

## Troops all alert

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into any part of the country," he told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Nasaka, the Myanmar border guards, has gathered about 10,000 Rohingya near its border with Bangladesh in a bid to push them into the Bangladesh territory as part of their latest provocative move, sources at the intelligence agencies said last night.

They have been kept at several bordering points opposite Naikongchhari in Bandarban over the past few days, they said.

The recent Myanmar military deployment has prompted Bangladesh to strengthen its military presence along the border.

Asked about what further measures he is going to take, Mainul said BDR will be reinforced with more Border Operations Outposts (BOP) on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

The reinforcement was required as the Myanmar military junta deployed huge troops with heavy weapons within five kilometres of the border.

According to different sources on the border, Myanmar has deployed nine military battalions. They were deployed last Friday along the border from Maungdaw to Paletwa. They are: Light Infantry Battalions (LIB) 234, 263, 344, 233, 289 and 538.

The LIB 538 based in Rathadung has been shifted to the Paletwa border and posted at the triangular position facing Bangladesh and India borders, intelligence officials said.

Intelligence sources said Myanmar had recently acquired the technology of building tunnels, aircraft, naval ships and missiles with a range of between 500 and 1,000 kilometres.

Recently the Japanese government has intercepted the supply of magnetic measuring devices used to build long-range ballistic missile system; the shipment was made to Myanmar.

A raid made by the country's police suggests that North Korea has already transferred the Taep'o-dong-2 equipment to Myanmar. Weighed 79,189 kg, Taep'o-dong-2 is the longest of North Korean missiles—it is thought to have a range of 4,000 kilometres.

Myanmar junta has already bought short and medium-range ballistic missiles (SRMBs) from China and North Korea, SRMB air

defence system from Russia, low altitude surface-to-surface missiles from Ukraine and Bulgaria.

Our Bandarban correspondent Monirul Islam Monu reports: People living on the Bangladesh-Myanmar bordering areas have become panicky because of a war-like situation at the frontier.

Locals said Myanmar authorities have increased army deployment at the border under cover of setting up barbed-wire fences there.

Sources who have contacts with both sides of the border said the Myanmar army had set up equipments for high-powered artillery fire at Bolibazar area opposite Chakdhala border at Naikongchhari upazila.

Myanmar has also stationed 10 fighter planes at Sititwa (Akiab) Airport and anchored 12 warships in its two rivers as "backup".

## War crimes

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offices from Abdul Gani Road in the city where the tribunal will be set up for holding the trial.

The offices of administrative tribunal, administrative appellate tribunal and the directorate of registration will be shifted from the road to Janata Tower, which has been acquired by the government following a Supreme Court ruling, sources said.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed and State Minister for housing and public works Abdul Mannan Khan earlier told The Daily Star that the government is sincere in holding the trial and they are proceeding with necessary works.

But, they could not say exactly how many days will be needed to start the long awaited trial of the war criminals.

Shafique Ahmed said the government has been collecting evidences of the offences committed during the liberation war and the trial will start after arranging the logistics involved with the trial.

Replying to a question he said, "There is no pressure from any foreign countries on us regarding trial of war criminals. Rather, the United States has assured our foreign minister of assistance in the trial."

He also said the government will arrange all kinds of logistics for holding trial of war criminals maintaining international standard, so that there will be no dispute over the acceptability.

## Micro-credit

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with micro-credit should be regulated. "The NGOs always demand various facilities from the Bangladesh Bank but they never talk about the visually and hearing impaired people, the elderly people and widows...this is very much disappointing," he said.

He said implementation of various programmes undertaken by the social welfare ministry is being hampered because of internal conflicts of the NGOs.

The minister told the meeting that the government is constructing six old homes in the six divisional headquarters and called upon the private entrepreneurs and NGOs to come forward to undertake various welfare activities like old homes and hospitals.

Presided over by Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department Sitangshu Kumar, the meeting was addressed, among others, by member of the parliamentary standing committee on social welfare ministry Cheman Ara Tayeb MP and the representatives of different NGOs.

## Outlaw

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them to retaliate.

The law enforcers later found Maznu lying on the ground while his accomplices managed to flee the scene.

They also recovered one LG gun and four bullets from there.

## JS body

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The meeting is scheduled to be held at 3.30pm at the Jatya Sangsad Bhavan.

The national committee alleged that the terms and conditions under which the foreign companies won the right to explore gas in the country's coastal waters would compel the government to export up to 80 percent of the gas to be extracted from the offshore fields.

The parliamentary body, however, has already refuted the national committee's allegations.

The national committee on September 14 observed a six-hour hartal demanding that the government scrap the gas exploration deals.

At the meeting the parliamentary body will want to know from the national committee's leaders how they drew the conclusion that the contracts entail gas export.

The parliamentary body chief said they will submit a report to the government after the discussion.

The parliamentary body on October 6 at a meeting recommended that the government should finalise the production sharing contract (PSC) with the two foreign companies on gas exploration bids for three offshore blocks soon as it feared that further delay might hamper the country's interests.

## Delwar trouble

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Party insiders alleged that the chairperson has several times asked the party leaders including secretary general to complete the reorganisation process timely but Delwar is maintaining 'go slow' policy which is only strengthening the internal conflict.

BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman told The Daily Star that there is no lack of coordination in the party but some problems have arisen in the reorganising procedure and they are working to resolve them.

Mahbubur Rahman, standing committee member of the party, however maintained that in some cases the chairperson's directions were not carried out properly. "The party men expect more responsible role from the secretary general to complete revamping process in due time," he said.

Another senior leader alleged that a group of party leaders are using the secretary general to gain their own benefits. "Ignoring the chairperson's directive the secretary general did not even reorganise the party committee in his own district, Manikganj," he added.

According to the party leaders the differences of opinion between Khaleda and Delwar started before December 29 elections centring party nomination as the chairperson wanted to give a number of reformists party tickets.

Against this backdrop, a number of popular leaders were denied party tickets, which ended in a devastating election result.

## Iran will enrich high uranium if third-party deals fail

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday it will enrich uranium, the most controversial part of its atomic programme, to the 20-percent purity required for a research reactor in Tehran if third-party deals fail.

"We will write a letter and announce to the (International Atomic Energy Agency) agency that Iran will act directly to supply the fuel for the Tehran reactor," ISNA news agency quoted Ali Shirzadian as saying when asked what would happen if proposed third-party deals fail.

Officials from Iran, the United States, Russia, France and the IAEA are to meet in Vienna on October 19 to work out the modalities for deals under which Tehran has said it is ready to buy 20 percent pure uranium from abroad.

"Iran fully owns the enrichment technology and therefore it will sit at the negotiating table with leverage," Shirzadian said, adding that Tehran prefers to "buy the fuel for the Tehran reactor in bulk as it is more economical."

He said the reactor needs around 200 kilogrammes (440 pounds) of 20 percent pure uranium to operate, but did not say how long that would last.

During recent talks in Geneva between Tehran and six major world powers, Iran agreed to buy the higher grade uranium required from overseas suppliers.

Uranium enrichment lies at the heart of Western concerns about the Iranian nuclear programme. The sensitive process can produce fuel for civilian nuclear reactors or, in highly extended form, the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

Western powers suspect Tehran's nuclear programme is aimed at making atomic weapons, a charge vociferously denied by Iran.

Global powers were outraged after Iran, just days ahead of the Geneva talks,

## Settling sea

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for their performance in 2008-'09 at the DC Office.

Cheques of about Tk 7.35 lakh were distributed among the volunteers of 41 women associations of the district.

She assured all possible help of the government for development of women in the society.

## JMB men

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Requesting anonymity, one official quoted Ashraf, one of the arrestees, as saying that recently the JMB leaders have been given the task of recruiting new members, reorganising old members and making funds through invitations towards Islam.

"To invigorate the inactive members, the JMB leaders are now circulating that they have eschewed the path of military warfare to establish Islam and are engaged in only invitational activities," said the official.

Besides, to persuade new people to join the outfit, the JMB is providing rickshaws or money to run small businesses, and in return, the entrants are to pay a monthly amount for the organisation, sources said.

## Purbachal

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40,000 qualified plot seekers applied in the three categories. The authorities allotted the plots after holding a lottery draw yesterday.

Earlier on September 17, Rajuk in its first phase of lottery draw allotted plots to 1,077 winners in four categories. They however postponed the scheduled draw for journalist category.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan formally inaugurated the draw at the city's Osmani Memorial Hall at around 11:00am while Housing Secretary Mahbubur Rahman was present among others.

In his inaugural speech, the minister said the government would resolve the housing problems by constructing high-rise buildings across the country.

The housing secretary said the lottery for the plot allocation in the Uttara project would also be held in this very month.

revealed to the IAEA that it was building a second enrichment plant near the holy city of Qom.

During the talks Tehran agreed to throw open the facility for IAEA inspection and following last week's visit of Mohamed ElBaradei, chief of the agency, it was decided that UN inspectors would check the facility on October 25.

Soon after the revelation of the new facility, ElBaradei accused Iran of being on the "wrong side of the law" for having kept the building of the plant secret, a charge also denied by Iranian officials.

Shirzadian said Tehran will enter the Vienna talks and "if an agreement is arrived at and then not implemented for any reason, the agency and the country which broke it will be blamed."

He also hoped the United States will not "disturb" any third-party deal.

"If the United States wants to disturb... it is not a matter between Iran and the agency. It is a matter between the agency and the United States," Shirzadian added, suggesting that would be responsibility of the agency to tackle that issue and that Iran would proceed on its own for higher enrichment.

## ACC wings

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Meanwhile, ACC's proposals for amendment to strengthen its law continue to be on the back burner.

In those, ACC sought an increase in its workforce to deal with corruption cases against public servants. But the government has rebuffed the suggestion.

The other proposals include adding a provision allowing ACC to be party to all cases it files and all judgments it challenges in higher courts.

The commission also proposed cancelling section 408 from its schedule. But the cabinet has refused to scrap the section, which empowers ACC to investigate corruption allegations against private companies.

## 3 killed

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upstairs and she fell on the road from above the building at about 7:30am.

The guard said soon after the incident Ataur came down hurriedly and fled the scene when other workers were asleep on its ground floor.

Sub-Inspector Mehedi Masud of Gulshan Police Station said the body with broken legs and hands was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, police recovered the slaughtered body of Rana, 22, of Zinzira from a ditch behind the Malancha Hospital of Shakta in Keraniganj around 12noon.

Victim's family sources said Rana went out of their house after having lunch around 3:00pm on Friday and went missing. Police said the body also bore some marks of stab injuries.

Yet in another incident, police recovered the slaughtered body of an unidentified young man from a bush behind a house at Nagirebagh in South Keraniganj area around 9:00am.

The bodies were sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The reason behind the murders could not be known immediately.

## Women MPs

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Other speakers demanded introduction of direct election to reserve seats for women in parliament, raising their numbers and demarcation of their constituencies.

Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam presided over the discussion. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children affairs, Shipa Hafiza, director of Human Resources Development, BRAC, Aroma Dutta, executive director of PEEP Trust and Awami League lawmakers (reserve seats) Nazma Akhtar and Tarana Halim, and BNP lawmaker Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Pappa were present.

## Information

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"We have got five rooms which are now being refurbished. But the facilities are not enough for the commission," said Azizur.

The public works ministry has been assigned to find out a suitable site or building for setting up the commission's office.

"We are still waiting for a well-equipped office," said the chief information commissioner.

Azizur also said the government should immediately recruit staff for the commission and provide it sufficient logistics so that the groundwork could be completed without further delay and a campaign could be launched across the country to make people aware of their right to information.

Sources said the law ministry is now examining a draft of the rules needed for enforcing the act. "A meeting in this regard will be held on Wednesday to finalise the rules," said Azizur, also a retired secretary.

Asked when the commission would be ready to provide information sought by citizens, he said, "It depends on how quickly the rules are framed, and when the government offices are made ready to provide information."

Meanwhile, the commission members have already visited 20 districts to give people an idea about the RTI act and its benefits.

They are meeting government officials, teachers, bar members and representatives of NGOs, media, local government bodies and development agencies. "We tell people why it is important to get information and from where to get that... We are also telling them if access to information is ensured, it will increase accountability in different institutions and help establish good governance," Azizur said.

According to the act, every citizen now has the right to get information he needs, and in case of being denied, one can file complaints with the commission against the official/s concerned.

## Photographs

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Maksudpur upazila AL publicity secretary Kazi Ohidul Islam said, Raichh Khandker, Noor Mohammad Nuru Gazi, Mostafa Gazi, Ranju Khondker, Zakir Mollah, Nurul Islam Mollah and Ariful Mollah had entered the club breaking the locks.

They pulled down the photographs of Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina hung in the room and ransacked those. At one stage they put the photograph of Bangabandhu on fire.

The miscreants also ransacked the room's furniture and tore important papers from almirah.

On seeing fire in the club, guards of the Bazar went there and held Nuru Gazi. The rest managed to flee.

Maksudpur upazila AL vice president Ashraf Ali Ashu, who filed the petition case, said during the last BNP-led government the criminals had tortured a barber for hanging portraits of Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina in his hair-cutting salon.

OC Liakat said a written complaint from Ashu had been accepted as an FIR. Arrested Noor Mohammad Nuru Gazi was being quizzed, he added.

## Free secretariat

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the war criminals. But he said it is not possible to announce the timeframe of the trial.

He also said the government will launch a digital case management system to reduce backlog of the pending cases so that the justice seekers can get justice promptly and hassle-free.

He said the cabinet has already discussed the matter of increasing salaries of judges and it is now under consideration of the finance ministry.

Replying to another query, he said the government has finalised appointment of 211 judges through the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission for the lower judiciary, as a number of judges are going into retirement.

The minister said the government is introducing the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system to resolve minor criminal and civil cases to ensure quick justice.

The law commission has been asked to advise the government on reforming the existing laws on ADR, he said.

Shafique said some 200 computers had been supplied to the trial courts in Dhaka after the separation of judiciary from the executive.

Presided over by JATI Director General Justice Hamidul Haque, the function was also addressed by its Director (Training) M Ashraf Islam.

## 80 killed in Nigeria

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distance inquisitive onlookers fired his gun in the air. One witness said that people had been trying to scoop up and recover the spilled petrol.

At least five minibuses packed with up to 18 passengers each and two cars were incinerated by the fireball. A witness said that one of the minibuses was filled with schoolchildren, all of whom were burned alive.

"Immediately the policeman shot into the air, the tanker burst into flames that engulfed other vehicles that were close by and also trapped some of the people that were gathered around the scene who were not fast enough to escape," a witness told The Nation newspaper.

Anambra state road safety director Ben Ekenna admitted local roads were in a bad state and was quoted as saying that "if something isn't done quickly, tragedies like this will happen again."

Accidents on Nigeria's poorly maintained inter-city roads are common, with trucks habitually driving at breakneck speeds.

Nigerian newspapers are daily filled with images of overturned trucks, flooded or collapsed roads and massive potholes.

Almost everything in Nigeria, including the vast country's petrol and oil demands, are transported by road because of a lack of rail infrastructure, increasing the possibility of accidents.

Federal road safety body FRSC says that around 400 people are killed every month by road accidents in Nigeria.

When he was elected in May 2007, President Umaru Yar'adua promised to

## 4 killed

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over the steering.

Police said Bhabesh died on the spot while three others succumbed to their injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Some 30 injured were admitted to the hospital.

Members of police, Rab and fire service were carrying out rescue operation till filing of this report at about 8:00pm.

## Militants take

FROM PAGE 1  
major militant attack in Pakistan in a week and came as the government said it was planning an imminent offensive against Islamist militants in their strongholds in the rugged mountains along the border with Afghanistan.

It showed that the militants retain the ability to strike at the very heart of Pakistan's security apparatus despite recent military operations against their forces and the killing of Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in a CIA drone attack in August.

The attack began shortly before noon when the gunmen, dressed in camouflage military uniforms, drove in a white van up to the army compound and tried to force their way inside, army spokesman Maj Gen Athar Abbas said.

The assailants shot at the guards at one checkpoint, killing some of them, and then jumped out of the van and ran toward a second checkpoint, he said. Abbas said the guards were likely confused by the attackers' uniforms.

The heavily armed attackers then took up positions throughout the area, hurling at least one grenade and firing sporadically at security forces, said a senior military official inside the compound. The official, who said top army officials were trapped in the compound during the assault, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

After a 45-minute gunfight, four of the attackers were killed, said Abbas, who told the private Geo news television channel the assault over and the situation "under full control."

But at least two more gunmen had slipped into the headquarters compound and eluded security forces for several hours, according to an intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Troops were closing in on the men and trying to capture or kill them, the official said. Abbas said six troops were killed and five wounded, one critically. An intelligence official said eight soldiers were killed. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Abbas later acknowledged the operation was ongoing in Rawalpindi, which is adjacent

improved road and rail transport in the country of 140 million people.

Last June a road safety expert said Nigeria needs to treat the carnage on its roads as a national emergency.

Apollos Jediel, a coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency, said "we are daily being confronted by an epidemic that kills and maims on the scale of major infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS."

## MP apologies

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The MP also pledged to help nab Mahmudul Hasan Manna, who led the goons, within yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association, in a press release yesterday, said Wednesday's incident was an outcome of misunderstanding between the land seller concerned and brokers.

The association, in a meeting on Friday, decided the land seller Abul Kalam Habib would hand over the lands to the real owners including Unique Traders and four other adjoining ship breaking yards within one week, said the release.

Abul Kashem and other yards' owners including Sirajud Doulah of Pakija Enterprise, Abdur Razzak of Muslima Ship Yard, Saifuddin Bahadur of Prime Steel, Liakat Ali Chowdhury of Asadi Steel Enterprise were present at the meeting chaired by the association's president Jafar Alam.

Earlier, 200 hired goons of SM Al Mamun and SM Al Noman, two sons of the MP, assaulted Pranab Baul, staff reporter of Prothom Alo, and snatched the camera from Rashed Mahmud, senior staff photographer, while they were covering the incident of attaching 10 acres of land owned by four adjoining ship-breaking yards to their under-construction yard, Unique Traders.

The MP at a press briefing on Thursday, however, refuted the allegation of land grabbing.

## Powered by people

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USA is also thinking about the matter with great importance and it is being discussed in the US congress.

On the acceptability of media The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said a revolution has started in the media sector since the 90s. Despite limitations, professionalism and objectivity would get institutionalised through trial and error in time.

The seminar discussed the issue of increasing export by ensuring quality in production.

Prime minister's adviser Moshir Rahman, her energy adviser Toufique-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former advisers of caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury and Hossain Zillur Rahman, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Chairman Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad and US Ambassador in Bangladesh James F Moriarty participated in the seminar, among others.

Prof Ali Riaz said a huge challenge exists in the field of education. It is not true that the parents send their children to madrasa only for religious reason. The speakers stressed ensuring parity in the education sector.

Regarding energy, the speakers said the difference between urban and rural areas in Bangladesh is huge. Villages are completely ignored in this regard.

They said Bangladesh should build up a trust-based relationship with her neighbouring countries. Import of electricity from India would meet the local demand and the country would be benefited. The country needs to devise new strategies to build up her stature abroad.

During the session on environment, Khondaker Sufian said construction of the proposed Tipaimukh dam by India would benefit Bangladesh. It would reduce the intensity of drought and flood.

He, however, recommended an agreement under the supervision of the World Bank so that India does not construct the Fulder dam.

US Deputy Secretary of State Michael Owen said around 20 million Bangladeshis would be displaced by the year 2100 due to climate change and global warming. The international community should consider the matter with priority.

He told the seminar that the

rather than the imposed ones. The people of Bangladesh achieved a tremendous success by overcoming impacts of natural disasters and political and social obstacles.

The speakers recommended a training programme for the leadership in Bangladesh. They said trained leadership from the central to grassroots levels should remain focused and committed to the people.

The characteristic of the Pakistani and Bangladeshi army is not the same said the speakers adding that the Bangladesh Army has achieved a reputation of professionalism in the international arena. They were cautious about the international reaction regarding their involvement in leading a country.

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