

Veterans

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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.

Humayun, a Supreme Court lawyer, was a counsel for Sheikh Hasina while she was detained during the caretaker government rule. He lost the December 29 election at Bhola-1.

Satish was elected to parliament four times between 1979 and 1996. He was a state minister in the AL government in 1996-2001. He is an incumbent vice-president of Dinajpur district AL.

Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni have been made joint general secretaries. Obaidul Quader and Syed Ashraf Islam held the posts in the last committee.

Hanif is a special assistant to the prime minister and vice-president of Kushtia district AL. He stood for election from Kushtia-2 in 1996 and 2001, but lost. He is a relative of Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Hasina's cousin.

Of the organising secretaries, Nanak is Juba League chairman and state minister for LGRD and cooperatives. Accused in several cases, he was on the run during the state of emergency.

Ahammad Hossain is a former leader of Chhatra League.

Siraj is general secretary of Sylhet city AL and has recently been appointed public prosecutor of the district.

BM Mozammel Haque, lawmaker from Shariatpur-1, was deputy office secretary in the previous committee.

Bahauddin Nasim, Awami Swachhchasebak League president, was an APS to the prime minister in 1996-2001. He was held up abroad during the last caretaker government rule.

Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan is a former student leader, who lost the ninth parliamentary election from a Jupyter constituency.

Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, now member of parliament from Dinajpur-2, was a special assistant to the AL chief from 2005 to 2007.

Ahammad, Siraj, Nasim, Swapan and Khalid were assistant secretaries in now-dissolved AL sub-committees. Several prominent figures, who were departmental secretaries in the previous committee, too have been shown the door.

At the national council on July 24, Sheikh Hasina was re-elected AL president and had Ashraf as general secretary. The councilors authorised the two to pick the rest including members of the presidium.

After re-election, Hasina said she holds no grudge against those who played dubious role during the state of emergency, and that she had forgiven them.

BCL violence

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found responsible for the July 26 incident that left 10 BCL activists injured and their room ransacked at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall.

They also vandalised office room, provost room, guest room, and some other rooms of the hall.

Md Redwan, a 2nd year student of information science and library management department, was suspended for beating up a student on the campus on April 19.

BCL activist Sheikh Sohail Uddin, a student of history, received a show-cause notice asking him to answer why legal action would not be taken against him in connection with the incident on July 26. If he fails to answer satisfactorily within a week, legal action would be taken against him.

Power shortage

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(day) and 630 to 640MW (night).

The PDB requires around 100MCF gas to run its five gas-fired units except the Kaptai plant but it now gets 80MCF. Meanwhile, CUFL officials expressed concern over the suspension of production at the factory with a capacity of producing 1,400 tonnes of fertiliser a day.

"Initially we were told that the factory would remain closed for two months. But now we hear that it will be out of operation till September. The factory incurs a loss of Tk 14 crore daily," said a top CUFL official seeking anonymity.

new committee however does not reflect her conciliatory statement at the council, observed some leaders.

Insiders say the party chief had to change her tune as the grassroots-level leaders vehemently opposed retaining the ones who sought to reform the organisation in her absence.

In talks with her after the council, district-level leaders urged her not to accommodate the "pro-reform" leaders in the central committee.

Hasina, who is scheduled to meet President Zillur Rahman at the Bangabhaban this morning, now has to pick 26 general members within the next 15 days.

According to the AL constitution, 47 of the 73 members of the executive committee shall be elected by the councilors, and the party chief will choose 26 others in consultation with the presidium within 21 days since the national council.

Announcing the committee, Syed Ashraf, also an ex officio member of the presidium, said names of the 26 members would be announced after a presidium meeting soon.

He said the councilors had unanimously empowered Hasina to form the central committee.

Still, she talked to councilors and leaders and workers over the last five days to know their opinions, said Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister.

"Around 300 leaders and councilors met her every day and this committee was formed on the basis of their opinions."

The AL-led coalition swept to power through a landslide victory in the December 29 parliamentary election.

Meanwhile, some of the left-out party leaders yesterday expressed mixed reactions. While some welcomed the new committee, others voiced frustration.

Amir Hossain Amu and Jalil welcomed the new leadership and wished them the best of luck.

Tofail and Suranjit however declined to comment.

Speaking in return for anonymity, an ex-organising secretary said, "I feel let down. I didn't expect it."

Nigerian troops

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At least 600 people have been killed in the five days of clashes in Borno and three other northern states, according to figures from police and witnesses.

Maiduguri has seen the worst of the unrest in northern Nigeria which started on Sunday in nearby Bauchi state when militants attacked a police station.

Police sources said at least 3,000 residents were displaced although many later returned to their homes.

Food was also running out, with shops and businesses shut since Monday.

The Taliban emerged in 2002 in Maiduguri before setting up a camp on the border with Niger, from where they launched a series of attacks on the police.

Militants seeking to impose Islamic Sharia law throughout this multi-religious country attacked police stations, churches, prisons and government buildings in a wave of violence that began Sunday in Borno state and quickly spread to three other states in mainly Muslim northern Nigeria.

It is not known how many scores of people have been killed, wounded and arrested. Relief official Apollus Jediel said about 1,000 people had abandoned their homes Wednesday due to the violence, joining 3,000 displaced earlier this week in the four states. The epicentre of the violence has been the Boko Haram's headquarters in Maiduguri, capital of Borno state, which was bombed Wednesday. Maina said his troops would fire mortar shells later Thursday to destroy what is left of the sprawling compound, which stretches over 2.5 miles (4 kilometres).

Borno Gov. Ali Modu Sheriff told journalists he had a report that Yusuf had been seen Wednesday night in a village about 28 miles (45 kilometres) northeast of Maiduguri, and that he had asked for troops to be deployed there.

In other violence, Nigeria's Vanguard newspaper reported that militants attacked security forces in Yobe state on Wednesday, and quoted police as saying that 43 sect members were killed in a shootout near the state's second city, Potiskum.

Police in Bauchi state have reported 42 people killed, including two soldiers and a police officer, 67 hospitalised with serious injuries and 157 men arrested.

FULL COMMITTEE

FROM PAGE 1
General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam Joint General Secretaries Mahbub-ul-Alam Hanif Dr Dipu Moni

Organising Secretaries Jahangir Kabir Nanak Ahmad Hossain Mejbah Uddin Siraj BM Mozammel Haque AFM Bahuddin Nasim Abu Syed Al Mahmud Swapan

Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury Finance and Planning Secretary AHM Mostafa Kamal (Lotus Kamal)

International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain Law Secretary Abdul Matin Khasru Agriculture and Cooperative Secretary Dr Abdur Razzaque

Information and Research Secretary Not announced Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Faridunnahar Laily

Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan Religious Affairs Secretary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah

Publicity and Publication Secretary Nur-ul-Alam Lenin Forest and Environment Secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud

Science and Technology Secretary Yafes Osman Women Affairs Secretary Fazilatunnessa Indira

Liberation War Affairs Secretary ABM Tajul Islam Youth and Sports Secretary Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul

Education and Human Resource Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid Industries and Commerce Secretary Muhammad Faruk Khan

Labor and Manpower Secretary Habibur Rahman Siraj Cultural Affairs Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor

Health and Population Secretary Dr Badiuzzaman Bhuiyan Deputy Office Secretary Mrinal Kanti Das

Deputy Publicity Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil Treasurer HN Ashiqur Rahman

20-member Advisory Council Dr SA Malek Abul Maal Abdul Muhith HT Imam

Amir Hossain Amu Abdur Razzaq Tofail Ahmed Suranjit Sengupta

Abdul Jalil Maj Gen (ret) KM Safiullah Dewan Farid Gazi Rahmat Ali

Prof Abdul Khaleque Prof AK Azad Chowdhury MA Mannan Prof Abdul Mannan

Kazi Nuram Uddin SM Akramun Nabi Syed Rezaur Rahman Prof Alauddin Ahmed Dr Moshirur Rahman

Mixed reaction

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'operation dabanol' till the signing of the peace treaty. After the peace treaty the operation changed its name to 'utaron'.

District leader of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) Rina Dewan however said they will welcome the government decision when all camps of the army and Bangladesh Rifles will be withdrawn from CHT making way for the indigenous people to enjoy their liberty with 'real independence'.

Mongshapru Marma, a leader of the Khagrachhari unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League which was the student front of ruling Awami League till the latter's recent national council, said it is 'remarkable but expected'. The people of the ethnic communities will now be able to start enjoying their life with their own cultures and traditions, he added.

But former lawmaker also an adviser to the Khagrachhari unit of Awami League, Mohammad Alim Ullah, said the army is the most important thing for security in the hills, the government should resolve the manifold crises of the region, including law and order, before withdrawing the army.

"We urge the government to investigate the real situation in the hill tracts, before withdrawing the army," he said.

District BNP Joint Convener Mostafizur Rahman Millat also echoed Alim saying that the troop withdrawal will threaten the hill districts' security. Without the army CHT will become volatile again, he added, demanding more deployment of the army instead.

Borhan Uddin, a leader of Bangladeshi settlers in Dighinala said CHT is still tense. Law and order has been worsening by the day, the government should withdraw the army from there only after ensuring that law and order will not deteriorate in the aftermath, he added.

War crime trial

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criminals and accordingly took resolution in the first parliament session and amended the International Crime Tribunal Act 1973 following some objections from the international community. The government even allocated fund for the purpose.

The law provides full protection for the witnesses and it will also have scope for the accused to appeal, he said.

"We want the trial process to be totally transparent and fair so that none can question it," the minister told the audience. The place of trial will also be fully secured, he noted.

"I assure you categorically that we won't try anyone for political reasons," Shafique said, adding: "We will try only those who helped the Pakistani occupation forces to pick up people for murder, rape and torture."

The minister said, "There has been some protests from Pakistan about the trial but it is not a matter of worry as we will bring to justice only the criminals living in the territory of Bangladesh."

The government will soon form the investigation and prosecution agency and the tribunal to accomplish the huge task.

The minister said the government immediately after the independence of the country initiated the trial but after the assassination of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the governments in 1979, 1982 and 1991 did not take any steps to prosecute the perpetrators.

Later, in the plenary session international human rights lawyer David Matas said the trial needed to be conducted without undue delay.

"This is a fundamental right of the accused. It is unfair on both the accused and victims when a trial starts but it remains unfinished," he said.

International human rights lawyers and academics said it is also the responsibility of the international community to help Bangladesh to try the perpetrators of genocide.

The conference, which is a platform of sharing experiences of war crimes trials in different countries, will enrich Bangladesh's experience and help try the criminals in a more acceptable manner, said Hong Kong University Professor Dr Suzannah Linton.

European Union Parliament Member Helmut Scholz said he would raise the issue of war criminal trial of Bangladesh in the general assembly of the next EU parliament.

Chittagong University Prof ABM Abu Noman and Liberation War Museum Trustees Moddul Haque and Akku Chowdhury also spoke.

Judicial powers

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keeping peace and harmony in the country," he said during his meeting with the DCs at the conference.

Shafique said the DCs have been enjoying the powers provided by 80 laws of the land and they are also enjoying some judicial powers under the mobile court law.

During the meeting with adviser to prime minister on establishment and administration affairs HT Imam, the DCs again brought up the issue of disputes between lawmakers and upazila chairmen.

Appointment of assistant commissioners (ACs) of land came up for discussion in the meeting.

HT Imam said, "Initiatives have been taken to appoint ACs of land."

Showing up of upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) and ACs in person before courts, when asked to do so by the court, was also discussed. The DCs said they feel embarrassed if courts ask them to appear before it in person.

State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Haque Tuku said load-shedding could be curbed drastically if the government initiative to close shops at 8:00pm is expanded to upazila levels. He urged the DCs to look into the matter.

In response, the DCs said they had already taken this initiative.

Communications minister Syed Abul Hossain while talking to the DCs asked them to have zero-tolerance stance against

corruption and mismanagement in implementation of development projects of his ministry.

Describing various projects in the communications sector, he said his ministry gave the Padma Bridge the highest priority. Construction of the bridge would be completed within the tenure of the present government, he said.

He said a proposal for a second Padma bridge is now at the planning ministry.

The DCs were told about the projects of elevated expressways, metro-rail, upgrading Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Mymensingh highways into dual carriageways with four lanes, tunnel under the Karnaphuli and rail lines to Cox's Bazar from Chittagong.

"Plan for a separate rail bridge next to the Jamuna bridge is another big development project," said Abul Hossain, seeking cooperation of the DCs to execute the plans and projects of communications sector.

State minister for CHT affairs Dipankar Talukder after his meeting with the DCs said withdrawal of the rest of the troops from CHT would depend on law and order there.

The government Wednesday announced pullout of a complete brigade from CHT by September.

The three-day DCs conference ended with a dinner party last night.

Public hospitals

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"It's really difficult to provide satisfactory health services to the patients without filling up the vacant posts," said Prof Khondaker Md Shefayetullah, director of medical education and health manpower development, DGHS.

Besides, the health sector is also facing shortage of medical technologists, medical assistants and nurses, he added.

As many as 1,244 out of 6,042 posts of medical technologists are vacant for 10 years. Of these posts, 627 are pharmacists, 365 lab technologists, 42 dental technologists, 49 radiographers, 153 physiotherapists and eight radiotherapists, sources say.

The posts of medical assistants and domiciliary are also vacant for long. A total of 1,780 medical technologists, 467 health inspectors, 583 assistant health inspectors and 6,766 health assistant posts are yet to be filled up.

Acknowledging the personnel shortage, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque told The Daily Star: "The vacant posts would be filled up immediately to ensure proper services to the people. We are trying to make new recruitment and promotion as per rules."

The minister expressed the hope that all the process will be completed within three to four months.

Health ministry sources say the government could go for fresh recruitment of 21,865 officials and employees and

promote some existing officials to fill up the vacant posts.

Rights activists say the government did not appoint sufficient number of personnel in the health sector although it increased the number of medical colleges and technology institutes in both public and private sector.

There are 18 public medical colleges including an armed forces medical college, 41 private medical colleges, three public and 29 private health technology institutes, three public and 11 private dental colleges under the health ministry.

Rashid-e-Mahbub, president of Health Rights Movement, told The Daily Star, "The government would not be able to provide health services for all without enough manpower."

2 killed

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said some outlaws, lying in ambush, hurled bombs at Razzak and Sattar at about 2:30pm when they were going to Puspopara Bazar from their residence.

Razzak died on the spot while Sattar succumbed to his wounds on the way to hospital.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police suspect that 'Janajuddha' faction cadres might have launched the bomb attack.

Govt revises

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livelihoods of the people who will be affected by the environmental impact of coal extraction," he noted.

He said the government will explore all options for generating additional electricity including use of wind, solar, and nuclear energies, and also furnace oil and biogas.

It will also finalise the bidding process for gas exploration in offshore areas soon for supplying gas to power plants.

He said the government already instructed schools and community clinics, in areas where electricity is not available, to use solar energy.

"We will not be dependent only on multinational companies for installation of power plants, we ourselves will also generate electricity," he added.

He said a 500 mw coal fired power plant will be installed soon as a short term measure, and the government will even go for furnace oil fired ones.

"I don't have the exact estimate right now, but we are saying over 100 mw of electricity due to the implementation of daylight saving time," the adviser said.

He also said installation of the proposed Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant will be completed within the tenure of the incumbent government.

The government will also distribute around 20 million energy saving light bulbs, free of cost, through different government and non-government organisations next year as a part of its measures to tackle the energy crisis, he said.

"The initiative will save up to 300 megawatts of electricity a day," he added.

Towfiq said the government will enact the energy conservation and energy efficiency acts this year as well, as measures to ensure the country's energy security.

President of the chamber Alamgir M Rahman moderated the meeting.

Two judges

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retirement in a bid to maintain good behaviour and discipline in public administration, said an official handout from the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry yesterday.

The order was passed under section 9(2) of the Public Servants (Retirement) Act 1974, said the press release, adding that the ministry also issued a gazette notification in this regard. Law Secretary Kazi Habibur Awal signed the gazette notification.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that the president passed the retirement order on prime minister's advice.

She suggested giving the order on recommendation of the law ministry, he added.

The minister, however, did not mention anything about the law ministry's recommendation.

SC stays Niko case

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against Khaleda upon a writ petition.

The HC also issued rule upon the government and ACC to show cause why the case should not be quashed.

The ACC filed the case with Teigaon Police Station accusing Khaleda Zia and several others on December 9, 2007 on charges of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko.

Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq appeared for Khaleda, while Advocate MA Aziz Khan argued for ACC.

Teenager

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silent about it fearing serious consequences.

He said Rony's mother alleged Swarna's family engaged the killers, as they did not accept the relation between Rony and Swarna, a local high school student.

She also accused Rony's friends of having a hand in the killing.

The SI said Swarna's family being well off threatened Rony several times to break up with her. A few days ago her uncle and cousins beat him up over the issue, he added.

Police sources said Swarna's family members fled following the killing.

They said the body had been taken to Kadamtoli Police Station and would be sent to Subwardi Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Nasima lodged a case with the police station accusing Swarna's uncles Yusuf, 40, and Rana, 20, her cousin Shovan, 20, and Rony's friends Noyon, Rubel and Ujjal.

Save water bodies

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coordination with all other authorities to achieve this year's national fish production target of 27 lakh tonnes.

Addressing the inaugural function of the National Fisheries Week 2009 at the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday, the PM said from next time, the fishermen will be given four-month food assistance and alternative employment facilities during the breeding season of hilsa fish to stop catching jatka (hilsafry).

"Already, a project titled 'Preserving Jatka, Alternative Employments for Fishermen, and Research Initiatives' has been started to be implemented," she said.

The PM told the function that export of galda shrimp to the European countries will be started again as the present government has taken effective measures in this regard.

The export of shrimps to the European Union member countries remained stalled due to indifference of the past governments towards detecting chemicals used in production process.

She warned of stern action against those producers and exporters who will cheat in exporting shrimps and other fishes through confidence trick.

Through exporting processed fishes to countries where Bangladeshis expatriates are living in large numbers, a huge market of fish can be captured, she said.

About increasing fish production and for welfare of the fishermen, the premier said, "Approval of the Fish Hatchery Act 2009 is under process while the Government Water Bodies Management

PM

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the administrative officials.

She said the present government's main aim is to give people a better life and ensure their sustenance, education and shelter.

The government has already been successful in bringing the prices of essential goods within the buying capacity of people. Besides, she said, through hard work power situation has improved a lot.

Hasina reminded the bureaucrats that the government's priority sector will be agriculture and development of rural economy.

She directed them to be cent percent active in increasing the country's food production, saying that increase in food production will depend largely on proper distribution of agricultural loans, fertilisers, seeds and smooth supply of electricity.

Presided over by Communications Secretary Ali Kabir, the function was also addressed, among others, by Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam, Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz and BAA Secretary General and Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Khandaker Shawkat Hossain.

Meanwhile, a tense situation was prevailing among followers of post-achievers and post-deprived senior BCL activists on the campus. Additional police were deployed on campus to avert any untoward incident.

The elected presidents and general secretaries of the halls are: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall: Shaheen Ahmed (president) and Nobiruzzaman Babu (general secretary), Kobi Jasimuddin Hall: Abdur Rahman Jibon (president) and Kazi Enayet (general secretary), Shahidullah Hall: Shahnar Azam Munna (president) and Hedayet Ullah (general secretary), Fazlul Haq Hall: Maruf Hasan Kallol (president) and Asaduzzaman, Sumon (general secretary), Amar Ekushey Hall: Allama Iqbal Rana (president) and Mohidul Islam Mubith (general secretary), Suryasen Hall: Syed Majumder (president) and Ziaul Haque Tuhin (general secretary), Hazi Muhammad Muhasin Hall: Mohammad Ali (president) and Md Mahiuddin (general secretary), Sir AFR Rahman Hall: Saiduzzaman Faruk (president) and Mehedi Hasan, Ziaur Rahman Hall: Rifat Hossain Ziku (president) and Md Saifur Rahman Sohag (general secretary), Zahurul Haq Hall: Riazzuddin Chowdhury Riaz (president) and Smasul Kabir Rahat (general secretary), Salimullah Muslim Hall: AGM Sabbir Jahan Saikat (president) and Anwar Hossain Anu (general secretary).

BCL declared the hall unit committees after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's direction. Sheikh Hasina in June ordered top BCL leaders to form the hall unit committees.

Policy 2009 has already been approved."