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Veterans vetted out of AL leadership

Amu, Razzaq, Tofail, Suranjit in advisory council along with Jalil; 6 new faces in presidium; boon for young leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League yesterday announced its new central committee, leaving out veterans like Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta and bringing in a good number of fresh faces.

The committee confirms speculations that those who had attempted intra-party reforms after 1/11 were going to be dropped.

The 15-member presidium, highest policy-making body of the party, has six new inductees—Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Raziuddin Ahmed Razu, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Satish Chandra Roy, Sahara Khatun and Obaidul Quader.

Amu, Razzaq, Tofail and Suranjit—all known as pro-reform stalwarts—have been included in the 20-member advisory council. It means they will have no say in the party's decision- and policy-

FULL COMMITTEE

President
Sheikh Hasina

Presidium Members

Syeda Zohara Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Matia Chowdhury MP, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Kazi Zafarullah, Razi Uddin Ahmed Razu, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Satish Chandra Roy, Sahara Khatun and Obaidul Quader

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Abdul Jalil, who resigned as general secretary before the AL national council, has been included in the advisory council.

The previous seven organising secretaries, some of whom were widely criticised for their role during the state of emergency, have been replaced by former leaders of various associated bodies of the ruling party. This time, none could even make it to the committee.

Their successors to the posts are Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Ahmmad Hossain, Mejbahuddin Siraj, BM Mozammel Haque, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Abu Sayeed Swapan and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury.

Of the new entrants to the presidium, Razu, Latif and Sahara are members of the cabinet. They share between them post and telecommunications, jute and textile and home affairs ministries.

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Save water bodies

PM asks authorities
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the authorities concerned to ensure preservation of all types of water bodies in case of construction of buildings and setting up of industries for protecting natural breeding places of fish.

She blamed the unplanned construction of roads and embankments for the loss of fishes' breeding points and the illegal collection of fry using harmful methods for the decrease in natural production of fish.

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WAR CRIME TRIAL

Dhaka seeks evidence from int'l community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday sought cooperation from the international community to provide evidence of genocide during the Liberation War in 1971 to help maintain international standard in trying war criminals.

Stating that the government is proceeding to try the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said, "What is needed now is the support from the international community."

Addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural of Second International Conference on Genocide, Truth and Justice" at Cirdap audito-

rium in the city, the minister said the government will try those who committed the crimes and will, in no way, harass anyone for their political views.

Representatives from the International Criminal Court, international legal prosecutors involved in war crimes tribunals, International Council of Jurists, and academics from Hong Kong, Korea, Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Canada, Cambodia, the UK and local experts are attending the event organised by Liberation War Museum.

Shafique said the government came to power with peoples' mandate to try the war

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India won't divert water from Tipai

Bangladesh team assured in 2nd day's talks; site visit today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday assured Bangladesh that there would be no diversion of water flow due to the Tipaimukh hydropower project on the Barak river in Manipur.

The assurance came during a meeting between Indian Power Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde and the 10-member Bangladesh parliament delegation at the Shram-Shakti Bhawan that houses the Indian power ministry.

India also said no construction work has started at the dam site in Manipur.

During the nearly 45-minute meeting, Indian officials shared with the Bangladeshi lawmakers data regarding water flow in the Barak during all seasons, including the mean water flow and lean season flow, Indian officials said.

They ruled out any diversion of water because of the project and in fact insisted that it will be beneficial for Bangladesh because it will help control the flood downstream and maintain a higher level of water in the Barak during the lean season feeding the Surma and Kushiya rivers.

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Mixed reaction in CHT over big army pullout

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

The government's decision to withdraw a brigade of the army and their 35 temporary camps from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) by September this year, drew quite opposing reactions from the local indigenous communities and Bangalee settlers.

The indigenous people are welcoming the government move that came in line with the CHT peace treaty of 1997 while many Bangalee settlers of Khagrachhari are critical of the decision expressing concerns about their security in the aftermath of the pullout.

Welcoming the partial troop withdrawal which is the largest since the signing of the peace treaty, Parbatia Cattagram Jana Sanghaty Samity (PCSS) leader Sudha Sindhu Khisha said, "It was expected. The government's move is in line with the peace accord."

"We want security and urge the government to also shut down operation uttaron which has been harassing the indigenous population here both mentally and physically," he added.

The army's presence in the hill tracts since 1977 was part of its

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Ask ACC to sue Matin

JS body tells shipping ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday instructed the shipping ministry to ask the Anti-Corruption Commission to sue former shipping adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin and eight others for corruption in awarding a container handling deal at the Chittagong Port.

The parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry endorsed the enquiry report and the recommendations of a parliamentary sub-committee probing the corruption allegation.

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Govt revises power generation target

7,000MW within 4yrs, 3,000MW more to come

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has raised its power generation target to 10,000 megawatts (mw) to meet a growing demand stoked by the country's economic growth.

"We've changed our electoral pledge of producing 7,500 megawatts of electricity, increasing the target to 10,000 megawatts, as the demand is increasing at the rate of more than 10 percent a year," said Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, power, energy, and mineral resources adviser to the prime minister.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a luncheon meeting of the France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka

Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

The prime minister already instructed the ministry concerned to collect the fund from different sources for installing new power plants.

Towfiq said Tk 10,000 crore will be collected from different sources, and Tk 2,000 crore through public-private partnership.

Five thousand megawatts will be generated by 2011, which will be increased to 7,000 MW by 2013, the adviser said.

The government will also finalise the country's coal policy within this year, he said.

"But before finalising the coal policy, the government will take into consideration the

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