

Mutiny followed

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mention the names of the political leaders the BDR members met.

However, replying to a question, committee Chairman Anisuzzaman told reporters that the BDR personnel met with Awami League lawmakers Fazle Noor Taposh and Sheikh Fazlu Karim Selim before the election. "We have interrogated Taposh in this regard," he said.

In the summary, the committee has recorded statements of 107 people including BDR members, family members of army officers, detained mutineers, local civilians, media personalities, former BDR directors general, politicians, chiefs of different forces and agencies, ministers and lawmakers.

Replying to another question, probe committee member Mohammad Golam Hossain said these political leaders are State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs advocate Kamrul Islam, Awami League Whip Mirza Azam, Jatiya Party lawmaker Sheikh Golam Reza and AL lawmaker Taposh.

The committee admits that it failed to determine the "genuine" reasons and motives behind the heinous act of the members of the paramilitary force. So, it believes that further investigation is needed to determine the genuine reasons.

The probe has, however, revealed that the existing "negative sentiments" among BDR soldiers about army officers and their dissatisfaction and resentment at the unfulfilled demands could be the primary reasons.

"Analysing their demands, it will be evident that a few insignificant demands cannot be the main reason for carrying out such a large-scale brutal incident," the summary of the probe report says, adding that these demands were used to spread malicious influence among BDR soldiers.

"Using these demands, the main architects of the carnage might have pulled the strings from behind to endanger the stability of the state," it says.

Replying to queries the committee chairman also said they did not find any militant or

foreign links to the carnage. Answering to another question a committee member said they had lack of ingredients, equipment and merit, which were required in investigation that police or Rab needed to glean information from an accused.

He also said the statements of ministers and lawmakers were taken as they were directly involved and took part in negotiation to resolve the crisis.

In the sub-head 'Perspective of the mutiny' the summary of the report also said it's all about the grievances among the BDR members about their demands and some other issues in the force.

The probe said the mentality of not accepting authority of the army had long been dormant among the BDR members. They had long been demanding appointment of their own officers in the form of BCS cadre, rise in border allowances and 100 per cent ration facility.

Their demands also include sending BDR members to the UN Mission and change in their salary structures like that of the army.

Besides, Daal-Bhat programme, punishment meted out to BDR jawans, lack of transparency in running BDR shop, luxurious lifestyle of high officials, corruption in running schools all these eventually boiled over into discontent among BDR men, the summary says.

BDR members circulated leaflets at different times with the aim of venting their discontent and realising their demands. BDR authorities on different occasion raised their demands to the government to solve the problems.

The summary mentioned names of BDR members who led the mutiny saying that a total of 107 army officers were present at Pilkhana on February 25 and only 50 of them survived.

On the basis of information received from different sources it reads that most of the army officers were killed by 11 am on February 25. Of the 57 army officers, 52 were killed at the Darbar Hall and adjoining areas.

Some over-enthusiastic civilians led by former BNP

ward commissioner Suraiya Begum, her two sons, local miscreant Masud and Leather Lion supplied clothes, food and water to the BDR members fleeing from Pilkhana.

Some mutineers fled via Keraniganj and former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu provided them with engine boats to cross the waterway.

The prime motive of the rebellion was to destroy chain of command and render the BDR ineffective, discourage army officers to work in BDR on deputation in future and create conflict between the Bangladesh Army and the BDR.

The report mentions the failure of the main intelligence agencies, their inefficiency, collision between the Rifles Security Unit (RSU) and mutineers, lack of necessary coordination between the BDR and the home ministry over demands of BDR members, electronic media's biased propaganda over the mutiny and the information ministry's lack of control over the media.

The report put forward eight short-term and 15 long-term recommendations, which include holding trial of all offences related to the carnage under the Military Law, forming a National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), forming central intelligence coordination committee and formation of counter-intelligence force of all intelligence agencies.

It also includes separate inquiry into Daal-Bhat programme, BDR trust, school operation and tender activities. It suggested maintaining balance in salaries, allowances and other facilities between members of military and paramilitary and law enforcers.

Apart from the committee chairman, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj and the home secretary spoke at the press conference.

The national probe committee members Golam Hossain, BDR Director General Maj Gen Mainul Islam, Brig Gen Rafiqul Islam, Air Commodore Sanaul Haque, among others, were present.

Barapukuria

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consumption as it partially went out of order last month. The plant is now generating barely 60 MW power.

"When in full production, the plant consumes 72,000 tonnes of coal. Last month its consumption came down to 38,000 tonnes. This month it would hardly consume 20,000 tonnes," said the source.

"If this situation goes on, we will have to shut down the mine," he said, adding that coal is highly self-combustible if certain safety measures are not maintained while storing it.

The mine is currently producing 90,000-100,000 tonnes aiming at producing 9,00,000 tonnes within this fiscal year (FY). It also hopes to make its first operating profit this year as its production and sale of coal have been excellent throughout the year (FY).

But the power plant glitch stands as one of the two major hurdles faced by the mine. The other hurdle is a political resistance against mining fuelled by a vested quarter.

A top official of the PDB said experts and technicians from Ghorashal Power Plant have been mobilised to repair the troubled coal-fired power plant's vacuum blower, ID fans, other auxiliary equipment and some other things. There is also a problem with the alignment of some equipment that needs to be addressed.

The PDB also requested Chinese authorities to send some experts to join the repair team.

"We expect the repair to be completed by the end of this month or early next month. But we know repair is not the ultimate solution. Some of the things need replacement, and we have taken initiative to directly purchase quality things from China. It will take three months to have those in hand," the PDB official said.

Towards the end of the last caretaker government's tenure, the then power secretary had instructed the PDB to develop its own coal yard to ease the pressure on the mine

authorities. "We are working on it now," the official said.

The mine's storage capacity is getting exhausted also because private buyers, who take about 30 per cent of the coal, are not buying it right now.

Meanwhile, the mine sold a record 2,30,000 tonnes of coal at \$ 111 dollars a tonne to private buyers -- mainly brick kiln owners -- in the current FY. The record sale created prospect of the mine making operating profit for the first time, after incurring more than Tk 150 crore loss in the previous three years of operation.

But this trend of sale stopped last month as brick kilns' season is over. "We could have sold more than 3,00,000 tonnes if the country had communication facilities. We cannot sell coal to consumers in Dhaka region though they are keen to buy our quality coal," said a miner.

To increase sales, the mining authorities slashed coal price to \$96 a tonne, and expect good sales in June-July. This would also help ease the storage situation, he noted.

Our correspondent Kongkon Karmaker adds from Dinajpur: A five-member team of experts from China is now examining technical glitches in Barapukuria power plant.

The experts, who arrived at the plant on Monday and started work next day, looked into the trouble at second unit of the plant, particularly its IDF (induce draft fan).

Plant sources said the second unit would resume operation within a week.

The Chinese team however suggested an extensive overhaul of the unit, a mine official told this correspondent, seeking anonymity.

He also said the team members want another batch of experts from their country to come to the site as they lack the technical know-how and equipment required to do the job they are supposed to.

Earlier, local engineers failed to fix the IDF trouble which was detected on April 21.

US firms keen to invest in coal sector

UNB, Dhaka

American companies are keen to invest in Bangladesh's coal sector, State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Haque Tuku said yesterday.

He was talking to reporters following a meeting with US Ambassador James F Moriarty at the energy ministry.

He said the US envoy appraised him that American energy companies are interested to help Bangladesh in developing energy sector. They particularly want to invest in coal mining after finalisation of the coal policy by the government.

Following the meeting, the envoy said that the minister discussed many issues regarding the energy sector's development in Bangladesh and also the assistance for the victims of very recent cyclonic storm 'Aila' that hit the country's southwest coastal belt.

Moriarty noted that the United States would provide necessary assistance for the victims if Bangladesh side seek any help.

A number of US companies, including oil major Chevron, have been operating in the country's energy and power sector. But this is the first time it was learned that US energy companies are also interested in the coal mines.

Bangladesh has about five coal mines in the country's northern region, having a total coal deposit of 2.5 billion tons.

A draft coal policy is now being reviewed by the government.

EU supports

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From the EU side, Spanish Ambassador Arturo Perez, German Ambassador Frank Meyke, Italian Ambassador Dr Itala Maria Marta Occhi, Danish Ambassador Heinar Heborgard Jensen, EC Head of the Delegation Stefan Frowein, CDA of Netherlands Fritz Meindert, Counselor of British High Commission John Ryan and CDA of France, Patrick Branco were also present.

SFC Vice President Maj Gen (ret) CR Dutta, its General Secretary LT Gen (ret) Harun-Ar-Rashid, ambassador Anwarul Alam Shahid, Col (ret) Shamsul Alam, Maj Gen (ret) Jamil Ahsan, Maj Gen (ret) Masudur Rahman, writer-journalist Haroon Habib, Dr Sarwar Ali, Maj (ret) ASM Shamsul Arefin and ex-Addl IGP Nurul Alam among others, were present.

Rahim tells

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Rahim was sent to Chittagong jail at around 6:15pm after his statement had been recorded.

Earlier, he was taken to the court at 1:00pm and produced before the magistrate at around 2:50pm.

Meanwhile, former NSI deputy director (DD) Maj (ret) Liakat Hossain, arrested in Dhaka on Tuesday, was taken to the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Asaduzzaman Khan at about 6:00pm.

Investigation Officer Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, senior ASP of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police in Chittagong, prayed for his remand for five days.

The ex-DD of NSI was sent to Chittagong jail at around 6:30pm as the court decided to hear the remand prayer today.

Meanwhile, arrested Ex-director (security) of NSI Wing Commander (ret) Sahab Uddin filed a bail petition with the court of Additional CMM Asaduzzaman Khan in the arms smuggling case.

Sources said two cases were filed with the Kamaphuli Police Station in connection with the haul of 10 truckloads of illegal arms and ammunition.

The court rejected the bail petition and sent Sahab Uddin to prison.

The same court was supposed to hear former NSI chief Rezaqul's bail petition and prayer for cancellation of remand but the hearing could not be held because of constraints of time.

Both Rahim and Rezaqul were placed on fresh remand for six days each on May 20.

The two former NSI chiefs were arrested on May 16 from their residences in Dhaka following Sahab Uddin's confessional statement before a Chittagong court on May 15.

The two were produced before a Chittagong court and placed on a three-day remand on May 17.

Food, drinking water

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affected by the cyclone, but we have yet to see any relief materials," said Mazharul Islam Nani of Golbun in Golachipa upazila of Patuakhali.

The district administration distributed 155 tonnes of rice and Tk 1.55 lakh among the victims in seven upazilas, but the amount appeared to be inadequate.

Two more bodies were recovered in the district yesterday. The deceased were identified as Roman, 13, of Balaubunia under Golachipa upazila and Kadbanu, 45, of Pangashia in Dumki upazila.

Our correspondent in Satkhira reports: Thousands of people remain marooned in Gabura, Padmapukur, Burigoalini, Munshiganj and Kaikhali unions of Shyamnagar upazila and some places in Assassuni and Tala upazilas. They are struggling with little or no food and drinking water.

"These are hard days. We cannot cook food since there is no high ground to place the stove or any fuel to light it up," said Rohela Bibi of Gabura union.

Many people devastated by Aila were seen waiting on embankments in Satkhira for relief materials.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna reports: Over one lakh people in the district are struggling without food and water.

Chairmen of Koirā, Paikgacha and Dacope upazila parishads said they fear outbreaks of waterborne diseases and famine as the water started receding Tuesday night.

Relief operations jointly carried out by the navy and the coastguard, in cooperation with government officials, were insufficient, alleged Dacope upazila parishad Chairman Abul Hossain, Koirā upazila parishad Chairman Moshin Reza and Paikgacha upazila parishad Chairman Rashiduzzaman.

Acute crisis of drinking water prevails in the storm-hit Mongla upazila of Bagerhat where the relief supplied was inadequate.

The port authorities yesterday started providing the destitute with drinking water, but that was not enough to meet the needs of a quarter of the people there, said Chairman of Mongla Upazila Parishad Iddris Ali.

Thousands in Sharankhola and Morrelganj upazilas of Bagerhat face similar crisis of food and drinking water.

Chairman of Soudkhali union Anwar Hossain Panchayat said relief distribution operations were not being carried out properly.

CASUALTIES
Of the total deaths in 17 districts, 35 were reported in Satkhira, 35 in Khulna, 26 in Noakhali, 18 in Bhola, nine in Patuakhali, six in Laxmipur, nine in Barisal, four in Narsingdi, two each in Bagerhat, Chapainawabganj, Noagaon and Cox's Bazar, and one each in Natore, Dhaka (Keraniganj), Magura, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat, reported UNB.

According to official figures, the death toll stood at 113 and the number of injured 6,478.

The body count could rise as rescuers and locals are still spotting bodies.

THE DESTRUCTION
According to the food and disaster management ministry's primary assessment, crops on 80,667 acres of land were destroyed and those on 3,09,327 acres were damaged partly.

A total of 33,44,309 people of 588 unions under 76 upazilas were affected by the cyclone. Of the roads, 641.8 km were destroyed and 3,231 km damaged.

A total of 341 institutions were flattened and 1,596 damaged. At least 152 culverts and 813.1 km of embankments were also damaged.

Around 61,440 domestic animals were killed.

"The government decided to repair all the embankments washed away or damaged," said Food Minister Abdur Razzaque who visited Patuakhali yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reported that Aila damaged over 18,000 shrimp enclosures in Bagerhat destroying shrimps worth Tk 40 crore. It has also damaged over 7,000 fish farms in the district.

At least 20,297 homes were also damaged.

RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS
Bangladesh Air Force helicopters transported relief goods and water purification plants to Shyamnagar of Satkhira.

Clarification

FROM PAGE 16
Beximco Textiles is no longer a defaulter, the clarification said.

The CIB report is in the process of being updated accordingly.

Barguna sadar, Kuakata, Patuakhali sadar, Dhalchar and Daulatkhani of Bhola.

Bangladesh Army continued its rescue and relief operations in remote areas of Patuakhali, Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat in cooperation with the local administration.

Army medical teams are also providing medical care, says an ISPR press release.

Deputy commissioners, upazila nirbahi officers, and upazila chairmen are also engaged in rescue and relief operations.

The food minister and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday visited Barguna and Kuakata, while State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak visited Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali and Maj Gen Motiur Rahman, GOC of Jessore Cantonment, visited Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali and distributed relief materials.

Meanwhile, Brac from its own fund approved Tk 1 crore for the Aila-affected people. It already started distributing food, drinking water and water purifying tablets.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is continuing its rescue and relief operations in Aila-affected areas, says a press release.

It already donated Tk 3,60,000 among 8,000 affected families.

It also distributed 16,000 plastic sheets, 16,000 saris, 16,000 lungis, 8,000 jerry canes, 800 tents, 1,60,000 water purification tablets, 80,000 oral saline packs, 16,000 blankets, 8,000 hygiene kits and 16,000 clothes in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, in an emergency meeting of the Awami League (AL) Presidium, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed ministers concerned to take all out measures for rehabilitating the cyclone-affected people.

The meeting was held at her official residence Jamuna with Hasina in the chair.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiht, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque were also present at the meeting.

The prime minister directed the finance minister to clear necessary funds, which would be needed for the rehabilitation of Aila victims, AL Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan told reporters after the meeting.

He said the water resources ministry has already mentioned that around Tk 200 crore would be needed to repair the embankments.

Hasina also directed party leaders to stand beside the cyclone victims.

Talking to The Daily Star, the food and disaster management minister said many countries and donor agencies including USA, World Bank, UNDP and the European Union have offered assistance for the cyclone victims.

Welcoming the foreign assistance, the minister said the government has adequate food and money to rehabilitate the cyclone victims.

Shake-up

FROM PAGE 16
Commissioner Abdus Sabur-- were made officer on special duty (OSD) and attached to the establishment ministry as OSD secretary, according to separate official notifications.

Besides, member (additional secretary) of Land Reforms Board Aftab Hasan was also made OSD and his service was placed in the Ministry of Establishment.

Secretary of the Power Division Nasiruddin Ahmed has been transferred as member of planning commission while additional secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Abdul Kalam Azad appointed acting secretary of the power division.

Acting member of Planning Commission Abdur Razzak was appointed acting chairman of Land Reforms Board while acting member of Planning Commission Mridula Bhattacharaya transferred as acting member of Privatisation Commission.

In another notification, the government transferred four additional secretary rank officials. Additional secretary (OSD) Apurba Kumar Biswas has been appointed chairman of Rajshahi Unnayan Kartipakkha while commissioner of Sylhet Division Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan appointed director general of the Department of Environment, additional secretary of the Ministry of Establishment Mesbahul Alam transferred as MDS of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) in Savar and MDS of BPATC Begum Zisara Ara Arafunnesa appointed member of Land Reforms Board.

Meanwhile, Joint Secretary (OSD) Mansur Hossain has been appointed director of National Museum of Science & Technology (NMST) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Caught in the act

FROM PAGE 1
is new with grasses yet to grow there.

Everything is clearly visible on the other bank as the once mighty Turag, popularly known as Kohor Daria [big river], has been reduced to hardly 50 feet in width here.

Just on the other side of the Jitema ground stands the house of the Khan family on the river-bank. The head of the family, Afsar Khan, was born at this house but now lives at a larger house in Uttara, Sector 9, Road 10.

He has rented out the house by the river and is constructing another just behind it. The structure of a two-storey building is already there and he is going to raise the second floor soon.

The construction is on since January on the slope of his old house. The RCC pillars are still standing in the waters. Though the site is behind the old house, it was clearly visible from the Tongi-Ashulia highway that he was bringing soil and sand by boats.

The Daily Star followed this specific encroachment and every activity of Khan just 500 metres west of the Tongi Bridge since the beginning.

This correspondent collected the address of Khan and visited his present house, but he was said not to be home. Speaking over phone, he claimed he did not encroach on the river; rather the river "eroded his land".

"I inherited this land from my father and grandfather. The Turag eroded our land so I filled it and built the house," said Khan, a businessman of construction materials.

Earlier on January 14, the workers of Khan were seen filling up a part of the river

All-party JS body

FROM PAGE 16
Hasina also congratulated Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for their landslide victory in the recent election while Indian high commissioner condoled the death of Dr Wazed Miah, eminent nuclear scientist and husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

They also discussed different bilateral issues between the two countries.

PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and former ambassador Ziauddin were also present at the meeting.

through which floodwater flows to south from north. During several visits, it seemed the old house itself was built grabbing another part of the river years ago.

On February 9, Khan stared filling up the river bringing in dirt on boats and erecting the structure. His men started the work of the ground floor ceiling on March 16.

By April 26 he completed the work of the ground floor and started the first floor construction. The first floor work ended within May 9 and now he is working on the roof of the second floor.

Sohag Miah, caretaker of Khan, pointed out to the middle of the river and said his employer 'owns' up to that point.

Asked how the river was during his childhood, Khan said it was very deep and mighty. "Well, it was not that much wide but very deep and mighty," he said.

But when asked on Tuesday about the position of his land when the river was really wider as people and documents suggest, Khan asked this correspondent to talk to him face to face and cut the line.

Starting from the Tongi Bridge towards Ashulia, all the land owners along the bank have encroached on a portion of the river. The trend still continues as the government agencies concerned are reluctant to take any action.

-- Edited by
Al Mamun Russell

RMG factory

FROM PAGE 16
days late to pay the overtime dues."

"Without investigation, we do not want to blame workers for torching the factory," said Reaz.

AKM Nasir Ullah, officer-in-charge (OC) of Savar police station, told The Daily Star that the angry workers set fire to the factory as the authorities had been making dilly dally over the payment of workers.

The OC said police went into action and fired at least 38 blank shots to disperse the workers. No arrest was made yet in this connection, he added.

Fire Service and Civil Defence officials said the fire came under their control around 7:00pm but they could not ascertain the cause of the fire and its loss.

JS body

FROM PAGE 16
handing to the company which was considered responsive as the lowest bidder. Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury, chairman of the standing committee, told reporters at his office after the meeting at parliament building.

Adviser MA Matin, on the contrary, awarded the contract to another company that was considered non-responsive in the bidder, Noor-e-Alam said.

"A news item has been published recently in The Daily Jugantor on irregularities of former adviser Matin in awarding contract of container handling at Chittagong port," the committee chief said.

"After discussion, we have formed the sub-committee to investigate the alleged irregularities," he said.

"You will be astonished to hear that Adviser Matin signed necessary papers and documents on January 6, last working day of the caretaker government and the day of oath taking of Awami League government," Noor-e-Alam said.

"It caused a huge financial loss to the government for not awarding the contract to the lowest bidder," he added.

Noor-e-Alam also showed a issue of The Daily Jugantor published on May 6 which reported that a tender was floated during the immediate past caretaker government to hand over operation of gantry crane to a private company and the tender was opened on December 22.

The report also said two of the five participated companies in the tender were declared non-responsive. Of the two non-responsive companies, one was performing its job efficiently in container handling.

The company, which had no earlier experience in container handling, was shown responsive in the tender.

DHAKA-KOLKATA WATER ROUTE
During yesterday's meeting, the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry also recommended reviving the Dhaka-Kolkata water route, considering it to be an enjoyable and exciting waterway journey through the world's largest mangrove forest Sundarbans and Bay of Bengal.

"We think journey on this route will be so enjoyable and exciting as passengers can observe the beauty of Sundarbans and blue water of Bay of Bengal," Noor-e-Alam told reporters after the meeting.

He said they had a discussion on restoring the water route initially by using four steamers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

Moreover, tourism sector in our country will flourish once Dhaka-Kolkata water route is revived," he added.

Car bomb kills 30

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northwest region bordering Afghanistan. Wednesday's attack was the third major strike in Lahore in recent months.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the latest bombing. Police said two suspects were detained.

Raja Riaz, a senior minister in the Punjab provincial government, told reporters about 30 people were killed. Sajjad Bhutta, another senior government official, told reporters more than 250 people were injured.

A police building collapsed in the blast, and rescuers rushed to free officers buried in the rubble.

The explosion sheared the walls of neighboring buildings in a main business district. The ceilings of operating rooms in a nearby hospital also collapsed, injuring 20 people.

Agents from the Inter-Services Intelligence agency were among the dead, a senior official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

"The moment the blast happened, everything went dark in front of my eyes," witness Muhammad Ali said. "The way the blast happened, then gunfire, it looked as if there was a battle going on."

Sajjad Bhutta, a senior government official in Lahore, told reporters a car carrying several gunmen pulled up on a street between offices of the emergency police and the intelligence agency, Pakistan's premier spy