

Myanmar withdraws

FROM PAGE 1
the deployment of Bangladesh Army troops on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border since Myanmar mobilised huge forces on the other side of the border.

Our correspondent in Cox's Bazar reports: Several thousand army personnel have been deployed at Narkel Bagan barrack of Ramu upazila around noon yesterday. A large convoy of troops was also on its way to the border with Myanmar from Chittagong.

Tension remains high at the border area as Myanmar mobilised more forces to its border with Bangladesh, said the correspondent quoting locals. In response, Bangladesh also beefed up its security measures.

Trade at Teknaf Land Port came to an almost halt yesterday due to the heightened tension between the two nations.

Touhid said during his recent trip to Myanmar, he made three proposals before Myanmar deputy ministers Maung Myint and Kyaw Thu to resolve the crisis.

The government had sent Touhid to Myanmar last week after Myanmar ships intruded into Bangladesh waters.

Removal of the drilling rig as it was on Bangladesh waters, continuation of talks on maritime boundary issues and withdrawal of both countries' ships were the proposals I put forward," he said.

The foreign secretary said Myanmar had refused to pull back the drilling rig during the talks. "My counterparts told me that they would decide after discussing it with their superiors," he added.

Touhid said the Myanmar authorities claimed of exploring fossil fuel on the eastern side of the so-called friendship line between Bangladesh and Myanmar, which is incorrect.

Before Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent Touhid to Myanmar, it decided to confront the situation through a tri-national diplomatic manoeuvre. Bangladesh had approached Myanmar's closest ally China and South Korea to put an end to the crisis.

"I had meetings with the ambassadors of China and South Korea in Dhaka and informed them of the situation clearing Bangladesh's position," he said, adding that he told the Chinese envoy that Bangladesh wants a peaceful solution to the

problem.

The Korean envoy was, however, urged to ask Daewoo, the Korean company carrying out the exploration job for Myanmar, to pull out from the disputed territory.

He said the Korean envoy told him that the Korean exploration vessels would be removed.

The foreign secretary said despite the dispute in the Bay of Bengal, the scheduled bilateral talks between the two countries on maritime boundary issues would be held during November 16 and 17 in Dhaka.

"The talks will also cover construction of a road between the two neighbours," he added.

A correspondent in Bandarban reports: BDR reinforced its troops at the border between Naikkhanchhari upazila and Myanmar yesterday. The troops were deployed in response to the building up of Myanmar forces on the other side of the border.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Bangladesh Army is prepared to face any untoward situation along Bangladesh's border with Myanmar. Sources said forces are ready to move towards Cox's Bazar if the situation demands.

Director General of BDR Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed is expected to visit the border areas today.

Myanmar ships started exploration activities 55km southwest of St Martin's Island on November 1, ignoring Bangladesh Navy warnings of trespassing.

Poster control

FROM PAGE 16
The advisory council meeting, chaired by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, decided to place the Election Commission Secretariat under the Cabinet Division for effective its functioning.

The caretaker government had earlier made the Election Commission Secretariat independent of the Prime Minister's Office.

The meeting decided that National Agriculture Day would be observed on the first of Agrahayan every Banglayear.

Chief adviser's press secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed reporters on the outcome of the meeting.

Doctors struggled yesterday to contain an outbreak of cholera in a sprawling refugee camp near Congo's eastern provincial capital of Goma, as new fighting ignited fears that infected patients could scatter and launch an epidemic.

At the Kibati camp and in Goma, thousands packed church services Sunday to pray for peace after rebels and pro-government militiamen executed civilians in two waves of terror that the top UN envoy to Congo has called war crimes.

The killings highlighted the inability of UN peacekeepers to protect civilians or halt a 10-week-old rebel offensive that has convulsed eastern Congo and forced more than 250,000 people from their homes.

The fighting in Congo is fueled by ethnic hatred left over from the 1994 slaughter of 500,000 Tutsis in Rwanda. Rebel leader Laurent Nkunda claims to be fighting to protect minority Tutsis from Rwandan Hutu rebels who participated in the genocide and then fled to Congo. He wants direct talks with President Joseph Kabila's government to end the fighting, and a rebel-declared cease-fire around Goma has mostly held.

8 Muslim nations

FROM PAGE 16
one and a half hours long meeting with the AL president at Sudha Sadan in the capital.

He said they seek to establish a good relationship with all political parties in Bangladesh.

The envoys of United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Egypt, Qatar, Libya, Morocco, and Oman were present.

AL spokesman Syed Ashrafur Islam told the journalists that various issues including the election and its preparation, political and economic situation were discussed at the meeting.

He said the ambassadors also inquired about Hasina's physical condition.

Ashrafur said the envoys would like to see the national elections held on the announced date.

"We told them that we were ready and our election manifesto will be made public as soon as it gets approved by the party's central working committee," he said.

He said they are ready to submit nomination papers on November 13.

BAEC find vindicates

FROM PAGE 1
Instead he and his government trusted the test results of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and of a private laboratory Plasma Plus, both of which detected melamine in only Yashili 1 while failing to find trace of the substance in the remaining seven brands.

Later the samples of all eight brands were sent to the laboratories of Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), BAEC, and a FAO recognised private laboratory in Thailand for testing.

This time around BAEC detected melamine in seven of the brands while the other two laboratories found contamination only in the Chinese brands.

The government adviser said on November 3 that BAEC and the DU chemistry department are not capable of conducting complicated tests like finding melamine in milk.

He told The Daily Star about the BAEC lab. "It's good for detecting pesticides and radiation levels, but not for detecting melamine in milk," adding that the DU chemistry department also has similar limitations.

Criticising the government's move to keep the BAEC test results hushed for a week, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad told The Daily Star yesterday, "It's a violation of the Right to Information Act which the government recently enacted. The persons responsible for hiding the information from the public should be put on trial according to the law."

9 doctors admit Falu's

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"Falu used to come from the Kashimpur jail and talk with physicians for hours. Sometimes he even used jail guards' cellphone for long," adds a source.

While talking to newsmen, a number of BSMMU doctors said Falu's lawyers "wrongly" attached the medical reports prepared at the outdoor of the hospital to his bail petition submitted to the High Court.

But the jail authorities say all kinds of documents of a prisoner to be submitted to the court or any other office must pass through them.

"Not only their medical reports but also the income tax returns or any other documents have to be submitted to the jail authorities first," said Shamsul Haider Siddiqui, deputy inspector general (Prison).

Asked about the implications of the doctors' statements, ACC Counsel Advocate Anisul told The Daily Star the compilation of the medical reports was not according to the laws.

"As per a directive of the Supreme Court, the High Court can grant bail to any accused if a proper medical board recommends that the accused is seriously ill. Now the High Court orders granting bail to Mosaddek Ali Falu are questioned," he said.

Anisul added it was now clear that there was no duly constituted medical board, which was the requirement of law for Falu's bail.

Another ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan said as per the SC guidelines, the HC could consider the bail petition on the basis of the recommendations of a properly authorised medical board, not on the basis of outdoor check-ups.

MILK TEST RESULTS

Serial No.	Brand Name	Country of Origin	Plasma Plus Lab	BSTI Lab	Chemistry Dept. of Dhaka University	BAEC Lab	BCSIR Lab	Dept. of Medical Science in Thailand
1	Yashili 1	China	72.77	86.02	Melamine mg/kg (mg/g)	175.2	115	67.33
2	Yashili 2	China	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	290 (0.29)	172.0	<0.025	Less than 0.20
3	Sweet Baby 2	China	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	140 (0.14)	330.4	<0.025	0.28
4	Nido Fortified Instant	New Zealand	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	450 (0.45)	171.3	<0.025	Not detected
5	Anlene Cream Milk Powder	New Zealand	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	200 (0.20)	478.3	<0.025	Not detected
6	Red Cow Full Cream Milk Powder	Australia	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	230 (0.23)	<MDL	<0.025	Not detected
7	Diploma Full Cream Milk Powder	Australia	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	300 (0.30)	287.4	<0.025	Not detected
8	Dano Full Cream Milk Powder	Denmark	<MDL	Not detectable by GC-MS	40 (0.04)	7.4	<0.025	Not detected

<MDL = Less than Method Detection Limit: 1.5mg/kg.
<0.025 = Less than detection limit i.e. Not detected; Detection limit: 0.025, tested by LC-MS/MS
*MDL = Below detection limit

Bikalpadhara

FROM PAGE 16
Chief Kader Siddiqui said he hopes the new alliance will play a vital role in the upcoming election.

"I agree with the initiative of B Chowdhury and Dr Kamal because they want to establish a new effective political platform spinning off from the traditional two alliances," he told the press conference.

Acting Gono Forum general secretary advocate Subrata Chowdhury said they will field candidates in all 300 constituencies.

Bangladesh Kalyan Party Chairman Maj Gen (ret) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim said the alliance was formed targeting effective changes in politics, administration and social structures.

Bikalpadhara leaders Maj (ret) Abdul Mannan, Mahi B Chowdhury and Sekendar Ali Moni of Bangladesh Labour Party, among others, were present at the press conference.

Polls goal

FROM PAGE 1
Commission (EC) itself appears to be confused if the city corporation mayors are eligible to contest the parliamentary polls, said EC Secretariat sources.

The Representation of the People Order (RPO) provision in this regard is open to interpretations, they added.

While some officials say mayors can contest the parliamentary polls, others argue they cannot, since they are holding posts in statutory bodies (city corporations).

The EC will have to resolve the issue soon, as city corporation mayors might bid to compete in the December 18 polls, officials in the EC said.

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque has already bought AL nomination form for Bagerhat-3 constituency. He has also contacted the EC to know if he will be able to stand in the polls.

The EC officials told him that he would be informed once the commission makes a decision on it.

Khaleque had to resign from his post in Khulna city AL on his election as the mayor.

Congo refugee camp hit by cholera outbreak

AP, Kibati, Congo

Doctors struggled yesterday to contain an outbreak of cholera in a sprawling refugee camp near Congo's eastern provincial capital of Goma, as new fighting ignited fears that infected patients could scatter and launch an epidemic.

At the Kibati camp and in Goma, thousands packed church services Sunday to pray for peace after rebels and pro-government militiamen executed civilians in two waves of terror that the top UN envoy to Congo has called war crimes.

The killings highlighted the inability of UN peacekeepers to protect civilians or halt a 10-week-old rebel offensive that has convulsed eastern Congo and forced more than 250,000 people from their homes.

The fighting in Congo is fueled by ethnic hatred left over from the 1994 slaughter of 500,000 Tutsis in Rwanda. Rebel leader Laurent Nkunda claims to be fighting to protect minority Tutsis from Rwandan Hutu rebels who participated in the genocide and then fled to Congo. He wants direct talks with President Joseph Kabila's government to end the fighting, and a rebel-declared cease-fire around Goma has mostly held.

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Nine doctors and the registrar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University coming out of the Supreme Court after meeting the SC registrar about Mosaddek Ali Falu's medical certificate yesterday.

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Prof Arefin Siddique

FROM PAGE 1
He noted that the government initiated the process of dialogue with political parties after one year of its de-politicisation efforts when it felt the situation was getting out of their control.

He termed the Election Commission's putting so much emphasis on re-demarcating parliamentary constituencies unnecessary.

Arefin also criticised the caretaker government for taking no action against the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, the biggest partner of the BNP in its alliance government, although it arrested many high profile BNP leaders.

Swedish grant

FROM PAGE 16
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The ERD secretary said this agreement would act as a pioneer for overall development of Bangladesh with a view to enhancing its goals for the MDGs.

"Sweden's cooperation and contribution would lead to achieve the levels in our development sectors and future democratic governance of Bangladesh," he added.

Delwar asks EC

FROM PAGE 16
The Election Commission announced the poll schedule on November 2 all of a sudden and many of our leaders who want to contest the election did not get enough time to pay off their loans and bills," Delwar said, adding, "This time too the Election Commission played tricks while announcing fresh poll schedule as our party's aspirant candidates would not get enough time to pay off their dues."

The BNP secretary general demanded that the government create a congenial atmosphere for holding a free, fair and credible election.

The EC yesterday extended its deadline for submission of nomination papers for the parliamentary and upazila elections.

The BNP-led four-party alliance on November 5 demanded declaration of fresh schedule for the ninth parliamentary election and implementation of its seven-point demand including complete withdrawal of the state of emergency.

BRITISH OFFICIAL MEETS DELWAR

British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Additional Director Philip Barton yesterday met Delwar at his Nam flat in the city.

"We hope the government will lift the emergency and a free, fair and transparent election will be held with participation of all political parties," the British official told reporters after the meeting.

3 Bali bombers

FROM PAGE 16
before midnight on Saturday.

The 2002 attacks targeted packed nightspots on the holiday island of Bali, killing more than 160 foreigners including 88 Australians, as well as 38 Indonesians.

Until the end, the bombers expressed no remorse for their "infidel" victims and claimed they wanted to die as "martyrs" for their dream of an Islamic caliphate spanning much of Southeast Asia.

Survivors and relatives of the victims expressed a mixture of relief and sadness at the news.

"I guess the overwhelming feeling isn't joy because they're dead, but it's definitely relief that we don't have to continue with the circus," said Trent Thompson, whose brother Clint was among the Australians killed.

Tumini, who worked at Paddy's bar which was destroyed by one of the bombs, said: "I'm feeling happy. I don't have any resentment towards them. I only hope that this problem (of Islamic radicalism) can be solved at roots."

The bombers, members of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network, were sentenced in 2003 but launched at least four failed legal challenges, which delayed their executions and kept them in the media spotlight.

Hundreds of supporters briefly clashed with police as the bodies of Mukhlas and Amrozi -- the latter dubbed the "smiling assassin" for his courtroom antics -- arrived by helicopter at their village of Tenggulun in east Java.

Hardline cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, the co-founder of Jemaah Islamiyah who was jailed on a conspiracy charge related to the bombings before being released in 2006, led prayers for the brothers but did not speak to the media.

There were similar scenes in the west Java town of Serang as Samudra's body was paraded to the graveyard, shrouded in a black cloth bearing a Koranic inscription in Arabic.

"There'll probably be retaliation. What is clear is that no drop of Muslim blood is free. It has consequences," said Gana, 26, who travelled 90 kilometres (56 miles) from Jakarta to Serang to show his support.

The vast majority of Indonesian Muslims have little sympathy for militants, and even among the angry mourners in Serang, one man told AFP the bombers' "jihad" was wrong.

"If there's a war, fighting jihad is good for the religion but don't do it here in Indonesia. Bali is a battlefield," he said.

Security has been beefed up around sensitive areas such as embassies, tourist spots, shopping malls and ports. On Hindu-majority Bali, 3,500 police are on the streets providing additional security, officials said.

Australia has urged citizens to reconsider travel to Indonesia, and the United States has warned Americans to "maintain a low profile" and avoid demonstrations.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said it was a time to remember both the victims and survivors of the bloody attack.

"Their lives remain shattered. They've been changed fundamentally by that murder," he told reporters. "So it is their lives that we think

about today."

The bombers were sentenced under a new anti-terror law that was applied retroactively, leading to criticism from rights campaigners and fuelling anger among their Islamist supporters.

Amnesty International said the executions should be the last time Indonesia uses the death penalty.

The Bali attack was the bloodiest in a sustained period of al-Qaeda-inspired jihadist violence in the world's most populous Muslim country, including a car bombing on the Australian embassy in 2004.

The alleged mastermind, Malaysian extremist Noordin Mohammad Top, is still at large.

Russian nuclear

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vessels, suggesting human error was likely involved.

The state-run RIA-Novosti news agency cited an unnamed official at the Amur Shipbuilding Factory as saying the sub was built there and is called the Nerpa. Testing on the submarine began last month and it submerged for the first time last week, according to the agency.

Construction of the Nerpa, an Akula II class attack submarine, started in 1991 but was suspended for years because of a shortage of funding, RIA-Novosti reported.

Despite a major boost in military spending during Vladimir Putin's eight years as president, Russia's military is still hampered by decrepit infrastructure, aging weapons and problems with corruption and incompetence.

First Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Kolmakov and navy chief Adm. Vladimir Vysotsky were heading for the Pacific Coast in the wake of the accident, Dyalgo said.

The Kremlin said President Dmitry Medvedev had been informed about the accident immediately by his defence minister and was receiving frequent updates, Russian news agencies reported. Medvedev ordered a thorough investigation.

Putin, now prime minister, was criticised for his slow response to the Kursk disaster, which mired the first of his eight years as president.

AKM Mosharraf

FROM PAGE 16
trial court by November 9 to face the proceedings of Barapukuria coalmine corruption case filed against him.

Former ministers M Saifur Rahman, Motiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan-Ul-Mujib are due to surrender before the trial court today as per directive of the HC. On November 4 and 5, the HC directed them to surrender before the trial court.

The ACC filed the case on February 26 this year accusing them of causing a loss of Tk 159 crore to the state exchequer by awarding a contract for operating Barapukuria coal mine to a Chinese company through abuse of power.

Meanwhile, the trial court dealing with the Niko graft case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and eight others yesterday adjourned the trial proceedings till November 23.

Khaleda's APS

FROM PAGE 16
wealth illegally and another three years' jail for hiding information of his wealth.

As the couple is absconding, the punishment will come into effect from the day of their arrest or surrender.

ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Faiyaz Alam filed the case against Shamsul and his wife with Ramna police station on March 23.

Ashrafur

FROM PAGE 16
Ashraf said when the British officials wanted to know whether there is possibility of any political conflict or instability during and before the national elections, he told them that they hope no clash or conflict would occur centring the parliamentary elections.

Talking to the reporters, Burton said they want a free and fair election on December 18 through which the people would elect a new government.

He also hoped that the state of emergency would be lifted and all political parties would contest the national polls.

Habibur Rahman

FROM PAGE 16
"Our administration is very weak. I have doubt whether 20 percent of the officials can play their role correctly."

He, however, said it is unfortunate that the elected governments in the country want to grab all the power instead of empowering people by strengthening local government institutions.

Habibur said there is very little scope to rely on political parties that find it difficult to get registered with the Election Commission and have objections to holding upazila elections scheduled.

The political parties prepare excellent manifestos before the polls but those are forgotten afterwards, he said, adding that he does not want to believe in those manifestos.

Educating people about their land rights and mobilising them to establish the rights should go on, Justice Habibur Rahman said, adding that the local government institutions should be strengthened to meet these goals.

Pakistani airstrike

FROM PAGE 16
city dwellers vent for their annual holidays and featured Pakistan's only ski resort.

But it has since been turned into a battleground since Fazlullah, who has links to Pakistan's Taliban movement, launched a violent campaign for Islamic Sharia law.

Separately, soldiers killed seven militants and injured nine others in Mohmand tribal district, one of seven semi-autonomous tribal regions bordering Afghanistan, a paramilitary spokesman told AFP.

The gunfight in Mohmand erupted late Saturday when around 200 Taliban militants surrounded a checkpoint near Karapa village and started firing rockets, he said.

"The security forces bravely repulsed the attack and killed seven militants and injured nine others while a paratrooper was also wounded in the clash."

"The security forces targeted the militants with artillery and mortar guns and forced them to flee from the scene," the spokesman said.

Separately, militants blew up a bridge on a key road in Mohmand, but the blast caused no casualties and the repair work had been started, he said.

Pakistan's tribal belt became a safe haven for hundreds of extremists who fled Afghanistan after the US-led toppling of the hardline Taliban regime in late 2001 and have since set up training camps.

al-Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahiri escaped a raid by an unmanned CIA plane in Damadola in January 2004, Pakistani officials have said.

Egyptian-born Zawahiri, who has a 25-million-dollar US bounty on his head, is said to have secretly visited the area in the past, according to Pakistani security officials.

The Pakistani military said last month that around 1,500 rebels and 73 soldiers had died while hundreds more militants were captured since the military launched an operation in Bajaur in August.

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