

3 battalions

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move three of the four battalions out of the headquarters." Bangladesh Rifles 24, 36, 13, and 44 Battalion are based in the BDR headquarters and soldiers of these battalions took part in the bloody mutiny on February 25-26 which left 74 persons killed including 57 of the army's finest officers who were on deputation there.

A source in the BDR said three battalions were not proposed to be moved out of the capital because those battalions were involved in the mutiny.

The source said, "In fact, the four battalions at the headquarters are reserve forces. If needed we could deploy these battalions anywhere outside the capital. But now we think it is better to move their base out of Dhaka which would allow us to deploy them in the border more quickly when required."

Sources say that the BDR now has 12 sectors and the sector headquarters command their forces. The committee proposed a new modus operandi dividing the map of the country into three regions and bringing the sectors under those regions.

"We have proposed moving the three battalions to three proposed regional headquarters as reserve forces," said a BDR source.

Only one battalion would remain in Pikhana headquarters as reserve force, the source said.

The committee proposed keeping the old slogan of BDR "Shimantar Otodro Prohiti", the sources said, adding that they also proposed changing the existing badge of the BDR.

"We proposed keeping a picture of a border pillar at the

1/11 bashers

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while in jail during the caretaker government rule, added the sources.

If not for the January 11 changes, the prime minister added, there would have been a staged-managed election under the 'partisan caretaker government' of Iajuddin Ahmed.

She however noted that the spirit of the changeover was undermined when many were detained on false charges.

Hasina felt the party leaders should speak in measured tones about 1/11, which had both good and bad sides.

She also asked ministers and state ministers to be cautious while participating in talk shows.

At yesterday's meeting, the prime minister wanted to know if the ministers and state ministers have prepared the one-year work plans she had asked for a couple of weeks back.

As they said they could not yet draw up the plans due to workload, she directed them to do it immediately.

She also called on them to start working towards the government's development goals as soon as parliament passes the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

JMB IT 'chief'

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bomb-making materials were also seized during the raid.

"Rajib's arrest help us to understand that many highly educated people and brilliant students are involved with the banned outfit," said Director (operations) of Rab Lt Col Mizan at a press briefing at Rab headquarters in Uttara yesterday.

In a separate raid at Mukttagachha of Mymensingh district on the day, the crime busting force arrested JMB's 'Gayre Ehsar' (part-time) members Mohammad Saiful Islam, 28, and Shirin Shapla, 18, wife of another detained JMB 'Ehsar' member David. Fol' wing confessional statement by her husband, Rab men arrested Shapla.

The JMB IT chief was given task to download information about explosives from internet for providing those to detained JMB explosives expert 'Boma Mizan' after translating those into Bengali. Rab sources said JMB has also its website.

Rajib, also known as Mainul, Abu Toba and Iqbal, had also worked as research associates at Water Resource Engineering Department of Buet for a few years.

Lt Col Mizan said on information they raided Rajib's residence. Sensing presence of the elite force, he tried to flee from his rented house but was caught finally, he added.

Though the four JMB men were kept at the briefing, journalists were not allowed

bottom of the two crossed rifles in the present badge," source said.

Sources said the committee proposed three possible options for appointing officers and personnel of other ranks in BDR.

As per one of the three options, all officers of the force would be military officers and other personnel of BDR would be recruited directly, the source said.

"As a large number of BDR personnel would lose their jobs for their role in the mutiny, we proposed filling up the vacancies temporarily by bringing in personnel of same rank from the army, police, Rab and Ansar," said another source.

"A few years later when the border force will have enough number of its own personnel, those from the army, police, Rab and Ansar would be sent back," said a source.

The source said another option is to have cent percent officers from the army and fill 70 percent of other positions with BDR and the remaining position with army, police, and Ansar personnel.

"This 30 percent men would join the force on deputation just prior to their retirement," said a source.

Another option is to have 90 percent officers from the army and 10 percent from the police and Ansar. Army, police and Ansar men on deputation would fill half the other posts and the other half would be appointed directly from the BDR.

The sources said they proposed a BDR uniform similar to the army's but of a different colour than that of the BDR.

Nepal Maoists likely to join govt within two months

ANI, Kathmandu

CPN (UML) leader KP Sharma Oli has said that the Maoists would join the government within two months.

Speaking to journalists at Tribhuvan International Airport here on Sunday on his arrival after completing his ten-day visit to India, Oli said the peace process would not succeed without the participation of Maoists.

"Peace process will not reach a logical conclusion just by a consensus among Nepali Congress President Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and UML chairman Jhala Nath Khanal," he added.

Oli has adopted a conspicuously soft approach towards the Maoists after his India visit.

Oli had met with senior Indian leaders from Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Communist leaders and top bureaucrats.

In a different context Oli said the Indian leaders had expressed concern over the growing anti-Indian movements in Nepal.

to ask them any query on plea of fair investigation. At one stage, Rajib was allowed to brief the newsmen.

Rajib started his briefing with the name of Allah and said about his student life and his duty as the IT chief.

He said he got involved in JMB through Mostafiz, a former Dhaka University student. He had visited India twice—once for a training as an engineer and another for personal matter.

Rab sources said Mostafiz is a teacher of a school in Gazipur and a hunt is going on to arrest him.

"I download information on explosives from internet, translate those in Bengali and send those to Mizan through Bashar," Rajib said. Bashar, now a key-figure in JMB, is the son of incumbent JMB Ameer Saidur Rahman.

Son of a retired railway official, Rajib hails from Chuadanga district. He passed SSC in 1994 and HSC in 1996 from two institutions in Darshana and secured first division both in the examinations. Later, he got admitted in Buet and passed BSc engineering from Civil Engineering department.

Hasina

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Nahid is likely to introduce three more bills today, said officials at the Parliament Secretariat.

The education minister said the prime minister wants to be relieved of the chancellor, and the president has consented to take over.

Govt to import edible oil with eye on Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved import of 25,000 metric tons of edible oil through Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to keep its price stable during the ensuing Ramadan.

It also decided to import petroleum products and huge amount of contraceptives in next six months.

The country will import 12,500 metric tons of soybean oil worth Tk 70.37 crore and 12,500 metric tons of palm oil at a cost of Tk 62.98 crore. The imported amount will help keep the price of soybean oil at Tk 71 per kg and palm oil at Tk 64.

Besides, 3.60 lakh metric tons of gasoline and 60 thousand metric tons of jet fuel will be imported from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. The premium this time will be \$4.90 per barrel, which was earlier \$6.60.

To keep the population boom under check the committee also approved import of 14 million contraceptive injections and 15 million birth control tablets worth Tk 141 crore under the health ministry.

Tough laws

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Such provisions including fixing maximum fees for private clinic and private laboratories for surgical operations, medical examinations and services, including pathological and radiological examinations, and maintenance of patients' records.

Previous governments had failed to enact the law in 2004, due to lobbying by the Doctors Association of Bangladesh, and in 2007 because of pressure from a variety of doctors' associations and lobby groups.

But the new ordinance is being proposed when even the existing laws, passed in 1982, have not been fully implemented, according to sources in the health directorate.

A senior health ministry official said people are being denied justice and private health medical service providers cannot be held accountable in absence of an effective legislation.

Akhter Hussain Bhuiyan, director of hospital and clinics of Directorate General of Health Services Director (DGHS) told The Daily Star "there was no alternative to implement the law for ensuring proper treatment of patients dependent largely on private health service providers."

He said that there were 434 registered clinics in the capital and 1825 in the rest of the country, with another 708 diagnostic centres in Dhaka out of the 4727 registered diagnostic centres in the country.

Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association president Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan, also a member of the review committee, "We are trying to recommend some changes regarding to establish private clinics and hospitals."

Padma Bridge

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Secretariat with Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Later, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters about the meeting at the Press Information Department (PID) conference centre.

Azad said the finance minister, in his address at the IDB meeting as the governor, emphasised increasing investment in Bangladesh in power, energy, communications and social infrastructure sectors for attaining sustainable economic growth of the country.

He also focused on reduced supply of capital and investment in the perspective of the current global economic recession.

Muhtith urged the IDB member countries to take care of Bangladesh's working there so that they are not terminated from their jobs. Besides, he talked about the disastrous impacts of global climate change on Bangladesh.

Finance Minister also had a meeting with IDB President Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, Azad said.

The next meeting of the IDB Board of Governors will be held in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, in June 2010.

Manipur team

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Sunday to express solidarity with the anti-Tipaimukh dam campaign in Bangladesh. The delegation includes Prof RK Ranjan Sinha of Earth Science Department of Manipur Central University, environmentalists Ramananda, Joseph Marr, Vikramjit and Arnab Dutta. Engineer Muhammad Hilal Uddin, coordinator of the Jatiya Tipaimukh Bandh Protirodh Committee accompanied the team to Sylhet.

The speakers said 57 percent dams in the world responsible for environmental degradation are in India and China. Now things are to be dealt internationally because Tipai project would just wreak havoc on Bangladesh.

"We are here to express our solidarity with Bangladeshi people," said Prof Sinha. The project is not at all a viable one, he said, adding, "We want Bangladesh to sit with the Indian authorities to discuss the crucial issue. Besides, it is an issue of common rivers and India cannot make decisions alone."

A documentary on the protests against Tipaimukh project since its preparatory work began 10 years ago was also presented.

The speakers said there should be strong awareness against the Tipaimukh project. Disasters caused by our imprudent activities throughout the world have put the nature's balance at risk, they added.

Emphasising the need for mutual interests they said as an upper riparian country India should consider Bangladesh's interest on moral ground since Indians would also be badly affected by the project. "We have to raise strong protest at home and abroad against the mega project for our survival," they asserted.

They further said the inhabitants of the country's northeast region including greater Sylhet and Mymensingh as well as whole Bangladesh and the Indian states of Assam and

JMB men

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members who had fled to Pakistan might be more.

Executed JMB supreme Shaikh Abdur Rahman had visited Pakistan on numerous occasions and had his arms training and mastered the art of bomb-making while fighting against the former Soviet Union forces in Afghanistan.

Earlier, 'Boma Mizan' had revealed about JMB's small-scale organisational activities in India. During the investigation, he confessed that an 'active member' of JMB from Bangladesh who has been staying in India near Rajshahi border in the guise of a cloth trader for long, sends explosives to his militant group.

A case was filed with Shahbagh police station in this connection. University proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan said, "We are mulling over more strict limits on speed of cars inside the campus with renewal of traffic signals immediately."

AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, expressed deep shock over the death of Anima Rani Saha and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

The VC also assured about taking necessary initiatives to restrict movement of learner drivers on the campus area following a demand made by Bangladesh Chhatra League members.

SQ Chy

FROM PAGE 16

Asked why he did not inform the Election Commission (EC) that joint forces had taken his certificates away before they finalized their decision regarding his parliament membership, SQ Chowdhury said the commission had summoned him before the elections and a hearing was also held.

"Now they [the EC] have taken initiative after holding the elections," said the BNP leader, now in Singapore.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

In addition Razzak mentioned that Zainul had—first verbally and then in writing—requested him to include one of their party (BNP) lawmakers but in a letter to him on June 21 Zainul proposed the names of experts.

One of the BNP's proposed experts Ainun Nishat, country representative of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in his interview with the BBC said he felt embarrassed and sorry to find his name in the BNP proposal.

"At first I was embarrassed as my name was proposed by BNP as a member of the delegation. I am not affiliated with any party politics. I am a technician and I talk about the matters that emerge from my analysis," said Ainun.

Ainun told the BNP that he wanted to provide policymakers with the technical knowledge he had and did not want any politics over this matter.

Manipur should raise strong protest against the project, since it would create catastrophe in the whole region. Already several Indian groups had registered their voice against the much talked about project. The speakers added that there should be a greater agitation against the controversial attempt.

The river bifurcates its way by the names of Surma and Kushiya entering into Bangladesh territory. People of greater Sylhet region had been protesting the project since the news of approval of the project came to light years ago.

Ilyas uddin Biswas of Sust chaired the programme while Sushanta Kumar Das, Aktarul Islam, Prof Kamal Ahmed Chowdhury, Yasmin Haque, CPB-District President Bedananda Bhattacharya and district Awami League Vice-president Abdus Jahir Chowdhury Sufian spoke, among others. MA Gani conducted the programme.

Learner driver

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All vehicular movement on the campus remained snapped for five hours after the accident at 6.30 in the morning.

Anima Rani Saha, 56, was the wife of Prof Parimol Kumar Saha of the Institute of Education Research (IER) of DU. She lost her life under the wheels of a private car while taking a walk in the morning on the footpath adjacent to the eastern entrance of Jagannath Hall, witnesses said.

The car was speeding at around 80km/hr when it hit Anima, killing her on the spot. As news of the accident spread fast, several hundred students on the campus thronged the spot and set the car on fire.

Fahim, a third year student of Dhaka Medical College (DMC), a learner driver was driving the car at the time, accompanied by his driver named Shamim, police said. After the accident Fahim did not leave the place but waited there till police arrested him at around 9:30am.

Vehicular movement on the campus was restored around noon after the situation calmed down following Fahim's arrest. Fahim is the son of eye-specialist Dr Kamal Hayder and a resident of Shahjahanpur area.

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City life

FROM PAGE 1

the excessive heat for the powersupply disruption. "Frequent load shedding and power outage are turning out to be part of our daily life," said Saidur Rahman, a resident of Raja Bazar.

"When I come out of my house during the daytime, I feel like being engulfed by fire, and it is equally difficult to stay home at night due to power outage," he added.

Many others spoke of similar sufferings. Contacted, Power Development Board (PDB) sources said load shedding stood at 638 megawatts (MW) yesterday.

Power generation in the country totalled 3,750 MW yesterday against the demand for 4,500 MW.

Unofficial estimates however put the demand for power at around 5,000 MW. Around 347 MW of power could not be generated due to poor gas supply to many power plants.

In the capital, about 1,480 MW of power was supplied yesterday against the demand for around 1,600 MW during peak hours, the sources said. "Although we are quite used to load-shedding, the situation has become unbearable in the past few days," said Nazrul Islam, a resident of Gandaria.

A PDB official seeking anonymity said, "Saving electricity through DST measure is not visible largely since we have a huge gap between power generation and demand. The only way to improve the power situation is to increase generation."

Met office sources said the highest temperature in the country yesterday was recorded in Rajshahi—38.2 degrees Celsius.

The hot spell may continue for one more day. Rain is likely in 2-3 days, they said.

Ex-whip Suja

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Hossain of Special Court-9 rejecting their bail petitions passed the order when they with their lawyers appeared before the court and sought bail.

The court also directed the jail authorities to provide Suja with first class division and to provide his wife proper treatment in jail as per the Jail Code.

Suja was fined Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve one more year in jail. Suja's wife was fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which she will have to undergo two more months' imprisonment.

The court also ordered the government to confiscate Suja's illegal wealth worth Tk 3,72,59,000.

Suja along with his two wives absconded after the state of emergency had been proclaimed on January 11, 2007 and returned to the country after political changeover.

More structures

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ventured into earth filling in a canal in the area.

When his attention was drawn to huge earth filling and heavily built guide walls (foundations) by the encroachers that escaped the demolition drive, BIWTA Senior Deputy Director Md Abu Zafar Hawlader said he would propose a separate programme to deal with it.

"We will raise the issues with higher authorities during the review of the eviction drive and propose further drive with required equipment. It is not possible to remove earth and guide walls by tugboats," he said.

Meanwhile, BIWTA continued with earth removal in the river Turag near Gabtali-Amin Bazar Bridge for the fifth day. The excavation of sand piled up by traders in Turag is going on at two points—south of the bridge and south of Gabtali bank, said BIWTA Senior Deputy Director Golam Kabir, who went to the site in the morning.

The drive in Shitalakhya will remain suspended for two days and resume on Thursday, said Zafar Hawlader. However, the excavation work in Turag continues today.

Our Narayanjanj correspondent adds: The joint eviction team led by Executive Magistrate Sabera Fatema, demolished illegal portions of four semi-concrete and tin-shed structures, including a cotton warehouse and a house made by Kafil Uddin Bhuiyan grabbing 12,000 square feet of the river in Dhakeswari area.

The authorities also destroyed a boundary wall, built by local political leader Safar Ali Bhuiyan to occupy around 18000 square feet area of the river in Godnail under Siddhirganj upazila.

But the BIWTA tugboats failed to dismantle the strong guide walls constructed by Ibrahim Composite to grab 37,000 square feet of the river.

Two tugboats were deployed yesterday mainly to destroy the guide walls.

Revolutionary

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charging the election was a fraud. The 67-year-old Mousavi, who heads a youth-driven movement for reform, claims he was the true winner of the election.

"The country belongs to you... protesting lies and fraud is your right," Mousavi, who claims hardline Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won re-election through fraud, said in a statement on his Website.

His statement was in defiance of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate power in Iran. In a sermon to tens of thousands on Friday, Khamenei said demonstrators must stop their street protests or face the consequences and he firmly backed Ahmadinejad's victory.

Echoing Mousavi, former president Mohammad Khatami said in a statement that "protest in a civil manner and avoiding disturbances in the definite right of the people and all must respect that."

But aside from the bold words, the opposition on Monday appeared to be scrambling for a strategy to continue the momentum of the protests that have riveted world attention without putting its supporters in peril.

At least 10 people were killed in clashes Saturday between demonstrators and police and the feared Basij militia. Police said Monday that 457 people were arrested that day alone, without saying how many have been arrested throughout the week of turmoil.

Official figures say 17 people have died in the week of unrest. But searing images posted online including gruesome video purporting to show the fatal shooting of a teenage girl hint the true casualty toll may be higher in the clashes with police and the feared Basij militia.

Mousavi's Web site on Monday called for supporters to turn on their car lights in the late afternoon as a sign of protest, a somewhat muted response compared with the recent enormous gatherings.

Also Monday, the Guardian Council, which agreed last week to investigate some voting complaints, said irregularities were found in 50 constituencies, but that this has no effect on Ahmadinejad's win.

Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodavei was quoted on the state TV Web site as saying that its probe showed more votes were cast in these constituencies than there were registered voters, but this "has no effect on the result of the elections."

The acknowledgment of the irregularities was unlikely to mollify the opposition, who allege massive and systematic fraud. Khatami said "taking complaints to bodies that are required to protect people's rights, but are themselves subject to criticism, is not a solution" -- effectively accusing the Council of collusion in vote fraud.

Journalists for foreign media have been put under tight restrictions and assessing the extent of the protests and violence is difficult.

The government has intensified a crackdown on independent media expelling a BBC correspondent, suspending the Dubai-based network Al-Arabiya and detaining at least two local journalists for US magazines.

English-language state television said an exile group known as the People's Mujahadeen had a hand in the street violence and broadcast what it said were confessions of British-controlled agents in an indication that the government was ready to crack down even harder.

The Foreign Ministry on Monday lashed out at foreign media and Western governments, with ministry spokesman Hasan Qashqavi accusing them of "a racial mentality that Iranians belong to the Third World."

"Meddling by Western powers and international media is unacceptable," he said at a news conference shown on state TV, taking particular aim at French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"How can a Western president, like the French president, ask for nullification of Iranian election results?" Qashqavi said. "I regret such comments."

Mousavi, in statements posted Sunday, warned supporters of danger ahead, and said he would stand by the protesters "at all times." But, he said, he would "never allow anybody's life to be endangered because of my actions" and called for pursuing fraud claims through an independent board.

The former prime minister, a longtime loyalist of the Islamic government, also called the Basij and military "our brothers" and "protectors of our revolution and regime." He may be trying to constrain his followers' demands before they pose a mortal threat to

Iran's system of limited democracy constrained by Shia clerics, who have ultimate authority.

His chances of success within the system would be far higher if he has backers among those clerics.