

## Turkey may launch action against Kurd rebels at 'any time': Erdogan

AFP, London/Washington

Turkey could launch military action into northern Iraq at "any time", Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday but insisted it would solely target Kurdish separatists and not threaten Iraq.

He made the comments after talks in London with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who voiced support for Turkey and condemned the "terrorist violence" of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

"We have no calculations on the territorial integrity or political unity of Iraq," Erdogan said, referring to Turkey's threat to launch military strikes against PKK bases in northern Iraq.

He noted that the Turkish parliament had given the green light last week for cross-border action. "Any such effort would target only the PKK," he said.

And he pressed Iraqi authorities to take their responsibility. "We have some expectation with respect to what is to be done about the terrorist organisation in the north."

The Iraqi government must know that we can exercise this mandate we have received from the Turkish parliament at any time," he said.

Brown meanwhile voiced his condemnation of the PKK, which attacked a Turkish military patrol near the border at the weekend, leaving 12 soldiers dead.

"We condemn absolutely and unequivocally the terrorist violence of the PKK," he told reporters, while stressing that London and Ankara would continue to work for a "diplomatic solution" to the crisis.

"I can assure you we are doing everything in our power... to make sure that there is no safe haven for terrorist organisations in that part of Iraq threatening Turkey," he added.

"We appreciate the frustration and also the anger that exists in Turkey," he said.

Erdogan added: "The United Kingdom has suffered greatly from terrorism and suffers from terrorism... the UK is well positioned to well understand what Turkey is experiencing."

"We know how terrorism can hurt people and we hope that no other country or nation can do the same," he said.

### Fazlul Haque

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In his first drive, Rab personnel arrested six youths of well-off families with 16 Yaba tablets and 24 pornography CDs. A Porsche and a BMW three series, which they allegedly used for selling and carrying drugs, including Phenylidol, were also seized.

The arrestees are Dayee Khan Beer alias Chiku, Mushtaqur Rahman Tamal, Sheikh Ahmed Shafiq, Salman Rahim Juardar, Altaf Akmal Kolloi and Mahmud Al Jaberjee alias Shanon. They are now on a three-day remand.

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Erdogan added: "The United Kingdom has suffered greatly from terrorism and suffers from terrorism... the UK is well positioned to well understand what Turkey is experiencing."

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### Legal experts

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violation of the decision of the highest court and the constitution. I don't think the government will be advised to do that," he told The Daily Star over phone last night.

He believes the government does not need to amend the law to meet the demands of the administrative officials.

"I don't find any difficulties for the executive magistrates to continue exercising their executive functions which at times involve quasi-judicial matters such as holding a mobile court or disconnecting illegal utility connection or demolishing illegal constructions, removing any nuisance, tackling law and order, giving police instruction or making any campaign against adulterated food or exercising any other power given under any laws for executing particular policies."

This power has not been impeded by the separation, he said, adding: "All that the separation means under the constitution is that the executive magistrates will not exercise any judicial function which is exclusively vested in the judiciary."

There is no need for any amendment of any law, some administrative order can clarify this position, he observes.

### ACC seeks

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the chief adviser.

If the ACC proposal is approved, recruitment will require approval once from the commission, twice from the cabinet and once each from the law ministry and the head of the government.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Supreme Court Registrar Iktedar Ahmed said the ministry did not mention any reason for the withdrawal. Rokon-Ud-Doula will remain a magistrate until further notice.

As of 9:30pm, there was yet to be any notice regarding the status of the beleaguered official.

Addressing a seminar in the city Sunday, Supreme Court Registrar Iktedar Ahmed said that the separation was deferred till 2021 to remove "inequality" between executive magistrates and judicial magistrates and put in place adequate infrastructure and logistics support.

Saying that he might even be arrested for making such statements, he called on the executive officials to go on a work stoppage from November 1.

Bangladesh Administrative Service Association's President Abu Md Moniruzzaman Khan, who was the chief guest at the seminar, tried to stop him but in vain. He later said the association bears no link with the statement.

Sources said departmental action might be taken against Rokon for violating the code of conduct for administrative officials.

## 3 criminals

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their previous remand of seven days, divulged information about high-profile political leaders -- who they claimed to have been their godfathers'.

They also said that they had carried out criminal activates without any major difficulty under the protection of a number of ward commissioners and lawmakers.

They told the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) interrogators that most wanted derailed criminal Kala Jahangir had strong ties with Hawa Bhaban.

A top CID official seeking immunity said the task force would now try to detect their godfathers. "If any solid information about their link to the godfathers is found, the godfathers will be brought to justice."

Sources said the interrogators would also try to glean information from the criminals about how the top criminals, now hiding in India, and their operatives are carrying out their activities in Bangladesh.

Habibur Rahman Taj was the second-in-command of Kala Jahangir and the areas of Mirpur, Pallabi and Kafir were under his control. Ibrahim and Lamu Selim used to control Mohakhali and Gulshan areas.

Police said there are over 60 cases including murders pending against the three criminals.

## Task force

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The foray into the Housing Bhaban came a day after another team of the task force visited and camped at Nagar Bhaban of Dhaka City Corporation.

Abdul Quayum, chairman of the National Housing Authority said, "The task force members will scrutinise service roles as well as how to improve the department's services for the city-dwellers. They will also monitor if there is any irregularity."

On Monday, the DCC came under the taskforce's supervision as part of the caretaker government's drive against institutionalised corruption in the second phase of the ongoing anti-graft campaign.

## DU dormitories

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showing their identity cards and signing the register books.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall Provost Prof Mahfuzul Islam said about 100 students returned to the dormitory till yesterday afternoon. He hoped that most students would get back in a day or two.

The number of female students returning to dormitories is less than male students.

Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Fazl visited different dormitories to observe the situation yesterday. While talking to the journalists, he hoped that students would return to the dormitories soon. He said the academic activities of the university would resume on the scheduled date.

He said the students should not worry about harassment by the law enforcement agencies as the government gave assurance of a hassle-free environment.

The law adviser said since a new building cannot be constructed overnight, there would be some accommodation problems in the judicial magistracy. But the government will soon take steps to ensure the executive magistrates do not face any difficulties.

"If necessary, we will rent houses," he added.

Asked whether any amendment would be brought before November 1, the date for the separation to take effect, Mainul said: "Separation of the judiciary is a continuous process. After November 1, more changes might be made."

The law adviser noted that now is a favourable time for implementing the separation since the government can easily formulate necessary laws during the state of emergency.

Secretaries of the cabinet, law and parliament affairs, housing and public works, establishment and finance ministries attended the inter-ministerial meeting, said sources.

The association backed off its demand for deferment of the separation after the adviser assured them of taking care of their grievances.

**BPC stakes**

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Last year the BPC incurred a loss of around 500 million dollars after the government deliberately kept local prices low in order to control soaring inflation.

Inflation hit a 12-year high of 10.12 percent in August this year, prompting the government to delay price hikes despite pressures from the multilateral aid agencies.

Bangladesh imported 3.8 million tonnes of mostly refined oil last year at a cost of over two billion dollars. The BPC said the fuel import cost this year might hit three billion dollars, or about 18 percent of the country's annual import bill.

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## DMP to punish

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appointed around 1,000 policemen across the country as counter intelligence against the force in May. Following the report of the unit named "PIO" (police intelligence oversight), over 6,000 policemen have already been punished for different terms.

Detective Branch (DB) of police in the past one month has taken punitive actions against 52 officials and constables following allegations of corruption against them.

A police constable on sanitary duty at a police station was not spared for taking Tk 15 only from a relative of a detainee, a top official wishing not to be quoted said.

According to official figures, collection of customs duty rose by nearly 14.7 percent to Tk 4,030 crore against Tk 3,400 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal year.

These are all executive powers, but they will be barred from dealing with any cognisable offence, which falls under jurisdiction of the judicial magistrates.

Replies to a question, he viewed that said since the Supreme Court has no separate secretariat at the moment, the law ministry has to process appointments, transfers and postings of judicial magistrates with the approval of the Supreme Court during this transi-

## Hospital lift falls

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and she had to undergo an emergency caesarean section to have the baby delivered more than a month early. The normal expected delivery date was on November 27.

Since there was no other elevator in working condition, the panic-stricken and first time mother-to-be, Afroza Begum, 20, had to climb back up the stairs to the 8th floor where the doctors rushed her for the caesarean. Afroza had come to see Dr Shirin Akhter that day for a routine checkup and took the elevator to get to the level where she would undergo an ultrasound diagnosis.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Khan, assistant superintendent of BSMMU hospital, told The Daily Star that the university authorities have no control over the maintenance of equipment such as the elevators -- the Public Works Department (PWD) is responsible for the maintenance of elevators inside the hospital.

Fortunately, the delivery of the baby was successful and the mother was recovering well. The premature baby, however, had to be admitted to the paediatric unit with severe breathing problems, said Anwara Begum, Afroza's mother-in-law.

Anwara added that following the accident, her son, the baby's father who is a driver by profession, had to spend around Tk 12,000 on medicines for both the baby and the mother.

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