

Apec leaders

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Adviser Mike Froman told reporters.

Froman said Rasmussen told the meeting "he would seek to achieve a politically binding agreement that covered all the major elements of the negotiations" during the December 7-18 conference.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Mexican Prime Minister Felipe Calderon had convened the Singapore talks before the closing session of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit here.

In a final declaration, Apec called Sunday for "an ambitious outcome in Copenhagen" but dropped a proposal included in earlier drafts to slash their greenhouse gas emissions to half their 1990 levels by 2050.

Environmental group WWF said the leaders had "missed a great opportunity to move the world closer to a fair, ambitious and binding agreement" in Copenhagen and "this does not look like a smart strategy" to battle climate change.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong defended the Apec declaration, saying the talks were not a forum for negotiating climate issues.

"This is Apec and it's a declaration of intent in good faith, and the negotiations and the formal commitments will be done in the UN process which is leading to Copenhagen," he told a news conference.

Earlier, China's Hu told fellow Apec leaders that he hoped for "positive results" in

Copenhagen and vowed his government was "ready to work together with all parties to achieve this goal."

The president repeated Beijing's position that the developed world must bear the brunt of emissions cuts and provide technology and financial help to poor countries to mitigate climate change.

Arkady Dvorkovich, chief economic adviser to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, said the leaders "are ready to strike a political agreement which would give an impetus to the negotiations process."

Medvedev called for a "roadmap" to govern negotiations in 2010-2011 for a new treaty, he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama told reporters he hoped to attend the Copenhagen talks and said he had pressed the other regional leaders to do the same.

Obama, speaking to his Apec counterparts before the summit wrapped up, acknowledged the concerns of developing nations.

"We must seek a solution that will allow all nations to grow and raise living standards without polluting our atmosphere and wreaking havoc on our climate," he said.

Industrialised nations are pressing emerging giants such as China, India and Brazil, which are now huge emitters, to strengthen promises to tackle their own greenhouse gas output, but developing nations fear drastic cuts would impede their economic progress.

40 proposals

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provision before the standing committee for approval.

If the provision is approved, one leader will not be allowed to hold several posts in BNP and its associate bodies.

A lot of proposals came from party men. The constitution and declaration amendment sub-committee picked about 40 proposals and the national standing committee is now discussing them, "BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan told reporters last night.

Sub-committee convener Tariqul Islam handed over the proposals to the standing committee during the meeting at the party chairperson's Gulshan office. Chairperson Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting.

Sources said the sub-committee proposed electing

the party secretary general through the national council. It also proposed expanding the central executive committee with 351 members from 251.

Committee sources said if the new provisions are accepted, councillors will elect the chairperson and secretary general both for a three-year tenure.

Permission of the immediate supervisory committees will also be mandatory for all units to use portraits of party founder and late president Ziaur Rahman, Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and their son Tarique Rahman in posters or leaflets.

The sub-committee also proposed allowing only the chairperson to convene standing committee meeting, which has to be convened at least once every three months.

Police inaction

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Judge ANM Bashir Ullah scheduled October 19 for hearing the bail petition, and after the hearing he rejected the petition and sent Mizanur to jail.

On August 18, Mizanur's wife Sheuli Rahman, also a director of the company, appeared before the HC, seeking anticipatory bail and secured it for six months.

At least 28 children died of renal failures, following intake of Rid's paracetamol syrup and suspension, across the country from June to August this year.

On August 11, the Dhaka Drug Court issued arrest warrants against the five after Directorate of Drug Administration Superintendent Shafiqul Islam filed the case with the court. A case against them was filed in Brahmanbaria as well, while three other cases were filed against the Rid management in Comilla, Narayanganj, and Sylhet.

In his complaint, Shafiqul Islam said several children died at Shishu Hospital of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital due to renal failures after intake of paracetamol produced by Rid.

He said the government realised the seriousness of the matter and published advertisements in national dailies asking all not to take any drug manufactured by the company.

On July 22, the Directorate of Drug Administration sealed off Rid's factory in Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) area of Brahmanbaria.

The government also formed a seven-member probe committee to investigate the matter.

On July 29, the probe committee placed its report that found the presence of fatally toxic diethylene glycol in the paracetamol syrup produced

by Rid. Rid Pharmaceutical used diethylene glycol, meant for the tannery and rubber industries, instead of the appropriate chemical propylene glycol, as the toxin cost much less than the appropriate chemical.

Later, the government banned three drugs of Rid Pharmaceutical under two brand names -- Ridaplex vitamin B-complex syrup, and Temset paracetamol suspension and syrup, for their sub-standard qualities and harmful effects on the public health.

Manufacturing, marketing, preservation, use, and sale of the three drugs are also banned.

Sources at the drug administration said Rid received drug manufacturing license in 2006 and started marketing 12 drugs. Although the company only had permission for producing paracetamol suspension, it started producing paracetamol syrup as well.

MRP

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e-passport. But we dropped the idea for now as the standard and guidelines of e-passport are yet to be fixed. Besides, e-passport has not been made mandatory," Salam, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said.

The committee chief said they have been given assurance that issuing of MRP will start within the set time of April 2010 by the ICAO.

It would not take more time and money to convert MRP into e-passport, he said, quoting the project director of MRP who was also present in the standing committee meeting.

The retired general also said that they have asked the home ministry to form a coordination committee comprised of ministry officials concerned to work on controlling city's traffic jams.

Another BDR man dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of Bangladesh Rifles in Khagrachhari sector died of a cardiac arrest yesterday.

The BDR jawan Muhammad SM Shawkat Hossain, 47, was suffering from heart disease for a long time, a press release from BDR headquarters said.

With the dead, the death toll of BDR men rises to 54 since March 9.

He was rushed to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital as he suddenly felt chest pains. He died at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit around 2:15pm, the press release said.

Shawkat served around 29 years in the BDR.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. BDR has sent his body for burial to his native village Barguni under Chitalmari upazila in Bagerhat.

JNU student crushed under bus wheels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jagannath University (JNU) student was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on DIT Road in the capital's Rampura Bazar while he was trying to get into it yesterday.

Mohammad Arif, 24, a third year student of Physics department at the university, was a resident of East Rampura.

Mizanur Rahman, his father, said he (Arif) fell down from a bus of Ekushey Paribahan at the moment of getting into it around 9:30am and was crushed.

Locals took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, said Mizanur.

He also said Arif was going to Mouchak with his friend.

Officer-in-charge Ali Ahmed Hasmi of Rampura police station said they seized the bus but its driver fled.

Govt cancels

FROM PAGE 1
The meeting also decided that communications, local government and rural development ministries will be requested to destroy the low bridges on the rivers and construct them in a way so that they do not hamper water transport.

"In future, approval of the shipping ministry will be required to construct any bridge over the rivers," Howladers said.

The government will take stronger measures to save the rivers from industrial wastes. Besides, water buses will be introduced around the capital while fences will be built on the recovered riverbanks.

The land ministry was also requested to finalise the policy on sand lifting and to inform the taskforce.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud, lawmakers Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Aslamul Haque, Begum Sanjida Khanom, secretaries, BWIA Chairman Abdul Malek Mia, Water Development Board Director General Abul Kalam Azad, Paribesh Bachao Andolon Chairman Abu Naser Khan, Dhaka University Geography Professor Dr Nasreen Ahmad and deputy commissioners concerned were present at the meeting.

The HC on June 25 issued a set of directives on the government to save the rivers Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu around the capital from encroachment and pollution.

The HC also directed the deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Munshiganj to demarcate the areas of Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu rivers as per the Cadastral Survey (CS) and Revisional Survey (RS) records by November 30.

The parliamentary body also formed a committee headed by Nikhil Ranjan Mandal, a joint secretary of the land ministry, to identify officials involved in alleged irregularities in giving lease of government lands to individuals and organisations.

On the recovery of city's 43 canals the parliamentary body chief said they would meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina early December for her directives on the matter as the committee thinks it will be a troublesome task to recover the canals which calls for concerted efforts.

Some judges and lawyers were also provided with additional security, he said.

Besides, the government deployed additional forces in and outside the court and people entering the court compound would have to pass through a security checkpoint.

The SC registrar also said additional security would remain in force after the announcement of the verdict, if necessary.

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Afghan graft battle stands or falls with warlords

AFP, Kabul

President Hamid Karzai may profess a desire to eradicate corruption and sack corrupt officials, but promises to tackle the rot in Afghanistan's government stand or fall with his warlord friends.

In a nation of weak institutions, patronage and governance revolve around powerful warlords and strongmen -- the kingmakers who propelled Karzai back to the presidential palace and whom he cannot afford to alienate.

Western allies, pondering whether to deploy thousands more troops against a virulent Taliban insurgency and how to reconcile domestic opposition to the war, demand concrete action to sack and even arrest corrupt officials.

Yet these officials are the same men who can cause serious problems for Karzai's second mandate, already discredited by a fraudulent August election, if not amply rewarded for putting him in power.

"The likelihood that Karzai will tackle corruption is limited, the whole systems rests on corruption," said Mariam Abou Zahab, researcher at the Centre for International Studies and Research in Paris.

At his first public appearance after election officials, whom he appointed, declared him president for a second time, Karzai promised to eradicate the "stain of corruption."

As US President Barack Obama and Western leaders piled on pressure, Karzai agreed in a subsequent US media interview to sack dishonest officials. His cabinet will not be announced until after his inauguration on November 19.

Observers believed the omens were poor when infamous warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum returned to Kabul just ahead of the August election, having urged his Uzbek loyalists in the north to vote for Karzai.

They interpreted his homecoming, from rumoured exile in Turkey since supporters last year brutally attacked a

rival, as a sign he may be waiting for the payback -- a government job for him or one of his entourage.

"No comment. We will organise a press conference very soon," one of his spokesmen, General Karimzada, told AFP.

"The return of Dostum doesn't bode well at all. You can hardly imagine Fahim or Dostum being arrested," said Abou Zahab.

Mohammad Qasim Fahim, the Tajik warlord on whom Karzai conferred the rank of marshal, the highest in Afghanistan, will formally become vice president once Karzai is inaugurated.

It was a choice that alarmed the international community.

Hillary Mann Leverett, a former US National Security Council member, has called him "a human rights-abusing, drug-trafficking warlord who might also have had a role in al-Qaeda's assassination of his political godfather."

Ahmad Shah Massoud was killed in a suicide attack carried out by two militants posing as television journalists two days before the September 11, 2001 attacks that paved the way for the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

Down in southern Kandahar, the Taliban's heartland where Nato troops are struggling to contain Islamist insurgents, Karzai's controversial younger brother, Ahmad Wali Karzai, is governor.

"The system is brutal in Kandahar. Karzai's brother forces people to sell, expropriates land of other tribes, has a hold over the private sector -- and then there are drugs," said a Western diplomat.

Drugs are at the heart of corruption. Afghanistan produces more than 90 percent of the world's opium, which is used primarily to make heroin. US media accuse the president's brother of being involved in the drug trade, charges he denies.

"My lawyer in New York told me not to talk to media," said Ahmad Wali Karzai when contacted by AFP.

80pc of rivers

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Turag and Shitalakhya -- in line with the High Court (HC) direction, "AKM Mozammel Huq, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"As the officials concerned informed that it would be hard for them to complete the task within the stipulated time fixed by the HC, we have asked the law ministry to appeal to the court seeking one month's time extension," Mozammel added.

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Speaker

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no clash with the union parishad or upazila parishad chairmen in my constituency other than that when I found them misappropriating wheat allocated for the people," the speaker of the House said.

The local government bodies and some officials of local administration ate up the major share of the money allocated in employment generation schemes during the last caretaker government, he said adding that such corruption should not bethere.

"The other problem is population boom. If we can check corruption and population explosion, eradication of poverty is very much possible," advocate Hamid said.

He said it does not really work even if more allocation is made for the local government bodies, because the resources are shared among the representatives and some others close to them.

Besides, he suggested the NGOs running micro-credit programmes must cut high interest rates if they truly want development of people.

Parliamentary standing committee Chairman on land ministry AKM Mozammel Huq came heavily on the NGOs charging high interests in micro-credit programmes, saying such NGOs actually hamper development.

"There are 65,000 NGOs in the country and if each (NGO) worked in each village, Bangladesh would have changed, but that has not happened," he observed.

Municipality mayors at the seminar sought more funds and freedom to take up development projects including micro-credit at low interest rates. The NGOs working at local levels should be made accountable locally, they suggested.

Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman of Dhaka University presented a key-note paper, while lawmakers Sarah Kaberi, Asaduzzaman Noor, MAB president Azmat Ullah Khan and secretary general Shamim Al Razi also spoke.

Sajeda's son

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during the last caretaker government.

Accordingly, the home ministry sought opinion of the law ministry in this regard, said a press note.

After examination of the concerned documents, the law ministry opined that the president in exercise of his power under Article 49 of the Constitution can waive, suspend or reduce punishment of any person accused by any court, tribunal or any other authority.

As per the article 49, the president has exercised his constitutional power vested upon him in waiving punishment of Labu and there is no legal bar in this regard, it said.

The president has waived the punishment of Shahadab Akbar based on the above mentioned opinion and there was no violation of law of the land, it added.

Koko

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not in the first information report, was included in the charge sheet as an accused, as his involvement in money laundering was found during investigation.

It was the first investigation to have been conducted by ACC teamed up with any overseas authorities.

Saimon has been on the run since filing of the case, while Koko has been abroad for treatment on parole.

During the probe, the graft watchdog obtained many relevant documents from Singapore during the last caretaker government rule.

The Attorney General's Office also played a vital role in this regard.

ACC filed the case with Kafilur Police Station on March 17.

In the case statement it states that Koko had laundered a huge sum of money he received from a Chinese company and Siemens and some other sources in return for helping them win government contracts.

In the complaint, the anti-graft body alleged that the accused had underhand dealings with China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd over a Tk 351 crore contract for setting up New Mooring Container Terminal and with Siemens over a Tk 239 crore contract for supplying and installing equipment for the state-owned Teletalk mobile phone operator.

The secretaries to the cabinet division, the president's secretary, the prime minister's office secretariat, the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat and the law ministry have been made respondents to the HC ruling.

4 officers for graft

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Container Terminal (CCT).

The ministry ordered suspension of two other officials after an investigation found proof against the allegations of corruption and irregularities Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury brought against them, they said.

Sources said the shipping ministry earlier served show-cause notice to CPA chairman, director (traffic) and deputy traffic manager for their involvement in reported irregularities in CCT tendering process following recommendation made by parliamentary standing committee on the ministry.

The ministry ordered suspension of the director (traffic) and the DTM as their responses to the show-cause notice was found "unsatisfactory", according to the sources.

The CPA chairman being at the same time a high offi-

cial of Bangladesh Navy the ministry on Wednesday sent a letter to Bangladesh Navy asking measures against him, said the sources.

Mentionable, the first tender of CCT opened on May 25 last year was cancelled and the tender was floated afresh on December 22, 2008. Esack Brothers became the lowest bidder in the second tender and former shipping adviser major Gen (ret'd) MA Matin approved the appointment of Esack Brothers on the concluding day of immediate past caretaker government triggering controversy.

Parliamentary standing committee on the shipping ministry investigated the reported irregularities in the tendering process and recommended filing case against MA Matin and the CPA officials.

The shipping ministry sent the Wednesday's suspension order following the recommendations.

PM seeks

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the World Summit on Food Security beginning today in the Italian capital.

The UAE PM gave assurance to Hasina of his all-out support to the development of Bangladesh including recruitment of more manpower and investing in the power and energy sectors of Bangladesh, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told BSS.

During the meeting, issues related to food security, climate change, river dredging, collecting dredgers, health service, development of Chittagong seaport, expansion of trade between Bangladesh and UAE got importance.

Hasina apprised the UAE premier of the present Bangladesh government's various initiatives in developing power and energy sectors and expressed her firm hope that the UAE would assist Bangladesh.

In reply, the UAE ruler assured the Bangladesh premier of providing necessary supports in this regard.

While requesting to recruit more manpower from Bangladesh, Hasina informed the UAE premier that the Bangladesh government has taken initiative to provide sector wise training to the labourers before sending them abroad.

"Bangladesh is one of the most affected countries due to the adverse effects of the climate change, although the developing countries like that of ours are not responsible for that," she said.

Hasina said her government has taken various programmes involving \$ 100 million to face the adverse affects of climate change.

The programmes include capital and maintenance dredging of the country's rivers, afforestation, raising green belts in the coastal areas and ensuring food security.

The UAE PM assured of his support while Bangladesh premier sought assistance in collecting dredgers for river development in the country.

Hasina also apprised him of her government's various steps

2 outlaws killed

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prompting the law enforcers to retaliate. Mamun died on the spot but his accomplices managed to flee the scene. Police recovered one LG, 2 bullets and four machetes from there.

Police sent the dead body to Kushtia general hospital.

According to police, Mamun was involved in extortion, abduction and robbery and was accused in six cases including four for murders filed with Daulatpur in Kushtia and Gangni in Meherpur police stations.

In a separate incident, Badsha alias Badsha Bhai, 35, regional leader of a PBCP-ML faction Lal Pataka, was beaten to death at Roypur, his native village under Gangni upazila.

According to police, a group of 15 people caught Badsha around 3:00am when he opened a bank fire after being challenged by the night guards while roaming on the street.

Badsha was injured severely as the people beat him up.

On information, police of Gangni police station rushed to the spot and rescued Badsha and took him to Meherpur General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead around 4:30pm.

A shutter gun and one bullet were recovered from his possession. Badsha was accused in six cases including two for murder.

to alleviate poverty and to ensure health care services for the masses through community health care centres.

She also mentioned about setting up an oil refinery plant in the country and modernising the Chittagong seaport.

In reply, the UAE premier gave assurance of his all-out support in the development of Bangladesh.

During the meeting, both the premiers recalled the visit of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1974 in UAE and his meeting with the founder of UAE Abul Ali Nahyan.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque, Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Nazmul Quanine, among others, were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Hasina attended the 11th International Aerospace Exhibition-2009 (Dubai Air show) here.

On her arrival at the Dubai international Airport at noon, she was received by a high level UAE delegation including members of the royal family and Media Minister Sheikh Hasar.

Afterwards, she held a meeting with the Media Minister Sheikh Hasar and discussed different bilateral issues related to the mutual interests including climate change.

German minister

FROM PAGE 16
Sonntagszeitung said.

On his two-day trip, his first to the region, zu Guttenberg held talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak.

He also met US General Stanley McChrystal, the commander of the 100,000-strong international