

Admin may get

FROM PAGE 1
If everything goes as planned, the standing committee will propose amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure (amendment) Bill placed in parliament to keep continuation of separation of the judiciary.

The executive magistrates lost the authority in separation of the judiciary from the executive in 2007.

At yesterday's meeting, leaders of judicial service association strongly opposed the administrative cadres' call for reinstatement of the cognisance authority.

They said returning the executive magistrates the authority to take judicial note of offences will be tantamount to disobeying the constitution and the Supreme Court's verdict on judiciary-separation.

"We want the bill to be passed as it is now," Harun Ur Rashid, executive member of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association, told reporters after the meeting.

Leaders of Bangladesh Administrative Cadres Association, on the other hand, said the executive magistrates need the authority to run the administration effectively.

"We don't have any objection to separation of the judiciary. We want the executive magistrates to be able to take cognisance of offences in the interest of smooth running of the administration," Abul Hossain, a member of the admin cadres association, told reporters after the meeting that lasted over three hours.

"Executive magistrates will exercise the authority till the cases are ready for trial," he said adding that judicial magistrates will still be able to complete the trial proceedings.

Meanwhile, representatives of police association demanded scrapping of the district executive magistrates' authority to take certain decisions on law and order in the metropolitan cities.

They said in the previous law the power was delegated to police commissioners.

"The committee assured the police association of considering their demand."

Referring to the opinion of the three associations, committee Chairman Suranjit Sengupta said the bill, now under scrutiny, would be modified for the sake of a dynamic administration.

"The opinions of the administrative cadres and police association are under our consideration," he said.

He said they would place a report on the bill after parliament returns from recess on March 15, and hopefully the bill would be passed in the current session.

Suranjit however said they would do nothing that can frustrate the Supreme Court's verdict on separation of the judiciary.

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

BDR subedar

FROM PAGE 1
headquarters.

Mozammel's brothers-in-law Abdul Kader and Abdul Razzak told The Daily Star that he came to Dhaka around two months ago to take part in the parade on the occasion of the BDR Week from BDR 36 battalion of Dinajpur sadar.

"Mozammel was present inside Pikhana headquarters during the mutiny. He surrendered and did not flee the headquarters," said Abdul Kader adding "After the mutiny, we have talked to him several times over phone and his wife Lovely Begum also talked to him three days ago."

We do not think that he could commit suicide," he said and added, "During our conversation, we could not get any hint of his suicidal intentions."

Mozammel was the father of a 10-year-old son, Naim, and daughter Moumou who passed the SSC examinations last year.

The body was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said there was no mark of injuries on the body.

Earlier, magistrate Aminur Rahman prepared the inquest (Surathal) report of the body.

Meanwhile, CID ASP Abdul Kahar Akond, who is also the investigation officer of the Pikhana carnage, said "Local police will carry out investigation and if needed, CID will take up the matter."

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.

With the parliamentary standing committee scrutinising the bill, leaders of admin cadres have been lobbying hard to get back the power to take cognisance of offences and hold trial.

They were stripped of the authority due to separation of the judiciary.

450 BDR men

FROM PAGE 1
the investigator said.

The official said they are now trying to get details about the 450 mutineers by interrogating the arrestees.

"We have so far identified 10 to 12 BDR members who led several groups of mutineers during the 33-hour-long bloody mutiny," said the official.

Two of them were in the team of 14 BDR personnel who conducted negotiation with the government.

Another investigator said they have primarily found that the rebels killed 90 percent of the army officers by 11:00am since the mutiny broke out on February 25.

"The investigation found that it was done in a planned way. When a group of mutineers attacked and killed BDR Director General Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed at the Darbar Hall, another group simultaneously attacked his residence and injured two guards there," he said.

After killing army officers at the BDR headquarters, the rebels dumped the bodies in the sewer and mass graves in such a way that the rescuers found it difficult to trace those.

Investigators said they are finding it hard to identify the BDR personnel who were on duty at the BDR gates and five armouries inside the BDR headquarters as the duty rosters had either been burnt or torn up.

"This suggests that it was a pre-planned act and we are trying to find out the mastermind behind it," said an investigator.

Asked about the involvement of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and militants in the mutiny, the investigators said they are yet to find their involvement in it.

Meanwhile, the probe committee members held a meeting with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials at its headquarters in the afternoon and asked the law enforcers to give them information about the mutiny.

29 aspirants

FROM PAGE 16
without any consultation with their parliamentary parties.

AL and BNP nominated seven candidates each for those seven constituencies while Jatiya Party nominated four.

AL nominees are Sheikh Helal Uddin Ahmed (Bagerhat-1), Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhontu (Rangpur-3), Abul Kalam Azad (Rangpur-6), Mohammad Zafar Ali (Kurigram-2) Moutaz Uddin (Bogra-6), Dr Mostafa Alam Nannu (Bogra-7) and Nazmul Hasan Papon (Kishoreganj-6).

Sheikh Helal Uddin Ahmed is cousin of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

BNP nominees are former speaker of the parliament Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar (Bogra-6), Barrister Moudud Ahmed (Bogra-7), Shariful Alam (Kishoreganj-6), Mushfequr Rahman (Bagerhat-1), Rahim Uddin Varsha (Rangpur-3), Nour Mohammad Mandol (Rangpur-6) and Tajul Islam Chowdhury (Kurigram-2).

Both Moudud and Sircar contested the ninth parliamentary election from their respective constituencies in Noakhali and Panchagar but failed to win any seats.

Nominations to both Moudud and Sircar enraged the rank and file of local BNP men as they are considered to be outsiders in Bogra, said local BNP men.

JP nominees are Raushan Ershad and Mozammel Hosen Lal (Rangpur-3), Golam Habib Dulal (Kurigram-2) and Advocate Altaf Ali (Bogra-7).

Education

FROM PAGE 16

The employees of the institutions will be allowed to enter the BDR headquarters on March 11 to do necessary work for restoring educational atmosphere there.

"But we do not know how many days it will take to do that," said Mainuddin Biswas, a mathematics teacher of Birshrestha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College.

Apart from the kids of BDR and army personnel, the children of many civilians also study in the four institutions some of whom now consider transferring their children to other educational institutions fearing recurrence of such incident.

The four schools and colleges were closed from February 24 to 27 for BDR Week-2009. Many students might have got killed if the institutions were open during the mutiny," said Ayesa Khatun, the mother of a student of Bir Shrestha Nour Mohammad Rifles Public School and College.

Ayesa said she is now trying to transfer her child to another school outside the BDR headquarters.

Meanwhile, the SSC examinees, who failed to sit for examinations because of the BDR mutiny, have been asked to apply to the controller of examinations of the education boards concerned by March 10.

The affected students have been asked to consult the headmasters of their schools and collect the new exam schedule from March 19, teachers said.

WB to help

FROM PAGE 16

about 71 lakh families are now being benefited under social safety net VGF programme. The safety net would be expanded. A good number of families are also being benefited through other programmes including VGD.

Razzak said rice would be supplied at low price to the ready-made garments workers. The number of workers, being determined by the BGMEA and the ministry, would be finalised after scrutiny. He said though our present food stock is satisfactory but it is not adequate to overcome natural disasters. The variety of food items and the capacity of the storehouses need to be increased as well.

The minister thanked the World Bank for its assistance in Bangladesh's disaster preparedness programme and enhancing its efficiency.

The WB vice president praised the social safety programme and expressed her organisation's willingness in this regard. She pledged cooperation in building silo and warehouses to increase food safety and asked the minister to submit a comprehensive proposal in this regard.

Secretary of Food and Disaster Management Moklesur Rahman was also present in the meeting.

The other WB team members were its Country Director in Bangladesh Zhu Xian, Operation Adviser Tahseen Sayed, Senior Urban Specialist Zahed Khan and Special Assistant CVegneron.

UK minister

FROM PAGE 16

our support to the democratically elected government." "Bangladesh and the UK share a long-standing partnership. The UK is Bangladesh's largest donor with an aid budget, which will rise to £150 million by 2010-11. I am here to see some of major development achievements made by Bangladesh firsthand," he added.

Foster is scheduled to meet some key cabinet members including the finance minister, food and disaster management minister and foreign minister to discuss bilateral political and development issues.

He will visit a number of UK funded programmes helping vulnerable people, including char dwellers, street children and victims from social and family repression and acid attacks.

Prior to leaving Dhaka, the British minister is expected to address a press conference on Thursday (12 March).

Mike Foster is the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (PUSS) in the UK Department of International Development. He is responsible for the UK government's development work in South Asia.

The UK is the largest bilateral grant donor to Bangladesh, with a programme focused on achieving measurably improved governance, better health, education and water and sanitation services, private sector development, including jobs for the poor and reducing extreme poverty and vulnerability to climate change.

The UK's total aid to Bangladesh in 2008/09 is approximately \$200 million.

April 2 by-polls

FROM PAGE 16

Khaleda Zia can visit the constituencies to campaign for her party contenders, Sakhawat said she enjoys the status of a minister and thus cannot make any visit.

The electoral code of conduct does not allow any member of the council of ministers and individuals who enjoy the status of a member of the council of ministers to campaign for any contenders in the by-polls.

Although the code of conduct does not impose any restriction on the lawmakers, EC has requested them not to campaign by visiting the constituencies.

Rangpur-3 & 6, Kurigram-2, Bogra-6 & 7, Bagerhat-1 and Kishoreganj-6 constituencies will go to by-elections on April 2.

Yesterday was the last day for filing applications seeking candidacy in the polls. The returning officers will scrutinise those on March 11 and the last date for withdrawal of candidacy is March 17.

After expiring the last date, the candidates will be allowed to do election campaigns.

Sakhawat said EC expects that all contenders will do the campaigns as per the electoral code of conduct.

Asked about holding the long due election to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), he said the commission wants to hold the poll by next June. He added the election to DCC would be held using the existing voter list with photograph and the electoral roll under DCC would not be updated now.

Meanwhile, EC has planned to set up a new wing under its Secretariat to issue national identity cards as the ordinance promulgated by the immediate past caretaker government to set up a new organisation for it was not ratified.

Officials in the EC Secretariat said they are now drafting a new law for setting up a wing or division to deal

Key suspect

FROM PAGE 16

Shakil, a professional mugger, was arrested with a pistol in his possession. He went underground after killing Atiq and snatching his motorbike on February 13 in the city's Moghbazar area.

DB sources said the team led by Assistant Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mahub Alam arrested Shakil and he confessed his involvement in the killing.

Quoting Shakil, DB officials said as Atiq tried to resist they opened gunshots and took his bike away.

Earlier on February 17, the DB members arrested two other suspects—Nahid and Khokon in this connection and recovered Atiq's motorbike.

Abdullah Mohammad Ibne Ali Sarkar alias Nahid was arrested from Shahjahanpur while Khokon from Signboard area with the motorbike.

Meanwhile, Nahid earlier made a confessional statement before the court under section 164 of criminal code.

No bail or no jail

FROM PAGE 1

chief justice has not constituted the special bench yet.

The attorney general while talking to The Daily Star at his office yesterday said although the convicted people did not get bail in the cases or are not in jail, they are not beyond the jurisdiction of the HC, since they appeared before this court and sought justice from the court.

He added that the petitioners would not be arrested until the special bench passes orders on the matter.

A prominent criminal law expert requesting anonymity said the convicted people who were fugitives have neither surrendered to the proper courts nor got any relief from the HC.

"How can they remain out of jail now? Since the law is not operative against them, they are as if on the no-man's-land," he said, adding that if people remain above the law in any society, that society automatically falls into danger.

The jurist said some politicians, who were earlier sentenced to imprisonment in absentia, have already got bail from the HC. I do not know whether there is any rule in the jurisprudence under which the fugitives can directly appear before the HC for bail and obtain bail, he said.

The HC bench comprising Justice Syed AB Mahmudul

with issuance of national ID cards.

"Once it's ready, the draft law will be sent to the government to take necessary steps," a senior official said.

During preparation for the voter list with photograph, national ID cards for voters have already been prepared and the country's rest of the citizens will be provided with the national ID cards in future.

Officials in the EC Secretariat said if the new wing is set up, EC could use its countrywide network for the purpose without going to establish new setup.

"The existing Election Commission network across the country just requires being equipped with some logistics," a senior official said.

2 relations

FROM PAGE 1

(Dhaka), Asma Zerin Jhumi (Dhaka), Momtaz Begum (Manikganj), Tarana Halim (Tangail), Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury (Noakhali), Faraidunnahar Laily (Noakhali), Rubi Rahman (Noakhali), Jobeda Khatun Parul (Comilla), Amena Ahamed (Comilla), Chemon Ara Taiyab (Chittagong), Ethin Rakhain (Cox's Bazaar), Farida Rahman (Narail), Noor Afroze Ali (Khulna-Bagerhat), Nurjahan Begum (Jhenidah), Dr Hamida Banu Shova (Nilphamari), Sultana Bulbul (Dinajpur), Saleha Mosharrar (Faridpur), Rawshan Jahan Sathi (Jessore-Kushtia), Jebunnessa Haque (Sylhet), Tahura Ali (Jamalpur), Shaheen Manwara Haque (Naogaon), Nazma Akhtar (Bagerhat), Apu Ukil (Netrokona), Mahfuza Rahman Rima (Joypruhat), Sadhana Halder (Pirojpur), Zinnatunnessa Talukder (Rajshahi), Khadiza Khatun Shefali (Bogra), Shefali Momtaz (Natore), Shawkat Ara Begum (Chapainawabganj), Farida Rahman Hira (Panchagarh), Ahmed Nazmeen Sultana Najli (Kurigram), Momtaz Begum (Munshiganj) and Parveen Talukder Maya (Barisal).

Out of them, Momtaz Begum (Munshiganj) is the mother of Major Mahmudul Hasan Swapan and Farida Rahman Hira (Panchagarh) is the mother-in-law of Major Gazzali Dastagir who were killed in recent BDR mutiny.

A total of 784 candidates sought nominations from which the Awami League Parliamentary Board headed by party president and chief of the alliance Sheikh Hasina finalised the list of 36 candidates.

AL joint general secretary and party spokesman Syed Ashrafur Islam has requested the candidates to collect the nomination forms from Dhanmondi office within 12 noon today and submit them within 2:00pm tomorrow with a treasury chalan of Tk 10,000 as Election Commission's security deposit for each candidacy.

The days a public holiday.

Arms-laden
FROM PAGE 16
Enamul Haque, General Manager (marketing) Sarwar Kamal and Security Officer Zainal Abedin.

The query started at CID, Chittagong Divisional Headquarters inside Dampara Police Lines at 3:30pm and continued till 10:00pm. Questioning of the CUFL officials would continue today when former Assistant Security Officer Mobin Hossain would also appear before the investigators, CID sources said.

"However, we are trying to know the fact and find a lead to the incident following the enquiry being conducted on the basis of the confessional statements made under 164 CrPC by Hafizur Rahman and Din Mohammad - the prime accused in the case," the IO added.

CID Chittagong Divisional Additional Special Superintendent (SS) Abdul Hamid said, "MD Mohsin Talukder and GM (admin) Enamul Haq claimed the offloading of the consignment was illegal and beyond their knowledge."

"GM (marketing) Sarwar Kamal tried to shirk the responsibility claiming that he was on leave obtained verbally at that time while Security Officer Zainal Abedin expressed ignorance about the matter," Hamid said.

CID Chittagong Divisional Special Superintendent Mohammad Muslim said that they would hear from all the persons mentioned by the CUFL officials during the questioning.

"Besides, a process is underway to question the former high officials of Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Bangladesh Coast Guards as well as others in this connection," said Muslim.

Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury delivered the split orders on February 23.

Presiding judge of the bench Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq directed 12 convicts to surrender before the trial courts within eight weeks and asked the government not to harass or arrest them during that period.

However, Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury of the bench directed the petitioners to immediately surrender before the trial courts to suffer the sentences handed down by the trial courts earlier. The judge delivered the verdict disposing of the bail petitions.

The 15 people convicted in absentia, including former Awami League lawmakers Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mokbul Hossain, Hajji Selim, Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, and former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa, appeared before the HC in January and sought bail in the cases filed against them.

The HC earlier rejected six petitions filed by Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Mostafa Rashid Suja and his wife Khodaja Rashid on grounds that their petitions were not submitted to the court.

PM asks for

FROM PAGE 16

Minister Abdur Razzak told the reporters at his office after the meeting.

He said the prime minister also asked the authorities concerned to ensure uninterrupted supply of gas to the power stations so that more electricity could be generated. She also said irrigation should not be hampered due to the shortage of power.

The cabinet approved three agreements, including the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network to establish modern communications network between Asian and European countries.

About the Trans-Asian Railway Network, Hasina said the country's outdated train services would be upgraded to a world class one to make the railway a profitable sector.

"The country's rail services will be upgraded to a world-class one using modern technology to make the train services attractive and profitable," she told the meeting.

The cabinet approved the Saarc Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Saarc Development Fund (SDF) charter and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network.

It, however, sent back a proposal of the Indian government for Duty Free Tariff Preference and Letter of Interest for further scrutiny.

While briefing the reporters after the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) took the Trans-Asian Railway Network project in 1992.

He said the work plan of the project was to establish communication network by constructing the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway as well as developing the land transport system between Asian and European countries.

Under the project, Azad said, there would be three Trans-Asian Networks-- northern region, middle region and southern region and added that Bangladesh will fall under the southern region network.

Miladunnabi

FROM PAGE 1

mutual respect, tolerance, truth, justice and equality, said the message.

The prime minister said practising ideals and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SM) can ensure a peaceful world, free of terrorism and anarchy.

The government and various religious and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The days a public holiday.

Arms-laden

FROM PAGE 16

Enamul Haque, General Manager (marketing) Sarwar Kamal and Security Officer Zainal Abedin.

The query started at CID, Chittagong Divisional Headquarters inside Dampara Police Lines at 3:30pm and continued till 10:00pm. Questioning of the CUFL officials would continue today when former Assistant Security Officer Mobin Hossain would also appear before the investigators, CID sources said.

"However, we are trying to know the fact and find a lead to the incident following the enquiry being conducted on the basis of the confessional statements made under 164 CrPC by Hafizur Rahman and Din Mohammad - the prime accused in the case," the IO added.

CID Chittagong Divisional Additional Special Superintendent (SS) Abdul Hamid said, "MD Mohsin Talukder and GM (admin) Enamul Haq claimed the offloading of the consignment was illegal and beyond their knowledge."

"GM (marketing) Sarwar Kamal tried to shirk the responsibility claiming that he was on leave obtained verbally at that time while Security Officer Zainal Abedin expressed ignorance about the matter," Hamid said.

CID Chittagong Divisional Special Superintendent Mohammad Muslim said that they would hear from all the persons mentioned by the CUFL officials during the questioning.

"Besides, a process is underway to question the former high officials of Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Bangladesh Coast Guards as well as others in this connection," said Muslim.

Jessore GOC killed

FROM PAGE 1

(ISPR) press release said the Bell 206 helicopter of Army Aviation crashed after hitting an electric cable around 7:50am.

Locals and witnesses told The Daily Star's Tangail correspondent that the helicopter first hit an electric line, then crashed into a banyan tree before falling into a pond.

The chopper was heading towards Mymensingh Cantonment from Jessore Cantonment to pick up the GOC of 19 Infantry Division. The helicopter's final destination was Dhaka Cantonment where the two GOCs were supposed to attend a conference at the Army Headquarters, the ISPR release said.

After the crash, locals recovered the dead and the injured from the wreckage. An army team from Jamuna Cantonment, an army rescue team from Ghatail Cantonment, an Air Force rescue team from Pahar Kanchanpur Air Force Base, fire service, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rushed to the spot.

Injured Major Saif was flown to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital.

The bodies of the deceased were also airlifted to Dhaka, reports UNB.

Abdul Wares, a resident of Rouha, told The Daily Star that he was working in his paddy field when the helicopter crashed into the banyan tree. He ran to the spot and saw the helicopter fall into the pond.

"I pulled the dead and the injured out of the helicopter," he said.

After the accident, GOC of Ghatail Cantonment Maj Gen AKM Mujahiduddin, Commander of 98 Composite Brigade Brig Gen Nasimul Gani, Lt Col Shakil Ahmed Biswas, Tangail Superintendent of Police Abdul Mannan, Tangail Deputy Commissioner Maksudur Rahman Patwari, Tangail Rab Camp Commander Maj Nasir Uddin went to the spot and supervised recovery operations.

It could not be known why the chopper hit the electric cable.

Meanwhile, President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the death of the two army officers.

President Zillur said the deaths caused an irreparable loss to the nation.

Hasina said the army lost two talented officers and the nation two of its best sons.

180 rebels killed

FROM PAGE 16

ceremony at President Mahinda Rajapakse's tightly-guarded residence, officials said.

Following his defection Vinayagamorthy Muralitharan, better known as Colonel Karuna,