammad Rafiqul Islam alias Sentu, 22, Mohammad Wahab, 26, Yaqub Ali, 21, Anwar

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Arrest 'dramas' to divert attention

Says Hasina at rally

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, from Barisal

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat coalition government, who staged dramas of militant kingpins' arrests on the days of opposition's grand rallies in Chittagong and Barisal, would be toppled through another grand rally.

Addressing a 14-party grand rally

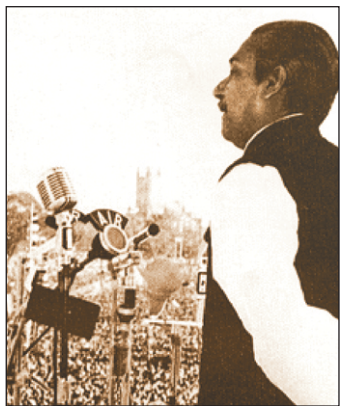
at Bangabandhu Udyan in Barisal town, Hasina, also the president of Awami League, said the arrest dramas were staged to divert people's attention from the ongoing anti-government movement.

"When we held a grand rally in Chittagong, the alliance government staged the arrest drama of Abdur Rahman and now they have staged a similar drama with Bangla Bhai when we are holding a grand

rally in Barisal, she said, adding, "The coalition government will fall when we hold a grand rally again."

Tens of thousands of people including 14-party leaders, workers and supporters, joined the rally held amid strict security with 1,400 law enforcers from the police, Rab and intelligence agencies deployed around the rally venue and other parts of the town.

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Historic March 7 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic March 7, the day when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called on the Bangalees to prepare for a decisive struggle to force the Pakistan junta into conceding independence to our nation.

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Jamaat bemoans media coverage on militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami and Minister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid yesterday said the media

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PM claims success in ending terrorism

UNB, Narayanganj

Claiming her government's success in eliminating terrorism, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said there is no room for terrorists in the country.

As the law-enforcers arrested Bangla Bhai, one of the two most-wanted militant kingpins, she further observed that many developed countries of the world couldn't do what Bangladesh could in taming the terrorists.

Addressing a public meeting at

Fatullah Osmany Cricket Outer Stadium yesterday, the prime minister said her government has fulfilled pre-election commitments one after another. And the first commitment was to remove terrorism from the country, which was engulfed by the menace for patronage and cooperation of the previous regime (indicating the past Awami League government).

Khaleda, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, said the people of Bangladesh voted the BNP-led

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US for full probe into Aug 17 blasts

UK hails capture

UNB, Dhaka

The United States termed the arrest of JMJB chief Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai a positive development and called for full investigation into the August 17 blasts and other unsolved crimes committed before that.

"This is a very positive development...We, along with many other Bangladeshis, have been calling for

the capture of the militant leaders," US Charge d' Affaires Judith Chammas told the news agency after Bangla Bhai was arrested yesterday.

Calling for investigation into all bomb and grenade attacks on or before the August 17 serial bombings, she said, "Of course, we want to see full investigation into the August 17 bomb blasts and other

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Govt has to be tried for denial of Bangla Bhai's existence: AL

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said the government 'has to be put in the dock' for its past denial of Bangla Bhai's existence and its threat to bring sedition charges against opposition leaders for speaking about the militancy.

"With the arrest of Bangla Bhai, our statements about the militancy and fanaticism in the country proved correct. But the government so long denied it while a minister called it a creation of media," he told the news agency.

Saber, Political Secretary to Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina, said the government will have to explain why Bangla Bhai was released after his arrest on August 15, 2002.

Bangla Bhai was arrested for

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Prayer Timing		
March 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		