

Half-trained cops made sentinels of balloting

821 SIs hurriedly placed at police stations violating regulation

ZAYADUL AHSAN

After curtailing the basic training programme at Sardah Police Academy last year, the government in yet another blatant move has placed 821 sub-inspectors (SI) at different police stations, ignoring field level training for another remaining one and a half years, to ensure their election duty.

Breaking the police regulation, the government has exempted the SIs of training at the circle offices for three months, courts for six months and at the police lines for another three months, and directly

posted them at police stations across the country.

Earlier, the one-year basic training of these police officers at Sardah was curtailed by six months.

According to the Police Regulation of Bengal 1943, an SI has to undergo one year's basic training at Sardah. Then he is attached to a police station for six months as part of a two-year practical training programme.

After completion of training at the police station, the SI is posted at a circle office for three months, at a court for six months and at the

police lines for three months. Finally the SI is taken back to a police station for six months. During this period, the SI performs almost all police duties including investigation.

If the police regulations were followed, these SIs would be stationed at the courts during the next general elections learning the legal activities and would not be in any law enforcement capacity, said a senior police official on condition of anonymity.

"But by breaking regulation 791 of the Police Regulation of Bengal 1943, the government has awarded

posting to these sub-inspectors so that they can be used for law enforcement during the election," he added.

These trainings help erase the political affiliations, if any, of these police cadres, he said. "But curtailing the training period will now leave these half-trained police officials fresh with their political motivations, which will definitely affect their duty during the election," the police official added.

Most of these 821 SIs recruited on August 23 last year were activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

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Adviser crisis in forming caretaker govt feared

Ex-advisers foresee chaos if chief not accepted by all

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Formation of the next caretaker government is likely to prove difficult, as efficient and neutral persons might hesitate to become its advisers amid the prevailing controversy regarding the possible chief of the interim government, observed former advisers to caretaker governments.

"It will not be easy to form the caretaker government if the prevailing situation remains unchanged," former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Some other former advisers to

caretaker governments also echoed him and apprehended that a serious political crisis may engulf the country if the ruling and opposition alliances fail to reach a consensus to break the ongoing political impasse before the time comes for forming the next caretaker government.

Awami League-led 14-party opposition coalition on Monday announced that it will start building resistance on the day Justice KM Hasan will assume the office of the chief adviser to the interim government while the current government remains unbent on its position that none but Justice Hasan will lead the next caretaker

government.

The ruling and opposition alliances' hard line on their respective positions over the appointment of the chief adviser to the caretaker government and electoral reforms are gradually diminishing the possibility of creating a peaceful atmosphere for holding the next parliamentary election on time, political analysts observed.

Sensing further crises, former advisers to caretaker governments stressed the need for reaching a consensus somehow during the present government's tenure, which will expire on October 27.

The president will invite Justice

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14-party to opt for 'light' programmes in Ramadan

Demonstration today

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

Having held three back-to-back major agitations this month for electoral reforms, the Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine will opt for 'light' political programmes during the month of Ramadan.

It however has plans to go all out against the caretaker government in case of Justice KM Hasan taking the helm after the tenure of the coalition government expires on October 27.

Describing Hasan as a person with allegiance to the ruling BNP, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina has already announced that the opposition parties will mobilise people from across the country in a mass agitation in the city to resist Hasan's takeover of power.

The opposition combine meanwhile stages demonstrations today in the capital and elsewhere to protest police excesses on Awami League leaders during the countrywide hartal on Thursday. At least 20 leaders including the president and general secretary of the AL's front

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EC secretariat should be separated from PMO: Rauf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner (CEC) Justice MA Rouf yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat should be separated from the Prime Minister's Office so that the EC can work "independently and neutrally".

"If our EC becomes independent and self-reliant as in India and Sri Lanka, the election would be free and fair," Justice Rouf said while briefing journalists after a meeting with the visiting European Union (EU) Observation Exploratory Mission.

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Criminal killed in 'shootout' with Rab in old city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed during a "shootout" between the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices in the city's Postagola area early yesterday.

A Rab team picked up Mohammad Parvez, 23, son of late Nurul Islam of Mirerbagh Dakkhin Keraniganj, on the Dhaka court premise Thursday noon. Parvez went there to appear before a court in connection with a case.

Rab sources said on the confessional statement of Parvez, they took him to Postagola area at around 3:30am to recover firearms and arrest his cohorts.

Sensing the presence of the Rab men, Parvez's accomplices opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Parvez was shot during the encounter and taken to Dhaka

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Incessant rain accompanied by gusty wind due to a land depression has paralysed life across the country. The photo was taken at Kuakata yesterday.

Hope fades for over 1000 missing fishermen

19 more bodies recovered; no trace of navy officer yet; tornadoes lash Patuakhali, Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

Hope fades fast for more than a thousand fishermen who have remained missing since hundreds of boats and trawlers went under during the violent storm in the Bay on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, 19 more bodies were recovered yesterday from different coastal areas, raising the death count to 65. The bodies were located in various canals and rivers along the Bay and the Sundarbans.

According to private TV channels, at least 82 bodies were recovered as of yesterday evening.

Life across the country was severely disrupted for the third consecutive day yesterday due to incessant rain brought on by the low.

Heavy rain and tidal surge in the

coastal districts have inundated many areas. Tornadoes tore down more than 200 houses and injured at least 50 people in Patuakhali on Thursday while in Cox's Bazar, some 100 houses were razed to the ground and 20 people were injured.

Unrelenting downpour has caused heavy current in the Meghna in Chandpur, devouring vast areas, our correspondents report.

The low that turned into a land depression Thursday might move in the north-north-westerly direction and weaken gradually. The weather will be the same for today as well. Ports in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary number three.

Navy officer Lt Commander Firoz Kabir who went missing since

Tuesday night's storm, could not be traced till yesterday evening.

Even after three days since the violent storm lashed the coastal belt, the government has yet to undertake comprehensive rescue missions for the missing fishermen.

Relatives of the missing ones were still waiting on the beaches for their dear ones in different coastal areas including Cox's Bazar and Kuakata. Rough seas and gusty winds have been hampering the rescue missions launched by district administration and locals.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports: Seventy-five fishermen who had been reported missing returned home yesterday. The District Commissioner's Office in Barguna sent them to the Cox's

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BSF kills one in Naogaon

BSS, Rangpur

Border Security Force (BSF) of India shot dead a Bangladeshi farmer near Bamandanga border under Sapahar upazila of Naogaon district yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Johurul Haque, 36, son of Tomsuruddin of frontier Maiksadanga village.

According to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and police, the Indian border guards of Sotrahati camp under 172 BSF Battalion opened fire on Johurul while he was working on his cropland near the border at about 7:00am. He died instantly.

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

On information, BDR personnel of 28 Rifles Battalion rushed to the spot and sent a letter to the BSF authorities, asking them to hand over the body. The BSF did not respond as of 6:00pm yesterday.

In Sherpur, the Indian border guards kidnapped a Bangladeshi from Nakshi border in Jhenaidga upazila on Thursday, according to the UNB.

Police said the BSF troops

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PHOTO: STAR

Garment workers bring out a procession in the capital yesterday to press for revising the proposed minimum wage and fixing it to an "acceptable level".

US threatened to bomb Pakistan after Sept 11

Says Musharraf ahead of talks with Bush

AP, Washington

President Bush said yesterday he was "taken aback" by a purported US threat to bomb Pakistan back to the Stone Age if it did not cooperate in the fight against terrorism after the Sept 11 attacks.

He praised Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf for being one of the first foreign leaders to come out after the Sept 11, 2001, attacks to stand with the US to "help root out an enemy."

In an interview to air Sunday, Musharraf said that after terrorists struck the United States on Sept 11, 2001, then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told Pakistan's intelligence director the United States would bomb his country if it didn't help.

"The intelligence director told

me that (Armitage) said, 'Be prepared to go back to the Stone Age,'" Musharraf told CNN on Thursday.

Armitage told CNN on Thursday that he never threatened to bomb Pakistan, wouldn't say such a thing

US prepared to help resolve Kashmir issue

AFP, Washington

The United States is prepared to play any role in efforts by India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute if invited by the two nuclear-armed neighbours, Bush said yesterday.

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and didn't have the authority to do it. Armitage said he did have a tough message for Pakistan, telling the Muslim nation that it was either "with us or against us," according to CNN.

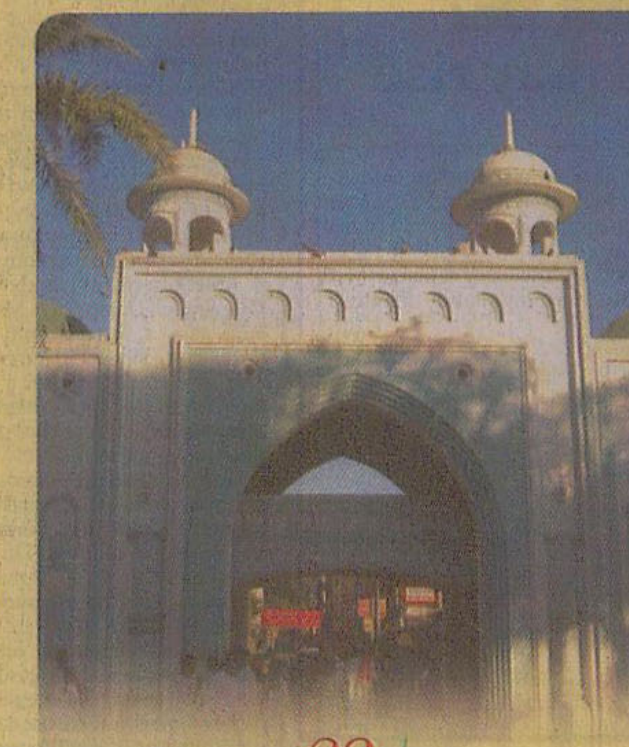
Armitage said he didn't know how his message was recounted so differently to Musharraf.

White House counselor Dan Bartlett said Friday he didn't know the specifics of what Armitage might have said to the Pakistanis.

"But we have made very clear that we went straight to President Musharraf in the days after 9/11 and said it's time to make a choice: Are you going to side with the civilised world or are you going to side with the Taliban and al-Qaeda," Bartlett told CBS' "The Early Show."

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Total belief in quality service



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103 M. Saifur Rahman Road (Central Road),
Moulvi Bazar, Sylhet

MTB spreads the banking service all over the country like the flavour of fresh tea. To achieve this goal, 22nd branch and 23rd branch of the bank will be inaugurated in the city of two leaves-one bud, the sacred city of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and Shah Paran (R) in Sylhet and Moulvi Bazar on 23 September 2006 at 11 am and 2.30 pm respectively.



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