

BDR man dies

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said the lance nayek's wrists, arms, knees and shoulders were swollen and badly bruised.

Two police constables rushed him to DMC Hospital at around 10:40am. Doctors on duty there announced he had already died.

Mahbub, one of the constables, said they don't know anything. All they did was shift him from the Pikhana hospital.

Contacted, BDR Director General (DG) Brig Gen Md Mainul Islam said, "Perhaps, he [Mobarak] died of a heart attack. I'm not sure though about the cause of his death. That will be known after post-mortem."

Asked about the injury marks, he said, "You know how soldiers suffered injuries while fleeing the headquarters. The marks on his body might have resulted from those wounds."

The deaths at regular intervals bring into question the soundness of the measures taken to protect suspected mutineers, most of who are considered vital witnesses to the vicious killings of 74 people including 55 army officers.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan last night told The Daily Star that the BDR authorities will meet at Pikhana at 3:00pm today to discuss the recent deaths of jawans.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed said only

President hails

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over the killing of talented army officers during the BDR carnage. "It is an irreparable loss for the country," she said.

Hasina also apprised the president of the overall assistance given by her two-month-old government to the family members of the martyred army officials slain inside the BDR headquarters.

It happened to be the prime minister's first call on the president at Bangabhaban after the senior Awami League leader was sworn in as president.

She also informed the president about government's different activities during the last two and a half months.

The PM said her government has taken various steps to ensure food security, reduce prices of the essentials and to maintain law and order.

The president expressed his hope that the country would move forward towards its aspired goals under the "dynamic leadership" of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

PM's adviser Major Gen (ret) Tarique Ahmed Siddiqui and secretaries concerned were also present on the occasion.

Govt ready

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Chittagong, Narayanganj and Gazipur will get 20 kgs of rice each month in two phases.

Meeting sources said the representatives from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) are in favour of conducting the programme jointly with the ministry.

"We discussed a number of options. Finally we requested the factory owners to take the responsibility. We told them that the ministry will closely monitor the operation to make it a success," Razzaque said.

BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy, who led a seven-member delegation at the meeting, said they would sit again next week to work out a modus operandi for the programme as the ministry is willing to launch it immediately.

Appreciating the initiative at a time when the global financial meltdown is affecting Bangladesh, he said they need to inform all factory owners about the programme before a distribution mechanism is put in place.

The food and disaster management minister said they have over 12 lakh tonnes of rice in stock.

He said they would provide rice at Tk 16.50 a kg which will be sold at Tk 18 including operational cost of Tk 1.50.

Asked about checking malpractices in the operation of the programme, he said the ministry along with factory owners would strictly monitor it. Besides, the ministry will also check the list of garment workers to be selected by the owners.

He also gave assurance that quality rice will be distributed among garment workers.

Food Secretary Md Moklesur Rahman, Additional Secretary Amjad Hossain Khan and acting BKMEA President Abdur Rashed, among others, were present.

after receiving the post-mortem reports can they confirm whether the troops died naturally or were killed.

If the deaths were unnatural, murder cases can be filed, he told The Daily Star.

"I should not be making further comments at this moment."

The law will take its own course once the autopsy reports are available, he added.

Replying to another query, he said, "There's no question of ordering any probe into the jawans' deaths as we have yet to get the post-mortem reports."

Sources said immediately after Mobarak's death, BDR officials informed the commerce minister that one jawan had died of heart attack.

Earlier, on March 17, sepoy Monir Hossain died at Pikhana. Two days before that, BDR man Waheduzzaman allegedly committed suicide at the barracks of Battalion 3 in Joypurhat.

On March 9, nayek subedar Mozammel Haq reportedly took his life by hanging himself from a bathroom ceiling at BDR 44 Battalion Building inside Pikhana headquarters.

Two days later, Pesh Imam of the BDR mosque Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman died at DMCH.

BSMMU VC

FROM PAGE 1
Kamal and Treasurer Prof Ruhul Amin Mia tendered their resignation letters to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare around 2:30pm.

"I have been asked by the government to continue my duties as the vice-chancellor until my replacement arrives," Prof Nazrul told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Earlier, Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque indirectly asked them to quit so that the government could go ahead with its plan to reshuffle the BSMMU administration.

The last caretaker government appointed the four on November 5, 2008, and faculty members welcomed the move as they consider them competent, efficient and free from political affiliation.

Soon after assuming power in early January, the Awami League (AL)-led alliance government and the pro-AL doctors' forum Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad (SCP) have been putting pressure on them to serve their own interests.

The health minister urging them to step down was part of the constant pressure on them, sources said.

There are speculations going around for the last couple of days about the next VC and pro-VCs. Members of SCP are already lobbying for the key posts.

According to BSMMU sources, it has not been decided who would replace the four but names of Prof Pran Gopal, prime minister's ENT physician of the department of Ear-Nose-Throat (ENT) and former VC Prof Mahmud Hasan are on the cards for the VC post.

Names of Prof Iqbal Arslan, secretary general of SCP, Prof Moazzem Hossain, president of BSMMU Teachers' Association and Prof Anisul Haque are on the table for the pro-VC posts, they said.

BNP starts

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party's grassroots-level committees that have expired, party insiders said.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Goyeshwar expressed hope that the final decision on district- and upazila-level BNP committees of Chittagong division will be made today.

The standing committee sits again with the Chittagong division team today.

"We will do everything to reorganise the party in a democratic way," Goyeshwar said.

Party insiders said at the meeting Goyeshwar briefed the BNP high command on overall organisational activities and current status of the district- and upazila-level committees.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting that started around 8:00pm at Gulshan office.

Party insiders said the standing committee would later hold discussions on the recommendations made by five other central teams, assigned to review grassroots-level committees of five other divisions.

BNP rejects

FROM PAGE 1
of the body as per the instructions of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Speaker advocate Abdul Hamid on March 19 constituted the all-party parliamentary body, first in the history of parliament in Bangladesh.

The BNP-led opposition lawmakers remained silent while the probe body was formed in parliament but they demanded the speaker investigate the activities of all previous speakers of the House.

Against this backdrop, Speaker Hamid informed the House that the comptroller and auditor general (CAG) would send a special team soon to audit all expenditures of the Parliament Secretariat since 1972.

"I will abstain myself from attending the meeting of the probe body as we think the committee will not be able to investigate (the allegations) fairly," Farroque told reporters at the briefing at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

"Advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia who heads the committee was not a lawmaker in the eighth parliament but spoke at the House against Jamiruddin Sircar on his misuse of power while another member of the committee Mazharul Haque Prodhan stood against him (Jamiruddin Sircar) in the national elections," Farroque said.

"I have discussed the matter with my party chief and we think that the investigation will not be fair," the opposition chief whistled.

He said BNP demanded the speaker investigate the activities of all previous speakers but our demand was not accepted in parliament.

"We don't see any reason to attend the meeting as we think it has been formed to tarnish the image of Jamiruddin Sircar who is now contesting in the by-election from Bogra-6."

"If they (treasury bench) were in their objective, they could form the probe body after the by-election," Farroque added.

Ctg arms haul

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10 truckloads of firearms hauled at CUFL jetty on April 2, 2004.

The CBA leaders are: former president Sultanul Azim, former general secretary Harunur Rashid, former leaders Babul Mia, Sirajul Islam and Mohammad Hafiz.

They are expected to appear before the investigators at CID Chittagong divisional headquarters at Dampara in the city today, CID sources said.

Earlier, CUFL former managing director Mohsin Talukder and former general manager (admin) Enamul Haq were produced before the court yesterday as their three-day remand ended on Saturday.

The investigators produced CUFL former officials before the court after recording their statement under section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

However, the court sent them to jail custody.

The investigators did not pray for further remand as the interrogation of the CUFL top officials ended without any significant development, said the sources.

The investigators are yet to receive the list of Coast Guard men who were on duty around CUFL and Bay of Bengal near the Karnaphuli river and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar during the transportation of the arms cache on that day.

They sought the list through the higher authorities of CID and Coast Guard, East Zone.

Despite having notice from CID, former assistant director of National Security Intelligence is also yet to appear before the investigators for questioning, sources said.

'Leather' Liton

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Welfare Association, for his alleged involvement in the BDR incident.

After the arrest, a court placed Torab on remand twice under Rab and police custody.

Officer-in-Charge of Hazaribagh Police Station Mohammad Abdur Razzak said Rab is yet to hand over Liton to police.

Hiding wealth

Sramik Dal GS Jafrul sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal General Secretary Jafrul Hassan to jail after rejecting his bail petition in a case filed for concealing wealth statement of Tk 1.24 crore to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Metropolitan Session Judge ANM Bashir Ullah passed the order after Jafrul along with his lawyers appeared before the court and sought bail in the case.

On May 5 last year, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Mahubur Rahman filed the case against Jafrul and his wife Shefali Hassan with Ramna Police Station. The ACC pressed charges against them on December 20 last year.

The judge said that the charges brought against the accused, a retired deputy assistant engineer, were proved primarily and it was impossible to earn a huge amount of money during his service life.

Termining the charges brought against his client "false and fabricated", advocate Sanaullah Miah said his client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy.

Jafrul's wife Shefali Hassan, now on a bail, was also present in the court.

Graft, politics

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court with fake medical certificates given by BSMMU doctors.

Such portrayals of irregularities, corruption and politicisation figured in the reports of several investigations of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The ACC investigated several allegations against the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government and found many DAB leaders' involvement in financial scams.

Appointments and promotion of teachers and staffs also witnessed widespread irregularities and corruption.

The government-formed probe committee at that time also found irregularities of more than Tk 8 crore at the BSMMU.

Despite being the SCP president, Prof Quaderi, the first vice chancellor, had to struggle to develop the university as the pro-AL doctors kept putting pressure upon him for undue facilities.

He, however, initiated new postgraduate medical course curriculum designed in the light of All India Institute of Medical Science.

"His introduction of a new procurement policy reduced corruption considerably in the departments as it approved only the equipment needed," said a group of senior teachers.

A group of members of the University Teachers' Association had continued to oppose him for their petty personal interest. At one stage he stepped down in January 2001, saying he would compete in the parliamentary election.

Prof Mohammad Tahir replaced him being appointed as the acting VC on the basis of seniority, but within a very short time the then AL government appointed Prof Mahmud Hasan the VC depriving Prof Tahir.

But no sooner had Prof Mahmud been appointed than the BNP-led four-party alliance took over and started reshuffling the administration at its will, forcing Mahmud to say good-bye in November 2001.

Then Prof M Hadi came to the scene as the new VC with a mission to indulge in petty party interests in collusion with the pro-BNP DAB members.

With Hadi stepping in, wholesale politicisation of the institution - from appointment to promotion and procurement - set in motion, which the investigation com-

mittee formed on May 6, 2007 revealed in its report.

When he resigned in December 2006 to compete in the ninth parliamentary poll, Prof Tahir who was the pro-VC during the tenure of Prof Hadi took the charge and later he was appointed as the VC.

But Prof Tahir also indulged in wholesale corruption and irregularities.

Disregarding the university ordinance, a large number of incompetent and ineligible teachers were recruited during his tenure through a nexus between the university authorities and DAB doubling the number of employees unnecessarily.

The master plan prepared between 1998 and 2001 that included infrastructure development for providing life-saving emergency treatment facilities has still remained elusive.

Under such circumstances the caretaker government finally set up a new administration with Prof Nazrul Islam as the VC, Prof Chowdhury Ali Kawser and Mohammad Kamal as the pro-VCs, and Prof Ruhul Amin Mia as the treasurer in November last year.

"As no elected government has ever been able to free this autonomous body from politicisation it was the caretaker government that appointed some administrative high-ups having no political affiliation," said a senior faculty member preferring anonymity.

7 JMB men

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connection with the August 17 serial bomb blast case filed with Motihar Police Station.

The convicts include JMB's regional ammunition supplier Torikul Islam, Rajshahi district commander Shefaliullah Tarek Kalam, and a zonal JMB commander Abu Isa alias Enamul Haque Mithu, Hasan Ali Ekhwan, Jahangir Alam Abidur and Arif alias Alal.

Sheikh Enamul Haq Moni, an adherent of militant kingpin Asadullah Al Galib, is convicted in absentia. He commanded JMB's western zone in Rajshahi till 2006 in guise of a journalist.

Torikul was arrested in Godagari, near the Indian border, with 5,000 detonators in December 2005 while others with ammonitions at different times.

M Motazidur Rahman, judge of the court, also fined them Tk 20,000 each and in case of defaults they will undergo two more years of rigorous imprisonment, said public prosecutor Moklesur Rahman Swapan.

Police brought charges under sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Explosive Substances Act 1908 for masterminding, financing and instigating the blast, possessing and detonating explosives illegally and causing panic and loss of lives and properties. But the accused were convicted only under Section 3, said Moklesur Rahman.

JMB militants orchestrated 500 nearly synchronised blasts across the country except in one district with a call for so-called Islamist Jihad on August 17, 2005.

In the charges pressed in June 2006, JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai and Abdur Awal were also accused in the case lodged by Sub Inspector Khater Ali. But these three were relieved of the charges following their execution in 2007.

4 kids

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After the horrendous killings, the youth, Bahar Uddin, 25, son of Abul Kashem, was handed over to police. He was later admitted to Char Fashion Health Complex as a result of beating by the local mob.

Local sources said Bahar had been confined to the house of Ojha (quack) Maksudur Rahman for treatment. He was released since he started behaving normal.

Golam Faruk, acting officer-in-charge of Char Fashion Police Station, said Bahar was hospitalised under police custody.

Bhola district superintendent of police (SP) admitted the incident and injuries by the Bahar.

Akhtar Hamid

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that the accused took Tk 1.70 lakh in toll and promised to include their school under the government's Monthly Payment Order (MPO).

Allegations of cheating, misappropriation and issuance of death threat have been brought against the accused under sections 420, 406 and 506 of the Bangladesh Penal Code in the case, said M Mofazzel Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) in Naogaon.

The plaintiff in her case alleged that she paid Tk 50,000 directly to Siddiqui and Tk 1.20 lakh through Mahbub Alam in two phases of May and June in 2005.

"After taking the money, Siddiqui denied the school authorities to include under MPO. As I told him to return the money if he is unable to do it, he threatened me to kill by shooting from a gun," alleged Yasmin.

Police sources said several people who suffered at the hands of the former deputy speaker thronged in front of the police station to file cases since Siddiqui's arrest.

"But we are recording case after necessary primary investigation," said Ilyas Fakir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohadevpur thana.

The former deputy speaker was arrested Saturday afternoon under Special Power's Act of 1974 and sent to Naogaon district jail on the night with 30 days' detention.

Replying to a question, the Naogaon SP said the police are waiting for the government's nod to lodge a sedition case against Siddiqui for his 'seditious remarks'.

Siddiqui invited the Mohadevpur OC at his home and asked him to act according to his wish. The former deputy speaker told the police officer that the Awami League government would last no more than two months while many of its leaders are going to die.

The Naogaon SP said during a brief police interrogation Siddiqui confessed that he talked about the cassettes and CDs related to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's meeting with army members at Sena Kunja following BDR mutiny.

Meanwhile, Mohadevpur upazila BNP held a protest meeting at the Upazila Sadar last evening while district unit of Jatiyatabadi Lawyers' Forum held a protest rally on court premises at noon.

WWF pledges

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greater cooperation to ease disputes over water, measures to address floods and drought, better management of water resources and curbing pollution of rivers, lakes and aquifers.

"The ministerial declaration... is an important document that will serve as guidelines at government level," said Turkish Environment Minister Veysel Eroglu, whose country hosted the meeting.

A number of countries, including Spain, France and several nations from Latin America and Africa, tried in vain to have the document recognise access to safe drinking water and sanitation as "a basic human right," rather than a "basic human need" -- a textual change with political and legal ramifications.

"We are saddened... we have been denied the opportunity of making changes to the statement," said an Ethiopian delegate.

"There was a strong consensus that the right to water is not adequately considered in the draft ministerial declaration," a Uruguayan delegate said, reporting on a roundtable session.

The World Water Forum is held every three years, and has gained in importance as a meeting place for debating the globe's amplifying problems of freshwater.

At least 25,000 policymakers, water specialists and grassroots workers took part in this year's event, a record attendance.

Campaigners representing the rural poor, the environment and organised labour on Saturday attacked the Forum as a vehicle for water privatisation and called it to be placed under the UN flag.

"We demand that the allocation of water be decided in an open, transparent and

Russia

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her energy needs.

He said a Russian team of experts would soon come here to discuss this issue with the concerned authorities.

The state minister told reporters that they would study the proposal and hold further discussions on it with the Russian expert team.

Earlier, reports said Russia has proposed backing for a 1000-megawatt nuclear power plant at Rooppur.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament on March 18 that her government would set up a nuclear power plant to meet the growing demand for power.

"We are taking initiative to set up a nuclear power plant at Rooppur site," Hasina said responding to question from a member during the prime minister's question-answer session in parliament.

China and South Korea also offered assistance to Bangladesh for setting up the nuclear power plant.

China is willing to support Bangladesh to set up a nuclear power plant on the China-Pakistan model.

International Atomic Energy Agency has already agreed to provide assistance to Bangladesh and approved a Technical Assistance Project on Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant for the cycle 2009-2011.

Indian wheat

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crore while two private firms - Indian LMJ and local Anwar Trading were selected to make the bulk import of the food-grain for supplying to the Food Directorate, a cabinet division official said.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiut presided over the committee meeting at the secretariat office.

The purchase committee also sent back two proposals for construction of over 500 flats in the city's Mirpur and Lalmitia areas under the Housing and Public Works Ministry.

The committee advised the ministry concerned to involve the private sector developers for constructing the flats to sell among the government employees.

It also asked the housing and public works ministry to take its own decision as there is no involvement of public money for construction of those flats, the cabinet division official said.

The committee also turned down proposals of the Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited (JFCL) and Bangladesh Telecommunications Company for purchasing some machinery for urea plant and some equipment for installation of radio links in some upazilas.

The purchase committee advised JFCL and the telecom company for taking own decision for purchasing the machinery for urea plant and the radio link equipment.

Two proposals of the water resources ministry were not discussed in the purchase committee meeting due to absence of the minister concerned, a source at the meeting said.

Wajed Miah

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be admitted to Singapore General and Heart Centre.

A flight of Singapore Airlines carrying Wajed Miah took off from Zia International Airport at about 12:05am.

A team of physicians comprised of Dr Habib-e-Millat, Dr Towhiduzzaman and Dr SMA Jagul Abbas are accompanying Wajed.

Hasina had visited her husband at the city's Square Hospital at 8:45pm last night and stayed until 10:00pm, said hospital sources.

British PM

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comprehensive approach to tackling the threat of terrorism by any government in the world.

Writing in The Observer, Brown said: "We know that there is an al-Qaeda core in northern Pakistan trying to organise attacks in Britain. We know also that there are a number of networks here."

"al-Qaeda terrorists remain intent on inflicting mass casualties without warning, including through suicide bombings. They are motivated by a violent extremist ideology based on a false reading of religion and exploit modern travel and communications to spread through loose and dangerous global networks."

The new counter-terrorism strategy takes into account recent attacks on hotels in Mumbai. It will reflect intelligence agencies' opinions that the biggest threat to the UK comes from groups aligned or inspired by al-Qaeda.

A spokesman said the strategy will update the Contest strategy developed by the Home Office in 2003, which was later detailed in the Countering International Terrorism document released in 2006.

United Kingdom's new anti-terror strategy, which will be unveiled by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith next week, is claimed to be the most comprehensive counter-terrorism approach issued by any government in the world.

According to a Home Office spokesman, Smith wants the paper to go into more detail than ever before about how the authorities are seeking to prevent atrocities from hap-

pening and respond to attacks which take place.

The strategy will reflect security services' judgment that the most serious terrorist threat to the UK continues to come from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, the Daily Star reports.

Experts have spent a year preparing the document, known as Contest Two, to take into account lessons learnt from recent Mumbai terror attacks.

The new paper, to be published on Tuesday, will update the Contest strategy developed by the Home Office in 2003 and detailed in the Countering International Terrorism document in 2006.

Earlier, UK's anti-terror strategy has been based on four Ps - Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare, which ensured that the country was ready for the consequences of any attack.

The Home Office spokesman said the new paper would take account of the way the terror threat has evolved and how the authorities are learning lessons from events.

Since 2007, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre has termed the terrorism threat level as "severe", which means that future terrorist attacks are highly likely but not thought to be imminent.

By 2011, Britain will be spending 3.5 billion pounds a year on counter-terrorism.