

ACC rejects

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in the ACC.

"I still hope Nicar will not accept this structure with 650 posts," said Justice Sultan. "But if they impose it, we will have to live with it."

Meanwhile, the ACC held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss this proposal. It decided to convey to the government its feelings and opinion on the matter.

"We will send a letter to the government tomorrow (today) saying that we don't accept this structure, and urging it to accept ACC's previous proposal on the issue, suggesting 1,376 posts," Sultan said.

The Cabinet Division's proposal contains many issues that violate the ACC Act, he pointed out.

The proposal showed the ACC chairman and two commissioners as on-contract service holders. This violates the ACC Act that says a selection committee will screen potential candidates and nominate the chairman and commissioners to the president for final selection and approval.

The Cabinet Division's proposal says the posts of ACC secretary, five director generals, 15 directors, 46 deputy directors and 21 public prosecutors will all be held by bureaucrats on deputation.

But Section 16 of the ACC Act provides that the commission itself will appoint its secretary. The other officials are also supposed to be appointed by the ACC as per recruitment rules to be framed by it and approved by the president. The ACC framed the rules last year but the government has not accepted them.

The Act also outlines job description of the secretary. But the Cabinet Division's proposal itself gave a 28-point job description for the secretary, trying to establish the secretary as chief executive of the ACC.

The proposal says the ACC has freedom to appoint officials and staffs below the rank of public prosecutors. But this structure does not give any scope for promotion of employees to be recruited by the ACC.

A C C C O M M I S S I O N E R Maniruzzaman Miah hoped that the government would not impose such a structure on the ACC. " Nicar sits after a long interval. Therefore, it is very

doubtful whether we can get an organogram before the present government's tenure expires," he told The Daily Star.

Ignoring the formalities spelled out by the ACC Act, the ACC chairman and the commissioners were all selected by the ruling coalition. As a result, these high-ups of the ACC do not want to antagonise the government and want to pass the blame on to the bureaucrats for the stagnation in the ACC.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told the press that the ACC should remember it is not as free as the judiciary. But it is similar to Bangladesh Bank, Election Commission or auditor general. "The ACC should remember that it is a part of the executive wing of the government," Saifur said at a discussion organised by the Economic Reporters Forum. "Therefore the ACC should try to work within the framework of the government."

Kansat victims

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PBUSP joint conveners Arep Ali Tisu and Zahir Chowdhury, Rabbani's cousin Tipu, and his close associates Taher, Abdul Latif and Rafik also withdrew compensation money as "seriously injured", it was alleged.

Some real victims of the police action were listed for a compensation of Tk 3,000 each only while one seriously injured was not even listed, the villagers alleged.

The Kansat villagers held protests in Kansat, Abbasbazar, Kaithapara and Shibnagar over what they termed a cheating with them who did not hesitate to sacrifice lives to free the PBUSP leaders from jail.

"Rabbani's men are threatening us for holding protests," said Saiful Islam of Kaithapara.

"I was injured as I was in the frontline and faced the police, but I have not received any compensation," said Mostafa from the same area. "How could Joyнал Abedin [also PBUSP joint convenor] and his son and grandson collect Tk 53,000 as injured?" he asked.

Rabbani denied the allegations, saying the protest was organised by his opponents.

Nam urged to defend Iran's nuclear right

AFP, Putrajaya

The 114-member Non-Aligned Movement (Nam) must defend Iran's right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, chairman Malaysia said yesterday at the group's ministerial talks.

In a clear reference to the United States' efforts to force Iran to abandon its nuclear programme, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said there should be one set of rules for everybody.

"Allowing Israel to develop nuclear weapons with impunity -- which it does not deny -- while others in the region are prohibited from doing so, is a blatant case of double standards," he said.

"It has created a destabilising asymmetry in a volatile part of the world," he added. "We must recognise Iran's right to develop such technology for peaceful purposes."

Abdullah said that Nam, which is made up of mostly developing countries, will continue to defend the right of all signatories to the non-proliferation treaty to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

He also called for an immediate resolution to the Palestinian crisis, describing it as "one of the most profound tragedies of our time".

"The so-called peace process now lies in tatters," he said, calling for an end to sanctions and saying the conflict would not end until the rights of the Palestinian people were recognised.

Darul Ihsan

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Meanwhile, a group of students staged demonstrations for the last few days demanding Ali Naki as their VC when most of the students are demanding appointment of a vice-chancellor 'as per the law'.

Some students formed a human chain on the university's Dhanmondi campus yesterday and chanted slogans claiming Ali Naki as their vice-chancellor. The students of Darul Ihsan University on May 17 confined its two 'vice chancellors' for five hours at the university's Shyamoli campus and released them when they signed papers containing the students' nine-point demand that includes resolving all the problems of the university within May 29.

To resolve the problem, the UGC called a meeting of 26 members of Darul Ihsan Trust, two claimants of the vice-chancellor post, an education ministry representative, and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at 4:00pm yesterday.

After postponement of the meeting, no new schedule was fixed, Prof Monirul Hoque said.

"Legal complexities arise further following filing of cases by Ali Naki's men and a rule nisi issued by a court on the opponent group," said an UGC member.

Prof Monirul Hoque said a quarter within the Darul Ihsan University had sent him letters saying, "You [Monirul] might be in the trouble of facing contempt of court charge if you hold the meeting when the issue has gone to the court."

KRU organised the journalists' convention protesting against the oppression of four local journalists. At least 500 journalists from ten southwestern districts and from the capital gathered at the venue to attend the convention.

Amanur Aman, acting president of KRU and Kushtia correspondent of The Daily Star was presiding over the programme.

Sources said BNP lawmaker of Kushtia-2 constituency (Mirpur-Bheramara) Shahidul Islam sent around 50 cadres and activists to foil the convention. They came to the town in the morning and took part in the attack. Another lawmaker of Kushtia-4 constituency also provided cadres for the attack, sources said.

The other injured journalists are Kushtia Correspondent of Channel i and Editor of local Dainik Andolaner Bazar Manjur Ehsan Chowdhury, Special Correspondent of Danik Manabzamin Laekuzzaman, Faridpur Correspondent of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) Munshi Harunur Rashid, Acting President of KRU and Kushtia Correspondent of The Daily Star Amanur Aman, Kushtia Correspondent of Prothom Alo Tariqul Haq Tariq, Chief Editor Dainik Ajker Sutrapat Mujibul Sheikh and Ajker Akther Hossain Firoj, Staff Correspondent of Dainik Andolaner Bazar Sarif Biswas, President of Meherpur Press Club Ashrafur Islam. They were treated at Kushtia General Hospital.

The SC in its verdict upheld the January 4 High Court (HC) directives for updating the existing electoral rolls prepared in 2000.

The opposition parties and the civil society strongly opposed the CEC's decision to continue the task for preparing a fresh voter list ignoring the HC directives. They have been demanding his resignation since the SC verdict came on Tuesday.

On May 21, the CEC brushed aside the possibility of his resignation. "The answer is no, no, an emphatic no," he said when a reporter asked him if he would resign admitting his failure.

WB shifts

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stated. "This 40 billion hours are lost from their lives. The children could use the hours to attend schools. Sanitation is needed to stop diseases -- telephones for business, global trade and medicare."

"East Asia grew by investing on infrastructure. But the growing inequality is big challenge and we have to find an answer about how to overcome it," the WB chiefs said.

He said the Bank has to move away from the paradigm of private sector dominance in infrastructure as it cannot serve all purposes of development needs. Private sector investment in infrastructure dropped sharply in recent times.

"So, private-public collaboration is of compelling need to face the infrastructure challenge. But an enabling regulatory environment must be created," Wolfowitz said.

"Finally, we must fight corruption and bring high accountability to infrastructure projects," he concluded.

Money whitening

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said, "That results in violence, and to bring a balance, a pro-poor growth is necessary."

He acknowledged the grievances among garment workers about their wages and asked the owners to resolve the crisis through discussion to avert such violence in future.

On the rise of the number of businessmen turning to politics, especially as parliament members, the minister said, "Increasing presence of businessmen in parliament often hampers national interests as every decision involves businesses."

"But, in a democratic country the government has nothing to do in this regard and it is the voters' choice who they will vote to the parliament," he added.

Saifur identified that there is corruption in implementing the Annual Development Programme (ADP). He said slow implementation of the ADP is one of the main reasons for corruption and in the current fiscal only 45 per cent money has been spent in the first nine months.

The ministries go for a quick expenditure in the rest three months to raise the expenditure to as high as 73 per cent and that creates room for malpractice, he said.

Saifur identified the delay of payments to contractors by the government officials concerned as another main reason of corruption and slow ADP implementation.

He said implementation of the donor-funded projects is slower than those funded internally as the donors demand "more transparency and accountability" in releasing funds.

He opposed different ministers' plea that "unnecessary conditions" of the donors hamper smooth implementation of the projects. The donors' conditions are to check corruption and for the

proper utilisation of their tax payers' money, he said.

The World Bank (WB) recently cancelled some projects of different ministries on allegations of corruption, Saifur told the ERF members. Citing his discussion with WB officials, he said the donor agency told him that they have enough document of corruption in these projects.

Although the government has enacted the Procurement Act to check corruption, it is not enough, Saifur said, adding, "I am not optimistic that a mere act will stop corruption. We need moral regeneration campaign against such malpractices."

He expected that the GDP growth will reach seven per cent. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, however, predicted the figure at 6.7 per cent.

Chairman of National Board of Revenue Khairuzzaman Chowdhury, Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury, and ERF General Secretary Nazmul Ahsan were present at the meeting chaired by ERF Acting President Masumur Rahman Khalil.

Garment workers

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recently increased the wages of 300 out of 1,600 workers of the unit.

The workers became agitated yesterday following a declaration from the owners that the wages of the remaining 1,300 workers would not be increased.

At one stage, the aggrieved workers stopped working and closed the doors and windows of the factory, keeping the top executives confined.

The workers set free the executives after getting an assurance from the owners that they would resolve the problem through discussion today, said a police official when contacted over cellphone from Dhaka.

Police and Rab rushed to the spot to avert any untoward incident.

Arms smuggling

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for criminal activities.

South Asia Partnership (SAP) Bangladesh in collaboration with International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), organised the conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unit as part of marking Global Week of Action Against Small Arms 22-29 May 2006.

At least 128 syndicates in the country have engaged in criminal activities including gun running, human trafficking, extortion, prostitution, illegal occupation of land, especially for shrimp cultivation and real estate business, smuggling of contraband items, drug peddling, drug dealing, money laundering, election rigging and tender snatching, Major General (rtd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim said.

"More than six lakh operatives use four lakh illegal guns and forty per cent of them are under 18, which is very alarming for the nation," he said reading out the keynote paper.

More than one person generally uses one gun and many guns are rented out to different parties on various occasions, he added.

Militants and insurgent outfits of neighbouring countries have chosen the country's south and south-eastern region as a transit route for arms smuggling business because Bangladesh government and its law enforcers are yet to be aware about these illegal businesses.

South Asian region has now turned into a large illegal arms trading centre due to the conflict between India and Pakistan, as well as internal violence in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Nepal, and Myanmar, Brigadier General (rtd) Shakhawat Hossain said.

The tense situation contributes to the demand and supply of small arms and explosive devices in the region.

Civilians are the largest category of gun owners in the South Asian region, accounting for far more weapons than the military, police and insurgents, he said.

Out of some 75 million firearms in South Asia, only 12 million are legal while there are 63 million illegal firearms in civilian hands, he said, adding that India and Pakistan civilians overwhelmingly account for 40 million and 20 million weapons while civilians in Nepal and Sri Lanka own the remaining three million.

The data on how many civilians in Bangladesh use illegal arms are not available, he said.

He also said that a total of 192 light weapons, 44,979 bullets, 199 bombs and 11 kg explosive materials were recovered in 2005 while 79 light weapons, 25,442 bullets and 149 bombs were seized in the first five months of this year.

Around two million people are engaged in running arms and crime networks in the world, said Nadira Mallik, programme coordinator of SAP Bangladesh.

To create mass awareness, they have organised community consultation on illegal small arms at six divisions of the country, she said.

The government should take stern action against the illegal arms traders, Jatiya Nirbachon Parjibekkhon Parishad (Janipop) Chairman Prof Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah said.

DB seeks

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and Mining to look into the matter.

Asanul Kabir, sub-inspector of Rajshahi DB, in a letter to RU registrar said primary investigation revealed Salehi's involvement in the Taher murder and the RU authority's assistance is needed to arrest him.

The letter requested RU administration to inform the police whenever Salehi is seen on campus as the court has issued arrest warrant against him.

An office assistant of the department on May 23 took Salehi's form to the department chairman and told him two unidentified men gave him the form.

Shalehi went into hiding after he appeared in a public meeting on February 10, seven days after the murder, with top Jamaat-Shibir leaders who threatened police of chaos if Salehi was arrested.

Academic committee of the department, puzzled after receiving the form, sought the RU authority's direction regarding Salehi's form.

Meanwhile, a computer hard disk once used by another suspected mastermind of the murder Prof MIA Muhammad Mohiuddin, now in police custody, went missing from the computer lab of the science building in RU.

Salehi's friend and Mohiuddin's thesis student Nazim Uddin also used the computer.

Police said Salehi was involved in the murder to get Nazim a teacher's job at the university as he developed close relation with Mohiuddin through Nazim. ICS activist Nazim also went into hiding along with Salehi.

Police recovered the body of Taher at a septic tank behind his house on February 3. The three arrested killers, Zahangir, Nazmul and Abdus Salam, confessed to murdering Taher and said Mohiuddin and Salehi were the masterminds.

BSF kills 1

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near border pillar no 1072 at noon. Anis died instantly.

Immediately after the incident, the BSF men took away the body.

The commander of Balamari Rifles Battalion has sent a letter to the BSF demanding return of the body.

JS body asks govt

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Pakistan are below five per cent. They alleged that the government has imposed high import duty on newsprint to provide business facilities to two local newsprint manufacturers.

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor supported the editors and said newspaper is not a luxury commodity. "So, why the government should impose such a high duty on newsprint?" he questioned.

The editors also placed demands for immediate enactment of the Right to Information Act and for amending the century old press laws that have been hampering freedom of the press.

They also urged lawmakers to stop making gross accusations in the parliament against editors, journalists and newspapers, and said if there is any allegation against the press, it should have the opportunity to defend it.

The editors and journalists' leaders observed that the Press Council in Bangladesh has become an inactive organisation due to politicisation. They suggested the government to form a Press Commission that will act to resolve problems in the newspaper industry.

The daily Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman told the meeting that only eight newspapers have implemented the fifth wage board.

"Newspapers which have failed to implement the fifth wage board have no right to enjoy facilities from the government," he said. "Please don't take the editors as your opponents," he said referring to gross accusations made against the media in the House.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam told the meeting that aggrieved editors should have the opportunity to explain or defend themselves regarding allegations against them at least in the standing committee meetings.

Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the daily Sangbad also president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said lawmakers should not treat the media as an opponent of the government and the parliament.

Reazuddin Ahmed, president of the National Press Club also editor of The News Today demanded to form a parliamentary inquiry committee to investigate yesterday's attack on journalists in Kushtia.

But, the committee did not accept his proposal and its chairman said, "Only the parliament has the authority to form such a committee."

Editor of the daily Jugantor Golam Sarwar, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, BSS Chief Editor also Managing Director Gazizul Hasan Khan, Editor of the Amaradesh Amanullah Kabir, Chief Editor of the daily Manavjamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam, Editor of the daily Dinkal Kazi Sirajuddin Ahmed, Editor of the daily Bangla Bazar Md Zakaria Khan, Editor of The New Nation Mostafa Kamal Majumder, Chairman of the daily Ittefaq's Editorial Board Mainul Husein, Deputy Editor of the daily Samakal Mozammel Hossain Monju, and BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan were also present.

Indonesian quake

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immediately after the quake.

The international Red Cross said it had sent a field hospital and distributed about 2,000 tents, with up to 8,000 more on the way.

The UN sent three trucks carrying high-energy biscuits and a plane loaded with water, tents, stoves and cooking gear.

Two Singapore military cargo planes arrived at Yogyakarta airport with doctors and medical supplies.

Japan said it would dispatch an undetermined number of land, sea and air forces to help with relief efforts.

But officials said supplies remained inadequate.

"We have received food and medicine from the government but it's not enough," said Suparno, a neighbourhood official in the hardest-hit district of Bantul on Java island who goes by one name, like many Indonesians. "How can I distribute 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of rice to 1,200 people?"

Indonesia said late Sunday it would allocate \$107 million to help rebuild over the next year.

The United States has allocated \$2.5 million in aid and the US military plans to send 100 doctors, nurses and medical technicians from a base in Okinawa to Indonesia, U.S. Pacific Command spokesman Lt. Col. Bill Bigelow said Sunday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, has

released \$100,000 in emergency aid but said it will need to give much more.

UN humanitarian chief Jan Egeland has proposed boosting relief efforts with money from the UN's \$178 million central emergency relief fund.

UN officials in Indonesia said the most urgent needs were for generators, tents, three 100-bed field hospitals and medical supplies, mostly for treating broken limbs. Officials said they hoped to meet these requirements within three days.

France said Monday it would send medical equipment and personnel. Spain was to send 12 tons of tents, blankets and medicines and other aid, while Germany said German aid groups were moving water purification equipment and a mobile medical clinic to Java.

Britain, the European Union, China and the Japanese Red Cross Society together had given, or pledged to give, more than \$14 million.

Hundreds of villagers lined main roads in the disaster zone, holding out boxes for donations to buy rice, oil and candles.

"We need help. Anything at all," one sign read.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono acknowledged a "lack of coordination" in aid distribution when he visited refugees Monday and called for government officials to be "more agile."

Iraq explosion

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Another 12 people were killed, including a child, and 24 wounded when a massive car bomb exploded in Baghdad's predominantly Sunni neighbourhood of Adhamiya.

Only a minutes later, a second car bomb exploded in the same district, killing five and wounding seven.

Just across the Tigris, a bus in the Shia neighbourhood of Kadhimiya was blown up, killing seven people and wounding nine.

In southern Baghdad, another bomb went off inside a commuter minibus, killing two Iraqis and wounding one.

A car bomb also exploded next to a police patrol in the Karrada neighbourhood of Baghdad near the German embassy, killing three people and wounding five.

Another nine people were killed in other violence, highlighting the surge in attacks against ordinary Iraqis trying to go about their daily lives despite the Sunni-led insurgency and a flare-up of sectarian violence.

The breakdown in security was the main topic of Monday's parliamentary session as MPs took a break from debating internal rules to discuss the deteriorating situation in Diyala and the southern Basra province.

"The US control over security matters is worsening the security situation in Baquba, which prevents Diyala province from fighting terrorism," said Shia MP Jalal Eddin Sagheer.

Parliament agreed to form a committee to study the matter but could not agree on its composition and adjourned the session until Sunday.

Iraqi and US officials have said local security forces could start taking over responsibility from the US-led troops for at least two provinces by the summer, though for Baghdad it

would not be until the end of the year.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, a Kurd, told CNN Sunday that the delicate process of appeasing the four major parties in the national unity government was causing the delay in naming the security ministers and appealed for international patience.

"We have committed as part of that compact to include all communities of Iraq, that the ministers of defence and interior will be agreed to by the main communities," he said.

"That is a difficult challenge because in this polarized society, there are different views about particularly the issue of security."

Sources close to the dominant conservative Shia United Iraqi Alliance said the delay over choosing the interior minister, who will be a Shia, was due to squabbling between Shia factions themselves.

In other violence Monday, there was a series of incidents across the south of Iraq, mostly drive-by shootings against security personnel.

Britain announced on Monday that two of its soldiers were killed and two injured in a roadside bomb attack the day before in the main southern city of Basra, where British forces are based.

Though less affected by the largely Sunni-run insurgency in the centre and west, the Shia south is plagued by battles between various militias.

"We'll deal with the issues of militias by laying ahead of us a road map for rehabilitation and reintegration of these people back into public life of Iraqi politics or Iraqi state," Saleh said.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has several times since his inauguration promised to address the phenomenon, which is largely restricted to organisations linked to his Shia allies.