

JS PROBE AGAINST SIRCAR, AKHTAR HAMID, DELWAR

Trio took Tk 40 lakh in additional fuel bill

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain took over Tk 40 lakh as fuel bills in addition to their fuel allowances during the tenure of the last parliament.

According to a report prepared by the transport pool of Parliament Secretariat, Sircar drew Tk 7.73 lakh and Akhtar Hamid Tk 15.71 lakh as additional fuel bills for two Pajeros during 2004-2008 while Delwar drew Tk 16.68 lakh for a microbus during 2001-2006, sources in the secretariat said.

Fuel bills for the Pajeros were also

increased to 20 litres a day from 10 litres in 2005, the sources said.

The three were entitled to use two vehicles each for official purpose and money for around 40 litres of fuel daily. They were also entitled to get fuel bills for trips outside Dhaka.

Another document shows that Tk 4.50 lakh was allocated in 2004-05 fiscal year for the maintenance of the vehicles used by Sircar and Akhtar Hamid at that time. But the amount was increased to Tk 14.50 lakh following demands from their offices.

The additional money was provided from other sectors in the budget for Parliament Secretariat, officials said. They, however, could not give the details

of the expenditures.

The transport pool of Parliament Secretariat has recently submitted the report to a parliamentary sub-committee led by Brig Gen (ret'd) SK Bakr. The sub-committee formed by the all-party parliamentary probe body is probing allegations of corruption in Parliament Secretariat and has started gathering information on transport expenditures during the last parliament.

When contacted, Bakr, also a lawmaker of the ruling Awami League, told The Daily Star that they are yet to collect all the information. "So far we have examined a number of documents and we

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Army HQ on BDR probe

Calls for 'responsible' news

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army headquarters yesterday urged the media to be more responsible while reporting on sensitive issues like the BDR carnage in Pikhana.

A press release signed by Lt Col Kazi Mohammad Kabirul Islam, director of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), said the armed forces formed an enquiry committee to probe the barbaric killings of army officials and the probe report was handed over to the chief of the armed forces on May 10.

The press release reads: even though the armed forces did not disclose any information about the report, different media have been continuing to run misleading and fictitious reports on such a nationally sensitive issue, which raises concern and confusions.

Only 25 BDR men now found hiding

Faruk slams media for speculative reporting on army probe find; border guards proposed to get new name, logo, mottoes, uniform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authority has finally identified only 25 BDR jawans as fugitives among over 7,000 earlier claimed to have escaped from Pikhana BDR headquarters after the February 25-26 carnage.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, who heads a committee for coordinating measures of the Prime Minister's Office and the home and defence ministries in the wake of BDR carnage, yesterday said many of these fugitives committed grievous offences.

Many including defence officials wondered how around 7,000 BDR personnel could flee the BDR headquarters after committing the bloody

mutiny in which 57 army officers and 17 others were killed.

The role of the law enforcement agencies and the government was questioned, even alleging if the jawans were "allowed" to flee.

Interestingly, the authority gave the media different numbers of fugitive BDR members in the last two and a half months--from the initial 2,000 to 1,800 to 1,000 and then only 250.

Yesterday, the BDR authority provided brief information about the 25 fugitive BDR jawans and their photographs for publishing in newspapers.

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NAMES AND PHOTOS OF FUGITIVE BDR MEMBERS ON PAGE 6

Legal notice served on govt to save rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been served with a legal notice to take immediate steps to stop encroachment, earth-filling and construction of illegal structures on Buriganga and Turag rivers around Dhaka and Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) tendered the notice demanding that the authorities concerned

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Wasa plans to preserve water of Ashulia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is planning to preserve floodwater in Ashulia area, treat and supply it to Uttara to meet the ever-growing demand for pure water in the capital.

A coordination meeting of Dhaka Wasa's operation and

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Waste from Bscic Industrial Area in Gazipur ends up in the Baimail Jheel and then flows into the Turag turning water of both into an obnoxious deep purple liquid. The photo was taken at Baimail Jheel.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

152 industries wreaking havoc

Villagers along polluted Turag moving to safer places

PINAKI ROY

Indiscriminate discharge of liquid waste by the industries in and around Konabari industrial zone has ruined a large part of the Turag river and Baimail Jheel, causing immense suffering to residents living on the banks.

Industrial liquid waste and black smog created by brick kilns have doubled the sufferings and even compelled many to move their houses.

Locals say brick kilns have left their fruit trees unproductive, while industrial waste exterminated fish in the river and nearby water bodies, increased mosquitoes, and made croplands infertile.

The government established the Konabari Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (Bscic) industrial area in early 1980s to promote and expand small and cottage industries. Since then the industries are polluting surrounding environment despite getting different facility packages from the government.

Recently, the Bscic authorities have made a list of 152 polluter industries that include 56 dyeing and textile industries, 50 chemicals and pharmaceuticals, nine food processing and 37 other engineering industries. None of these industries has installed an effluent treatment plant (ETP).

"We have been corresponding with the industrialists for last three years about ETP but all in vain," says a Bscic official asking not to be named.

The Bscic provided the industrialists with land in a subsidised price along with many other facilities. But most of the industries are paying back by indiscriminately polluting the environment.

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Rahim slips, hurts eye

Reztaqul talks in line with Sahab

STAR REPORT

Detained former chief of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Abdur Rahim yesterday slipped and fell on a window-sill and injured his right eye while using bathroom at CID's Chittagong divisional headquarters.

The incident happened before dawn when electricity went out, said Mohammad Muslim, special superintendent

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Abdur Rahim

Sahab talks less in front of magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former National Security Intelligence (NSI) director Wing Commander (ret'd) Sahab Uddin in his confessional statement has concealed important information that he disclosed earlier to the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) during questioning.

Sources said he spelled out the involvement of some politicians, army officers and the high commission of a country with the smuggling of 10-truckloads of arms and

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Lanka free from terror, declares Rajapakse

'Prabhakaran's body' recovered from battlefield

AP, AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's president declared his country "liberated from separatist terror" yesterday as the military said it recovered the body of Tamil Tiger rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran from the battlefield on which he was slain.

The images were shown after the Tigers announced the guerrilla leader was still alive and well, and that they would continue fighting for a separate Tamil homeland despite President Mahinda Rajapakse's call to unite the nation.

Under international pressure to reach out to the Tamil minority, Rajapakse vowed in a nationally televised speech that "terrorism" had been

defeated and that a political solution to the island's ethnic divisions would be found.

TV footage also showed a bloated body resembling the rebel leader, still dressed in a dark green camouflage uniform, laid out on a stretcher on the grass. A blue cloth rested on top of his head, apparently to cover a bullet wound. His open eyes stared straight up and his face appeared bloated.

"A few hours ago, the body of terrorist leader Prabhakaran, who ruined this country, was found on the battleground," army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka told state television.

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This handout picture released by the Sri Lankan Army yesterday is said to be the body of Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in Puthukkudiruppu in the north east of the country.

PHOTO: AFP

OnlinePoll

Two ex-NSI chiefs have been arrested over 10-truck ammo smuggling in Chittagong. Do you think the probe is on the right track?

Yes (69.81%) No (24.92%) No Comments (5.27%)

Total votes: 626

TODAY'S POLL

Pakistan has urged Bangladesh to let bygones be bygones with regard to atrocities committed by the Pakistani army in 1971. Do you support?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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BSF kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot two Bangladeshi men dead and critically injured two cattle traders in two separate incidents near Kurigram and Chapainawabganj borders early yesterday.

The deceased were Ayub Ali, 35, and Amir Islam, 28.

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প্রাণ

গুঁড়া মশলা

জীবনে আনন্দ!

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