

AL constitution

FROM PAGE 1
any associated or affiliated body consisting of teachers or students of any educational institution, or employees or workers of any financial, commercial or industrial establishment or institution, or the members of any other profession.

In compliance with the RPO provision, the AL dropped names of Sraniik League and Chhatta League from the list of its associated bodies.

The ruling party ratified the provisional amendments to its constitution at the July 24 national council, and submitted a copy of those to the EC. The provisional changes were made before the ninth parliamentary polls to meet the registration criteria.

The constitution of LDP lacks provision for reserving 33 percent posts for women in all party committees including the central committee, and achieve this goal by 2020.

Its charter also does not provide for nomination of candidates for parliamentary polls by the parliamentary board of the party from the panels prepared by members of ward, union, thana, upazila or district committees concerned.

The constitutions of Samyabadi Dal and JP also do not have provisions for reserving 33 percent positions for women in all party committees, and achieve this by 2020, EC officials said.

Earlier, the EC had formed an experts' committee, which also included some of its senior officials, to examine the political parties' constitutions submitted to it.

Sluggish ADP

FROM PAGE 16
percentage point and 3 percentage points more than the first quarter of the previous two financial years while 1 percent point lower than 2006-07.

During the time both revenue collection and investment were poor. The revenue growth was only 9 percent.

The NBR blamed slow pace of ADP implementation for the sluggish collection of revenue. Bangladesh Bank echoed the same saying emphasis should be given on rapid implementation of the ADP to boost investment.

In its quarterly report released yesterday Bangladesh Bank said given the indication of sluggish trend of spending allotted money, full implementation of ADP targeted for FY'10 is a big challenge, which needs to pace up, particularly in infrastructure projects, to help private sector gain momentum in fulfilling the aspired GDP growth.

Last week, an IMF mission submitted a report to the government where they mentioned that slow pace of ADP implementation is having a negative impact on the government's revenue earning.

The report said, "The government should urgently address the root of chronic poor implementation of the ADP, including the capacity constraints and governance issues."

The World Bank last month released an economic update where they gave first priority to ADP implementation for overcoming the sluggishness the economy is experiencing.

Toll-takers

FROM PAGE 16
Besides, he said he had been giving them toll of Tk 3,000 per month. The criminals vandalised his shop and closed it Sunday night as he refused to give them the toll anymore.

The officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station however said that he heard toll taker fell on Tofazzol's body when he was involved in a fighting with workers of his neighbouring shop.

Outlaw

FROM PAGE 16
came to power in 2007.

Md Abu Farid, officer-in-charge of Jafarpur Police Station, said, "There were three warrants for his arrest. He was the top outlawed operative in this region."

After receiving a tip-off about a secret meeting being held by Oli and faction members, police cordoned off an area in Hadal union at around 12:25am on Monday.

The criminals opened fire on the police when they raided the premises of 'Nuru Khar Bata', and the ensuing gunfight lasted over half an hour. The police fired 37 rounds of bullets at the criminals.

Oli died of his wounds at the scene of the 'shootout', while the rest of the criminals managed to flee, police said.

The committee yesterday placed before the EC its findings about the four parties' charters, meeting sources said.

It is now scrutinising the charters of other registered political parties.

A total of 39 parties got registered with the EC before the December 29 parliamentary election.

Excepting the LDP, all other parties brought constitutional changes in their provision to meet the registration criteria and promised to ratify those within six months of the first sitting of ninth parliament.

The time limit was extended by another six months by amending the RPO as some parties including the BNP failed to do so.

BHOLA-3
The EC also decided to ask the parliament secretariat to take necessary steps so that Maj (ret) Jasim Uddin's parliament seat (Bhola-3) becomes vacant following the Supreme Court verdict in this regard, EC officials said.

The SC on October 18 upheld the High Court verdict that declared illegal the EC's decision to allow him to contest the ninth parliamentary election from Bhola-3 on AL nomination.

The EC got a copy of the verdict and discussed it at yesterday's meeting.

"We will ask the parliament secretariat to take necessary steps to this effect. We will go for by-election once the seat is declared vacant," Sohul Hossain told this correspondent.

5 army

FROM PAGE 1
plotters and attackers. Some of those who had used the numbers have been detained and interrogated by intelligence officials, said sources close to the investigation.

Investigators believe the attackers sought to destabilise the government by creating anarchy.

They suspect the blast might have something to do with "Taposh's handling of things before and during the February 25-26 BDR mutiny". It might also have been made to halt the trial process of the war criminals.

Disrupting the proceedings of Bangabandhu murder case might be another motive.

Other sources say the attack might have been designed to scotch any possibility of the government taking measures against some army officials accused of corruption during the last caretaker rule.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police has so far arrested seven persons for suspected links with the bomb attack. Of the arrestees, five are from among the families of Bangabandhu murder convicts.

Sources said those with suspected complicity in the bomb attack have been under close watch.

Babar

FROM PAGE 1
a five-day remand for DCC Ward Councillor Ariful Islam Arifin in the same case.

Babar was shown arrested in the case on October 26 and remanded for nine days in two phases.

Arif, who was shown arrested on Thursday, has been placed on remand for the first time in the case.

Salam was arrested for suspected links to the attack on November 2 and had earlier been remanded for six days.

The IO filed separate petitions with the second additional chief metropolitan magistrate's court seeking a six-day remand for Babar, eight days for Salam and ten days for Arif.

In the forwarding report, the IO said Babar needs to be remanded for getting more information on the grenade attack and find out the reason why he did not visit the scene only 150 to 200 yards away from his office soon after the carnage.

Salam and Arif need to be grilled for finding out their involvement with the incident, he said.

Defence lawyers submitted petitions seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayers.

They claimed their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them. Moreover, the IO failed to get any vital clue from them about the attack, the counsels said.

The magistrate rejected the bail petitions after hearing both the sides.

Wild elephant poached in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Poachers killed a wild elephant at Kagoji Khola-Garjontoli area of Naikkhongchhari upazila on Sunday afternoon.

Locals alleged that the poachers shot the female elephant dead to collect its bones and tusk.

Naikkhongchhari police said local people saw the dead elephant with bullet holes in its body and informed the forest officials and police.

Earlier, a wild male elephant was allegedly killed at a rubber garden near Alikhong village of Baishari union of the upazila on October 1.

Though the forest department claimed that the male elephant died of diarrhoea, witnesses said they saw bullet marks on it.

Lama forest office sources said, on information divisional forest officer and range officer of the Sangu Mouja went to the spot yesterday morning.

Naikkhongchhari upazila livestock office sources said a delegation from the livestock office under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon has also reached the spot to conduct a post mortem on the dead elephant.

The cause of the death could be known soon after the returns, sources added.

LeT men

FROM PAGE 1
gleaned from the arrestees -- Mufti Harun Izzahar, son of Islami Oikya Jote leader Mufti Izzaharul Islam and Harun's associates Shahidul Islam and Al Amin alias Saiful.

However, he declined to disclose any further information on the plan or about the targets.

The official produced them before the court seeking seven days' fresh remand. But the court granted three days' remand each.

Officials in the Detective Branch (DB) of police told The Daily Star they also have close link with militant outfits LeT and Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji).

Meantime, detectives are looking for eight other suspected militants with whom arrested Mufti Harun had close contacts.

"We have evidence on Harun's contact with those people, but it is not confirmed whether they were involved in the plot to attack US Embassy and Indian High Commission," said a DB investigator.

DB officials said Harun, along with another suspect, did receive several times to devise an attack plan, instructed by LeT. The LeT had a plan to make the attacks in association with Huji men in Bangladesh.

BNP central body

FROM PAGE 16
and organisational secretary.

Some other leaders including Nazrul Islam Khan, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy might be promoted to vice chairman posts.

There is also a chance of nominating Nazrul Islam Khan as standing committee member along with others like Brig Gen (ret) ASM Hannan Shah, MK Anwar, TH Khan and Jamiruddin Sircar.

The party leaders who have remained inactive, sided with the reformists or participated in the last parliamentary election defying party decision will be dropped from the new committee, party insiders said.

Many leaders in a bid to get desired posts are now trying to contact Tarique Rahman, who might play a vital role in the formation of both the executive and national standing committees, they said.

According to the party constitution, national executive committee is formed with 251 members but the chairperson has the authority to change it for special reasons.

The number cannot be increased more than ten percent of 251 which is subject to approval of the standing committee, says the party constitution.

The national executive committee has to sit every four months in line with a provision of the party constitution but the present one sat in 2005 for the last time.

The constitution says the committee will work to settle internal conflicts. It will control and coordinate the activities of other committees at various levels and also party's front organisations.

Judges must

FROM PAGE 1
principles after the assassination of president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

He prayed to the court to pass the observations in the judgment of Bangabandhu murder case so that no judge of the Appellate Division administers the oath to any person illegally taking over the state power like Khandaker Moshaque Ahmed, one of the top conspirators of Bangabandhu assassination.

Some of the then SC judges did not play a proper role to uphold the constitution at that time, he said, adding those who had illegally occupied the state power should be condemned and hated.

He made the remarks while concluding his submission before the five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam during the 26th day's hearing on the appeals in the case.

The attorney general requested the apex court to pass observations which can help the government bring back the convicted accused of this case who are hiding abroad.

The convicts themselves confessed before the foreign media to killing the Father of the Nation. So there is no scope to show sympathy to them or reduce their punishment, he said, adding the three convicts have made confessions to their crimes.

The chief law officer of the state said the nation witnessed a famine of justice after 1996 as some SC judges felt embarrassed to hear this case and the trial of the case could not be

Diarrhoea

FROM PAGE 16
different this year," Dr Islam said.

Previous year, about 250 patients were treated each day while the number of patients has increased this year, the doctors said.

On duty doctors at ICDDR,B also said slum dwellers in the city are the main victims of the scarcity of pure water. Its clinical science division scientist Dr Shahdat Hossain said, scarcity of water, unhealthy environment and lack of maintaining personal hygiene are blamed for the outbreak of diarrhoea in urban slums.

Diarrhoea is a tropical waterborne disease, which weakens the body system due to dehydration. Doctors advise patients to take enough pure water to prevent the disease.

Usually, diarrhoea breaks out alarmingly in the country twice each year--before the advent of monsoon (from April to June) and in post-monsoon period (from August to October).

According to the control room of the Directorate General of Health Services, 64,621 diarrhoea-affected people had been treated in hospitals last month and 24 of them died.

At least 88 have died of diarrhoea disease while 4,34,013 have been affected since January 1 this year.

Strike on waterways

FROM PAGE 16
Mannan Hawladar.

The committee was asked to submit a report by next two months on how the demands of the workers would be met.

Director Lokman Hakim Talukder and joint labour director of labour directorate have been made as the convener and the member secretary of the committee. The other members on the committee are six each from owners and workers bodies, and one each from shipping department and BIWTA.

Following the meeting, Abdul told reporters that the strike had been withdrawn considering people's interest.

In accordance with a contract signed in the meeting, the labour directorate will announce a wage structure for the water transport workers by next two months, he said.

Chairman of BIWTA Mahbubuddin Ahmed said all the rational demands would be fulfilled through negotiation.

Chowdhury Ashique Alam, general secretary of Bangladesh Nounjan Sramik Federation, called on the workers to resume their duties.

"We will make an effort to recover losses incurred during the strike," he said.

TM Giasuddin, president of Bangladesh Oil Tanker Association, MP Golam Sarwar Tipu, Md Shah Alam, vice president of Bangladesh Nounjan Sramik Federation, and BIWTA chairman MA Malek Miah, among others, attended the meeting.

finished.

He added some of the killers of Bangabandhu including Khandaker Moshaque Ahmed, Syed Farooqur Rahman, Khandaker Abdur Rashid were relatives to each other and that is why they carried out the commands of themselves during the conspiracy and the killings.

Mahbubey Alam said Bangladesh is known as a peaceful and democratic country, but the killing of the Father of the Nation has damaged the image of Bangladesh in the world.

Among the killers, some were the sitting army officers and others dismissed army officers who committed the heinous incidents on August 15, 1975, keeping the force in the dark.

Describing the incidents of the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members during the hearing, the attorney general burst into tears and stopped submission.

The court at this stage told him they (judges of the court) have no hearts, eyes and tears and asked him to control his emotion.

The attorney general concluded his submission saying, "I just want the trial of the most cruel and heinous crime of the world."

The court adjourned the hearing till this morning. The special counsels for the state in this case are due to place arguments today.

Kewra forest

FROM PAGE 16
Dulal Farazi, local Baro Bogi UP chairman and former senior member of Taltali thana BNP, confirmed the incident of deforestation in the char land.

But he denied his involvement with the ongoing deforestation and blamed his hired fishermen. He hired a group of fishermen only for collecting shrimp and not for cutting trees, he claimed.

Taltali Coastal Forest Range Officer Balam Saha denied the allegation of taking bribe.

"We cannot protect the Kewra forest due to lack of manpower. If a case is filed, the police don't catch tree thieves. Now it has become risky for us to keep guard on the forest," he said.

"After an investigation, necessary steps will be taken against those who are responsible for this," the officer added without giving any timeframe.

Kabir Hossain, local forest beat officer, claimed that the land has been leased out to fishermen and fish merchants for their business.

Abdul Khalek Howladar, officer-in-charge (OC) of Taltali police station, denied the allegation against police.

"Whenever the forest department wants our cooperation, we extend our hands. When the Kewra forest is destroyed, the forest department remains silent," the OC added.

The OC alleged that eviction drive against the fishermen could not be conducted due to non-cooperation of the forest department.

He said it is the responsibility of the forest department to file case against the persons responsible for destroying forest.

KUSHTIA 'OUTLAW' Ankhi, 4 others sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Taslima Khan Ankhi, general secretary of a faction of Kushtia town Mahila Awami League and a suspected patron of armed group Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), and her four accomplices were yesterday sent to jail after a five-day remand ended on Sunday.

Police said they have gleaned some important information from them about the present activities of several outfits in the region, mostly outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz.

Sources said during interrogation it was learnt that the arms, including an AK-47 rifle recovered from their possession, were used in the killing of Awami League Mirpur unit Joint Secretary Meherul Alam and a college teacher on August 15.

Police said the arms and ammunition were being taken to Kushtia for carrying out 'subversive' activities in the town.

Police said the killing of Jubo League leader and contractor Jamirul Islam Jamu on October 30, 2006 was a pre-planned one Ankhi that masterminded. Cadres of outlawed GMF carried out the killing.

Meanwhile, police played for seven days' remand for another suspected outlaw cadre Nahid Parvin Champa. The court has fixed today for hearing.

AL plotting

FROM PAGE 16
Chowdhury's recent remarks.

Reacting to Sajeda's comments, he said the statements made by Sajeda Chowdhury were untrue. "It doesn't look nice when a senior responsible leader like her talks like that."

On Sunday, Sajeda reportedly said BNP was born amid anarchy and indiscipline and criticised BNP "for carrying out propaganda against the government and issuing threat to topple it within three months, resulting in the BDR headquarters carnage."

Sajeda also alleged that BNP had hatched conspiracy to kill Sheikh Hasina and "that conspiracy is still on."

Refuting the allegations, Delwar said people will judge the authenticity of her statements.

About ruling party leaders' comments over boycotting parliament by BNP, he said they want to go to parliament but the way they have undermined the dignity of parliament by hurling abuses and assassinating the characters of BNP leaders, including Khalede of the opposition leader of the opposition Khalede Zia, now they have to think whether BNP could go to parliament.

On the recent election to Bangladesh Medical Association, he said the panels of the ruling party were made elected unilaterally through rigging, forgery and partiality.

"As a matter of fact, AL is used to resorting to such vote fraud."

Referring to various repressive measures and attempts against BNP by the government, he said they have not left any stone unturned to destroy BNP.

Delwar mentioned that detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar was taken on remand repeatedly since the military-backed caretaker government had taken power to take forceful confessional statements to implicate BNP senior joint secretary general Tarique Rahman in various cases.

But the attempt has not succeeded yet, he added.

Housewife

FROM PAGE 16
told The Daily Star last night.

Shahin, who married Salma about 12 years ago, used to beat his wife every now and then over the issue, he said, adding that their relationship deteriorated when Salma came to know that her husband got married to the woman.

"On Sunday night, Shahin's second wife phoned Salma and threatened her to disappear from their lives," he said.

Salma could not bear the insult and took poison, he added.

Her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy last night.

Hasina asks

FROM PAGE 1
The meeting also discussed amending the BDR Act, which has no provision of trying heinous crimes like murder, arson and looting rather than mutiny. The cabinet also opined against the trial of any future BDR mutiny under the army act, sources said.

The prime minister after a thorough discussion directed the home ministry to amend the BDR Act 1972 so that crimes as murder, arson and looting can be tried, prime minister's Deputy Press Secretary Mahbubul Hoque Shakil told reporters after the meeting.

The act was discussed, as there was a scheduled agenda about gazette notification that stated any future mutiny in the BDR would be tried under the Army Act. The meeting, however, did not make any decision as the law minister is in abroad.

Sources at the meeting told The Daily Star that an ordinance on amending the BDR act would be promulgated soon in the next parliamentary session. The ordinance would be placed before the House as a bill for amendment.

"Provisions of trying all kinds of crimes will make the act complete and free of complexity in the future," a state minister told The Daily Star.

"After the bomb attack on Taposh, no one is safe. So remain alert in your respective fields and areas," one of the ministers quoted Hasina and added that the premier asked them to inform her immediately about any untoward activities.

Hasina also directed the ministers and state ministers to help improve the law and order which some vested quarters are trying to deteriorate in a planned way.

NO MERCY, IF FOUND GUILTY: SAHARA

Home Minister Sahara Khatun earlier yesterday said action would be taken against military officers if found linked with the bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh.

"Whoever is linked with the attack, must get punished. We will not spare anybody," Sahara said when asked about the

BFF sacks

FROM PAGE 16
of the BFF was convinced that it was not the best available team. Since he (Dido) was adamant not to reconsider his selection the BFF had no other option but to terminate him with immediate effect," BFF General Secretary Al Musabbir Sadi told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Sadi also said that former national custodian and BFF technical director Shahidur Rahman Shantoo would replace Dido as national team's head coach. Saiful Bari Tito will act as his deputy while Satyajit Das Rupu will manage the team.

The axe fell on Dido for ignoring experienced players like defender Rajani Kanta Barman, goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee and Ariful Islam. Dido's sacking meant he could hardly occupy the hot seat for even a year after taking over in January this year.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh premier returned home yesterday afternoon. She arrived at 1:10pm by Druk Airlines. Earlier, the Bhutanese prime minister and his spouse saw her off at Paro International Airport.

Militants kill

FROM PAGE 16
checkpoint on the outer ring road of the northwestern metropolis, which runs into the al-Qaeda and Taliban-infested tribal belt.

"The driver stopped his (the bomber's) rickshaw at the checkpoint and a police constable asked him to get out but he appeared reluctant," policeman Asmatullah Khan, who watched the attack from behind sandbags, told AFP.

"The constable tried to drag him out. He blew himself up soon after stepping out of the vehicle. The rickshaw driver also died."

Officials said three people were killed -- a policeman and two civilians.

The first attack, late Sunday, left four soldiers dead in Makin, one of the battlefields where ground troops are pressing an operation against the homegrown Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) network into a fourth week.

Military officials said initially that the soldiers died in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack -- of the type deployed by the Taliban to such deadly effect against US and Nato troops across the border in Afghanistan.

But the army press office later issued a statement saying militants fired rockets at a security checkpoint, killing the four soldiers and wounding one other. Eight militants were killed, the statement said.

Further to the north in the lawless tribal belt, where US officials say al-Qaeda are plotting attacks on the West, a roadside bomb killed two paramilitary soldiers in Bajaur district, officials said.

The soldiers were travelling

Monday's media reports on the involvement of several army persons in the bomb attack. "The matter is under investigation," she added.

She was addressing reporters after a meeting with visiting Executive Director of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Mike Smith at the home ministry.

Sahara said there were allegations against disgruntled military officers for their involvement in the killings of political leaders since the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

"They'll not dare to do so again if the judgment of Bangabandhu murder case is executed," she said.

During the meeting, the UNCTAD executive director, who is also the assistant secretary general of the United Nations, proposed setting up