

No bar to sending

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Khatun in the chair. The emergency meeting was called to review the cases filed against the Jamaat leaders and to discuss how those cases could be transferred to the International Crimes Tribunal.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star after the meeting, "After thorough reviewing, it has been found that there is legal provision to send those cases to the tribunal but it will depend on the IOs who are investigating the cases..."

"With the latest developments, we are expecting that the trial of war criminals will begin soon," said sources who attended the meeting.

About the outcome of another meeting on increasing security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport against the backdrop of Jamaat leaders' arrest, the secretary said they decided to ensure foolproof security at the airport.

He said foolproof security would be ensured through coordinated efforts between the members of different law enforcement agencies and earlier deployed 1,100 members of the Armed Police Battalion.

State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam, and members of the investigation agency and the prosecution panel were present at the meeting.

Earlier in the day, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad said suspected war criminals, yet to be arrested, are under surveillance.

Talking to reporters after a meeting with the home minister at her ministry, he said they are yet to have a complete list of war criminals.

The investigation agency under the International Crimes

(Tribunal) Act has been probing crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War, he said, adding that the list of war criminals would be finalised after the probe.

"The police have detained people having war crimes allegation," the IGP said, adding, "The war criminals' list, which has been sent to different airports and seaports, is not the final one. It is just a preliminary list which the police have."

Moriarty

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human rights and extrajudicial killing in the country came up for discussion, he said.

Moriarty also said they think the opposition has an important role in making democracy effective.

He said he hoped bilateral relations between the two countries would be stronger in the coming days.

On his recent visit to the USA and his meetings with US government leaders and congressmen, he said congressman Joseph Crowley is watching the situation of human rights in Bangladesh.

He said the US administration is looking forward to work closely with the people of Bangladesh and the government on key initiatives undertaken by the US government particularly in the field of global health and climate change.

Replying to a question he said US attaches importance to press freedom.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Reaz Rahman and the chairperson's adviser Sabihuddin Ahmed were present during the close-door meeting.

Teenager held for killing

at Goran

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a teenager yesterday evening from city's Goran area in connection with the killing of a worker of Bangladesh Chhatra League Sunday night.

The BCL worker, Setu Reza, was shot dead on Sunday. Another BCL worker, Zafar Ahmed Roni, was injured in this incident.

Selim Reza, the victim's father, filed a murder case with Khilgaon Police Station accusing five persons.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case sub-inspector Tofazzal Hossain of Khilgaon Police Station said, Babu, arrested yesterday, gave some important clues behind the killing.

Shuvo was engaged in an altercation with Setu over talking by cell phone loudly at the mosque during the Esha prayer, said the IO.

About 15 to 20 minutes later Shuvo and Babu with some 15 persons came to the spot and opened fire at Setu as a sequel to the earlier incident.

Setu died on the spot while Roni was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A man of the locality preferring anonymity told The Daily Star that there was feud over ward no 25 BCL unit committee.

Environment

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approved in principle Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Act 2010, incorporating latest international conventions and laws for protecting endangered species.

The committee will be asked to complete its task as quickly as possible, said Suranjit, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on law justice and parliamentary affairs ministry.

On Friday, the prime minister said the government will form an all-party parliamentary panel to amend the constitution in light of the High Court judgment that declared the fifth amendment illegal.

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AL asks BNP

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The proposed committee, to be formed under section 266 of the rules of procedure of Jatiya Sangsad, might be given wide power to review the constitution for preparing a draft amendment bill.

About the composition and functions of the special committee, section 266 says the parliament may, by motion, appoint a special committee which shall have such composition and function as may be specified in the motion.

Seasoned lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta, who was assigned by the prime minister to prepare a draft outlining the size of the committee and terms of reference, said yesterday that he talked to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday and gave her the draft.

"The committee will be given wide power to consult with political parties, civil society representatives, and constitutional experts, for their opinions," Suranjit told The Daily Star.

He said the body titled "All-party Constitution Amendment Committee" will consist of 19 to 21 members.

Shahid however said the leader of the House will make the final decision about the number of members.

Some ruling party insiders said Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury might become the head of the committee.

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tion leader. Chief whip's personal secretary, Enamul Hoque, delivered the letter to the opposition leader's Gulshan office around 9:45pm on Sunday.

Enamul told this correspondent yesterday that the assistant personal secretary of BNP chief Khaleda Zia received the letter.

Asked whether he will send similar letters to other political parties which have representations in the current parliament, Shahid said Jatiya Party, Workers Party, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal are partners in the AL-led grand alliance, and Sheikh Hasina is the alliance leader.

"So, I think there is no need to send letters to them," he said.

Before the last parliamentary election in 2008, the AL-led grand alliance pledged to restore the constitution of 1972.

Legal observers say the High Court verdict, which was upheld by the Appellate Division, has made the job easier for the ruling alliance, which enjoys over three-fourth majority in the parliament.

The fifth amendment ratified all changes made to the constitution between August 15, 1975, and April 9, 1979; and all governments that were formed during that period.

But the high court verdict renders those governments unlawful.

Analysts said the fresh move to amend the constitution will generate much heat in the political arena, as it might also open up the possibility of banning religion based politics.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain on Saturday said there is an "ulterior motive" behind the efforts to restore the 1972 constitution.

He said BNP will launch a movement if the government does not give up its plan to amend the constitution.

BG Press security

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"We have almost finalised the report and we expect to submit it tomorrow," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The sources added that the employees' union of the press often puts pressure on the authorities to appoint their preferred people in the restricted section. That is why the authorities could not analyse past records and other qualifications like competency and honesty of those employees, they say.

Clause-2 (Ka) of policy states that the honesty and perseverance would be considered as the main qualifications for a person to be appointed to restricted section.

The committee also pointed out inadequate workforce for security in the press. There are four gates in the press with two for the restricted section. It is not possible for the security to properly frisk around 150 employees coming out after their work at a time at night, the sources say.

Though four policemen were supposed to be at the restricted section's gates, only one had been carrying out the duties there until the leak of the question papers was found out, said the committee chief.

"It is possible to take questions out of the press if frisking is not done properly," said a member of the committee.

There are seven sections in the restricted zone where nearly 120 to 150 employees work, the sources say, adding that it is not possible to frisk all employees at a time with insufficient number of security personnel.

The committee would suggest ensuring vigilance of a high official in the restricted section, they add.

The members of the committee added they have also found inadequate closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras inside the restricted section where many confidential documents including questions papers of many public examinations are printed.

The committee would recommend increasing the numbers of CCTVs there, they added.

The machines installed in the press are basically analogue and were over 20 years old, they said, adding that the committee would recommend setting up digital machines in the press.

These old machines require

many people to operate, putting security at risk in the sensitive places like restricted sections, the sources say.

They add the task of printing could have been done more smoothly with fewer employees if the digital machines were set up. If there were fewer people inside the restricted section, more security would be ensured, they observe.

It is possible to do the printing work by five to seven people with digital machines, said the member of the committee.

The BG press authorities yesterday suspended its binder Mostafizur Rahman as he did not join office despite notice, said the officials.

On July 8 evening, Rangpur police arrested 167 people in Gangachara upazila in connection with leak of questions. Over 1.32 lakh people were supposed to sit for the exam for 1,968 posts across the country.

The education ministry instantly cancelled the examination the same day and formed the probe committee.

Roksana's dream

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restaurant to celebrate birthday of his colleague Saidur Rahman.

Roksana lived with the family of Nurul Islam in Konapara in Demra. Securing GPA 4.19 in the HSC examinations from Sripur Women's College in Gazipur, she came to the family in 2007 and enrolled at the public college.

"We came down to the ground floor immediately after the fire broke out only to find that Roksana was missing," Nurul told The Daily Star.

His driver Monir Hossain found her lying unconscious under a table at the restaurant around half an hour later. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at a nearby hospital.

Youngest among the three siblings, only Roksana was able to cross the boundary of school and joined college. Her elder sister Selina Begum was married off when she was in class seven, while her brother Mohammad Sobel left school after class eight.

Roksana lost her mother two weeks before start of her HSC exams in 2007. Her father works with the government in Bancharampur.

"Besides her regular studies, Roksana was outstanding in singing and dancing. She won a prize in a singing competition at Mahanagar Natya Mancha in the capital last month," said her uncle Sharif Sarker.

The bereaved family members and relatives were recalling her memories and closely watching the materials she used at her uncle's house when her body was buried at the family graveyard in Bancharampur yesterday.

Barricade

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Bangladesh Roads and Highways (R&H) authorities collect tolls for the last one month upon expiry of the previous lease.

"We have informed the higher authorities about the matter," said Manjurul Alam, deputy assistant engineer of R&H and in-charge of toll-collection of the bridge.

Earlier, the CNG drivers and rickshaw and rickshaw-van pullers staged demonstration several times on the same issue.

Tough law

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Doing business without obtaining licence, doing other types of telecom business violating the licensing conditions, working against national sovereignty by using telecom equipments will be considered as offences punishable with the maximum fine and imprisonment up to 10 years or both, according to the bill.

But according to the provision, telecom operators and ICT-based companies can file appeal only against fines imposed by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), but not against any other action by the government or the telecom regulator.

With the passage of the bill, BTRC's exclusive jurisdiction over issuing licences and fixing tariffs was curtailed as it empowered the government with sweeping authority to decide on those.

From now on, BTRC will have to take prior permission from the government to issue licences and fixing tariffs.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Razu yesterday proposed passage of the bill in line with the recommendations of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry concerned.

He placed the bill in parliament on June 13 to amend the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001 to punish telecom operators for wrongdoings without giving them scope for challenging the regulator's decision.

Amid heightened concern of telecom operators, the parliamentary body while scrutinising the bill recommended inclusion of a provision for constitution of the appeal board.

The amendment to the telecom act will also pave the way for opening the VoIP (voice over internet protocol) business bringing it under a legal framework.

The bill, passed amid absence of the main opposition BNP, also has a provision for raising a "Social Obligation Fund" for expansion of telecom network in remote areas.

In defence of the amendments to the telecom law, the post and telecommunications minister said the amendments are required to materialise the vision of a "digital Bangladesh".

In a brief statement tagged with a copy of the bill, he said the bill contains a provision for legalising VoIP business and issuing VoIP call termination operator licences to generate employment.

Power price

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half-yearly MPS at a press briefing held at the central bank's conference room.

The price adjustments will need to be selective, retaining subsidies to keep costs tolerable for low-income households, and also to keep agricultural and manufacturing output activities competitive, added the MPS.

The new monetary policy also proposed withdrawing subsidies for better off households and commercial establishments and even surcharging these users wherever appropriate.

BB governor's Senior Adviser Allah Malik Kazemi said, "Power is wasted unnecessarily in wedding ceremonies. We have recommended levying high power tariff on such misuses. But the low-income group does not have to bear heavy burden of power price hike."

BB Deputy Governors Nazrul Huda, Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui, and Murshid Kuli Khan responded to queries from journalists.

Affected villagers

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According to the MoU, the BCMCL would compensate around 2,400 families for the land subsidence due to underground mining at a premium price. However, the number of affected families has rose to 2,600 due to different accidents since the MoU was signed, which the BCMCL also agrees with.

Contacted, BCMCL Managing Director Md Quamruzzaman said the process of distributing compensation of Tk 72 lakh for crops has started from Sunday and the subsidence compensation of Tk 324 cr is under process.

Coal production of BCMCL has been suspended since May 11 last year following an accident there, which killed one person and wounded 18 miners including two Chinese.

Jamaat leaders

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Desh, is the prime accused and he was earlier taken on remand in the case.

Biman Bandar police on June 7 filed the sedition case against Mahmudur Rahman and 15 other government high officials in connection with that "secret meeting".

Mohajid was produced before the court on completion of his three-day remand in connection with a case filed with Uttara police station on March 15 for indulging in anti-state activities on February 12. **REMAND OF SAYEED** Metropolitan Magistrate SK Tofael Hassan placed Sayeed on a three-day remand in connection with a case filed on charge of making an attempt to kill late Prof Humayun Azad on February 27 of 2004.

The court passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Mostafizur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Sayeed before the court seeking a seven-day remand.

Sayedee was shown arrested in the case on July 11 following an application submitted by the CID.

In the forwarding report, the IO stated that they found Sayeed's involvement in the murderous attack on Azad. Moreover, Sayeede deprecated the book of Azad titled "Pak Saar Jamin Saad Baad". So he needs to be remanded to find out the clues about the attacks on Azad, the IO said.

Earlier on June 30, Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and its secretary general Mohajid were also shown arrested in the case and placed on a three-day remand each.

The Jamaat leaders were produced before the court yesterday on completion of their five-day remand in connection with a case filed with Pallabi on January 25 of 2008 for killing 345 people during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

HC warns govt

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The fact is very much aware of the fact that police sometimes do not submit proper reports on offences to the court, he said.

The court suggested that the authorities provide police with trainings for making them aware of legal, human and fundamental rights of people.

The bench, however, granted the respondent police personnel one month's time to submit reports on their positions about the deaths of Mizanur Rahman, Mujibur Rahman and Babul Kazi who reportedly died while in custody of Gulshan, Darussalam and Ramna police stations in the first week this month.

It asked the respondents to appear before it on August 19.

OC of Ramna Shibli Noman has to appear before the court on the same day to explain the death of Babul Kazi, an autorickshaw driver who reportedly died in police lockup on June 28.

Meanwhile, the HC also directed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to turn in a report on August 3 on measures to prevent deaths in lockups.

The DMP commissioner yesterday had sought more time from the court to submit the report.

The court also directed the Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities to submit on August 19 medical and autopsy reports of the three people who reportedly died in police custody.

On July 5, during hearing of the same petition, the same bench had criticised the police for the custodial deaths and said such incidents must not recur. It had ordered the DMP commissioner to submit a report within two weeks on measures taken to prevent deaths in lockups.

The court that day also issued a rule upon the government asking to explain as to why

On February 27, 2004, assailants stabbed prominent writer Humayun Azad brutally with machetes in front of Bangla Academy when he was on his way back to his residence.

Sayedee was produced before the court on completion on his three-day remand in the case filed for creating anti-state activities 12 February.

REMAND OF KAMARUZZAMAN, QUADER MOLLA

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Majid placed Kamaruzzaman and Quader Molla on a three-day remand each in connection with a case filed for attacking the motorcade of president on February 12 in the capital's Paltan area.

Sub-inspector Shamsur Rahman, also the IO of the case, produced them before the court and sought a ten-day remand for each.

The two were arrested on July 13 from in front of the Supreme Court premises.

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Unfit vehicles

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Owners vehemently denied the existence of 20-year-old buses or trucks in the city terming the drives as "unreasonable".

A large number of dilapidated buses however were seen sitting idle in different end route locations while commuters struggled to find transport during rush hours.

Admitting that some vehicles might be plying the streets without valid documents, the owners asked for a month or two for obtaining route permit and fitness certificates.

Sources from the ministry said, a meeting with the owners and concerned government officials would be called within a week to find a reasonable solution to the crisis.

Only six buses were confiscated from the city streets by eight mobile courts yesterday, while a total of 11 buses have been seized during the last three working days, said Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Amitabh Sarker, coordinating the drive.

"It is hard to take action if unfit buses remain off the road. We do not have the authority to seize vehicles not plying the streets", said Amitabh.

"We are planning to seek special power so that we can take action against such vehicles even if they are lying idle", he added.

So far, a total of 530 cases were filed against vehicles plying without fitness certificate or route permit and a total of Tk. 4.3 lakh has been fined by the mobile court, the ADM informed.

Sixteen mobile courts carried out the drive on the first day throughout the capital to keep the city roads free from dilapidated and unauthorised vehicles.

"The drive would be effective if it continues until the city gets rid of unfit buses to a satisfactory level", Amitabh commented.

Last month the government had decided to launch a

drive to rid the city of 20-year-old buses and minibuses, and 25-year-old trucks and vans.

According to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), nearly 4000 rundown buses and minibuses and about 8,125 trucks are plying the city roads endangering public safety.

Meanwhile K. Enayetullah, Secretary General of Bangladesh Sharak Paribahan Shomity said, "We are ready to cooperate with the government. The owners are only asking for a little more time, at least until the next scheduled meeting on route permit with the authority"

"There should have been alternative arrangements before starting the drive", he stated adding that the drive is also making life hard for commuters.

Enayetullah however failed to answer as to why these buses were plying the streets without proper documents in the first place.

JMB now runs

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Earlier, Shahid and Rafiq disclosed that they had been trying to reorganise JMB only in the northern part of the country and gathered explosives there.

DC DB (south) Monirul Islam said Shahid and Rafiq claimed that they had dumped a huge quantity of explosives in the river Jamuna in Sirajganj and Padma in Rajshahi.

But the DB officials said they do not believe all the information of Shahid and Rafiq. They believe that there are still more leaders who are trying to organise the militant organisation and carry out the destructions.

The officials said though Saidur agreed with Shahid's statements about JMB's present status, he declined to accept Shahid as the acting chief. Saidur still claims himself as the JMB chief despite his arrest.

Earlier, detained JMB chief Saidur had said that after his arrest hardliners took over JMB's charge.

Shahid was brought to DB headquarters in Dhaka from Bogra and Rafiq from Gaibandha for interrogation in the presence of Saidur Rahman. On Sunday the two were sent back as their five-day remand ended.

Meanwhile, a Bogra court yesterday placed Shahid on a three-day fresh remand in a case filed against him under arms act, reports our correspondent in Bogra.

Shahid is accused in charge sheets of two cases-- one filed in connection with the attack on late Prof Humayun Azad and the other for bomb blast in a Mymensingh cinema hall in 2003.

BCL men

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started ransacking the furniture of the principal's room.

Later they also vandalised about 10 rooms including classrooms and the vice-principal's room.

A police team led by Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Golam Sarwar rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The teachers and employees were in an emergency meeting to discuss the developments on the campus.

The written test for first year admission is scheduled for July 23. The admission forms were distributed through internet for the first time.

Around 800 students will be admitted to the current session in two shifts.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, Advocate Anisul Huq, and Barrister Shakhawat Hossain appeared for the telecom companies, while Barrister Khandaker Reza-e-Raqib represented BTRC.