

'Larger than life'

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Hasina, who was accompanied to the assembly lobby by West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and Finance Minister Ashim Dasgupta, spent about six minutes near Basu's body.

After laying the wreath, Hasina penned her tributes to Basu in Bangla in a condolence book kept in a room adjacent to the assembly lobby.

"The man Jyoti Basu was larger than life and he lives on in our heart. His departure leaves a never-to-be-filled void in our political life and the hearts of all lives he touched. I pay my deepest respect to his memory," Hasina wrote adding Basu "lived to the fullest of his commitment to the people and to changing the lot of the oppressed."

We recall with deep gratitude his immense contribution to our war of liberation in 1971 and the empathy he had consistently shown for the people of Bangladesh," she wrote.

The Bangladesh prime minister was received at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport

by West Bengal Governor D K o n w a r , B u d d h a d e b Bhattacharjee, and Ashim Dasgupta.

Hasina, who described Jyoti Basu as a tall leader not only of India but of South Asia, and recalled his role in facilitating the 1996 Ganges water-sharing treaty, joined leading politicians of India in paying the tributes. She later returned to Dhaka.

Before Hasina, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, accompanied by Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, placed a wreath on Basu's body.

Among other Indian leaders who paid their last respects to Basu were BJP President Nitin Gadkari, former deputy prime minister LK Advani, former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, Janata Dal (United) chief Sharad Yadav, Rashtriya Janata Dal President Lalu Prasad, Indian Agriculture Minister and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, Telugu Desam Party chief N Chandrababu Naidu, and Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh.

Basu's funeral began around 7:30am when his body was taken out of a Peace Heaven mortuary, where it had been preserved since his death, and taken in a procession to CPI (M) headquarters at Alimuddin Street, a narrow bylane in central Kolkata.

Thousands of people queued up on both sides of the procession route covering some of the main streets of Kolkata to have a last glimpse of their leader. The hearse carrying Basu's body, wrapped in the red party flag, wound its way led by a pilot car of the Kolkata Police to Alimuddin Street, a distance of two kilometres, where a large crowd already gathered behind barricades.

When the hearse, decorated with white flowers and red party flags, reached the party headquarters, senior CPI (M) leaders including party General Secretary Prakash Karat, West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, and Sitaram Yechury saluted the departed leader with clenched

Proshika

FROM PAGE 1
usual by its present governing body.

The HC bench of Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed and Justice Naima Haider yesterday came up with the order after hearing a writ petition filed by Mahubul Karim.

Petitioner's lawyer barrister Maniruzzaman Asad told The Daily Star that as per yesterday's HC order, the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and deputy commissioner of Mirpur zone in Dhaka have to hand over the keys to his client within two days after receiving the order.

Earlier the HC in its verdict ruled that Qazi Faruque Ahmed can enter the Proshika office as its former chairman, but he cannot take any decision or hold any meeting or procession on the office premises.

But around 20 to 25 hired men of Qazi Faruque broke in the office at midnight of January 11 and took control of it, he said.

Police took away the keys of the Proshika Bhaban and locked it on January 13.

On Sunday Mahubul Karim filed the writ petition seeking directions from the HC upon the police to hand over the keys to him.

Respondents in the petition include home secretary, inspector general of police, DMP commissioner, DC Mirpur zone, OC of Pallabi police station and Qazi Faruque Ahmed.

fists. The body was shouldered down from the hearse by Karat, Yechury, Bhattacharjee, state Left Front Chairman Biman Bose, Industry Minister Nirupam Sen, and other senior leaders, and placed on a platform.

After the body was placed on the platform, senior-most member of CPI (M) in West Bengal, 97-year-old Samar Mukherjee was the first to place a wreath.

After an hour's stop at Alimuddin Street, the hearse moved to the state secretariat, Writers' Building, from where Basu had ruled West Bengal as the chief minister for 23 years from 1977. His body was kept on a makeshift platform in front of the secretariat for a few minutes during which Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee placed a wreath on the body.

From the Writers' Building, the hearse traveled to the nearby state legislative assembly complex where Basu's body was brought down, wrapped in the Indian national flag and placed on a podium by members of the Indian army.

Apart from the VIPs, tens of thousands of mourners, braving winter chill, queued up at the assembly premises since early morning and filed past Basu's body to pay their homage.

After a nearly four-hour stay at the assembly building, the body was placed by six army men in uniform on a flower-bedecked gun carriage of the Indian army which pulled it to near Moharkunja Park on the famous Kolkata Maidan where members of the army presented a 21-gun salute to the departed leader before the body was handed over by his son Chandan Basu to state-run Seth Sukhlal Karnani Hospital as per the wish of his father.

Jyoti Basu had wished that his body be donated for the benefit of medical research students, and so there was no religious ritual like cremation. Basu's eyes had already been preserved soon after his death and handed over to an eye foundation. The eyes will be used for anyone requiring cornea implant.

Given the presence of several VIPs, thousands of security personnel including armed commandos were deployed at the assembly premises.

Thousands of CPI (M) activists carrying party flags and photos of Jyoti Basu, and other people gathered outside the assembly premises since early morning, and as the day wore on, the gathering turned into a human sea reflecting the popularity of the late Marxist leader.

Home minister

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clash, she said.

The home minister said several hundred JCD men led by its president Sultan Salahuddin Tuku took position on the campus on Monday. They were armed with knives and firearms.

The violence erupted when they made an attempt to attack the Surja Sen Hall. The rival faction of JCD countered them, the home minister said.

Sahara claimed that the atmosphere in the educational institutions was peaceful due to her government's strong measures.

She thanked leaders and activists of Awami League and its associated bodies and the components of AL-led grand alliance for assisting the government to maintain law and order in last one year.

Rajuk

FROM PAGE 1
Future Park authorities asking them to demolish four unauthorised floors of the shopping complex within seven days.

Rajuk's lawyer AFM Mesbahuddin yesterday assured the HC, during its hearing on a writ petition challenging the Rajuk notice, of not demolishing the floors until the hearing ends Thursday.

The HC bench of Justice A H M S h a m s u d d i n Chowdhury and Justice Borhan Uddin adjourned the hearing till Thursday.

Jamuna Future Park authorities filed the writ petition on January 17 with the HC challenging the Rajuk notice.

During the hearing of the writ petition yesterday, counsel for the petitioner Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq prayed to the court to issue a status quo order on the notice as Additional Attorney General Murad Reza sought one-day time for hearing the petition.

He said one secretary-level official, AFM Tajul Islam, was sent into compulsory retirement.

Ashraf said there are 49 posts for secretaries, 28 for additional secretaries, 129 for joint secretaries, 301 for deputy secretaries and 719 for assistant and senior assistant secretaries.

Mega dredging

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The minister said implementation of a project titled "Gorai river recovery project (second phase)" worth Tk 942.15 crore has already begun.

He said purchasing of five dredgers is under process. Of them, the water resources ministry will purchase two while the shipping ministry will buy three, he said.

He said the two ministries have 45 dredgers but only seven of them are now operational. "We have made a move to repair some dredgers which are repairable," he added.

During the question-answer session, a number of lawmakers said most of the rivers in their constituencies are about to die and some of them are already dead. A few lawmakers also drew the minister's attention to river erosion causing immense suffering to people.

They urged the minister to take immediate steps to revive the country's rivers and control floods.

In response to another query, the water resources minister said the government has planned to discuss with upstream countries, which have common rivers with Bangladesh, to increase flow of waters in the common rivers during the dry season.

"To increase water flow in the Padma during the dry season, the government is negotiating with India and Nepal to construct water bodies at the sub-rivers of the Ganges that originate in Nepal," he said.

Amar Desh

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The plaintiff, Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, in his complaint said the accused published a false news item linking him and prime minister's son Sajeb Wazed Joy in the December 17 issue of the daily newspaper.

The report said Towfiq and Joy took a five-million-dollar bribe from American oil company Chevron promising them to award an oil exploration order, the complainant said.

The news was published with an intention to tarnish the image of the government as well as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her son Joy, he claimed.

The news blemished the complainant's reputation in and outside the country as well, Towfiq added.

The news was false and fabricated, he alleged.

The complainant also appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the three for committing such offences.

AL leaders of different districts across the country had earlier filed a number of cases against them for the same.

Militants plan

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Earlier, Pakistani intelligence agencies had warned about a terror attack on the Farooqabad Police Training School following which security was beefed up in and around the installation.

The Punjab Home Department had sent a circular to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and other senior officials, indicating that terrorists are planning to attack police training schools across the province, The Daily Times reports.

According to sources, Manawan police training school and the Elite training school are also on the terror hit list.

Armed gunmen had attacked the Manawan police training school, situated on the outskirts of Lahore, in March 2009. The building was wred by the Pakistani security forces after an intense six-hour-long gun-battle with the militants.

Civil service

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minister also disclosed a list of government officials who have been made OSD (officer on special duty) since January 1, 2009.

According to the list, 10 secretaries, 37 additional secretaries, 92 joint secretaries and 73 deputy secretaries have been made OSD on different grounds including promotion, training and leave preparatory to retirement.

The minister however said a process is under way to have those officials posted to different ministries and divisions.

He said one secretary-level official, AFM Tajul Islam, was sent into compulsory retirement.

Ashraf said there are 49 posts for secretaries, 28 for additional secretaries, 129 for joint secretaries, 301 for deputy secretaries and 719 for assistant and senior assistant secretaries.

Nipah virus

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The dead were identified as Karuna Biswas, 30, of Algi village under Bhanga upazila, her daughter Dipti Biswas, 11, and nephew Sanu Biswas, 10.

Family sources said Karuna Biswas, wife of Gourango Biswas, a fisherman of Algi, died on January 13 after she had a fever and headache.

The same day her daughter Dipti Biswas was admitted to Bhanga Health Complex with the same symptoms. Later she was transferred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and died there on January 16.

Sanu Biswas, a nephew of Karuna and Gourango, also died of the same disease on January 17 at the Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

All the three drank raw date juice before they contracted the disease, the family sources added.

On information, a special team of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDRDB) led by Faridpur Civil Surgeon Dr Bashirul Islam visited the village on Saturday and collected the sample of blood of the three.

After examining the blood sample the IEDCR authorities identified the disease as encephalitis, says Dr Bashirul, adding that the disease originated from raw date juice contaminated by the swab of bats.

All people of the district were advised to collect date juice covering the mouth of jars with nets so that bats cannot sink their tongues into the jar, he said.

While talking to The Daily Star, Director of the IEDCR Prof Mahmudur Rahman said this is the first incidence of death due to Nipah virus this year.

Last year encephalitis broke out in Rajbari and Manikganj. But very few people died because of the government's early detection programme. Under the programme a regular surveillance has been in place in Faridpur, Rajbari and Madaripur since 2006.

The major outbreak took place in Faridpur in 2004 causing death to at least 17 people of Laxmipur village under Sadar upazila.

411 more cases

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of 2,380 cases filed by the past caretaker government with political motives and intention.

At the meeting, the state minister told the reporters a total of 869 cases were produced before the committee of which, 45 cases were filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission while the rest were filed under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Of the 45 cases, 23 were recommended for withdrawal from the concerned courts, two were rejected while the rest 20 were sent back for further review.

Kamrul said the committee suggested the withdrawal of 388 cases filed under CrPC and rejected 62 cases, as those were not filed with political intention.

The committee also instructed the authorities concerned to reproduce 374 cases before the next committee meeting.

It also recommended withdrawal of a case filed against Habibur Rahman Mollah, MP and former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mokbul Hossain.

The state minister said, the committee so far received a total of 6,793 cases from different districts.

Aug 15 verdict

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On January 13, the SC filed January 24 for hearing the petitions.

Contacted yesterday, Principal state counsel in the case Anisul Huq said he would pray to the apex court tomorrow to hear all the five review petitions simultaneously on January 24.

On November 19 last year, the SC confirmed death sentence of a dozen ex-army personnel including the detained ones.

Of the seven others, one died and six are on the run.

40 Huji operatives

FROM PAGE 16

Some Afghan war veterans launched the Bangladesh chapter of Huji on April 30, 1992 with an aim to establish Islamic rule in the country. Since then it spread its tentacles across the country until 1996 with the very knowledge of the then government.

After the political change-over in 2001 Huji again started its activities which were an open secret to the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government.

Probes into the August 21 attempt on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's [then main opposition leader] life have already revealed involvement of former deputy minister of BNP government Abdus Salam Pintu and a number of Huji leaders.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is now carrying out further investigation into the cases and has already arrested BNP leader and former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Huji founder Sheikh Abdus Salam.

The sources say an influential intelligence agency helped Maulana Tajuddin, who supplied grenades for the August 21 attacks, flee the country.

The sources add the agency in October 2004 also helped Hafez Jahangir Badar flee to Saudi Arabia where he became a major source of Huji funding later.

2 Pak nationals

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Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said an international gang of smugglers is using Bangladesh as a transit for smuggling forged Indian currencies from Pakistan into India.

AC Azad said acting on a tip-off they took position in Mouchak and Mailbag areas. As the two Pakistani nationals and the Bangladeshi woman entered the hotel they arrested them with forged notes.

Police seized Danish's Pakistani passport and Fatema's Bangladeshi passport, he added.

During preliminary interrogation the arrestees informed DB that they had made several visits to Nepal, India and Pakistan to smuggle forged Indian notes over the last three years.

Detained Fatema said she became acquainted with Danish three years ago at the Trade Fair in city's Argagaan. She got married to Danish who later involved her in the illicit business.

She said they use secret codes to identify themselves and they are known as gang members of FIC.

DMP commissioner said Danish and his gang members carry forged Indian notes from Pakistan and use Bangladesh and Nepal as their transit passages for smuggling them to India as Bangladesh shares vast stretches of border with India.

DB sources said they produced the detainees before the court with a prayer for a seven-day remand.

DB sources said they were trying to arrest other gang members of FIC.

Turag banks

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utility services.

The president, prime minister, leader of the opposition, ministers and diplomats from different countries will offer prayers along with around 40 lakh people.

Multi-tier security measures have been taken up in and around the venue to avert any possible threats from militant groups and subversive activities of different quarters.

Helicopters, speedboats and pickup vans will keep patrolling in and around the area. Several hundred CCTVs have been installed at the venue, which will also be under close vigil of several hundred plainclothes law enforcers among over 18,000 personnel from different agencies.

Several thousand devotees had already reached the Ijtema venue while many others were arriving yesterday.

Twenty-one special trains and 50 BRTC shuttle buses have been introduced to ease transportation of people to the venue.

As part of a special traffic system the Police Headquarters yesterday imposed a ban on traffic movement on some specific roads in and around the area from 6:30pm on January 23 to 6:30pm on January 24.

No vehicles except those carrying air passengers and aircraft crew, fire service vehicles and ambulances will be allowed to move from Dhour bridge in Tongi to Pragati Sarani via Abdullahpur in Uttara and from Tongi Bridge to Gazipur Square.

Meanwhile, the railway police yesterday evicted around 300 illegal structures along the railway tracks in Tongi while Tongi police evicted over 200 illegal structures built on both sides of the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway and around the Ijtema venue.

Salam, arrested in November last year in connection with the August 21 carnage, claimed he had maintained connection with the agency and tried to form Islamic Democratic Party (IDP) with its consent during the caretaker regime.

Some 475 Afghan war veterans joined the IDP, sources say.

The attacks by Huji include the August 21 carnage in 2004, Ramna Batamul blast in 2001, Udichi blast in 1999, Narayanjanj Awami League office blast in 2001, CPB rally blast at Paltan Maidan in 2001, and attempt on the then British high commissioner in 2004.

The sources say intelligence agencies launched raids on Huji hideouts to trap militant leaders including Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh Farid in vain in recent months.

Two of the Huji absconders -- Anisul Mursalin and Muhibul Mottakin -- are now in Tihar Jail in India after they were arrested by the Indian security forces in 2006.

Chaos hampers

FROM PAGE 16

And the leading US general in Haiti, Lt Gen Ken Keen, said there was currently less violence in the capital Port-au-Prince - already a troubled city - than there had been before the earthquake.

Earlier, Gen Keen said up to 200,000 people might have died in the disaster, which he said was of "epic proportions".

Aid workers are starting to expand their efforts to earthquake-affected areas outside the capital, including Leogane, Gressier, Petit-Goave and the coastal town of Jacmel.

The US Air Force C-17 dropped the relief supplies on Monday into a secured area five miles (8km) north-east of Port-au-Prince, US Army spokeswoman Maj Tanya Bradsher was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

She said the aircraft had flown out of Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina.

Last week, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said aid drops had been ruled out because they might do more harm than good.

Gates warned that they could trigger riots if there was no proper structure on the ground to distribute supplies.

Delivering aid to the centre of Port-au-Prince is getting much more difficult, as anger fuelled by hunger reaches boiling point, and military escorts are needed for lorries carrying supplies, the BBC's David Loyn reports from the city.

Lt Cdr Walter Matthews of the US Navy told the BBC he understood the frustration among Haitians, but added that the aid effort was improving.

Former US President Bill Clinton, who is a UN special envoy for Haiti, said co-operation between America and UN troops was improving the earthquake relief effort.

"The UN provides security and the Americans provide the logistics and distribution. They know how to do it. So we are getting there," Clinton told the BBC during a visit to Port-au-Prince on Monday.

France's co-operation minister, Alain Joyandet, had suggested on Monday that the US was "occupying" Haiti and urged the UN to "clarify" the US role.

Port-au-Prince's port was badly damaged by last week's earthquake, and many roads are still blocked by corpses and debris, hampering the delivery of fuel and other supplies.

Cops hunt

FROM PAGE 1

Talking to reporters in the afternoon, DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said he had already directed the police to scan the newspaper photographs and TV footage to identify the arms-toting cadres.

Meanwhile, the strike enforced by JCD at DU yesterday disrupted classes but did not hamper examinations, reports our university correspondent.

JCD, student wing of the opposition BNP, called the strike following the gun battle and injury of its President Sultan Salauddin Tuku on Monday.

All exams at the Arts Building and Curzon Hall were held on schedule. Presence of students on the campus however was thin and very few classes were held.

JCD will enforce strike tomorrow as well.

DU Exam Controller Bahalul Haque Chowdhury said all examinations tomorrow will go ahead as planned.

Chhatra Dal announced the programmes to protest Monday's violence for which they blame Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling Awami League.

Some 25 people including the DU proctor and JCD chief were injured in the fighting over places in the new central committee of JCD.

At least 50 rounds of bullet were fired and 20 hand-made bombs exploded during the gun battle.

On Monday night, Sub-inspector Mohammad Nasim Uddin of Shahbagh Police Station filed a case against eight JCD leaders including General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim and some 300 unknown people on charges of disrupting the university's academic atmosphere.

The accused include Shahidul Islam Babul, Amiruzzaman Khan Shimul, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Asaduzzaman Khan Polash, Tariqul Islam Titu, Ferdous Ahmed Munna and Mahubul Alam Azam of the newly-formed central committee.

Nurul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (DMP-Ramna), told The Daily Star that the eight accused JCD leaders along with 200-300 activists and outsiders were engaged in the campus clashes.

In another development, DU syndicate, the highest decision-making body of the university, at an emergency meeting yesterday formed an eight-member committee headed by Pro-VC Harun-or-Rashid to probe the incident.

The committee will submit its report immediately, DU Vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star.

The syndicate expressed concern over the clash and urged the government to ensure exemplary punishment to those responsible.

In support of the strike, a group of JCD leaders and workers brought out a procession and held a rally at the BDR Act.

As per BDR law, the accused cross-examined the prosecution witnesses with the assistance of a BDR officer and a lawyer.

The court appointed advocate Zahid Hossain to assist the accused during the trial.

BDR, under its own law, is holding the trial of the mutiny while another trial will be held in the civil court in connection with the killing, looting, arson and other grievous offences that had taken place at the BDR headquarters.

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HC bench