

Jalil, Babar, Hashem

FROM PAGE 1

to the organisations.

Intelligence agencies hinted that a few more political bigwigs might be detained in the course of the third phase of the ongoing drive since the caretaker government had assumed the state power on February 12.

The sources also said the law enforcers already started checking the files of the detainees in a move to find details about their possible involvements in graft.

The BNP expressed no formal reaction to the joint forces' yesterday's action till filing of this report at 10:30 last night. Contacted by The Daily Star some senior leaders of the party declined to make any comment saying that they are not understanding the prevailing situation.

Mercantile Bank officials said two members of the joint forces arrived at the bank and entered the office saying that they needed to meet Jalil. The AL general secretary, who is also the chairman of the bank, sitting in his office over the last few days had been talking about a felt necessity for bringing reforms not only to political parties but also to the government and parliament.

Security chief of the bank, Ali Akbar, told reporters that two army officers arrived there around 3:45pm and asked Jalil to go with them.

After a little while Jalil left the office with them, Akbar added.

Jalil being picked up is one of the latest in a long line of high-profile arrests in an anti-corruption drive being carried out by the caretaker government, sources said.

Miruzzaman Monir, a chieftain of Babar, said members of the joint forces went to Babar's house around 4:00pm in three or four vehicles and cordoned the house off. The joint forces also asked all inside the house to stay put and to keep all mobile phones switched off.

"At that time some of the troops entered the house and in a little while left the house with him [Babar]," Miruzzaman said.

Babar's family said the joint forces also seized some files and a vehicle from his house.

Babar has been reportedly involved in a 'covert move' to form a new political platform comprising prospective defectors from the AL and the BNP.

Security staff at the Partex Group office in Gulshan said two plainclothesmen of the joint forces went to the office around 3:00pm and wanted to know whether Partex Group Chairman MA Hashem was inside.

"As we confirmed that he [Hashem] was in the office, more members of the joint forces came and entered the office a few minutes later," said a security staff seeking anonymity. After a little while the forces left the office with Hashem, the security staff of Partex Group said.

Hashem was reportedly involved in a syndicate of traders who manipulated prices of essentials during the regime of the immediate past government led by BNP. Hashem however recently announced that he will never get involved in the politics of BNP or AL.

Speaking after overcast skies after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and meeting privately at the White House with the families of some fallen servicemen and women, Bush called the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan a part of the nation's destiny. He said they follow a rich tradition of similar American sacrifices throughout this country's history.

As people across the country marked the day of remembrance, violence continued in Iraq where a suicide car bomber struck a busy commercial district in central Baghdad, killing at least 21 people and damaging a shrine revered by Sunnis and Shiites alike.

Speaking of the more than 368,000 buried through history at Arlington National Cemetery, Bush said, "Nothing said today will ease your pain. But each of you needs to know our country thanks you and we embrace you and we will never forget the terrible loss you have suffered."

"The greatest memorial to our fallen troops cannot be found in the words we say or the places we gather," he added. "The more lasting tribute is all around us."

Bush said the freedoms that people enjoy in this country today "came at a great cost and they will survive only so long as there are those who are willing to protect them."

Meanwhile, passport offices are crowded by applicants regularly. "But we, not police, have to face people agitated over not getting their jobs done", a DPI official at Dhaka office said. "Why should we

"We've heard of 174 Marines recently, almost a quarter of battalion, who asked to have their enlistments extended," Bush said. "They want to serve their nation."

The president said that even after four years, many young men and women still volunteer for the U.S. armed forces.

The president also asked the G-8 leaders to allow temporary free movement of labour under mode-4 of the General Agreement on the Trade in Services (GATS) of World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Interestingly, ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday handed over the letter, written by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, to the ambassadors of G-8 countries at his office ahead of the 33rd G-8 summit to be held on June 6-8 in Heiligendamm, Germany.

In the letter, Fakhruddin asked the international community, especially the G-8 countries, to increase "necessary assistance" according to a philosophy of "partners reward performance".

In the letters he explained that Bangladesh has improved on its socio-economic indicators in the face of the pressures of globalisation.

The G-8 is a group of the eight most powerful countries in the world - United States, United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Canada. Together, these countries represent 65 percent of the global economy.

Speaking to the media, the foreign adviser said that Fakhruddin has asked the G-8 leaders to consider the least-developed countries' concerns, such as duty-free access to exports such as ready-made garments.

In the letter, Fakhruddin explained that although the developed nations have agreed to give duty-free access to 97 percent of LDC goods, they have barred the most important LDC export goods from entering the developed countries, which constitute the other three percent.

Fakhruddin demanded that issues like "special and differential treatment" get proper legalisation during the WTO negotiations.

He asked the G-8 leaders to allow temporary free movement of labour under mode-4 of the GATS. This would include unskilled labour that would be of special benefit to large labour exporters like Bangladesh.

German Ambassador Frank Meyle said the G-8 countries welcome this Bangladesh initiative to directly and effectively voice its opinion.

Bangladesh is the biggest LDC country in terms of population.

He said the G-8 countries would take up this initiative in a positive way, especially issues of special interest to Bangladesh, such as foreign trade, trade and services liberalisation and development cooperation.

UNB add: The German ambassador expressed the hope that elections in Bangladesh will be held as soon as political party reforms and electoral preparations are complete within the timeframe set by the caretaker government.

"We think as soon as political party reforms and electoral preparations that are necessary for a democratic election are complete, the elections will be held within the timeframe set by the caretaker government," he told reporters.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

Bush pays tribute to fallen US troops

AP, Arlington, US

President Bush paid tribute yesterday to America's fighting men and women -- "a new generation of fallen leaders" -- in a solemn Memorial Day visit to the national burial ground for war heroes.

Speaking after overcast skies

after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and meeting privately with the families of some fallen servicemen and women, Bush called the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan a part of the nation's destiny. He said they follow a rich tradition of similar American sacrifices throughout this country's history.

As people across the country marked the day of remembrance, violence continued in Iraq where a suicide car bomber struck a busy commercial district in central Baghdad, killing at least 21 people and damaging a shrine revered by Sunnis and Shiites alike.

Speaking of the more than 368,000 buried through history at Arlington National Cemetery, Bush said, "Nothing said today will ease your pain. But each of you needs to know our country thanks you and we embrace you and we will never forget the terrible loss you have suffered."

"The greatest memorial to our fallen troops cannot be found in the words we say or the places we gather," he added. "The more lasting tribute is all around us."

Bush said the freedoms that people enjoy in this country today "came at a great cost and they will survive only so long as there are those who are willing to protect them."

Meanwhile, passport offices are crowded by applicants regularly. "But we, not police, have to face people agitated over not getting their jobs done", a DPI official at Dhaka office said. "Why should we

"We've heard of 174 Marines recently, almost a quarter of battalion, who asked to have their enlistments extended," Bush said. "They want to serve their nation."

The president said that even after four years, many young men and women still volunteer for the U.S. armed forces.

The president also asked the G-8 leaders to allow temporary free movement of labour under mode-4 of the General Agreement on the Trade in Services (GATS) of World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Interestingly, ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday handed over the letter, written by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, to the ambassadors of G-8 countries at his office ahead of the 33rd G-8 summit to be held on June 6-8 in Heiligendamm, Germany.

In the letter, Fakhruddin asked the international community, especially the G-8 countries, to increase "necessary assistance" according to a philosophy of "partners reward performance".

In the letters he explained that Bangladesh has improved on its socio-economic indicators in the face of the pressures of globalisation.

The G-8 is a group of the eight most powerful countries in the world - United States, United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Canada. Together, these countries represent 65 percent of the global economy.

Speaking to the media, the foreign adviser said that Fakhruddin has asked the G-8 leaders to consider the least-developed countries' concerns, such as duty-free access to exports such as ready-made garments.

In the letter, Fakhruddin explained that although the developed nations have agreed to give duty-free access to 97 percent of LDC goods, they have barred the most important LDC export goods from entering the developed countries, which constitute the other three percent.

Fakhruddin demanded that issues like "special and differential treatment" get proper legalisation during the WTO negotiations.

He asked the G-8 leaders to allow temporary free movement of labour under mode-4 of the GATS. This would include unskilled labour that would be of special benefit to large labour exporters like Bangladesh.

German Ambassador Frank Meyle said the G-8 countries welcome this Bangladesh initiative to directly and effectively voice its opinion.

Bangladesh is the biggest LDC country in terms of population.

He said the G-8 countries would take up this initiative in a positive way, especially issues of special interest to Bangladesh, such as foreign trade, trade and services liberalisation and development cooperation.

UNB add: The German ambassador expressed the hope that elections in Bangladesh will be held as soon as political party reforms and electoral preparations are complete within the timeframe set by the caretaker government.

"We think as soon as political party reforms and electoral preparations that are necessary for a democratic election are complete, the elections will be held within the timeframe set by the caretaker government," he told reporters.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

Passport office

FROM PAGE 16

month and the rest after one month. All those were supposed to be issued within seven days.

For applicants in the urgent and ordinary categories, the situation is even worse.

If police verification system is abolished, very urgent category passports can be issued within four to five days, urgent category within 15 to 16 days and ordinary category within 26 days, the DPI proposal said.

Since there is no time limit for police verification report, which is in the jurisdiction of police authorities, there is no guarantee that passports of any categories would be issued in time, DPI sources pointed out.

People now have to pay Tk 5,000 for getting passports in 'very urgent' category that are supposed to be issued within seven days, Tk 3,000 for 'urgent' category to be issued within 21 days and Tk 2,000 for ordinary category to be issued within 30 days.

In most of the cases, people express their frustration that they do not get passports timely as DPI does not get police verification report in due time.

"We have now introduced computerised system in our Dhaka office. Some one coming to our office can see at what stage his/her (police verification) reports."

Police officials rather blamed DPI for delay in passport issuance, saying it is suffering from manpower shortage.

Earlier, rules provided that in 'very urgent' cases, passport would be issued within three days and then police verification would be completed. If police verification reports were not submitted within one month, passports would be issued without that.

Meanwhile, passport offices are crowded by applicants regularly. "But we, not police, have to face people agitated over not getting their jobs done", a DPI official at Dhaka office said. "Why should we

"We've heard of 174 Marines recently, almost a quarter of battalion, who asked to have their enlistments extended," Bush said. "They want to serve their nation."

The president said that even after four years, many young men and women still volunteer for the U.S. armed forces.

The president also asked the G-8 leaders to allow temporary free movement of labour under mode-4 of the General Agreement on the Trade in Services (GATS) of World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Interestingly, ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday handed over the letter, written by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, to the ambassadors of G-8 countries at his office ahead of the 33rd G-8 summit to be held on June 6-8 in Heiligendamm, Germany.

In the letter, Fakhruddin asked the international community, especially the G-8 countries, to increase "necessary assistance" according to a philosophy of "partners reward performance".

In the letters he explained that Bangladesh has improved on its socio-economic indicators in the face of the pressures of globalisation.

The G-8 is a group of the eight most powerful countries in the world - United States, United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Canada. Together, these countries represent 65 percent of the global economy.

Speaking to the media, the foreign adviser said that Fakhruddin has asked the G-8 leaders to consider the least-developed countries' concerns, such as duty-free access to exports such as ready-made garments.

In the letter, Fakhruddin explained that although the developed nations have agreed to give duty-free access to 97 percent of LDC goods, they have barred the most important LDC export goods from entering the developed countries, which constitute the other three percent.

Fakhruddin demanded that issues like "special and differential treatment" get proper legalisation during the WTO negotiations.

He asked the G-8 leaders to allow temporary free movement of labour under mode-4 of the GATS. This would include unskilled labour that would be of special benefit to large labour exporters like Bangladesh.

German Ambassador Frank Meyle said the G-8 countries welcome this Bangladesh initiative to directly and effectively voice its opinion.

Bangladesh is the biggest LDC country in terms of population.

He said the G-8 countries would take up this initiative in a positive way, especially issues of special interest to Bangladesh, such as foreign trade, trade and services liberalisation and development cooperation.

UNB add: The German ambassador expressed the hope that elections in Bangladesh will be held as soon as political party reforms and electoral preparations are complete within the timeframe set by the caretaker government.

"We think as soon as political party reforms and electoral preparations that are necessary for a democratic election are complete, the elections will be held within the timeframe set by the caretaker government," he told reporters.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

He said the caretaker government is trying to bring about reforms of political parties for free and fair elections.

Inqilab Khulna

FROM PAGE 16

Magistrate Md Atiquul Haque handed down the verdict around 12:30pm yesterday.

The entire court compound was brought under tight security during the delivery of the verdict. Large number of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel and members of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) were deployed there.

Joint forces arrested Rafique at his office in the act of taking the money from deputy ranger Mahmudullah and tour assistant Yunus Ali on April 10 night.</p