

Govt mobilises

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Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles were kept on high alert yesterday along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

"Myanmar troops intruded into Bangladesh territory several times which is a serious threat to country's security," said an armed forces division report submitted to the government with its recommendations.

A group of Myanmar troops from engineering corps of its Medaik camp trespassed into Bangladesh territory to gather information about Bangladesh on September 29, the report said, adding that after the intrusion Bangladesh army was put on high alert there.

In recent years and months, Myanmar authorities have constructed new roads, military war obstacles including bunkers along the borders, renovated a nearby airport and started fencing the border as part of its provocative activities.

Myanmar has already constructed 42-kilometre long road and 9-kilometre war obstacles for its troops and set up concrete pillars on a 10-kilometre area along the border.

Bangladesh has protested Myanmar's such provocative acts time and again but the military junta did not pay any heed, sources in the foreign ministry told The Daily Star.

Sources said the Myanmar junta had renovated and expanded Sittwe Airport known as Arakan Airport and started flying aircraft for military exercise from there two to three days back which also increased tension on the Bangladesh side.

They added that the airport had remained abandoned for military aircrafts since the Second World War and a few small civil aircrafts used to fly from it.

"Myanmar has been mak-

ing all-out preparations keeping in view Bangladesh," said a senior government official not authorised to talk to media.

Foreign ministry officials said Bangladesh has repeatedly requested Myanmar authorities to stop such provocations but they showed no restraint.

Following fresh tension, an army brigade has been moved to Fashikhali of Ramu to closely monitor the activities of Myanmar troops. Police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Ansar members were also increased in the bordering region over the past few days.

"Extra soldiers were also deployed in some bordering upazilas of Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts," Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the government is seriously concerned over the recent events on the border.

Our Bandarban correspondent Monirul Islam Monu adds: Bangladesh troops have been kept on high alert at Naikhhongchhari upazila in Bandarban and Hnila and Damdamia in Cox's Bazar district bordering Myanmar after the fresh tension.

Different unconfirmed sources said, in recent times 13 fighter planes were positioned at Sittwe Airport and 12 war ships anchored in the two rivers of Myanmar.

In November last year, Myanmar warships entered into Bangladesh maritime boundary to guard its exploration vessels, fomenting enormous tension between the two countries as both the countries mobilised their troops on the borders.

Myanmar had to withdraw the warships and the oil and gas exploration rigs as Bangladesh initiated both bilateral and international negotiations to resolve the crisis peacefully.

ACC probing

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current ward commissioner of Khilgaon ABM Enamul Haque Qayum brought the allegation against him.

Mirza Abbas is accused of abuse of power in purchasing shares worth Tk 5 crore from BTCL. The allegation said Mirza Abbas purchased the shares in the names of different individuals at Tk 2.5 crore against its real value of Tk 5 crore.

A former BTCL chairman lodged the complaint against him.

ACC sources, however, said none of the allegations can be proved against anyone as the allegations are unlikely to be substantiated with evidence. MK Anwar stands accused in at least two ACC cases while Mirza Abbas in two cases including one on charge of amassing wealth by illegal means.

August 21

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the grenades used in the attack, the IO said.

IO Akond added Pintu needs to be remanded to identify those who had supplied the Arges grenades to the Huji members.

CID produced Pintu and Huji member Maulana Abu Taher before court on completion of their three-day remand. They sought further seven-day remand only to interrogate Pintu.

But Metropolitan Magistrate Syeda Minhaz Um Munira fixed October 11 for hearing on the remand prayer, as the prosecution failed to place case diary yesterday.

The court also ordered to send the two arrestees to the Dhaka Central Jail and directed the jail authorities to produce Pintu before the court on scheduled date.

On August 3, a Dhaka court ordered further investigation into the August 21 attack stating the probe conducted earlier could not identify the collectors and suppliers of the grenades.

The CID, which misdirected the investigation during BNP-led government, finally pressed charges in June last year accusing Pintu and 21 Huji members including its top leader Mufi Abdul Hamam.

The eight absconding accused in the case are Pintu's brothers Tajuddin and Maulana Liton, Anisul Mursalin and his brother Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Rahman.

BTRC serves

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seven days for publishing false, fabricated, baseless and politically ill-motivated news.

BTRC, through its lawyer, issued the notice on the newspaper's publisher, editor-in-charge, chief reporter and reporter concerned for publishing two news items headlined 'BTRC under Indian's grip' and 'The state security will be threatened' on October 2 and 3 respectively, said a press release.

The reports defamed BTRC as well as the government said the release, adding criminal and civil legal action would be taken against them on their failure.

It said the Amar Desh alleged that the BTRC employed Indian nationals in sensitive posts of BTRC, so as to divulge state secrets to the Indian government, which is an old trick to terrify people in the name of "Indian Terror".

It also said the fact remains that BTRC does not employ any foreign national as its employee.

To justify their point, the newspaper named five Indian citizens as BTRC's employees and also claimed that the said Indians are still in the service of BTRC which is an utter lie as the said Indians were working under a World Bank Project not with BTRC, the release said.

The scope of work of the said citizens was very limited and they had already left the country after completing their assignment, it said adding the citizens had no access to any sensitive and secret information of BTRC.

Amar Desh also reported that by removing the army personnel of Signal Core, BTRC appointed Indian nationals, which is baseless as the said army personnel were succeeded by other army personnel after the expiry of their tenure, it added.

The legal notice was served on editor-in-charge Mahmudur Rahman, publisher Al Haj Md Hasmat Ali, chief reporter and reporter Oliullah Noman.

Car bomb strikes

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Sept. 17, when a suicide bomber killed 16 people, including six Italian soldiers and 10 Afghan civilians, on a road in the centre of the capital.

President Hamid Karzai, the US Embassy and the United Nations mission all condemned the blast.

After months of relative calm, the Afghan capital has been shaken recently by an increasing number of suicide attacks and roadside bombings, which began in the run-up to the country's disputed Aug. 20 election. The attacks usually target international military forces or government installations, but Afghan businesses and civilians are also often killed or injured.

The Taliban did not say why it targeted the Indian Embassy but the attack is likely to raise questions about a link to Pakistan, India's archival. Extremist groups once supported by Pakistan's intelligence service have struck at Indian targets for years, and the two countries are competing for influence among different ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

A suicide attack against the Indian Embassy on July 7, 2008, killed more than 60 people. The road in front of the embassy has been barricaded since then.

The Indian news channel CNN-IBN cited Jayant Prasad, India's ambassador in Kabul, as saying Thursday's blast caused "extensive damage to the chancery." He said the bomb was so powerful that it blew off the some the embassy's doors and windows.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman, Abdul Basit, condemned the bombing.

"Whenever terrorist activity occurs it should strengthen our resolve to eradicate and eliminate this menace," he said.

The blast also damaged a line of shops between the embassy and the Interior Ministry, shattering glass and rattling buildings more than a mile (kilometre) away. A huge brown plume of smoke was visible in the air as ambulances raced to the scene and carried away the wounded.

A European police officer

assigned as an adviser to the Interior Ministry and an Afghan interpreter were slightly wounded by flying glass, training spokesman Andrea Angeli said.

One 21-year-old Afghan man, who gave his name only as Najibullah, said he had just opened his shop when the explosion went off, knocking him unconscious. When he awoke, he said, he couldn't see anything because of dust and debris.

"Dust was everywhere. People were shouting," Najibullah said. "You couldn't see their faces because there was so much dust."

His white clothes were covered in blood after helping load four injured onto ambulances.

AP Television News footage showed local residents and soldiers pulling a charred, severed leg out of a destroyed vehicle. Others carried an apparently lifeless body on a stretcher to an ambulance.

On another stretcher, a man lay face down, one arm hanging downward, his left leg covered in blood.

Two United Nations vehicles were near the blast and one was badly damaged, spokesman Dan McNorton confirmed. Both vehicles had only a driver inside, and neither was wounded. The U.N. typically uses armoured vehicles in Kabul that are designed to withstand such attacks.

Another BDR man dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) member died yesterday on his way to Dhaka from his Comilla house.

A press release issued by BDR said havildar Jasim Uddin of Rifle Battalion-30 was on casual leave. He complained of chest pain at around 12:00 noon and later died in Miabazar area on his way to Dhaka at around 2:00pm.

As many as 46 BDR members have died so far since the BDR mutiny on February 25-26.

BNP not against

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BNP's central office at Naya Paltan.

Delwar said, "Initiatives must be taken regarding the use of extracted gas to ensure development of the country because the country's interest must be given priority in extracting and using gas and oil."

Delwar's reaction came after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in parliament on Wednesday that the government will go ahead to search for gas for the country's development.

The BNP secretary general said they would continue their support to hartal programmes if they are called to protect the country's interest.

"The National Committee to

Protect Oil, Gas, Power and Port is not a political party. We supported their hartal programme as they called it to protect the country's interest," Delwar said.

On the prime minister's comment on the Asian Highway, he said the BNP also wants the country to be linked with the Asian Highway but the AL government is trying to give India a corridor.

"They [the government] have proposed a route from India to India via Chittagong Port, but we had proposed a route from Myanmar to India through Bangladesh," he said.

BNP leaders Goyeshwer Chandra Roy, Mirza Abbas, Shamsuzzaman Dudu and Md Shahjahan, among others, were present at the briefing.

Dhaka to seek

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notification of arbitration and statement of claim.

The statement on the invitation for arbitration reads, "The claims of our neighbours have unfairly cut off a significant portion of our maritime area in the Bay of Bengal and prevented us from exploring and exploiting oil and natural gas resources."

"The time has come to settle the disputed boundary so that both Bangladesh and its neighbours can finally resolve this obstacle that stands in the way of exploitation of our natural resources."

Bangladesh's decision comes in the wake of its neighbours' laying claim to the three blocks it wants to be explored for oil and gas.

Now that notification and statement of claim have been issued, a tribunal will be constituted in line with the UNCLOS principles and rules.

The country suffers from a scarcity of resources despite huge deposits of marine assets in the Bay. It needs urgent delimitation of maritime boundary to exploit the resources, observed the foreign minister.

She said things will get even worse if the matter takes more time to be settled.

Dipu Moni said she hopes the arbitration move will speed up the negotiations with India and Myanmar.

"There will be no need for arbitration if we can by that time settle the issue at the negotiating table," she said, adding that Bangladesh has

Lawmaker

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expressed surprise over the allegation of reported land grabbing," he said.

He further claimed none of his two sons were present at the spot and no incident of violence took place there.

Asked about the attack on newsmen he said some outsiders might have done that.

"As the MP of the area I regret the attack on the journalists and hope the attackers would be brought to justice," he said.

Rashed Mahmud, a senior photo journalist of the Prothom Alo, filed the case with Sitakunda Police Station on Wednesday night against 20 persons including SM Al-Mamun and SM Al-Noman, sons of Abul Kashem, lawmaker of Chittagong-3 constituency, on charge of attack on journalists.

Sirajud Doula, proprietor of Pakjia Enterprise, yesterday lodged four general diaries with the chief metropolitan magistrate's court, local police station and office of assistant superintendent of police (Sitakunda Circle) seeking justice to get back his grabbed land.

None has been arrested so far in this connection.

When asked Officer-in-charge (OC) Nazrul Islam of Sitakunda Police Station said they were continuing drive to nab the accused.

"None of those involved in assaulting journalists would be spared," the OC asserted.

"However, the matter of reported land grabbing would have to be solved after examining documents of all the sides," he said.

UNB reports: State Minister for Home Affairs advocate Shamsul Haq Tuku on Thursday said legal actions would be taken against land grabbers, no matter who they are.

While talking to reporters after a meeting with Home Minister Sahara Khatun at her ministry office Tuku said a legal process is underway to take action against the land grabbers in Sitakunda.

"No land grabbers will be spared," he warned.

On Wednesday some 200 men of the MP's son appeared on the 10 acres of land of ship-breaking yards owned by Pakjia Enterprise, Asad Ship Cutting, Moslema Steel and Prime Steel in Kumira around 7:00am on Wednesday and allegedly grabbed the lands attaching them to the lawmaker's under-construction ship-breaking yard along the coast at Jora Amtal of Kumira under the upazila.

Protect Turag

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The HC bench came up with the directives upon a petition filed by advocate Manzil Murshid on behalf of rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The court fixed October 26 for further order on the matter.

During hearing of the petition, Murshid told the court that earlier in June the HC in a verdict directed the authorities concerned to protect the Turag, Balu, Shitalakha and Buriganga from encroachment.

Copies of the judgement were sent to the authorities and the media reported it extensively, he said, but it has been reported in different newspapers that the land grabbers are continuing filling parts of the Turag and Buriganga.

He prayed to the court to direct the authorities again to take action against the encroachers and stop illegal earth-filling there.

Earlier this year, the HC in separate orders directed the government to demarcate the original territories of the Buriganga, Turag, Balu, and Shitalakha through a survey to restore the rivers to their original conditions.

The court also ordered to stop encroachment, earth-filling and construction of illegal structures on the rivers.

Odhikar

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of the culprits responsible for abduction and rape of the young girl on September 25.

They asked the authorities concerned to ensure security of the victim's family members, who are on the run since the incident.

Earlier, a four-member team from Ain O Salish Kendra, another non-government organisation, talked with the victim, her family members, police, local people, Patuakhali DC and SP on October 5 and 6.

On September 27 the alleged rapists were summoned to a local high school along with their parents and tried by a jury of arbitrators consisting of local Awami League leaders and activists.

Each of the 16 rapists and accomplices was fined Tk 10,000 and then were released. The victim's family was provided with the money on condition that they would not seek any legal recourse.

German author

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poetry and the frankness of prose, depicts the landscape of the dispossessed."

Mueller was born in a German-speaking region of Romania and fled the country two years before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. She has been a longstanding candidate for the award, which comes just ahead of the 20th anniversary of the collapse of communism.

The grim daily life under Ceausescu's oppressive regime and the harsh treatment of Romanian Germans has featured strongly in her works. Corruption, intolerance and repression are also major themes in her writing.

Mueller was born on August 17, 1953 in western Romania in 1953 to parents of the German-speaking minority. Her father was in the Nazi SS during World War II and the Romanian communists deported her mother to a labour camp in Soviet Ukraine after the war.

Mueller was sacked from her first job as a translator in the 1970s after refusing to work for Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police.

She then devoted her life to literature. Her first collection of short stories, "Niederungen", in 1982 -- published as "Nadirs" in English -- was censored by the Romanian regime and only published in full two years later in Germany after being smuggled out.

Mueller depicted the exile of German Romanians in the Soviet Union in her latest novel "Atemschaukel" from 2009.

Mueller fled Romania for Germany in 1987, after being prohibited from publishing in her country, and it was then that she was fully discovered in the literary world.

Her major novels include "The Passport", published in 1986 in Germany and trans-

lated in 1989, as well as "The Appointment", translated in 2001, which describes the anxiety of a woman summoned by the Securitate.

Ioan Mascovescu, mayor of the Romanian village of Nitchidorf where Mueller came from, said that the house where she was born is now state property but she still owned land she had inherited there, though she never visited.

In a 2007 article for the German daily Frankfurter Rundschau, Mueller described Ceausescu, who was shot dead at the end of an uprising, as "a parvenu with water taps and gold cutlery with a real weakness for palaces."

She said Romania had developed "collective amnesia" over its repressive past.

"They're pretending that it disappeared into thin air, the whole country is afflicted by collective amnesia. Even though it was home to the most abstruse dictatorship in eastern Europe and after Stalin, the most evil dictator, with a personality cult to rival North Korea's," she wrote.

Mueller follows French author Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio in winning the Nobel diploma, medal and 10 million kronor (1.42 million dollars/980,000 euros). In 2007 it went to Doris Lessing of Britain.

After the main science awards this week, the Peace Prize will be announced on Friday, and the Economics Prize will wrap up the awards on Monday, October 12.

The formal prize ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo will be held as tradition dictates on December 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of the prize's creator, Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel.

The prizes were first awarded in 1901.

24 lakh more

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between FY 2000 and FY 2005. The crisis is however expected to have a greater impact in the eastern region than in the western region because the former has a much higher concentration of industry and external remittances than the latter.

For both FY 2009 and 2010, the average loss in household income due to the crisis is found to be the highest for Chittagong and Sylhet (which have the highest remittance) followed by Dhaka, and the other divisions.

The update noted that the poverty impact however does not fully offset welfare impact of the crisis. The projections also suggest that the income or consumption impact would be higher for the middle and higher income groups than for the poorest groups, who are the least likely to get remittances or work in industry even in the absence of the crisis.

It also said moderately poor and near-poor or lower middle class in the urban areas would be affected more than similar groups in the rural area, because they depend more on income from industry and services sectors than is the case for their counterparts in rural

areas.

Suggestions for various monetary and fiscal measures for the countries in South Asia region including Bangladesh in response to the crisis were made in the Istanbul meet.

The report mentioned that South Asian countries have already taken various monetary and fiscal measures in response to the crisis. Additional actions will be needed however to reduce the impact and pave the way for a resumption of rapid growth. The WB is advocating policies that provide fiscal stimulus, investment in sound public infrastructure projects, creating a favourable investment climate, and scale up existing safety net programmes to protect the poor.

The WB also said in the last fiscal year, it approved 36 projects in South Asia to overcome the crisis.

It approved about \$ 350 million in FY 09 for Siddhirganj Peaking Power project in Bangladesh. Besides, it has committed to support Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Programme. The bank has also made commitments for the education sector and social safety net programmes.

Three killed

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Police said Sakmol was accused in 16 cases including six murders.

The law enforcers recovered a light gun (LG) and six bullets from the scene.

In Khulna, police confronted a gang of criminals while conducting a drive on the bank of river Atharobeki at Rajapur village. The gang was preparing for committing a crime.

As soon as police reached the spot around 2:55am, criminals opened fire at the law enforcers prompting a gunfight.

Apu was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot. His accomplices, however, managed to escape injuring two constables--Nasirul Islam and Bakul--in the shootout that lasted for about 20 minutes, said Khulna police superintendent.

Apu, son of late Aiyub Ali Sarkar of Rajapur village in Rupsha upazila, was accused in a number of cases, including three of murder, said police.

Police recovered a locally made gun and four bullets from the scene.

In Bagerhat, a shootout took place between the cadres of PBCP-Janajuddho faction and police at Daibaggakati in Morelganj upazila around 4:30am.

Police said on information they raided a betel leaf enclosure where the cadres were

holding a meeting. Sensing the presence of the lawmen, the cadres opened fire, which led to a shootout.

Aslam, son of Solaiman Khan of Teligati in Morelganj, was killed and two police constables--Altaf and Anisuzzaman--received bullet wounds in the encounter. The constables are undergoing treatment at Morelganj upazila health complex.

Police recovered a local-made firearm and 19 bullets from the spot.

Ctg arms haul

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the interrogation.

He shrugged off some questions and blamed former home secretary Omar Faruk who led the committee formed by the ministry to investigate the arms hauls in the early hours of April 2 in 2004.

Earlier on Saturday, the investigators quizzed Omar Faruk for eight hours as part of questioning members of the high-level probe committee.

The other members of the committee include former director of DGEI Rezaul Haider Chowdhury, former deputy inspector general of special branch Shamsul Islam and former NSI director Enamur Rahman Chowdhury.

Ziaur Rahman

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Supreme Court. He was delivering his submission during the fourth day's hearing on appeals of five convicts who challenged their death sentences in the case.

According to Mohiuddin's statement, a wholesale discontent was growing within the army at that time and a rebellion was imminent. Convicts

Syed Faruque Rahman and Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan were keeping in touch with the then army chief of staff Ziaur Rahman to tackle the situation, but Zia expressed his inability.

There was a revolt against the command council at Bangabhaban. Mohiuddin said he heard that the majors who used to stay at Bangabhaban left the country with their families on November 3, 1975. The next day he heard that the Awami League leaders who had been in jail were killed before their departure.

Mohiuddin said he and some troops rescued Ziaur Rahman from his house and declared him chief martial law administrator on November 6 and on assuming power Zia absorbed the majors sent abroad in diplomatic missions. However, Major Rashid and Major Faruque refused to accept such service.

Mohiuddin said on returning to Bangladesh in 1976 Major Faruque took over the command of Bengal Cavalry at Savar and Bogra. But General Zia brought him back and sent him abroad without any punishment.

In the meantime, Major Abdur Rashid and Major Shariful Haque Dalim tried to take over the command and control of 2 Field Artillery at Dhaka Cantonment and instigated troops to revolt, he said, adding that he arrested Major Rashid and handed him over to General Zia and CGS Mir Shawkat. Zia sent Rashid abroad three-four days later without taking any action against him.