

SC asks Rajuk to reinstate 450 staffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) verdict declaring illegal the termination of 450 employees of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) and directing the government to reinstate them.

The five-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, delivered the judgement dismissing the leave to appeals filed by Rajuk against the HC verdict.

The employees' lawyer Barrister Md Badruddoza told reporters that Rajuk will have to reinstate them following the verdict of the apex court.

In 2004, the Rajuk authorities made 450 employees redundant.

The employees, including Ashutosh Chakma, Nurul Islam and Emdad Ali, then filed 39 writ petitions with the HC challenging the legality of the termination orders.

BDR MASSACRE

Call to preserve video footage of mass graves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War Crimes Facts Finding Committee yesterday urged the government to preserve video footage of the excavations of mass graves and forensic exhibits retrieved from BDR headquarters at Pikhana for the sake of proper enquiry.

The committee called for preserving grenades and other arms and ammunition found abandoned inside the headquarters in, what they said, 'non-touch' processing.

In a press release, it also mentioned that the evidence would be a great help during the investigation once any foreign intelligence agencies arrive in the country.



Sector Commanders' Forum observes one minute's silence at a citizens' condolence meeting at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in memory of army officers killed during a mutiny in the BDR headquarters on February 25-26. PHOTO STAR

Int'l communities condemn BDR massacre

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India, European Union and Japan have expressed deep shock at the brutal killings at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters.

In separate statements yesterday, they condemned the incident and assured the government and the people of Bangladesh their support at this difficult time.

Termining the mutiny at BDR Headquarters an attempt to destabilise the Sheikh Hasina government, India has expressed solidarity with her dispensation and conveyed readiness to extend whatever support and assistance Dhaka may require at the present juncture.

External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee wrote to the prime minister expressing "great shock" at the tragedy that has unfolded over the last few days.

In the letter, Mukherjee noted that "such barbaric acts (mutiny by BDR men) had no

place in a civilised society," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said.

Meanwhile, EU in a statement expressed deep shock and conveyed its deepest sympathies to all those who have suffered as consequences of this tragedy, including members of the armed forces, their families and civilians.

The EU also assured the government and people of Bangladesh of its steadfast support.

The Embassy of Japan in Dhaka in a separate message condoled the death of the army officers at BDR Headquarters.

Our staff correspondent adds: Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al Busairi and Pakistani High Commissioner Alamgir Bashir Khan Babar in separate meetings with Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni have hailed the steps taken by the government to address the

crisis caused by the barbaric killings at the BDR Headquarters.

Praising the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in facing the crisis, they said the government advanced with the highest caution to prevent more loss of lives.

Condoling the death of the army officers, Babar said the government has proved its highest sincerity in facing this crisis.

The role of the media was also very important, he added.

The Saudi ambassador said that apart from the BDR issue, he discussed with the foreign minister about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ensuing visit to Saudi Arabia.

Hasina would hold a meeting with the Saudi King on March 8, he added.

He also said that she will also perform holy Umrah during her Saudi Arabia visit.

Edn UK Exhibition in city on Mar 8

UNB, Dhaka

The British Council will hold the 11th Education UK Exhibition at Sheraton Hotel here on March 8, aiming to provide an opportunity for prospective students to study in the UK.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni is scheduled to inaugurate the exhibition.

A similar exhibition will also be held on March 11 at Peninsula in the port city of Chittagong. Both exhibitions will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, British Council Director Charles Nuttall told journalists that delegates from 37 UK universities and colleges will participate in the annual exhibitions.

All visitors have been requested to register online ([www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh](http://www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh)) <<http://www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh>>.

British High Commission official Stuart Percival and British Council Manager Raiqah Wali Khan spoke at the press conference.

No possibility to receive MCA aid this year

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that it would not be possible to receive aid from Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) of the US this year.

Replying to a question from a lawmaker, the minister said the eligibility of countries for the aid is determined on the basis of 17 indicators under three categories -- ruling justly, investing in people and economic freedom.

"Despite improvement of situation in Bangladesh in line with the indicators, it will not be possible to receive aid from MCA for 2009 because the eligibility was determined on the basis of information of previous year," Muhith said.

However, negotiations would have to be held to get aid for the 2009-10 fiscal year, he added.

"It will not be easy to show improvement of some indices. So, we will have to emphasise the need to relax the conditions," the minister

said. Replying to another query, he informed the House of different measures taken to stop money laundering.

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Obituary

METRO DESK



Y Amanulla Khan, a renowned banker and businessman, passed away at Labaid Hospital in Dhaka on Sunday at the age of 84, says a press release.

He was a manager at the Narayanganj branch of the then National Bank of Pakistan. He also served as manager of the London branch of the bank.

He was also a deputy managing director of the then Commerce Bank Limited.

Later, Amanulla Khan set up Taj Jute Backing Company Limited in Narayanganj.

He left behind two daughters, a son and five grandchildren and a host of admirers.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asr prayers on March 4 and his qulkhwan will be held at his residence, 7 New Bailey Road, on March 6 after Asr prayers.

Rani Bhattacharjee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rani Bhattacharjee, a Language Movement veteran and president of Barisal unit of Mohila Parishad, passed away due to old-age complications at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 82.

Her body was put in front of Mohila Parishad office in Barisal and Aswani Kumar Town Hall to pay homage.

Her cremation was completed at Barisal Mahashamshan Ghat yesterday night.

Different socio-cultural organisations and individuals expressed shock at her death.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the ninth death anniversary of AHM Abdul Baqi, a former deputy magistrate,

says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwan and doa mahfil will be held at his residence.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

শোক হোক শক্তি

থেকে যাক স্বজন হারানোর কান্না। শেষ হোক মানবতার নির্মম অপমানে শোকের মাতম। এই শোকের পাহাড় ভেঙে আবার বেঁচে ওঠার শক্তি আসুক সবার মনে।

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