

# Draft police ordinance

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Police Reforms Programme (PRP) Additional Inspector General of Police Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura said reducing the workload of police personnel by shortening their daily duty shifts is currently under their consideration.

The draft proposal which is expected to be submitted to the chief adviser to the caretaker government by the middle of this month, however, contains a suggestion for forming a new pay commission recommending a salary hike for the police.

To reduce the influence of ruling political parties on the police department, the draft proposes that between the ranks of the superintendent of police (SP) and the inspector general of police (IGP) none can be transferred from their current postings within two or three years of assuming the current responsibilities. The proposal has been incorporated in the draft due to allegations of harassments of opposition leaders and activists in the hands of policemen who often do that to appease the ruling political party in an effort to shun any punishment posting. No contractual appointment to the post of IGP will also be allowed according to the draft police ordinance.

Recommendations from any minister, lawmaker or influential person for appointments, transfers and promotions in the police department will be considered a criminal offence. The draft ordinance has been prepared to replace the 150-year old police law that had been introduced in 1861 by the erstwhile colonial rulers.

Once the draft ordinance is adopted, the police department is supposed to be freed from the influence of political parties. The draft focused on issues like human rights, a police code of conduct, guidelines regarding dealing with women and children, and community policing based on mutual understanding between a community and law enforcers.

Asked whether the police force will become independent once the new rules are enacted, a high raking police official said the police force will be very much under the government, but they will be accountable to different regulatory bodies to make sure that no one can use the law enforcers for personal or political gains.

Formations of a National Police Commission (NPC) and a Police Complain Commission (PCC) have been proposed in the draft ordinance to supervise policing.

## NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION (NPC)

According to the draft ordinance the NPC will appoint the IGP and investigate any allegation brought against the police chief. Nobody will be able to remove or transfer the IGP without the consent of the commission. Besides, it will recommend measures to the government for building a skilled, effective and accountable police system.

The NPC will also finalise a list of three nominees for the post of the IGP and forward it to the government after scrutinising their service records, and the government will appoint one of the nominees as the police chief.

The minister for home affairs will head the proposed 11-member NPC. Two lawmakers from each of the ruling and opposition political parties will be included in the commission while four neutral civil society representatives will also be selected as its members. The IGP

and the home secretary will act as the member secretary and the secretary respectively. Each member of the commission will be selected for a three-year term and for one term only. The lawmakers and civil society representatives will have voting rights for selecting the IGP nominees.

## POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSION (PCC)

The proposed five-member commission with a retired judge of the Supreme Court as its chief will ensure accountability of the police. A former IGP or a former additional IGP, two representatives from the civil society including a woman, and a retired secretary or retired additional secretary will be the members of the commission.

The commission will be entrusted with the authority to accept complaints against the police and take legal actions against guilty cops. The commission will also collect necessary information and evidence from the NPC, police range or any police unit regarding incidents of death, rape or grievous injury in police custody.

Other allegations will be sent to the authorities concerned while high profile or serious cases will be dealt with by the commission itself. If necessary, the commission may recommend to the chief justice judicial inquiries of the incidents of alleged police brutalities and other irregularities.

A committee comprised of a justice of a higher court, and the chairmen of the ACC and the Public Service Commission (PSC) will oversee the activities of the commission.

## SUMMARY COURT

For quick adjudication of cases against police personnel and for meting out exemplary punishments, the draft ordinance includes the provision of a summary court for the police department, which will take quick actions if police personnel are accused of abuse of power or other departmental irregularities.

Any convicted police personnel however will be allowed to appeal to the PCC against a summary court verdict.

Besides, the draft ordinance includes a code of conduct for police personnel aiming to uphold human rights during any search, arrest, detention or interrogation of suspects. Any deviation from the code of conduct in some cases will be considered a criminal offence.

The police reform project was initiated in 2005, which did not see any remarkable progress earlier due to many complexities. Several 'model police stations' however were established recently at different parts of the country under the project. Additional IGP Naba Bikram Kishor Tripura, and former IGP ASM Shahjahan are respectively the project director and the consultant for the programme.

A law reform committee was also formed with high ranking police officials. The committee finalised the draft of the reform proposal after meeting ten times. The draft police ordinance has 172 sections while the current police law has only 47.

The draft proposal was formulated after studying the police laws of Pakistan and India, the two neighbouring countries which reformed their police laws recently.

## '71 killers

FROM PAGE 1

After eight years of the excavation, the Liberation War Museum built a triangular memorial at the site of the torture chamber and the mass grave keeping the structure of the pump house intact. Museum Trustee and Architect Rabiul Hossain designed the memorial based on the concept provided by another Trustee Mofidul Hoque while artists Rafiqunnabi and Muniruzzaman adorned it with murals.

The walkway leading into the memorial and coming out of it is flanked by marble rails on both sides with the names of over 400 killing fields found across the country engraved on it. The invading Pakistani army and their local collaborators used to kill freedom fighters and dump their bodies in mass graves in those killing fields.

The marble rails are also topped with six altars where the soil of six such killing fields in the six divisions of the country is stored as symbols of respect to the martyrs and the significance of the killing fields in forming the nation's current identity.

At the centre of the memorial, there is a mural by Rafiqunnabi titled 'Jiban Abinashar' (Life is immortal). The mural made of burnt bricks speaks of the scattered bodies of the martyrs which could be mutilated and destroyed, but whose memories remain unvanquished, said Rafiqunnabi.

In between the two ends of the bending walkway stands the pump house with a bell hung over entrance of the torture chamber. Once tolled, the ring of the bell reverberated through the air lingering for a few minutes creating an emotional connection between the present and the past, said Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Hoque.

The words 'What Happened' are engraved in five languages including Bangla above the entrance of the pump house. The words were extrapolated from a publication of the International Coalition of Historic Site Museums to inspire the visitors to be curious and to learn from the site, Hoque noted.

Then comes the 20 feet deep water tank of death from where the excavators recovered the skulls and bones of the martyrs. Visitors can see the tank covered with thick glass on which it is written, "We bow our heads in deep respect to all martyrs."

This is the pit where men, women and children were thrown in after being butchered throughout the nine-month of the liberation war in 1971. "Dead bodies of many others were also dumped here. The shattered lives of the martyrs remind us of our duty towards the victims of genocide" is written on one of the inside walls of the pump house.

Visitors then can move through a little park place where they can sit on benches.

Thus comes the end of the journey through the memory lane of Jalladkhana as the place is named by local residents, but the emotion generated in one's heart from the visit lingers on.

"Our goal of preservation and collection of the memories here in the site is actually to make our liberation war memorable for ever so that generations following us can be inspired by the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and can stand against any genocide anywhere in the world," said cultural activist Aly Zaker.

The visit ends, but a sentence engraved on a wall of the pump house clings to one's memory: "The silent call of the martyrs is resonating all around us asking for truth and justice."

## Ex-MP Gias

**FROM PAGE 16**  
DND dam stretching from Sarulia to Godnile in 2002 for three years in the name of his construction firm named Kassaf Construction Firm at Tk 23.16 lakh.

Gias took the lease of the land for fish cultivation showing in papers his wives and four relatives as fishermen.

In the other case, Monajer stated that the former lawmaker established two educational institutions—one after his name and the other after the names of his father and mother—defying the rules of the education ministry.

With the two cases, the number of criminal cases filed against the lawmaker stands at nine.

## Reformist BNP

FROM PAGE 1

Following the meeting she told reporters, "Time demands reform so, we and even madam [Khaleda] want reforms." She said implementation of reforms would begin once the ban on indoor politics is lifted.

"We should do what the situation demands, this is not a matter of kicking out or leaving out someone," Shamsuzzaman Dudu, a former lawmaker and leader of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal told reporters after his meeting with Bhuiyan.

Party leaders said most of the leaders want to see Khaleda leave the top post but Bhuiyan does not want to make any decision hurriedly even though most of the party leaders, former ministers and lawmakers expressed their support for his reforms initiatives.

# Falu remanded

FROM PAGE 1

In his forwarding report, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, mentioned that Falu gave important information about government relief materials, which were seized from the office of a ward commissioner of his constituency and also about the whereabouts of his accomplices involved in misappropriating relief materials.

But Falu did not give information about wheat and rice seized from his accomplices' possession. He also did not follow the rules of the concerned ministry in distributing the materials among the destitute people, the IO added.

So he needs to be questioned about his involvement with misusing government relief materials and the whereabouts of his accomplices, the IO said.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition for cancellation of the remand prayer saying that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

On hearing both sides, the court rejected the defence plea and placed Falu on a four-day fresh remand for further interrogation.

Earlier, Falu was taken on a seven-day remand in two phases in connection with the same case.

On March 2, security personnel had recovered 605 corrugated iron (CI) sheets and 63 blankets meant for relief only at a ward commissioner's office at Tejaigon in the capital.

The law enforcers also recovered 37 CI sheets from the house of one Shafiuddin near BG Press Staff Quarters Mosque at Tejaigon.

During interrogation, Falu claimed that he purchased the sheets from Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan alias Jahangir, commissioner of ward no 37 and also the vice-president of Tejaigon BNP.

Acting on his information, security personnel had raided Jahangir's office at Begunbari of Tejaigon and found 63 blankets in gunnysacks and 605 CI sheets stacked up inside. Fifteen kilograms of rotten rice were also found there.

The law enforcers picked up Nazir Ahmed, office assistant of the commissioner, for interrogation.

Later, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) official Abdus Samad of Rab-2 filed a case with Tejaigon Police Station against Falu, Jahangir and four others.

## CASE AGAINST SARWAR

Gulshan police on Monday filed a criminal case against Barisal City Corporation Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar for possessing illegal ammunition at his Salton Myers residence at Gulshan in the capital.

Deputy Assistant Director Akheruzzaman of Rab-3 lodged the case against Sarwar with Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

Sarwar was picked up from his Gulshan residence at about 9:30am on May 29. The crack forces raided his residence in Gulshan and seized four bullets, Tk 4 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 50 tola and some documents.

## CASE AGAINST NASIM

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Third Special Court— set up at Shere-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel— framed charges against Nasim and AHS Rahman of Consociates Limited in connection with WorldTel graft case.

Nasim pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read out. The court fixed Tuesday for trial of the case.

Mohammad Abdul Hai, an official of now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption, pressed charges against Nasim and AHS Rahman of Consociates Limited on June 13, 2002.

Following the submission of charge sheet, Nasim and Rahman submitted separate criminal miscellaneous petitions to the High Court challenging the legality of the proceedings of the case.

The higher court had earlier rejected their petitions saying that the charges brought against them would be proceeded with.

In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, the complainant said in order to "illegally award" a contract to WorldTel for installing three lakh telephones, Nasim had appointed a private firm, Consociates Ltd, for consultancy without any competitive bidding.

"Accordingly, the consultancy made 'fictitious' recommendations for WorldTel, the lone bidder of the pro-

## Prof Taher murder

FROM PAGE 1

charges. The judge set July 3 for the trial to begin. The court charged Mohiuddin and Salehi with being directly involved in the murder as well being the masterminds.

Sub-inspector (SI) Faruk Hossain of Mothiar Police Station, SI Ahsanul Kabir and SI Golam Mahfiz of Detective Branch (DB) of police jointly submitted the charge sheet against six people on March 18. Taher's son Sanjid Alvi Ahmed had filed the murder case.

Jahangir, Nazmul and Salam provided judicial confessions of the murder. Five among 48 witnesses also gave judicial statements. Mohiuddin allegedly masterminded the murder apprehending damage to his career by Taher who detected "plagiarism and piracy" in 10 out of the 11 research papers of Mohiuddin that he submitted along with his promotion prayer.

Mohiuddin allegedly hired Salehi for the murder promising him good results in Master's exam, MPhil and PhD and helping him for being appointed as a teacher in RU.

Mohiuddin also won over Salam, Nazmul and Jahangir with computers and promises of jobs at the university.

Prof Taher, a teacher of Geology and Mining Department of the university, was killed on February 1, 2005. His body was recovered from a septic tank in the backyard of his campus residence on February 3.

ject, to "make its financial proposal look lucrative," read the FIR (first information report).

"In reality, the project was awarded to the WorldTel without any competition. Although there was no fund for appointment of a consultant, Nasim appointed Consociates to the post and made the WorldTel pay for the fees. So, while Consociates was on the payroll of WorldTel, it was also given the task to evaluate the latter's financial proposal," according to the FIR.

The matter has harmed the country's interest, the FIR said.

## MANJU CASE

After completion of recording statements of all the prosecution witnesses, Judge Syed Jahed Mansur of the Ninth Assistant Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka fixed today for hearing on arguments of the case in Manju's absence.

The court had earlier recorded statements of seven prosecution witnesses including the complainant and the IO of the case.

On June 3, the same court framed charges against Manju in his absence and issued arrest warrant against him.

Before the order, the court had asked Manju to appear before the court to defend himself but he failed to oblige the court order. So, the court had cancelled his bail.

On May 14, Dhanmondi police pressed charges against Manju in the case.

Sub-inspector Amirul Islam, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

On March 8, the joint forces raided Manju's Dhanmondi residence and seized 21 bottles of contraband liquor. Later, a case under the Narcotics Control Act was filed against him.

Following the case, Manju obtained bail from the High Court.

## HUDA CASE

Another Dhaka court yesterday asked the jail authorities to produce detained former communications minister barrister Nazmul Huda on July 1 in connection with a fraud case.

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents, Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fatah passed the order on the issue.

On May 8, Dhanmondi police pressed charges against Huda in a criminal case filed against him for using a fake registration number for his sport utility vehicle (SUV).

Sub-inspector Kazi Amirul Islam, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka.

On February 25, police seized Huda's luxurious Cadillac Escalade bearing registration number Dhaka Metro Gha 11-9999 and filed a case against him on March 1.

## Biman

**FROM PAGE 1**  
staff to 3,400 by axing about 1,500 current employees.

"A committee would start scrutinising the applications of the managing director from tomorrow," respondents told The Daily Star. Dr. MA Momen told The Daily Star, adding that the committee would decide whom they need and whom they do not.

"We will not let anyone quit who we think are needed for Biman," the Biman MD said.

The current workforce of Biman is around 4,800, while the approved number of staff of the airlines is 6,800 according to the present organogram.

The VRS is part of the government plan to turn the national flag carrier into a public limited company (PLC) and to make it a healthy and profitable commercial venture. The process for turning Biman into a PLC is almost complete, Biman high officials said.

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has almost finalised the Memorandum of Association (rules and regulations of Biman), Articles of Association (terms and conditions) and ordinance, under which Bangladesh Biman Corporation would become Bangladesh Airlines Limited, sources said.

As per official data, Ruplai Bank's capital deficit was Tk 569 crore in December last year and its accumulative loss was Tk 261 crore at that time.

The bank's classified loan was Tk 1,435 crore as of March this year, which is 32 percent of the total outstanding loan. An official of the bank said the figure would have been higher if Tk 600 crore loan was not rescheduled last year.

## Credible polls

FROM PAGE 1

Expressing happiness at the people's enthusiasm about the pilot voter-registration project of the Election Commission in Gazipur, the head of the caretaker government hoped that his government would be able to bring about lasting reforms in various areas of governance, including the civil service, delegation of power, decentralisation and strengthening of the local government system.

Butenis lauded the government for ensuring press freedom, transparency, accessibility and initiating institutional and electoral reforms in the country.

She pointed out that the US government considers Bangladesh to be a key ally in South Asia and looks forward to further expanding bilateral relations for mutual benefits.

The US envoy thanked the government for the cooperation extended to her during her tenure in Bangladesh.

Thanking the US government for the support and assistance given to Bangladesh over the years, the CA hoped that fraternal relations and development partnership between the two countries would be further reinforced in the days to come.

He wished the envoy's personal well-being and success in her next assignment.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy Geeta Pasi and Secretary of the Chief Adviser's Office Kazi Md Aminul Islam were present.

## Mohiuddin

FROM PAGE 1

A trial court on November 8, 1998 sentenced him to death along with 14 other former and dismissed army men for killing Bangabandhu and 26 others. The High Court on April 30, 2001 upheld the punishment of 12.

Mohiuddin was sent back to the country on Monday from the United States after he lost a legal battle for asylum there. Upon arrival, he was sent to condemned cell at Dhaka Central Jail.

"Mohiuddin expressed his willingness to appeal to the Supreme Court," Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said that he had talked to Mohiuddin for a short time on Monday night when he expressed his willingness. "We are trying to contact Mohiuddin's close relatives for starting the process," Major Haider said.

A top jail official said that Mohiuddin spent his first night and day in jail mostly sleeping. His physical and mental conditions are normal, the jail official added.

He was served Gur (molasses) and bread for breakfast in his cell named "Rajanigandha," one of the cells for keeping the people condemned to death.

The jail official added that Mohiuddin slept till noon after having the breakfast. He was served vegetables and rice at lunch and after having it he slept again.

## Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

land in South Khulshi, our position is that we had purchased some land in South Khulshi which we sold out long ago as it was without any development or modification," the rejoinder said.

"The part of news report referring to DoE sources is not correct. My brother Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury never took lease of any land or hilly land in his name or in the name of our mother in Sitakunda-Bhatiary area. We do not own any brick kiln," Amir Humayun claimed.

"It is not true that we razed a hill measuring around four acres near the Foy's Lake. We purchased some land in North Pahartali. Major portion of the land has been sold out to the Chittagong City Corporation and the rest was sold out and transferred to different persons without any development or change of nature of the land," he further said. "No case has been filed by CDA against any member of our family."

## Rupali buyer

FROM PAGE 1

activities have virtually come to a standstill for the last one year, except some routine businesses.

"We are forced to suspend disbursement of all kinds of loans for the last one year," said a senior official of the bank. "Only last week the central bank permitted us to release loans on a limited scale."

Another official said many of the bank staff have applied for voluntary retirement while many more are looking for other jobs.

"A total of 650 staff out of 4,500 have applied for voluntary retirement under the Golden Handshake scheme since April 30," he said.

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## BDR starts selling

FROM PAGE 16

the open markets compared to that of other kitchen markets in the capital as well as the Kolkata market.

Each kilogram of coarse rice is selling at Tk 18 per kg at BDR sales centre, Tk 19 at open markets and between Tk 20 and Tk 22 at other markets. At Kolkata markets, it is selling at Tk 19.30 per kg.

Packed flour is selling at Tk 24 at BDR sales centre, Tk 25 at open markets and Tk 25-26 at other markets while the price of the same in Kolkata is Tk 19.30.

The imported variety of lentil is selling at Tk 53 at BDR sales centre, at Tk 57 at open market, at Tk 55-60 at other markets in the capital and at Tk 56.14 in Kolkata.

Chhola is selling at Tk 54 at open markets, at Tk 55-60 at other markets and at Tk 52.63 in Kolkata. Sugar is selling at Tk 28 at open markets, at Tk 30-32 at other markets and Tk 28.90 in Kolkata.

Onion is selling at Tk 15 (local variety) at open markets, at Tk 20-24 at other markets and at Tk 13.60 in Kolkata.

Soyabean oil is selling at Tk 67.50 per litre at BDR sales centre, at Tk 72 at open markets, at Tk 73-78 at other markets and at Tk 102 in Kolkata. Palm oil is selling at Tk 68 per litre and at Tk 89.47 in Kolkata.

Milk powder is selling at Tk 385-405 per kg at different markets, higher than Kolkata price of Tk 229.50 per kg.

# Bombing kills 75

FROM PAGE 1

heavy fighting vehicles poured into Diyala's provincial capital Baquba.

"Task Force Lightning commenced Operation Arrowhead Ripper today in a large-scale effort to eliminate al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorists operating in Baquba and its surrounding areas," a military statement said.

"Approximately 10,000 soldiers, with a full complement of attack helicopters, close air support, Strykers and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, are taking part in Arrowhead Ripper, which is still in its opening stages."

The military said the assault was launched with a rapid night-time air assault and that by daybreak 22 militants had been killed and two detained.

"The end state is to destroy the al-Qaeda influences in this province and eliminate their threat against the people," said US Brigadier General Mick Bednarek.

Troops burst into several areas surrounding the western part of Baquba and were throwing up barriers across main entrances as helicopters swirled overhead, residents said.

Iraqi army Colonel Nagueib al-Salahi said several civilians were feared killed or wounded. He did not have a precise number because "armed forces are preventing ambulances from entering the area."

In the town of Hibhib, north of Baquba, six Kurdish soldiers in the Iraqi army were killed in overnight clashes, Major General Anwar Mohammed Amin said.

Authorities imposed a curfew in Baquba as intense fighting broke out, with police firing out across the city and using loudspeakers to warn people

to stay indoors.

"We have begun a security plan and we will remove the armed men and the militias. We are here to help you," they announced.

As US-led troops have pressed on with a four-month surge of troops into Baghdad, insurgents have fanned off into surrounding areas, especially the farmsteads and orange groves of Diyala.

In recent months the province has become an arena of fighting between US-led forces, Shia militias, and Sunni insurgents. Thousands of civilians have been killed and many thousands more have fled.

Nurtured by both the Tigris and Diyala rivers, Diyala contrasts with the arid provinces around it. The province is known as "mini-Iraq" for its ethnic and religious mix, and in recent months has erupted into a sectarian quagmire.

In the south, fierce clashes between security forces and Shia militiamen in and around the southern cities of Amara and Nasiriyah since Monday killed at least 50 people.

At least 20 militants were killed in clashes around Amara, the military said, while 30 more people died and more than 90 were wounded in Nasiriyah, the city's police chief said.

The US military said another soldier was killed on Monday in eastern Baghdad, bringing to 3,520 the total US losses since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP count