

Grameenphone

FROM PAGE 16 (share market) listing plan. DTAC is being observed.

Aas pointed out that the biggest Bangladesh Initial Public Offering was only \$15 million. "We don't know how much we would offload but it would certainly be over 15 million dollars," he said.

"DTAC shows that Telenor is interested in the local capital market. This is not Vodaphone (or other European companies that had failed to establish themselves in the Asian market), Telenor is different and this is a great example," Aas added.

Brekke said, "We are not a greedy capitalist company."

Both the CEOs said Telenor is the lone European-American company operating in Asia and growing because it had been very sensitive to local sentiments. Big names like Orange, Verizon, AT&T, Swiss Telecom etc had come to different Asian countries from the late nineties using business and operation strategies of their home countries, and failed.

Telenor on the other hand has tailored itself to the society where it works. Both Grameenphone and DTAC have only around five posts in Bangladesh and Thailand which are held by foreigners, while the rest are local manpower.

DTAC has a subscriber base of 15 million and GP 13 million.

Floating of DTAC's shares is being viewed by GP as a learning process, which is planning to offload some shares in Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in the near future.

As GP is the largest ever company to plan such floating of shares, it is also trying to fathom the capacity of Bangladesh market buyers

Manpower export

FROM PAGE 16 Such undocumented workers are either deported from the manpower importing countries, or become illegal and work under inhuman conditions if allowed to stay there.

In many cases, employers give the workers new contract papers with poor wages and less facilities, sources pointed out.

Meanwhile, cases of deception by manpower brokers have sharply increased recently. From March 1 to April 15, 39 cases were filed with Paltan Police Station and 72 with Motijheel Police Station under sections 420 (cheating) and 406 (breach of trust) of the Penal Code, according to police.

"Rate of filing of such cases is higher than any other type of cases," Sub Inspector Nurjahan of Paltan Police Station told this correspondent.

These criminals escape the grip of law due to lack of evidence because in most cases people pay money to recruiting agencies and brokers without taking any receipts.

A d d i t i o n a l Deputy Commissioner Maksudur Rahman, who has been appointed adminis-

AL reformists

FROM PAGE 1 elected government.

The reformist leaders, led by Senior Member of the AL Presidium Amir Hossain Amu, want collective decisions to be taken regarding any activity of the party, instead of 'one' Hasina's 'diktats'. They want democracy to be installed in the party as more important than any individual, the pro-reform leaders claimed.

Well placed sources in AL told The Daily Star that the top echelon of the reformist leaders including Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta held meetings and finalised the proposal which they decided to place at the next meeting of the party's central working committee (ALCWC) instead of handing it over to Hasina after the ban on indoor politics is lifted.

Claiming that party chief Hasina has long been exercising absolute power leading to a number of mistakes, the top leaders want to curb the party chief's absolute power, sources said.

"As she took a number of wrong decisions exercising her absolute power keeping the party leaders in dark, we have no alternative but to go for reforms putting democracy and accountability at the front and centre of the party," a reformist leader told The Daily Star preferring anonymity.

Amu told reporters yesterday that AL needs reforms to avert repetition of the mistakes like striking a deal with communal Khelafah Majlish and the April 30 fiasco.

The reformist leader sees a lack of democratic practice within the party as the reason for the party chief's wrong decisions including the deal with Khelafah Majlish and the hoax of the April 30, 2004 deadline, when AL planned to unseat the erstwhile BNP-Jamaat alliance government in an undisclosed way - incidents for which, the reformists are now saying, the party had to take a lot of flak at home and abroad.

"No one was consulted when Awami League struck an alliance with a communal political entity," said Amu adding, "Similarly, the April 30 deadline was declared without getting an approval from the party's executive council. Reforms are necessary as we do not want such mishaps to recur."

Some RU teachers protest UGC move to probe irregularities

RU CORRESPONDENT

Progressive Teachers Society (PTS) of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday denounced the University Grants Commission (UGC) probe body that reached the campus to investigate all kinds of alleged irregularities, corruption and nepotism by the RU authorities during last five years. They even urged teachers, students, officials and employees not to cooperate with the probe committee.

In a statement, PTS teachers said the committee members were controversial, have been accused of many corruption charges and they were controversially appointed during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government's tenure.

The UGC probe committee includes Prof Sultan Hossain, Prof Ehsanul Haque, Prof Muhammad Abdur Rahman and Prof Mijanur Rahman.

They said following the movement of PTS teachers the UGC formed the probe body on March 20, 2007 headed by Prof Mahabub Ullah. The PTS had protested then saying most of the committee members were BNP-Jamaat sympathisers and were accused of corruption.

The teachers had urged the caretaker government and the UGC chairman to form a neutral investigation committee headed by a High Court (HC) judge. Yesterday's PTS statement, signed by its 21 steering committee members, demanded immediate withdrawal of this committee.

Sources on the campus said the committee would start their investigation from today and probe the allegations of irregularities, corruption and nepotism in the appointment of more than 500 teachers, officials and employees during the BNP-Jamaat tenure.

The pro-Awami League (AL) teachers had brought the allegations against previous and present administrators of RU.

To ensure proper investigation, the probe committee is authorised to examine any documents, including classified documents of the syndicate, and question decisions of faculties and other departments concerned, sources said. The committee is also authorised to interrogate anyone and a memo in this regard was sent to the RU Registrar's office yesterday.

RU Registrar Prof Abdus Salam said the committee is supposed to submit their report within one month.

Last year, RU teachers' and students' organisations staged demonstrations against the RU administration for its alleged mass recruitment, corruption, irregularities and violations of the University Act.

Nato air strike

FROM PAGE 16 the engagement, said spokesman Major John Thomas.

The insurgent Taliban confirmed fighters from the group had ambushed troops in the area. "Taliban led the area before the air strike," spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said.

But Isaf's British military deployment, based in Helmand, said soldiers had "positively identified, from the ground and the air, Taliban in the compound and more running into it."

Civilian casualties from military action in Afghanistan is a sensitive issue after several incidents that have killed scores of people, although insurgents kill by far the most civilians.

On Sunday last week seven children were killed in an air strike targeted on a suspected al-Qaeda compound and carried out by the US-led coalition, which operates alongside Isaf and the Afghan security forces.

The Agency Coordinating Body For Afghan Relief of nearly 100 foreign and Afghan non-governmental organisations said Tuesday that its figures showed Afghan and foreign troops had killed nearly 250 civilians this year.

Human Rights Watch says around 1,000 civilians were killed in insurgency-linked violence in Afghanistan last year, about 230 of them in military action.

In other violence reported Friday, Taliban militants killed seven Afghan policemen and wounded a soldier from the coalition in separate ambushes around the country, Afghan officials said.

But despite a series of high-profile insurgent attacks in recent weeks, Afghanistan's second Vice President Karim Khalili said during a visit to Tokyo that the Taliban were on the wane.

"The Taliban's activity is weakening if you compare the number of terrorist attacks attempted by them this year and last year," he said.

"We have also inflicted great damage to the Taliban in a joint military campaign with Nato through the death of a famous Taliban leader," he said.

Mullah Dadullah, considered the Taliban's top military strategist, was killed in May.

Earlier Taliban militants killed seven Afghan policemen and wounded a soldier from the US-led coalition in separate ambushes around the country, Afghan officials said yesterday.

Rebels attacked a joint patrol by Afghan police and coalition forces overnight in the eastern province of Nangarhar, said Noor Agha, a spokesman for the provincial government.

"One border policeman was killed while a coalition soldier and one Afghan policeman were wounded in the attack in Pachir Wa Agam district," Agha said.

Hawkers go berserk

FROM PAGE 1 [unidentified youths] might have been taken away by their relatives.

However, police confirmed the number is two. The dead-Riaz, 38, and Sujan, 18-used to hawk readymade garments. Injured Jahangir was admitted to Pangu Hospital with fractured legs.

Witnesses said a pick-up of a poultry farm coming from the direction of Sergeant Ahad Police Box rammed into a throng of hawkers at around 2.25am. The crowd was jostling to secure place on the stretch between Baitul Mukarram Mosque to the police box for the weekend holiday market.

Police reached the scene soon after the incident and sped three severely injured hawkers to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Riaz died on the way while Sujan minutes after his arrival to the hospital.

Police brought the situation under control and put up four barricades in the area to avert untoward incidents. But they could not seize the killer vehicle or arrest its driver as of filing this report at 9:00pm.

In protest at the incident, Bangladesh Sammlito Footpath Hawkers Parishad (BSFHP) suspended yesterday's holiday market. They also declared that they would not run the makeshift markets in Gulistan anymore until they are rehabilitated.

An uneasy calm was prevailing in Gulistan where the fuming hawkers were moving in groups while a huge contingent of police stood guard at different points.

The hawkers brought out processions clamouring for immediate rehabilitation and adequate space for street markets popularly known as holiday markets.

"The government evicted us from footpaths and allowed only a narrow strip for around 10,000 hawkers living around Gulistan. Now we cannot even earn enough to meet our daily expenses," said Jalil, a shoe vendor.

The demonstrations became fiercer after police sent bodies of the deceased to their village homes without letting the fellows to hold namaz-e-janaza.

The hawkers called for the government to allow them the way they used to run their businesses before eviction until they are rehabilitated.

"The sites fixed for holiday markets cannot even accommodate 25% of the hawkers coming from around the country," said Waliullah Patwari, president of the Hawk

Parishad.

The caretaker government on February 23 announced that the vendors could use the footpath in Gulistan to run their business only on Friday.

It also earmarked several other places in the capital as holiday markets. Earlier, it evicted hawkers from different footpaths and important points in the city on January 17.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Awami Hawkers League in a press release claimed that at least four people were killed in the accident. They demanded immediate punishment to the driver responsible for the deaths.

Mohiuddin

FROM PAGE 16 other former and dismissed army men to death for killing Bangabandhu and 26 others on August 15, 1975. The High Court on April 30, 2001 upheld the trial court verdict, acquitting two of the 14.

Mohiuddin was sent back to the country on June 18 from the United States after he lost a legal battle for asylum there. Upon arrival, he was sent to the condemned cell at Dhaka Central Jail.

AL founding

FROM PAGE 16 of the name to give it a more secular quality.

The AL led all democratic movements of East Pakistan starting from the Language Movement of 1952 to the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

To observe the day, the AL will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the capital and hold a special prayer there.

AL chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina issued a statement marking the day. In her statement she said even though the AL brought success in different sectors during the AL rule from 1996 to 2001, "the BNP-Jamaat alliance came to power through rigged polls in 2001 and hampered the development of the country".

Hasina, eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said, "Awami League will lead the country in bringing positive changes in future."

Public universities

FROM PAGE 1 top officials of the ministry, UGC representatives and vice chancellors will scrutinise the proposed rules and suggestions of the public universities. The draft rules will be finalised later, he said.

PROPOSED RULES

According to the draft rules, a candidate having first class or first division at all levels including honours and master's can only apply for the post of lecturer but this rule might be relaxed if no such candidate is available.

A lecturer will become assistant professor after having two years' experience and at least one research publication. An assistant professor will be associate professor with eight years' experience including five years as assistant professor, and five research publications with three of those as assistant professor.

An associate professor will become a professor with 18 years' experience including seven years as associate professor, and 15 research publications with seven of those as associate professor.

But an associate professor who holds PhD degree can be a professor after having 12 years' experience including six years as associ-

ate professor and at least 15 research publications.

A candidate for the post of registrar must have at least second class or second division at all levels and 15 years' experience including five years as deputy registrar. Besides, candidates for important posts like controller of examinations, chief librarian, chief public relations officer and chief medical officer must have at least second class or second division at all levels and 15 years' experience.

Mohammed Mufakker, UGC secretary, said all public universities should be brought under certain standard rules so that transparency is maintained in recruitment and promotion of teachers and staff in the interest of quality higher education and proper functioning of the universities.

He said some of the public universities like Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology already have standard rules for recruitment and promotion of teachers. The proposed uniform rules will be the basis of efforts for quality education while some universities may also go for further standard rules, he added.

Poverty rates

FROM PAGE 16 allocations and distribute to upazilas where the poverty rate is high."

"Earlier, the SSNP fund allocations were not determined on the basis of the poverty rates," Akbar said adding the government now can identify upazilas with the highest poverty rates and distribute the funds.

He said the SSNP beneficiaries have never been politicised as most SSNPs were initiated during the Awami League government and largely left untouched by the past BNP-led government.

The former adviser viewed that the government should take initiatives to check leakages in fund distribution to ensure that beneficiaries get full payment.

A World Bank report titled 'Social Safety Nets in Bangladesh: An Assessment' found 27 percent of VGD beneficiaries are not poor, and 47 percent of Primary Education Stipend Program (PESP) beneficiaries are non-poor and 11 percent do not meet any of the criteria.

It also found that three percent of the total poor were missed out from the SSNP due to wrong selection and beneficiaries getting multiple programmes.

Bomb found

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The bomb contained gunpowder, circuits, battery and bicycle balls, SI Alamgir said.

Following the bomb recovery, police were deployed on the Ruet campus, Motihar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khandoker Ferdous Ahmed said.

The students, teachers and locals have expressed deep concern over recovery of seven powerful bombs from the Ruet campus in a month.

Earlier on May 22, a bomb was found on the Ruet campus. The next day, police recovered a sawed off rifle and a bomb from students' union office of Shaheed Selim Hall.

On May 24, police recovered two more bombs and found an aluminium sheet carrying a message that Jadid al Qaeda would plant six bombs on the Ruet campus.

On June 2, the joint forces found a bomb at a Ruet dormitory and on June 14 police recovered a powerful bomb in front of Ruet main gate.

Earlier, the joint force raided Ruet dormitories and arrested six students for alleged involvement in bomb making.

Notice

FROM PAGE 16 hampered due to unauthorised segments of those buildings.

CDA Chief Engineer MA Halim said they have given one month's time to the owners so that they can remove the unauthorised parts of their buildings on their own initiative.

Salahuddin

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Gulshan Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Salahuddin before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka. He in a forwarding prayed to the court to keep Salahuddin confined to jail as it may be needed to interrogate him further regarding the case.

The IO also said that the accused had already given significant information about the case filed against him and his wife Hasina Ahmed on April 1 for depriving the government of a large amount of tax by understating the prices of their three luxurious automobiles.

Another court also sent Bappi to jail after he was produced before it on completion of a three-day remand in a graft case filed by an official of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Earlier on March 29 and May 20, Bappi was placed on remand for five days in two phases.

Two other accused in the case are former BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid and owner of Sky Autos, Istiaq Sadiq.

The case was filed on March 17 with Pallabi Police Station in connection with evading tax during import of a luxury car by abusing duty-free car import privilege of an MP.

BNP reformists

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reforms in the party through discussions with leaders down to the grassroots level once the ban on indoor politics is lifted.

"We want to see a meaningful change....we want to free the party of corrupt individuals and terrorists," Ashraf Hossain, joint secretary general of BNP, told The Daily Star last night.

"Despite an enormous sway, late president Ziaur Rahman was democratic whenever it came to running the party. But the BNP he left behind did not see a council in the last 14 years," he added.

The pro-reform leaders seek to curb the absolute power of chairperson and set up a collective leadership even if they require major changes in the party constitution.

Asked what they would do in case of Khaleda not accepting the proposals, a leader said, "In the last 14 years, many decisions have been taken without a council. So, what's the big deal if the leaders and workers now want to take any decision for the welfare of the party?"

Changes will come in some basic provisions of the party constitution including membership quality, council, process of election to the top posts in all tiers, and transparency in party accounts, a pro-reform leader said.

"An agreement should be reached after coordinating all the proposals," Ali Newaz Khaiyam, a former lawmaker, told reporters replying to a query about Khaleda Zia's recent announcement that she is also drawing up a reform proposal.

"We should consider the strategic side of the reforms," he said after meeting BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the latter's Gulshan residence yesterday.

Some other leaders also met Bhuiyan to discuss the reform proposals. They said no matter what it takes, they would curtail the chairperson's absolute power enshrined in the party constitution and introduce a provision of fixed term for an individual as the party head.

Sarwar Jamal arrested

FROM PAGE 1

official duties of the police forces in his constituency.

Sources said he is also accused of helping the sensational offloading of ten trucks of firearms in the port city as well as of amassing a large amount of properties from unknown sources.

After the arrest, Sarwar Jamal was taken to Rab-7 head quarters at Patenga where members of the joint forces, intelligence agencies, the task force and Rab were interrogating him.

He was later produced before a court shown as arrested under the Emergency Power Act 2007 and in connection with a general diary (GD) filed with Patenga police station last evening.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Moksedur Rahman sent him to jail custody.

The law enforcers also arrested Sarwar Jamal's chauffeur Md Mamunur Rashid, 35, and seized the Pajero sports utility vehicle that was carrying the former lawmaker.

Three bottles of foreign hard liquor and five cans of foreign beer were also recovered from the vehicle.

The joint forces also searched through Sarwar Jamal's city residence on Zakir Hossain Road under Khulshi police station but they could not recover anything important from there.

During interrogation, Sarwar Jamal denied having any link with or knowledge of fertilizer smuggling, off-loading of ten-trucks of firearms, and the abduction and murder of Jamal Uddin, said the sources.

Sarwar Jamal has properties worth of several crores of taka including two garment factories, two fishing trawlers, two palatial houses, and four luxury automobiles.

During the interrogation however Sarwar Jamal claimed that the properties had belonged to him even before he was elected a lawmaker for the first time in 1996.

Regarding the liquor recovered from his vehicle he told journalists that he has been living a pious life without touching any alcoholic beverage and that he had nothing to with the recovered foreign liquors.

Sources said Sarwar Jamal maintained a well organised syndicate of smugglers in the coastal area of Anowara to smuggle out fertilizers to neighbouring Myanmar. Besides, different contraband items have also been smuggled by the syndicate sheltered by the former lawmaker.

He reportedly helped offloading of ten-truck loads of illegal firearms at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited on the bank of the river Karnaphuli on April 1, 2004.

Sarwar Jamal reportedly interfered with and obstructed police business frequently in his constituency.

He allegedly never allowed any officer-in-charge (OC) of the local police stations of Anowara and Karnaphuli to go against his favoured smuggling racket.

As many as six OCs were allegedly transferred from Anowara police station within a span of three years.

An OC, Makhfarrul Islam, reportedly came under the wrath of Sarwar during his tenure at Anowara police station when two infamous robbers - Martuza Ali and Islam -- were killed in crossfire between a criminal gang and the police.

OC Makhfarrul was transferred from the police station within less than six months of joining his post.

Makhfarrul's predecessor OC Mahbub Hasan, who also was not on the good book of Sarwar, was transferred from the police station within seven months of his appointment, said the sources.

Sarwar Jamal reportedly helped his brother Maruf Nizam evade the hands of justice, who was allegedly the mastermind of the abduction and killing of Chittagong business magnet Jamal Uddin Chowdhury.

After the declaration of the state of emergency a massive hunt was initiated for arresting Maruf Nizam as well as Shahjahan Omar, who is a relative of Sarwar and also a former deputy minister for law.

Members of Rab-7 of Chittagong

raided in vain the house of Maruf Nizam at Masua Jhama of Dewan Bazar under Kotwali police station a few days ago.

Meanwhile talking to journalists Jamal Uddin's wife Nazma Akter said they will file a case accusing Sarwar Jamal and Shahjahan Omar of Jamal Uddin's abduction and murder.

"We have been deprived of justice for long. Sarwar Jamal delayed the trial of the case using his influence," alleged Nazma.

"We call upon the caretaker government for holding the trial and for providing justice, which might not be expected during the regime of any political government," she said.

"We also urge the caretaker government to investigate the murder where Sarwar Jamal allegedly bribed the then state minister for home to delay the trial," Nazma added.

Jamal Uddin Chowdhury was abducted on July 24, 2003 while returning to his city residence at Chandgon from his business firm at Chawk Bazar.

Jamal Uddin's body was recovered from a remote and inaccessible hilly forest area at South Kanchan Nagar under Fatikchhari on August 24, 2005 two years and one month into his abduction.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Anwar Hossain submitted the charge sheet of the case on July 8 accusing sixteen persons, excluding the reported mastermind of the murder, Maruf Nizam, prompting the court to order submission of a supplementary charge sheet after re-investigation.

Later, CID's Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Hamidul Haq re-investigated the case and submitted the supplementary charge sheet.

But the case had a high court stay order on it that had come on December 12, 2006.

With the period of the six-month stay order expired on June 11 the trial of the case could be started now, the sources said.

Investigating officers (IO) of the case were allegedly transferred frequently contributing to the delay in submission of the charge sheet.

As many as seven IOs had been transferred before the last IO ASP Hamidul Haq was appointed last year.

Extortionists

FROM PAGE 1

there, witnesses said.

"Moments after Mannan revealed his identity, the two youths drew pistols from their waists and one of them shot twice in his head point blank," a club staff who witnessed the incident told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

As bullet-hit Mannan collapsed on the chair, the armed youths fled the scene. Locals tried to chase them but the criminals made a safe passage by shooting twice in the air.

Locals rushed Mannan to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Four months back detained top-listed criminals Bikash and Pichichi Kamal sent a letter from jail to Mannan demanding Tk 5 lakh, Mannan's family members said. Another local criminal Parvez, who was arrested three days back, had handed over the letter to Mannan.

As Mannan refused to provide the money, the criminals asked him not to collect jhoot (garment by-products) from a local garment factory but he declined to comply with.

"Three days ago a caller introducing himself as a man from 'Bikash-Pichichi Kamal Group' gave Mamun a seven-day ultimatum to leave his business, threatening to kill him otherwise," a close relative of Mannan told reporters.

Sabbir murder

FROM PAGE 16 of Police Amran Ali, investigation officer of the case, said he is still going through the case docket. "After reading the docket I will decide how to start my work," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per the law, if Babar is found to have received the bribe, a bribery case will be filed against him and other beneficiaries of the bribe, the official said.

SABBIR'S KILLING

Investigators said Sabbir's murder was not a planned one. He was killed as Sanbeer struck the back of his head with an empty bottle following an altercation over affairs with a female executive of a mobile phone company.

In the afternoon of July 4 last year, Sanbeer and Ujjal picked up Sabbir from his residence in Gulshan and took him to the "pleasure house" on Road-104 in Gulshan where Sanbeer used to arrange parties.

Sanbeer's friends and a few young Bashundhara officials used to visit the two flats on the fourth floor of the building and enjoy nights with girls and alcoholic beverages.

As the party was going on that night, Sanbeer, widely known as an arrogant youth, became drunk and suddenly started scolding Sabbir for his affair with the mobile phone company executive. At one stage he hit on the back of Sabbir's head with an empty bottle of wine and Sabbir collapsed on the floor unconscious and his breathing stopped.

Sanbeer informed his father of the incident over telephone and Sobhan sent Shamsuddin to the scene.

Sanbeer, Shamsuddin and Ujjal

then wiped out the bloodstains from the carpet, brought down Sabbir's body by lift and abandoned it beside the boundary wall of House 3/G on Road-104 in Gulshan-1. Two guards of the flat-Nure Alam and Humayun--who have been absconding since the incident helped dump the body.

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