

War history

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Bangabandhu and his contribution to the Liberation War in the history books of classes VIII and IX.

Besides, it also suggested incorporating science related essays and stories in the science books of all classes.

The committee submitted its report on secondary level textbooks to education minister yesterday noon. Receiving the report, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said that they would implement the suggestions of the committee from next academic session.

On March 31, the government formed the expert committee comprised of eminent educationists, historians and litterateurs aiming at removing distorted history from the textbooks of primary and secondary levels.

The committee, led by Prof Montaz Uddin Ahmed, submitted its report on primary level on June 3.

Prof Montaz said they have performed their duty in a neutral and responsible way. People have accepted Bangabandhu as the father of the nation and all of us should be careful so that his contribution to the nation is accurately portrayed in literature, social science and books on religion, the professor said.

Litterateur Selina Hossain, also a member of the committee, said they have put the highest emphasis on this matter so that no government can feel the necessity to change the textbook again.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Ziaul Hasan, member secretary of the committee, said that the report of the committee is the reflection of the recent High Court verdict.

He said they have already submitted the report on primary level textbooks with necessary correction, inclusion and rewriting in 11 text-books of primary level. He also said they have brought necessary changes in 15 textbooks of secondary level.

The committee however thinks that this is not enough, as they did not get enough time to carry out such a huge

task.

"We had some time limitation as it would not be possible for the National Textbook and Curriculum Board to print the books with the recommendations if we take much time," he said.

Besides, the curricula of primary and secondary levels were formulated many years ago and they had to keep consistency with the old one, said the member secretary, adding that the curriculum should be reformed immediately.

Prof Ziaul however hoped that they could do this task in large scale if the curriculum is modernised and the government assigns them regarding incorporating real history in the curriculum.

"We need to bring changes in the textbooks to make it world standard but it will take time. So, on an emergency basis we will print the textbooks based on the recommendations to uphold the real history of Liberation War," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

Many new stories and poems of Manik Bandyopadhyay, Syed Anwar Haque, Selina Hossain, Emdadul Haque Milon, Dijen Sharma, Ajit Guha and others will be included in the textbooks of almost all classes, sources said.

They also said the committee recommended including a letter of a freedom fighter in the Bangla book of class VI and a poem based on the context of historic March 7 speech written by Nirmalendu Guin in Bangla books of class nine and 10.

The committee also recommended incorporating some essays on different important leaders like Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, four national leaders and former president Ziaur Rahman in the books of different classes.

Committee members were present yesterday during submission of the report.

Pinak must go

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"The most alarming is his making objectionable comments in presence of the foreign minister."

The opposition alleged that Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has failed to uphold the nation's dignity as he did not protest the Indian high commissioner's 'abrasive' comments on Tipaimukh dam and Bangladesh water experts.

"She [Moni] has in fact committed an unpardonable offence. This proves once again that sovereignty and national interests are not in safe hands."

Referring to Pinak Chakravarty's observations at a seminar Sunday, Farroque said he questioned the expertise of Bangladeshi water experts opposing the construction of Tipaimukh dam. Dipu Moni was present there, but did not feel the need to protest.

Replying to a query on their possibility of joining the ongoing parliament session, the opposition chief whip said they would if they are given a 'respectable' number of front-row seats and adequate security is ensured for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

BNP lawmakers Barkatullah Bulu, Mahbubuddin Khokon and Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne, among others, were present at the briefing. JAMAAT PROTESTS Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed yesterday condemned and protested the remarks of the Indian high commissioner.

In a statement, he said Pinak's remarks on the country's water experts are beyond diplomatic norms. They are tantamount to interference in the internal affairs.

Before making the 'provocative comments', he should have remembered his position as diplomat, Mojaheed added.

"He himself is not a water expert, and nor does he know everything under the sun. How could he make such disrespectful comments about our water, river and environment experts?" reads the statement.

It was shocking to see how the Indian envoy spoke in presence of the foreign minister, the Jamaat leader said.

"The minister should have protested the comments right away. By not doing so she has failed to reflect the sentiment of the people."

The former social welfare minister demanded that the government formally protest the comments of the high commissioner.

HC verdict

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Hamidullah Khan, a freedom fighter and BNP leader, filed the petition.

Hamidullah was an added party to the writ petition upon which the HC delivered the judgement on Sunday.

In his leave-to-appeal petition, Hamidullah said Ziaur Rahman had first declared independence of the country from Kalurghat radio centre in Chittagong on March 27, 1971.

The HC judgement said Bangabandhu had issued the proclamation of independence on March 26 in 1971, and Kalurghat Betar Kendra relayed it the following day.

Law minister

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while talking to newsmen at his secretariat office in the afternoon after holding a meeting with a delegation of BGMEA led by its president Abdus Salam Murshedi.

The law minister said the truth and reality regarding the Liberation War and independence of the country have been established through the HC judgement.

Replying to a question, Shafique said, "Action will be taken against those who were liable to distort the history of independence after getting the HC judgement."

He said the HC in the judgement observed that the government may take action against the persons who distort the history.

Shafique also said the government will amend the 'Artha Rin Adalat Act' to protect the sick industries.

Additional judges

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the additional attorney general while Naima Haider and M Nuruzzaman Nani were deputy attorneys general.

The president made the appointments as per Article 98 of the Constitution of the country.

The appointments will come into effect once they are sworn in, according to a gazette notification.

Sources said the appointment of the new judges bring the total number of HC judges to 82. There are seven judges for the Appellate Division and 73 for the HC Division at present.

Earlier this year, the government appointed 11 judges to the HC Division and two judges to the Appellate Division.

Primary schools

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monthly salary equivalent to basic salary of government primary school teachers.

He said the government is working for implementing separate pay commission for teachers from primary to university level to eradicate salary discrimination.

The minister mentioned that the government has increased the salary of community primary school teachers to Tk 1,400 from Tk 700.

The British Council in partnership with education and foreign ministries, DFID Bangladesh, UGC and IER of Dhaka University are organising the three-day long conference.

Replying to another query, the minister said the government has taken preparation to modernise the curriculum of qawmi madrasa education.

He said the government want to include modern education in the curriculum of madrasa education beside the religious studies so that madrasa students can apply it in their real life.

Speaking at conference as the chief guest, the minister stressed the need for addressing the issues and challenges related to language policy, gender and cultural identities.

JCD to rely on old

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considering reviewing at least three draft committees submitted by former student leaders.

Another source, however, said all the proposed committees had been sent to Tarique Rahman, now in London, to finalise those, as it was Tarique who looked after JCD before the 2001 national election.

But neither the party leaders nor former student leaders agreed to comment on the issue.

When asked BNP Standing Committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman only said that the party is now working on the committees of its associated bodies and definitely JCD will get the highest priority.

The BNP chairperson appointed Azizul Barea Helal and Shafiqul Bari Babu as JCD president and general secretary on January 1, 2005 for a two-year tenure.

Over the last two years no fresh committee was announced. JCD leaders said the fresh committee was delayed for the state of emergency that was in force for two years.

Both Helal and JCD Senior Vice President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku contested the December 29 election as BNP candidates but none of them could win.

Law on cards

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government decided to enact the law as people think that there should be a law to ensure their security," she said.

Hasina survived several assassination attempts. On August 21, 2004, she, then leader of the opposition in parliament, survived a grenade attack while addressing a rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital. The attack left 24 people including AL leader Ivy Rahman dead.

In 2000, 80kg of RDX was found in Gopalganj, where Hasina's helicopter was supposed to land. She was the prime minister at that time.

Cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine, also known as RDX, cyclonite, hexogen, and T4, is an explosive nitroamine widely used in military and industrial applications, wikipedia.org says.

Hasina came under intense fire in Chittagong in 1988 that left several people killed.

Sources said as per the fresh law, Hasina and Rehana might get round-the-clock security to be provided by the members of Special Security Force (SSF) and other security personnel. They may even get special homes.

The previous AL government on June 21, 2001 passed a law, providing Hasina and Rehana full-time SSF security. Hasina was then given the Ganabhaban, official residence of the prime minister while Rehana was given a residence in Dhanmondi, stirring huge controversy. The BNP-Jamaat alliance government scrapped the law in December, 2001.

Earlier, the home minister held a meeting with officials of the home ministry, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and intelligence agencies on the Myanmar's attempts to erect

"Language is and will always be part of who we are, what we are and who should be aspire to be," Nahid said adding, "We need to be focussed on our development needs for the future and incorporate technology in teaching methods."

Pointing out the role of language movement in achieving the independence of Bangladesh, he said the conference will provide a platform for exploring all the issues as well as challenges related to language and development of the country.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Stephen Evans said conference would open a window for a creative discussion between academics and experts.

About 220 persons from home and abroad are taking part in the conference aimed to provide an opportunity to address issues on language policy, gender, cultural identity and social dimensions of capacity building in the context of the developing world.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, Director of British Council Bangladesh Charles Nuttall OBE and Manager (Education and Society) of the council Raiqah Walie-Khan also spoke.

Meanwhile, a fresh row over aged student leaders erupted in JCD as its parent organisation BNP is going to announce the convening committee, which would declare a full-fledged committee through council.

Some younger leaders and a section of senior leaders, who still have a chance to get a berth in the new committee, are demanding a fresh central committee instead of a convening one, excluding married, professional and over 40 year-old leaders, sources added.

Most of the central leaders of the Helal-Babu committee are now above 40 and many of them are involved in different professions, the sources added.

While talking to The Daily Star, a number of young leaders of JCD alleged that senior leaders are not allowing younger ones to come to leadership creating gridlock in the organisation.

"We have completed our master's degree but did not get membership even in the hall units," said a JCD activist of Hazi Muhammad Mohsin Hall unit, adding that the committee should include dedicated activists who are still students.

Shut tanneries

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The case will be brought to this court for further order on July 31 next year, it said, adding that anybody related to the case can approach the court for any order to protect environment by this time.

The HC bench expressed disappointment over industrial pollution, saying the government has not taken any measure to control pollution at industrial units and factories since the HC delivered a judgment on the matter in 2001.

Upon a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela), the HC division bench of Justice Md Joyul Abedin and Justice ABM Khairul Haque delivered the judgment on July 15, 2001 with some directives on controlling industrial pollution.

The court had also ordered the industries secretary to ensure that no new industrial unit or factory be set up in the country without arranging adequate measures to control pollution required by the Environment Conservation Act 1995 and Environment Conservation Rules 1997.

Bela lawyers Syeda Rezwana Hasan and Iqbal Kabir told the court that there are still 478 industries and 183 tanneries that are causing serious pollution in the capital and that measures should be taken against those industries as per laws.

On August 7, 1986, the DoE published a gazette notification listing 903 industries and factories identified as polluters in a survey. The number increased to 1,176 in another DoE survey in 1995.

The 1986 list included 176 tanneries, five paper and pulp factories, 16 sugar mills, three distilleries, 57 iron and steel mills, 298 textile industries, five fertiliser factories, 25 insecticide and pesticide industries, 23 chemical industries, 92 jute mills, three cement factories, 34 rubber and plastic industries and 166 pharmaceuticals.

The HC yesterday came up with the directions and observations after hearing a suo moto rule issued by it on April 28 in the wake of a series of reports on river and industrial pollution published in The Daily Star.

Meanwhile on April 28, advocate Manzill Murshid, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, filed a contempt of court petition with the HC against the industries secretary and the DG of DoE for not taking effective steps to prevent pollution in industrial areas.

The court may pass order on the contempt petition today. Deputy Attorney General Mostafa Zaman Islam argued for the government during the hearing.

Gen Matin

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four-member sub-committee to investigate alleged corruption and irregularities of Matin in awarding the deal for container handling at Chittagong port to Ishak Brothers.

Chief of the committee Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury said yesterday they have also detected corruption in the purchase of two tugboats costing about 45 crores during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government.

The committee has asked the shipping ministry to probe the matter, he said.

Talking to reporters after a meeting of the House body at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Noor-e-Alam said, "Former shipping adviser MA Matin raised the age limit of shipping pilots violating laws. He did not even discuss the matter with the ministries concerned including finance and establishment ministries."

On the tugboats, he said, "The two tugboats were purchased without following government procurement procedures."

The committee meeting asked the authorities to resume operation of three land ports.

Highrise

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Begunbari khal' within 2010 as scheduled. The project started in July 2007.

This project will not only increase the splendour of the area but also reduce traffic congestion and water-logging in the city, he said.

A total of 299.24 acres of land was acquired for the project of which about 219 acres is khas land while rest of the land belonged to different government organisations.

Four bridges will be constructed at three points—one near the Tongi diversion road, two at the centre point and another near Rampura—to ease traffic congestion in the city, said a Rajuk official.

A ring road will be constructed around the Hatirheel-Begunbari site and all lanes and by-lanes in the area will be connected with the planned peripheral road, said the official.

Poll results

FROM PAGE 16
The streets of Tehran remained tense on Tuesday the day after hundreds of riot police armed with steel clubs and firing tear gas, many riding on motorbikes, broke up an opposition rally of about 1,000 people.

Demonstrators had gathered in a Tehran square in defiance of the Revolutionary Guards, the elite force set up in the wake of the 1979 revolution, which warned of a "decisive and revolutionary" riposte to protests.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon voiced growing concern about the violence and urged "an immediate stop to the arrests, threats and use of force."

He appealed to the government and the opposition "to resolve peacefully their differences through dialogue and legal means."

The White House bemoaned the lack of "justice" in Iran, and said President Barack Obama had been moved by scenes of demonstrators braving repression, especially women.

Some European governments have begun urging nationals to avoid travel to Iran, caught up in the worst crisis since the revolution 30 years ago that is threatening the very foundations of the Islamic republic.

Student unions cancelled a planned demonstration outside the British embassy in Tehran on Tuesday called to protest at London's "interference" in the election and the subsequent unrest after the interior ministry said it would not issue a permit.

Iran has singled out Britain, as well as the United States, as one of the leading instigators of what it says is foreign "meddling" in the post election chaos.

On Monday, the Fars news agency had quoted student leader warning of another "November 4", the date when radical students seized the US embassy after the 1979 revolution, leading to a rupture of ties between Washington and Tehran that remains to this day. Iranian lawmakers have called for Tehran to review its often strained relations with London, while the BBC correspondent has been expelled.

Britain said it was pulling out relatives of embassy staff in Tehran and, along with Italy and Germany, warned its nationals against travelling to Iran, where supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last week said Britain was the "most evil" of its enemies. Mir Hossein Mousavi, the post-revolution premier who is now leading the opposition, has urged his supporters to continue demonstrating but to adopt "self-restraint" to avoid more bloodshed.

And in a sign the opposition remained defiant, defeated reformist candidate Mehdi Karubi called for a ceremony on Thursday to mourn slain protesters.

Mousavi, Karubi and the third defeated challenger Mohsen Rezaei have listed a total of 646 irregularities and are insisting on a new election, not a recount.

The Guardians Council,

which has acknowledged that there were more voters than eligible voters in 50 of the country's 366 constituencies, is due to make its final ruling on Wednesday.

But parliament said it was preparing for the new government to take office.

"Parliament's board of directors set July 26 to August 19 as the period for the president's swearing-in and the introduction of the new cabinet," the official IRNA news agency said.

Foreign media have been restricted in their reporting of the crisis, and some Western outlet have been accused of fomenting the violence and acting as the "mouthpiece of rioters."

The authorities have imposed a ban on foreign media coverage of all unauthorised demonstrations, effectively keeping the journalists off the streets, but images of police brutality have spread worldwide via amateur video over the Internet.

Hundreds of protesters and prominent reformists and journalists have been rounded up by the authorities -- even figures close to top regime officials including former president and powerful cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The 27-member European Union on Monday rejected Iran's claims of interference as "baseless and unacceptable" but voiced deep concern about the continuing brutality and called for the crisis to be settled through "democratic dialogue and peaceful means."

Criminals kill

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autorickshaw from city's Sholoshahar area at around 8.00pm on Monday and headed for Tela Gazir Dighi in Fatikchhari upazila.

The driver of the vehicle Emran, became suspicious when he overheard the passengers' conversation. After they reached Shahjahan Shah Dargah Gate area under Hathazari upazila Emran picked up Rafiq, a fellow driver, to accompany him.

The owner of the autorickshaw Mohammad Nurul Islam said he last talked to Emran over a cell phone at around 10.00pm. Islam had called Emran to enquire when he was returning with the vehicle. Emran, however, did not mention that he was headed for Fatikchhari, Islam said.

Emran or Rafiq did not return that night.

Locals discovered the bodies of the two men from a jungle in Dalu Rubber Bagan area under Fatikchhari yesterday morning and informed the police.

Fatikchhari Police Station officer in-charge (OC) Mohammad Enamul Haq Chowdhury said both drivers appeared stabbed to death.

Tier bodies were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy.

The owner of the autorickshaw Nurul Islam has filed a murder case with the police station.

'Slaves' in Malaysia

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that his employer was supposed to arrange, otherwise he maintained every legal procedure to go to Malaysia.

He returned home on April 21 after 20 months of stay in Malaysia. The strokes of rotan canes rendered him unfit for any hard work. Moreover, his poor financial condition made the matter worse as he cannot see a doctor.

A miserable living because of non-payment and low wages for months made him a weakling.

Caning with thicker rotan causes infertility along with numbness from the waist downwards that lasts until some time after, according to Wikipedia, a free encyclopedia.

"As I got up from bed the next morning my head was spinning; I felt severe pain in my spinal cord and my penis hurts while urinating," Matin who hails from Chowddagram of Comilla told The Daily Star.

He said his wife had walked out on him, as he could not anymore eke out a living.

"My life is in ruin for no reasons. My parents are also not in a position to help me," said Matin, a father of three children.

Matin went to Malaysia through the recruiting agency Shimon Overseas -- to work in an electric company. As he landed in Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian outsourcing company -- Sepang Nusa SDN BHD -- 'sold' him along with 32 other Bangladeshis to a company in Johor Bharu.

They were later 'sold' twice and their monthly wage was a meager Malaysian Ringgit 200 to 300, which was too small for a moderate living. Moreover, the jobs were also not regular.

Universities

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other intelligence agencies to bust the militant networks in a coordinated way, says a source.

The source adds as a highly educated person like Rajib is involved with JMB, it is not unlikely that other highly educated people have joined JMB and Rab will hunt for them.

The Rab officials say prior to Rajib's arrest they had idea that JMB has networks in some polytechnic institutes and a number of colleges.

Salahuddin, JMB's detained Majlish-e-Shura (highest policymaking body) member who is now confined to Mymensingh jail, was the student of Gazipur-based Dhaka University of Technology. Moreover, recently arrested JMB's explosives expert 'Boma Mizan' was a student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute.

JMB's executed military commander Ataur Rahman Suny, also brother of executed JMB supreme Abdur Rahman, had a strong base in Dhaka Polytechnic Institute from where he was picked up.

Although Rab arrested Jahangirnagar University student KM Wahidul Islam Wasim in December 2005 suspecting him a JMB suicide squad member, sources say the elite force did not focus on the universities at that time.

"Now we need to find out who else in Buet and DU are involved with JMB or any other militant outfits," says an investigator. He adds similar focus should also be given to other educational institutions.

"We should maintain strong monitoring in the universities to detect militant infiltration and if they have secret programmes to recruit students and teachers through motivation."

Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandaker yesterday said, "We'll train our focus on all areas where our suspicion leads during investigation and anti-militancy drives."

Earlier on Sunday, Rab busted a Pallabi house in the capital and arrested the JMB IT chief, who used to download information on explosives from internet and supply those to detained explosives expert 'Boma Mizan'.

The investigators had ideas that the controversial Ahle Hadith Andolan Bangladesh (Ahab) and suspected militant organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir have some networks in a few public and private universities besides some madrasas and mosques.

Ahab leader Asadullah Al

Galib who is a teacher of Rajshahi University was arrested for suspected militant activities on the campus.

Another controversial and suspected militant organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir has some organisational bases at Dhaka University as its leader is a teacher of the management department.

Moreover, their members also include students of a number of private universities in the capital.

"We know Hizb ut-Tahrir has its network in some private universities, but we never thought the banned militant organisation like JMB might have such networks in universities," says an investigator wishing anonymity.

RAJIB, ABU BAKAR REMANDED

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Rajib and ehsar (full-time) member Abu Bakar Siddique on a five-day remand each in one of the two cases filed against them with Pallabi Police Station on Monday.

Rab inspector Mohammad Nurullah filed one case under the Anti-terrorism Act, 2008 and the other under the Explosives Act.

MIZAN CHARGESHEETED
Mirpur police yesterday pressed charges against 'Boma Mizan' and his wife Halima Begum in two cases filed against them for possessing firearms and explosives in their residence, writes our court correspondent.

'Boma Mizan' has meanwhile confessed to his involvement in attacking Rab members while they attempted to arrest him at his Mirpur residence in May this year.

Sub-inspector Moshir Rahman of Mirpur police, also investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted the charge sheets to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka showing 14 people as prosecution witnesses.

In the charge sheets, the IO mentioned that the charges brought against them were primarily proved.

Rab arrested Mizan in Taltola and his wife at their residence in the area. The elite force also recovered 3