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Culture of secrecy still big barrier to RTI law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the major challenges in implementing the Right to Information Act 2009 is the mindset of bureaucrats who are not yet open to the idea of providing information, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They pointed out that the RTI act overrides some outdated legislations, such as the Official Secrets Act 1923, Evidence Act 1872, Rules of Business 1996 and the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1979. However, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

US REQUEST FOR SENDING TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN Taliban warn Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Taliban have warned Bangladesh against sending troops to Afghanistan.

The warning came after the US requested Dhaka to send combat forces to help the coalition forces in the war-ravaged country, reports AFP quoting the SITE intelligence group, a US monitoring service dedicated to gathering information on international terrorist groups.

The SITE website on Monday published a report headlined "Afghan Taliban reacts to US requesting troops from Bangladesh".

Richard Holbrooke, US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, made the plea for troops at a meeting with Foreign

Minister Dipu Moni in New York last week.

He said Bangladeshi troops could help ensure security and stability in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Moni assured the US envoy of further talks on the issue.

SITE said the Taliban have responded by posting messages in Arabic and Pashto on its website and jihadi forums calling on Dhaka to spurn the US request, reports AFP.

"(We) believe that the leader of Bangladesh has enough Islamic knowledge and political wit not to involve his [sic] people in the fight against Islam and against the Afghan people by sending a few hundred soldiers to Afghanistan," the message read.

"Assuming that the leader would commit such a historic mistake, the religious Muslim people of Bangladesh will not allow their leaders to assist the eternal enemy of Islam against an Islamic neighbouring country."

Despite several attempts yesterday, The Daily Star could not reach Dipu Moni in New York for comments.

In Dhaka, political leaders and eminent citizens said it does not matter if the Taliban warn or not, Bangladesh should not send troops to Afghanistan, as it is a sensitive issue involving the country's national interest.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, they said the government must consider the socio-political impact and reality

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Caretaker govt system to stay Hasina tells press in New York

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government has so far no plan to scrap the caretaker government system.

"We did not think about it," she told a 'meet the press' interaction at Bangladesh Permanent Mission Monday evening at the end of her nine-day visit to USA to attend the 65th UN General Assembly in New York.

Hasina, however, said everything would depend on the desire of the people.

The premier said a parliamentary committee, was constituted a few months ago, to suggest constitutional amendments in line with the two landmark judgments of the Supreme Court declaring the post-75 military regimes illegal. She said the committee might have its own observations about the caretaker system.

Replying to a question about the release of corruption suspects, who were exposed to trial under the emergency rules of the past military-backed caretaker administration, Hasina said they were released under court orders due to technical faults in filing those cases.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission is working independently, but the main opposition party is out to save them," she added.

Asked about the perpetrators of 1971 crimes against humanity, she said it would not just be a token or symbolic trial. "The war criminals will be tried under the law following investigations," she said.

Hasina said the trial of war criminals is a continued process like the trial of the criminals of World War II, which staggered over decades to expose to justice the perpetrators wherever they were found.

She said after the independence the Bangabandhu government sent 11,000 suspected war criminals to jail to face the trial while charges were constituted against another 22,000.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

HASINA-BAN MEETING Dhaka seeks policymaking role in UN

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to involve Bangladesh in the policymaking and responsible duties of the United Nations as the country is capable of carrying out such trust.

She made the plea during a meeting with the UN secretary general on Monday afternoon at the UN building in New York.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Hasina on Prothom Alo editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed surprise when a Bangladeshi journalist in New York said Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman apologised to her following news reports linking Matiuur with the August 21 grenade attack.

The journalist told Hasina that the editor apologised to her and asked if she had forgiven him.

The premier expressed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



MIDDAY DARKNESS

It's hard to believe that the picture was taken around 4:00pm on Abdul Gani Road in the capital yesterday. Pitch-black clouds in the afternoon practically darkened the city and forced vehicles to use headlights.

PHOTO: STAR

Pabna DC, SP, UNO withdrawn 33 AL men charged over attack on recruitment centre

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday withdrew the deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and the upazila nirbahi officer of Pabna following the recent row between the local administrations and ruling Awami League adherents.

The ministries of establishment and home separately made the decision upon directives from government high-ups who were irked by the role of DC AFM Manjur Kadir, SP Jamil Ahmed and UNO Abdul Halim, according to highly placed sources at the Prime Minister's Office.

DC Manjur Kadir has been posted as an OSD under the establishment ministry while SP Jamil attached to the police headquarters.

Sources said the decision has been taken in an effort to ease the feud between the ruling party and the top district administration in Pabna.

"We have withdrawn the SP on administration grounds," Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star. A new SP would soon be appointed there, he said, hinting that more changes might occur in Pabna police.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Modasser softens his Gopalganj remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Modasser Ali, prime minister's health advisor, yesterday supported his previous statement regarding employment of health workers in community clinics saying it [media's role] is not correct to focus on any specific word because everyone has a separate ideological stance.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CONTEMPT PETITION HC summons EC Sohul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussein to appear before it on October 7 in connection with a contempt of court petition.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker of Chandpur-1 constituency MK Alamgir earlier yesterday filed the contempt of court petition against Sohul for his comment

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

NOTICE FOR BIDDING

Pursuant to consent of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to commence bidding by the Eligible Institutional Investors (EII) for price discovery of ordinary shares, all the EII are invited to participate in the bidding as per the following schedule:

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Registrar to the Issue	: Banco Trans World (BD) Limited
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Indicative Price	: Tk. 93/- per share (including a premium of Tk. 83/- per share)
Price Band for Bidding	: 20% Upward & Downward band of Indicative Price (i.e. Tk. 74.40 to Tk. 111.60)
Bidding Period	: 24th October, 2010 at 11:00 am to 26th October, 2010 at 4:00 pm (Round the clock)
Website for Bidding	: www.bbsbangladesh.com

Details of Bidding and Information Documents are available in the website of Issue Manager (www.allfin.org), Issuer (www.crowncement.com), SEC (www.secdb.org), DSE (www.dsebd.org) and CSE (www.cse.com.bd).

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