

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 Pilkhana headquarters as reserve force, the source said.

The committee proposed keeping the old slogan of BDR "Shimanta Otonto Prohori," 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 talkshows.

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 Muktagacha 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. Folwing 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 fled from his rented house but was caught finally, he added.

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

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

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.

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 Jhalanath 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.

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 PID 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.

Muhib urged the IDB member countries to take care of Bangladeshi 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.

NEWS

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, Vikramjith 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 said.

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

Manipur should raise strong protest against the project, since it would create catastrophe in the whole region.

"Frequent load shedding and power outage are turning out to be part of our daily life," said Sajidur 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."

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.

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 rejected 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 facilities 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.

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.

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

However, that direction has not been implemented till date.

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 Mahmud Ahmadinejad won re-election through fraud, said in a statement on his Web site.

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.

That fuelled speculation that Rafsanjani, who has made no public comment since the election, may be working behind the scenes and favouring Mousavi.

Ahmadinejad appeared to be courting his own clerical support. State television showed him meeting with mullahs at the presidential palace and telling them the election had demonstrated popular love for the regime.

Rafsanjani heads the Expediency Council, a body that arbitrates disputes between parliament and the Guardian Council.

Rafsanjani and his family have been accused of corruption by Ahmadinejad. And the 75-year-old ayatollah was conspicuously absent Friday from an address by the country's supreme leader calling for national unity and siding with the president.

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