

Try culprits

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On the prime minister's appeal to her to submit evidence before a probe committee, she said, "I never said I have evidence."

The BNP chairperson during a press briefing at her Gulshan office said, "They [MPs and ministers of the government] went to the spot amid gun fire and held a meeting with criminals. A state minister said the plot was implemented spending crores of taka. So, if he is interrogated evidence might be found."

The prime minister herself said in the parliament that pieces of evidence have been found. Ministers are giving statements regularly accusing different groups. So, it is their responsibility to submit evidence and to unravel the conspiracy."

She asked the government to be sincere so that mistakes made earlier would not be repeated. "Stay away from revenge and vindictiveness...ensure tough punishment for the criminals. Strengthen national security."

Urging all to cooperate with investigators, the BNP chief said the army is conducting an investigation under their own laws. She hoped the government would not interfere in the army probe.

On the CID investigation team, she said there are doubts about the sincerity of the government to ensure a neutral enquiry. There are

2 FBI men

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also provide forensic expertise to trace bodies of missing army officers killed in the BDR massacre," she added.

The US agency would set its terms of reference for working with the local investigation team, she said. "The length of their stay depends on their work."

She told reporters that the investigations would not be influenced like the one into the August 21, 2004 grenade attacks.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stefan Evans said a team from the Scotland Yard would soon arrive in Bangladesh.

"We have received a formal request from the government. I am hoping that a team will come out here in the near future. I am still waiting for the confirmation of the details," he told reporters at the Shilpakala function.

The seven-day deadline for the 11-member probe committee, formed on March 2, to submit its investigation report expires today.

Talking to reporters, Anisuzzaman said there is no chance of submitting the report this week. He made the comments after a meeting with the Additional Secretary to the Home Ministry Golam Hossain at the ministry. Golam Hossain is the member secretary of the 11-member committee.

He said the committee had asked for more time for submitting its findings. Asked about the progress, Anisuzzaman said the investigation was going on and it was the government to reveal the findings.

The government earlier reformed the six-member BDR mutiny probe body by removing Home Minister Sahara Khatun and the State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam. Anisuzzaman replaced Sahara as the head of the probe body that included representatives from the Armed Forces Division.

DSE's new policy

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often evaluate a Tk-1 share wrongly as they are used to dealing with shares with face value of Tk 10 and Tk 100.

"The wrong judgement of investors creates market volatility," the DSE president said.

Based on AIMS, which is "the only one that has securities with face value of Tk 1, it cannot be said Tk 1 shares create market volatility."

Asked why the DSE made such a decision when the largest mobile phone operator is waiting for the SEC nod, Rakibur said, "Considering investors' interest and to avoid market volatility, we decided not to encourage any securities with a face value of Tk 1."

Asked about an allegation that many of the DSE board members are acting out of grudge as they did not get Grameenphone shares in pre-IPO placement, Rahman said, "We are not acting against Grameenphone."

Meanwhile, Grameenphone officials said they have no official comment on the issue. "We will wait for feedback from the SEC," a senior Grameenphone official told

questions about the neutrality of some people in the CID investigation team, she added.

Criticising the government for giving directives "not to arrest anyone except rebel BDR members", she said, "We knew from newspapers that some rebels fled with the help of a powerful person," she said.

When asked whether the opposition will form a parliamentary probe committee to investigate the BDR mutiny, she said their MPs placed a proposal before the parliament but did not get positive response from the government.

CUFL officials

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statements, more CUFL officials or even higher authorities might also be questioned, the IO said. Others would come under grilling later, he added.

The investigators will also be visiting the hotel and other places -- which the prime accused in their confessional statements -- identified as "meeting places," the IO said.

One of the prime accused in the case, Hafizur Rahman, in his statement said a vessel busy unloading fertiliser at CUFL jetty had moved aside instantly making room for the two engine boats that carried the smuggled arms and ammunition into the jetty on that night.

The engine boats unloaded the deadly weapons and ammunition without apparently facing any obstruction from CUFL authority, he said.

Mysterious

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Shipon, 5, and one and a half year old daughter Maleka alias Maloi.

Neighbours quoting Shahjahan's daughter Shabana Akhter, 14, said after taking food Saturday night, the four members, Shabana and their son Shogai, 11, went to a room for sleeping.

Shabana awoke from her sleep early yesterday and tried to awake her mother but she did not get any response from her. Her brother Shipon and sister Maleka who were asleep by her mother also did not respond to her call. Finding no other alternative Shabana started crying. Hearing her cry for help, neighbours rushed in and found the body of Shahjahan hanging from the jackfruit tree behind their house.

Based on the primary investigation, ASP Sheikh Rafiqul Islam who visited the spot suspected that Shahjahan Ali strangled his wife and two children to death and then he committed suicide.

Officer-in-Charge of Islampur police station Mamunur Rashid said the incident is mysterious as there was no mark of injuries on the bodies while their close relatives went into hiding after the incident.

Local people suspected that the (killing) incident might have taken place following a dispute over land.

Shabana said she, her parents, her brother and sister took rice with dried fish and drank milk before going to the bed.

The bodies were sent to district general hospital morgue for autopsy.

An UD case was filed in connection with the death of Shahjahan while his father-in-law Sami Uddin filed a murder case.

APPELLATE DIV 2 new judges take oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court (SC) Appellate Division Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Md Abdul Aziz took oath in a ceremony at SC Judges' lounge at 10:30am yesterday.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin conducted the oath to the new apex court judges. All the judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Nurul Islam Sujon on behalf of their respective offices accorded felicitation to the new judges of the Appellate Division Court-1.

In their brief speeches, the two judges pledged to remain sincere in upholding the constitution and ensuring justice in the country through the judicial practice.

The judges also sought assistance from the judges and lawyers in discharging their duties. Later, they took their offices and started judicial exercise at the court.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Zillur Rahman appointed the most senior HC judges to the Appellate Division to fill up the long-standing vacancies as per Supreme Judicial Commission recommendations.

The appointments of the judges would expedite hearing on the long pending appeal in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

Moudud

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BNP chairperson Khaleida Zia. Local BNP leader Mahbul Amin Deu was earlier supposed to contest the Bogra-7 seat.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Barrister Moudud Ahmed would submit their nomination papers at 11:00 am today. BNP Bogra district committee president Rezaur Karim Badsha told journalists yesterday.

Meanwhile, Awami League (AL) has nominated Bogra district AL President Montazuddin for the Bogra-6 seat and Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad President Dr Mostafa Alam Nannu for the Bogra-7 seat.

Twelve people are expected to submit their nomination papers for both seats.

Earlier, both Sircar and Ahmed both were defeated in their own constituencies in the December parliamentary poll.

BDR back

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armoury to attack the officers following rumours of military attack on the jawans," said an officer who left his office outside Dhaka on security grounds on February 26 and has not returned yet.

Meanwhile, Brig General Mainul told The Daily Star, "All officers would go back to their work stations and discharge their duty from secured places."

Previous DG Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, all commanders of the 12 BDR sectors and many commanding officers of BDR battalions in and outside Dhaka were killed during the carnage.

The government appointed Brig Gen Mainul as the new DG upon confirmation of the death of his predecessor on February 27.

The meeting sources say the BDR DG in his concluding speech also asked the officers to work hard to find out the culprits involved in the carnage if they think themselves patriots. He asked them to help bring culprits under trial.

More than 60 officers were present at the meeting including some survivors of the Pilkhana tragedy.

The sources say the BDR officers, who had to leave their stations on security grounds, continued duty to secure the border by keeping continuous contact with the border guards over phone. They are also giving the jawans necessary directions and tasks to remain the border guarding functional.

Meanwhile, as a huge vacuum has been created at the top level of the paramilitary force, some officers have already been deputed from the army to fill the gap as soon as possible. Many more officers will also be transferred to BDR to ensure its proper functioning.

The meeting yesterday also emphasised rapid work for making the headquarters functional in full swing.

As many battalion commanders were killed, the new DG has given charge of acting commanders to some officers.

100 reserved

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certainly become your and the country's asset," she advised people.

Hasina also endorsed women's contribution to advancing country's economy mentioning some 85 percent of laborers working in the garment sector are women--and the sector is earning 75 percent of the country's total export income.

PM also recalled women's role during the Liberation War in 1971 as many women took part directly in the war and some two lakh women were oppressed by the Pakistani army and their collaborators.

"I also recall with respect those women who were killed, raped and suffered intolerable repression only for voting for Awami League in 2001 parliamentary polls by the BNP-Jamaat criminals," she said in a blistering criticism.

Hasina said the AL government for the first time had arranged direct election of women in the local government system and increased the number of women in the highest-level government jobs.

The AL government also

had started recruiting women as officers of the Armed Forces Division.

While listing her previous government's doings for gender parity, she said maternal leave was increased to four months.

The present government has decided that a female government service holder will get all facilities that a male counterpart gets. From now on, any foreigner who would marry any children of a Bangladeshi woman will get citizenship of Bangladesh.

End of discriminations, negligence and repression towards women and establishing equal rights for all are imperative for the country's overall sustainable development, Hasina said.

The PM also deplored that till date Bangladesh is yet to reach the desired level of women's development as early marriage, dowry, woman and child trafficking are still taking place in the country.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana and Director General of Woman Affairs Department Rawshan Ara Begum also spoke at the programme.

Exporters to get

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government at low interest rate and increase in cash incentive to fight the present economic depression.

The finance minister told reporters the government was not thinking about only one sector rather it was working for the betterment of all sectors.

After the present government came to power several associations met the finance minister seeking cash subsidy and moratorium on payment of default loans for a certain period of time.

We are now working on it and it will soon be finalised, a finance ministry official said. **CABINET COMMITTEE MEETS ON ALLOWANCE FOR ELDERLY CITIZEN**

A meeting of the cabinet committee was held yesterday with the finance minister in the chair. The meeting took a number of decisions on the safety net programmes.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Huq Mustafa Shahid told reporters that the meeting decided to prepare a fresh list of elderly citizens eligible for allowances.

He said during the four-party alliance government the list of elderly citizens eligible for allowance was prepared through the Gram Sarkar creating a loophole for the ineligible persons to draw the allowances.

From now on, elected representatives i.e. upazila chairmen, vice chairmen, union

parishad chairmen and members throughout the country will prepare the list.

The minister also said the government would increase the amount of allowances for elderly citizens, widows, freedom fighters, and insolvent people in the budget.

The next budget will also see a rise in the number of recipients of those allowances, he added.

"The government will try to provide allowance to every elderly person and insolvent people in the society. List for this purpose is being prepared across the country," Mustafa Shahid said.

He said the unemployed would not be given any allowance but attempts would be made so that they can get jobs easily.

Water crisis

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odour from its water supplied to different parts of the capital.

Nanak also asked Wasa officials to increase communication with city dwellers to ensure Wasa's transparency and accountability.

He said the government will monitor every problem of the city dwellers in order to get rid of their issues. He, however, said it is not possible to solve all the problems in this dry season.

He directed Wasa officials to promptly take care of city dwellers' problems.

The future

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jobs and started planning for their personal futures.

But during the massacre inside the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters on February 25, Firoz and Kolpona -- both in their early twenties -- were shot to death, bringing an end to their short and deprived lives.

Both cousins worked for the BDR Director General Major General Shakil Ahmed as servants for almost 13 years. In fact Shakil had helped them both get better jobs now that they had grown up and needed to move on to their own lives.

A year ago Firoz, 20, started working as a gardener at the DG's house while Kolpona took up work as an ayah at the Rifles School inside Pilkhana eight months ago.

Only a day before the BDR mutiny, Firoz called his mother in Rangpur to tell her that he was coming on vacation on March 1 and planned to get married then.

Instead he now lies in rest in his parent's plot in Jagadishpur under Rangpur sadar upazila where he was buried on March 5.

Kolpona Begum, 22, was buried at her parent's village Haragachh under Kounia upazila on March 4.

Only eight months ago Kolpona got married to Rajon from the same village but a marriage ceremony was yet to be held. Her father Solaiman, a poor day labourer, cried his heart out yesterday as he talked about how he looked forward to seeing her settled in a life of her very own.

"We were making preparations to hold a small ceremony shortly to send her to her in-laws," he wailed as he grieved for his lost child.

Firoz's mother Fatema Begum told The Daily Star that Maj Gen Shakil was fond of both her son and her niece and had helped them in many

Production resumes at Barapukuria coal mine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Coal production resumed at Barapukuria coalmine Saturday midnight without digging the boreholes as Bangladeshi miners agreed to join work.

Official sources said at least 550 metric tons of coal has been extracted as a test case from 1114 coalface after miners joined work following a meeting with the authorities of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL).

Coal production was suspended after villagers affected by landslide at and around the mining site resisted drilling of boreholes for production of coal from "1114 Face" on February 25 over compensation issue.

The crisis deepened further when Bangladeshi miners Friday night called work abstention for an indefinite period protesting their retrenchment.

CMC-XMC, the contractor company of Barapukuria, retrenched 800 Bangladeshi miners on Thursday without prior notice, sparking protest from them.

The CMC-XMC also put a deadline to resume coal production from March 5 otherwise it threatened to stop its activities in Bangladesh.

Following the threat, Forest and Environment State Minister Mostafizur Rahman Fizar visited the coalmine area and held several meetings with the villagers and the miners. He assured the villagers of giving them compensation to overcome the crisis.

The CMC-XMC later agreed on reinstating the miners.

Sobhan

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secretary CQK Moshtaq Ahmed became the new agriculture secretary.

Acting member of the Planning Commission Abdul Malek has been made acting secretary at Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) and acting IMED secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder as acting environment and forest secretary.

Mridula Bhattacharya, now under transfer order to the ministry of women and children affairs, has been reassigned as an acting member to the Planning Commission.

Manzur Hossain, additional water resources secretary, has been transferred to local government division, disaster management director general KH Masud Siddiqui was made additional secretary at roads and railways division and Riti Ibrahim, now OSD at establishment, has been made additional secretary for water resources

MINISTRY
BEZA member Md Farhad Uddin is now to head the Directorate of Disaster Management while Masud Ahmed, managing director of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust became the new director general at the Directorate of Manpower, Employment and Training.

Desperate bid

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The standing committee, assigned to scrutinise the bill to introduce laws on separation of the judiciary, will hear both sides at a meeting today, said Abdul Matin Khasru, a member of the committee and former law minister.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said, "We won't go beyond the framework of the historic judgment on judiciary separation and article 22 of the constitution."

In April 2007, the immediate past caretaker government promulgated two ordinances amending the Code of Criminal Procedure to separate the judiciary from the executive in light of the Supreme Court directives.

The ordinances took effect on November 1 that year.

Despite being recommended by the special committee of parliament for ratification, the ordinances ceased to have effect on February 25, as they were not ratified within the stipulated time limit.

Later though, the government tabled a bill in parliament to enact laws necessary for continuation of the separation. The bill has been sent to the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry for scrutiny.

At a meeting last Thursday, the standing committee decided to seek both admin and judicial service officials' opinions on the matter.

Administrative cadres had been bitterly opposed to separation of the judiciary.

The separation stripped the executive magistrates of the authority to take cognisance of offences and hold trial. It also restricted their powers to issuing search and arrest warrants, committing someone in custody, ordering measures to keep the peace and disperse unlawful assembly, and giving immediate injunctions in case of public nuisance.

Iraq suicide bomber kills 28 at Baghdad police academy

AFP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber on a bicycle blew himself up killing at least 28 people and wounding 58 more outside a police academy in the Iraqi capital yesterday in the bloodiest attack in weeks, officials said.

The bomber activated his vest as he sped into the crowd in central Baghdad on busy Palestine Street, an interior ministry official told AFP.

"The death toll has reached 28 dead and 58 wounded. The majority of the dead were police or recruits," the official said.

Police academies across Iraq have come under repeated attack as al-Qaeda and other insurgents continue to target security forces around the country.

Fifteen people died and more than 45 were wounded in two blasts at the Baghdad academy on December 1.

It is located in a high security area, which includes the interior, oil and irrigation ministries as well as army and national police compounds.

In August, 25 Iraqis, most applicants to the police force, died in a suicide bombing at a recruiting centre in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad.

Security had been stepped up at the Baghdad academy to try to prevent further attacks.

Palestine Street had been closed to vehicles for security reasons for two years. However one lane had recently reopened with no stopping allowed.

Since late 2007, security has improved dramatically in Iraq and that stability, albeit fragile, is behind US President Barack Obama's decision to end com-

bat operations in Iraq within 18 months.

US counter-terrorism and training forces numbering up to 50,000 will remain in the country until a full withdrawal by the end of 2011.

However, attacks remain common in the capital, in confessionally divided Diyala province and around the main northern city of Mosul, which is split between Sunni Arabs, Christians and Kurds.

32 police officers transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-two police officers, including 20 additional superintendents of police, two senior assistant superintendents of police (ASP) and 10 ASPs, were transferred yesterday.

The additional superintendents of police are Habibur Rahman, Zakir Hossain Khan, Harun or Rashid, Walid Hossain, Amir Jafar, Shamsul Alam, FM Iqbal Hossain, Mohammad Iqbal, Saidur Rahman Khan, Tutul Chakraborti, Rashidul Hasan, Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, Majid Ali, Foyezul Kabir, TM Mozahidul Islam, ARM Alif, Saifullah Al Mamun, SM Aynul Bari, Mohammad Rezwana and Shamima Yasmin.

The senior ASPs are Rakhil Chandra Sutradhar and Kamrul Islam.

The ASPs are Abdullah Al-Faruq, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Masud Ahamed, Ashikul Huq Bhuiyan, Ehsan Shah, Sahabuddin Ahmad, Khaleduzzaman, Habibur Rahman, HM Azizul Huq and Iftekhar Uddin Ahmed.

Interpol finds links

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wherever they are hiding," The Nation quoted Noble, as saying.

The head of Interpol said Sunday that Pakistan had agreed to provide DNA profiles and other data on suspected terrorists it obtained during a probe into the Mumbai attacks.

"Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will send Interpol the DNA profiles that it obtained during its investigation," Interpol Chief Ronald Noble told a news conference after talks with Pakistani officials.

Interpol is a global organisation that facilitates cooperation among police forces of member countries.

During his three-day stay in Islamabad Ronald met Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani, Interior Advisor Rehman Malik and the DG Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Tariq Khosa.

Ronald who himself remained top US law enforcer at various positions including Chief of Staff of the Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice said that Pakistan was cooperating with the Interpol firmly.

He showed his confidence in the investigations of the Mumbai attacks being carried out by the Pakistani Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

When asked whether Pakistan had sought the handing over of Ajmal Kasab the only alive actor of the brutal attacks at Mumbai currently under Indian custody, Noble did not reply saying, "This is the most difficult question to answer."

Noble added that Pakistan was providing the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) to the Interpol, which would be checked by the global data of the 187 countries maintained by the Interpol.

He said that Pakistan understood that unless terrorists-related information was compared against Interpol's global database and shared among its global network, an international terrorist investigation can never be considered complete.

YouTube

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74 people dead including 56 army officers who were killed and buried in shallow graves by mutinous border guards.

"Internet users have no access to YouTube. We understand that it has been blocked by the authorities," said Sabbir Ahmed, a director of the country's leading Internet service provider, BDCOM.

A senior government official told AFP the site has been blocked after it hosted "content subversive to the state."

"The government can block any site that contains anti-state or subversive contents, which may cause unrest. We took the measure temporarily. It will be lifted soon," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

plete and all countries, which are not provided with this vital information, remain at risk.

Earlier Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency fears it may have to stop further investigations into the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks due to a lack of cooperation from India and other countries.

A private television channel said the concerns were expressed in a letter addressed to the Interior Ministry.

The FIA, which is probing the Mumbai terror attacks, has informed the Interior Ministry that it would have custody of some suspects only for a few more days and it was thus imperative to get cooperation from other countries.

The FIA said it "may have to stop further investigations" against the suspects due to the lack of cooperation by India and other countries, sources said.

The agency said it had not received a charge sheet against arrested attacker Ajmal Kasab from the Mumbai Police and that agencies from the US, Spain, UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have also not responded to requests for information.

100 killed

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rebel-held territory since Friday, though he cautioned that only about 50 bodies were found.