

EC wants MPs

FROM PAGE 1
"We will finalise the proposals on the basis of opinions from the political parties and civil society," he added.
Sohul also said the EC believes purging the Jatiya Sangsad of the loan defaulters would help bring about a qualitative change in parliament.

Success of the commission's move, however, depends on how the political parties would take it, said EC officials citing experience they had before the last general election, held on December 29, 2008.

Many defaulters contested the election by rescheduling their loans.

Bangladesh Bank had identified 130 loan defaulters on the EC's list of candidates, many of them belonging to BNP and Awami League.
Some of the contenders did not even reschedule their loans within the time limit stipulated in the electoral laws.

Forty-two of the 130 participated in the election by taking out High Court rulings in their favour. Some of them were even elected to the JS.

The caretaker government in 2008 had at first sought to keep loan defaulters out of the national elections.

But it later gave in to pressure from AL and BNP and relaxed the electoral laws twice enabling the defaulters to stand for the election.

In August 2008, the caretaker government had the RPO amended on recommendations of the EC. The amended RPO had a provision requiring a defaulter to reschedule his loan six months before filing candidacy application.

Had that provision been left unchanged, it would have meant an end to the loan defaulters' election bid, as the polls then were slated to be held in less than six months' time.

But amid growing clamour from the political parties, the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker administration relaxed the provision, allowing loan rescheduling until 15 days before filing nomination.

Even this could not satisfy the political parties, and the government had to cut the time limit to seven days.

Military's Polling Day Power

At the planned talks with the political parties, the EC will press for reviving the authority of the military men performing election duties, Commissioner Sohul Hussein said.

During the parliamentary elections in 2001 and 2008, members of the armed forces had the power to arrest anyone without warrant within 400-yard radius of a polling station. For that, they had to be defined as "law enforcement agencies".

In exercise of the authority, they could remove notices, signs, banners or flags used in election campaigns in breach of the electoral laws. They could also

seize instruments or apparatus employed in contravention of the electoral laws.

Besides, they could use force, if necessary, to enforce election laws on the polling day.

But parliament on February 24 last year passed a bill scrapping that authority of the military men. The bill ratified the three ordinances promulgated by the caretaker government before the ninth parliamentary polls.

Obama

FROM PAGE 1
personal responsibility for that. And it's something that I've got to examine carefully as I go forward."

Obama had earlier conceded he suffered a "shellacking" in Tuesday's key mid-term congressional and state elections, but had refused to see it as a repudiation of his transformative domestic agenda, instead blaming the loss on deep voter frustration at the sluggish economic recovery, AFP adds.

He told CBS he now recognised that part of his job as the president of all Americans was "giving them confidence and bringing them together and setting a tone. And making an argument that people can understand."

Obama's shortcomings on the salesman front apparently resonated with "some of my Democratic supporters who express some frustration," the president said.

Turkish PM

FROM PAGE 16
foreign ministry officials said.
Earlier during his visit, President Abdullah Gül had promised to establish air connectivity between Bangladesh and Turkey to increase trade and commerce between the two countries.

The two countries will also sign an agreement on cooperation in the health sector and an agreement on exchange of land for their embassies in Ankara and Dhaka during Erdoğan's visit, official sources said.

In addition to holding talks with his counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister Erdogan is expected to meet President Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Finance Minister Abdul Muhith and Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition.

Ministry sources said Bangladesh will prioritise Turkish investment in the agro-food processing industry to ensure food security for the people of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will also remind Erdoğan of his president's promise to increase bilateral trade volume to one billion US dollar and will discuss ways to increase Bangladesh's exports to Turkey.

Both the countries have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations since they established diplomatic relations in 1974 and Turkey opened its Embassy in Dhaka in 1976 and Bangladesh opened its embassy in Ankara in 1981.

Hasina asks

FROM PAGE 1
level secretaries of publicity affairs, and of information and research in her Gono Bhaban residence in the capital.

At the workshop Hasina, also the president of AL, gave the leaders directions regarding how to use party publications in their organisational work.

She said, "There is a rule, if one gets a piece of government land then he or she can't get any other government land."

"She should vacate the house on humanitarian grounds. There is a housing crisis for army officers. So she should leave the house for the sake of housing army personnel," Hasina added.

Referring to BNP's criticism about presence of police and Rab around Khaleda Zia's Ghulshan office recently, the prime minister said, "The opposition leader goes to office around nine or ten at night, and stays there until three or four in the morning. Police and Rab can patrol around the office for their security."

The prime minister said BNP is trying to create issues out of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence, and through attempting to protect war criminals, corruptionists, and extremists. At the same time the opposition is carrying out

a propaganda campaign against the government in a bid to hinder its development activities. Hasina directed her party leaders to take a just stand against those "falsehoods".

"Although we kept rice price at ten taka during our previous tenure, that rose to thirty-five taka during the last BNP-Jamaat coalition regime. Why they failed to keep the price at ten taka? They will have to tell it to the people," she said.

The AL chief also said BNP leaders are so adept at telling lies that AL leaders might not be able to match them with appropriate responses. She directed the grassroots leaders to spread through words of mouth what the government is doing in the development sector, so the people are aware.

Referring to the power supply crisis, the prime minister said BNP-Jamaat coalition government is responsible for the current crisis of power supply. "We have to carry the burden of their failures in this regard. But we have not been sitting idle. We are working hard."

Hasina directed her grassroots level leaders to let the people know that power generation reduced sharply during the last BNP-Jamaat coalition regime.

War crimes

FROM PAGE 1
Sayed Rejaur Rahman visited Ishwardi loco-shed, Pakshey Railway colony, Jhautola and Bhuter Goli mass killing grounds of the upazila yesterday.

The names of Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, the then minister Maulana Ishaque, Maulana Ismail, Maulana Abdus Subhan, Siraj, Riaz and Khodabox came up during the team's inquiry into the crime, Rejaur said.

The probe team was also told of the alleged involvement of the non-Bengalis in the crimes.

"Local collaborators led by Maulana Ismail and Khodabox picked up my father Moazzem Hossain from his home and took him to a torture cell in loco-shed pump station area on April 12, 1971. They killed my father after beating him mercilessly. My family will never forget the day," Md Tahurul Islam, also an eyewitness of the incident, told the probe team.

Over four to five hundred people were killed in the torture cell with the help of local collaborators during the war, he said.

Md Fazlur Rahman Fantu, a freedom fighter of the upazila, said the local collaborators and non-Bengalis helped the occupation army in the killing. Around 100 to 125 people were killed in Ishwardi Bhuter Goli area, Fantu added.

Local people demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the war criminals.

The probe team will visit the mass killing spots of Santhia upazila, the constituency of Nizami, today.

Domestic

FROM PAGE 16
around 2:30am.

Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Tejaon Police Station, said Mina had been working for four months at the house of ASP Mohammad Tariquul Islam of Special Security Force (SSF).

Police sources said the motive behind the incident is yet to be known.

Police sent the victim's body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

ASP Tariquul filed an unnatural death case in this connection, said the OC.

Stalker Rony

FROM PAGE 16
officer of the case.

Earlier in the day, the accused was produced before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court that approved the remand prayer. On November 1, he was placed on a three-day remand.

Police will produce him before the court today with a prayer to send him to jail.
Rony drove his motorbike into Champa on October 26 for protesting the harassment of her two daughters.

Arun Kumar Bhownik, Champa's brother, filed a murder case with Madhukhali Police Station in this connection on the following day. The case statement said Rony had been stalking and harassing his twin nieces for the last one year.

Khaleda's

FROM PAGE 16
September 21 had decided

that the party chief would address public meetings at some 21 district headquarters in November to drum up public support for an anti-government movement.

"Party is organising protest programmes against government's wrongdoings, that is why we could not start chairperson's district level visit. But it will commence soon," said standing committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman.

Many central leaders attended the party's upazila level programmes last month aiming to boost organisational activities prior to chairperson's visit to districts.

Besides, BNP is also planning to stage a grand rally of freedom fighters and a seminar aiming to strengthen its campaign to establish party founder Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence.

Khaleda Zia will attend the grand rally as chief guest, said party leaders, adding she may raise questions about the neutrality of war crimes trial.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, key ally of BNP, is mounting pressure on the opposition leader to take stance against the government's move to try war criminals.

Several leaders of Jamaat are already in custody for their alleged involvement with crimes against humanity, the insiders added.

Rushanara

FROM PAGE 1
climate change issues continue to be a priority for the British coalition government.

The wealthy nations have a huge role to play in curbing carbon emission and providing financial assistance to the vulnerable countries to enhance their capability to adapt to global warming.

"Climate change affects all of us. So it is their obligations to continue their support," said Rushanara, who has academic background in economics.

The British lawmaker hoped that the present UK government would translate its commitment into action by increasing UK's Overseas Development Assistance to 0.7 percent of the gross domestic production (GDP) by 2013.

"We will continue to push government so that it happens," she said.

The global climate change fund should be utilised to help vulnerable countries like Bangladesh combat adverse impact of the changing climate.

Rushanara said the Labour Party would push for giving support to Bangladesh and ensuring contribution from the UK's funds.

The European Union has also a part to play in terms of financial contributions for countries like Bangladesh that are vulnerable to climate

UN RIGHTS MEET

US faces calls for torture probes

AFP, Geneva

The United States faced a barrage of calls to investigate allegations of torture and shut down Guantanamo Bay detention centre yesterday in its first review by the UN's top human rights assembly.

European countries joined activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

European countries joined activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

European countries joined activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

European countries joined activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

5 suspected

FROM PAGE 1
Daily Star, "We were patrolling the area to resist robbers at night in two groups. Our group was of six people. When we asked them they identified themselves as labourers but we did not believe them. Later one of them brandished a sharp weapon."

"We screamed seeing the weapon. Later hundreds of people of the area came out of their homes and chased them."

The mob of around 400 people captured seven of the gang and gave six of them a good beating. The others managed to flee. A few locals were injured when the suspects used iron rods in their desperate attempt to get away.

Mansur Ali Farazi, general secretary of Habibnagar Panchayat Committee, told The Daily Star that they caught robber Mahfuz who was hiding in a lake. He is now in police custody.

Mahfuz told them that four robbers jumped into the lake and two others were caught while one is still at large.

Locals had cordoned off the lake until yesterday noon to search for more robbers.

change, she said.

The British lawmaker, who is expected to attend the Climate Tribunal as a distinguished observer, said it is a unique way of looking into the thing.

The participants' testimonies would create awareness among people across the globe about the adverse impact of climate change.

"It could be a potential model for other countries as well," she said.

Ziaul Hoque Mukta, policy and advocacy manager, OXFAM; Dr Ahasan Uddin Ahmed; convener of Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods; and Dr Ahmed, International Law expert attended the meet-the-press.

Mukta said it is time to explore the prospects of having international agreements with legal bindings to protect the most vulnerable countries like Bangladesh from climate change.

Victims of climate change from Barguna will testify at the mock tribunal headed by Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission.

Members of the jury are: Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed and lawmakers Hasanul Huq Inu, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Tarana Halim.

Govt warned

FROM PAGE 16
IAB arranged the rally at Muktangan in the capital in protest against 'attempts' to ban religion-based politics, restore the constitution of 1972 and formulate anti-Islamic laws.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

Thousands of leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies joined the rally blocking all busy roads surrounding the venue.

5 suspected

The Daily Star that five robbery incidents took place in the area in just one month and that they had informed police about their neighbourhood watch.

Arrested Mahfuz told The Daily Star that he was going without food onboard a launch heading to Dhaka from Barisal. He claimed that the gang of around 29 men gave him food and asked him if he would work with them as a labourer. He said the gang held a meeting on the deck around midnight. He said he went to Habibnagar from Sadarghat launch terminal on a bus.

Gazi Mozammel Hoque, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the area's major problem is robbery. "We will increase patrolling there. The locals of the area are also very active and the community policing will be strengthened," he said.

Police filed three cases in this connection; one under Arms Act.

The other two were attempted robbery and murder. There were no accused mentioned in the murder case.

OC Ayubur said they took the 11 sharp weapons and the equipment into their custody.

Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 1
of Grameen Bank and initiator of social business, made the remarks while addressing a press conference attended by journalists from across Europe.

The news conference was held at Lounge-2 of Autostadt (communication and service platform for the international Volkswagen Group) here. It was organised to inform about the Global Social Business Summit that started on Thursday.

In a reply, Yunus said he has been getting encouraging responses on his concept of social business since the last couple of years.

"I am convinced that we will be able to address all social problems by social business in the very near future, as this business is very much a workable methodology."

He puts all his faith on the young around the world for advancing his new concept, said Yunus. "It's the young people who will drive social business."

He said youths are more powerful and more connected. Their minds are flexible to accept new concepts. "They are ready to take new ideas."

In another reply, he said the top executives of the top business organisations have the power to invest more in social business and urged them to come in social business with a view to resolving social problems across the world.

"Top executives have money to do business; they would use their power for solving problems by doing social business."

Later, Prof Yunus and noted writer Paulo Coelho attended a public lecture on "social business" at Autostadt and answered questions from over a thousand audiences, who are encouraged to do social business.

In the lecture, he urged the young to come with new ideas for social business. "The first phase of social business has been started. It's time for the young to come with new creative ideas and put forward the concept with great confidence."

Realtors

FROM PAGE 16
provides for punishment of developers for wrongdoings, and protection of the interests of buyers of flats and landowners.

The act, passed by the Jatiya Sangsad on September 22, says all real estate developers have to be registered with the authorities concerned, and an unregistered developer may be imprisoned for two years or fined Tk 10 lakh for advertising in the media any property development project.

According to this law, if a developer fails to provide utility facilities in line with the prospectus concerned, he or she will be fined Tk 5 lakh or imprisoned for a year for failing to pay the fine.

It also provides that a developer will be imprisoned for three years or fined Tk 20 lakh or awarded both for constructing buildings in violation of approved design.

In case a developer does not comply with the contract with landowners or buyers or keeps construction work unfinished and does not pay compensation for this, it will be considered cheating, the act says.

And a developer may be imprisoned for up to two years or fined Tk 20 lakh or awarded both for cheating.

Moreover, the law provides that a landowner may be jailed for up to two years or fined Tk 10 lakh for violation of the contract signed with the developer.

A landowner may also face the same punishment if he or she cancels the contract signed with a developer without serving a notice at least 30 days before the date of cancellation, says the act.

Four militants

FROM PAGE 1
The arrestees have been suspected to have links with a bomb blast at the Mymensingh movie theatre in 2004, Rab officials said.

JMB militants with explosives are gathering in areas such as Tongi, Gazipur, Sayedabad, Keraniganj and Narayanganj on the outskirts of the capital to carry out subversive activities, said Chief of Rab Intelligence Wing Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan.

"The arrested JMB men have links with the 30 kilogrammes of explosives seized in Savar a few weeks ago," he said.

Ziaul Ahsan said the seizure of bombs and explosives at Siddhiganj in Narayanganj, Mirpur, Jhenidah, Keraniganj and Savar indicates JMB's attempt to regroup and conduct subversive activities.

21 dead in Pakistan plane crash

AFP, Karachi

A charter aircraft carrying staff from an Italian oil company crashed a minute after take-off in Pakistan's business hub of Karachi yesterday, killing all 21 people on board, including an Italian.

The pilot of the twin engine turboprop operated by Pakistani charter JS Air reported engine trouble then nose dived near a military depot in a Karachi suburb and burst into flames, in an accident blamed on a "technical fault".

"The plane has been totally gutted and there are no survivors," Lieutenant Colonel Noor Alam told reporters near the crash site in Gulistan-e-Jauhar.

Television footage showed the aircraft split in two, the front part totally destroyed and the rear section, marked JS Air, torn off alongside two wheels.

"The cause of crash was a technical fault. The pilot reported that one of the engines was not working. Everyone died. There were no survivors," said Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Pervez George.

The 21 people on board included 20 Pakistanis, although embassies said they were checking to see whether there were any dual nationals.

An official from Italian energy company Eni in Karachi told AFP that the plane had been carrying its employees and that an Italian was among those killed.

The Italian embassy was not immediately reachable for comment, but a diplomatic official also told AFP that an one of its nationals was among the dead.

The US-manufactured Beech 1900C aircraft took off from Jinnah International airport at 7:13 am (0213 GMT) on a 200-kilometre (125-mile) journey to an oil field at Bhit Shah, in the southern province of Sindh.

"The pilot reported engine problem just after take off and was cleared by control tower for immediate landing," the Civil Aviation Authority said.

"However, the aircraft crashed within a minute approximately one nautical mile from Karachi airport."

Witnesses were quoted as saying the plane nose dived.

"It caught fire," Alam told reporters near the crash site. "The bodies of the pilot and co-pilot have not been retrieved so far. We will have to cut the front portion to recover their bodies."

"The bodies were charred. One of my colleagues on the site literally fainted after seeing the bodies," he added. "Soon after they left, they contacted the airport control tower and said there was a problem in one of the engines. The plane was directed to return and soon after it crashed," said George.

There were 17 passengers, one guard, one technician, the pilot and co-pilot on the doomed aircraft, officials said.

Civil Aviation Authority director Mukhtar Butt said the black box data recorder has been found and that an investigation had been ordered into the crash.

"We are waiting for a report from the air worthiness department which checks the plane before take-off," Butt told AFP.

Suicide blast

FROM PAGE 16
hospital corridor.

"The blast tossed me up. I fell down," said Mohammad Usman, 32, a schoolteacher with wounds on his head and arms as he lay on a hospital bed in Peshawar. "Later, it was just like a graveyard."

Haji Razaq Khan, a member of Pakistan's Senate from Darra Adam Khel, says a tribal elder, who had been encouraging people to stand against the Taliban, had a guest room next to the mosque and may have been the target. It was not immediately clear whether that elder, Malik Wali Khan, was among the victims.

Islamist militants have frequently targeted tribal leaders who have taken stands against them.

At least 50 people died, while 80 others were wounded, said Shahid Ullah, a local official.

Provincial Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain called the militants "beasts" that are lashing out at Pakistan's crackdown against them.

"This is part of international terrorism. America,

A JS Air representative said the pilot was experienced and the Beech 1900C adhered to safety standards. Seventeen Eni employees were on board, he said.

"The plane was well maintained. It was fit to fly, it was fit to operate, it left after getting the necessary clearance," Captain Nadeem Hanif told GeoTV.

"It is premature to speculate about the nature of the fault. The investigation has been launched by the civil aviation authorities. We will fully cooperate," he said.

The JS Air website says it operates three Beech 1900C aircraft dating from the early 1990s. It says it offers a "wide-ranging charter business domestically" and flies internationally, operating charters in Sri Lanka.

Eni has been operating in Pakistan since 2000 and is the largest foreign producer in the nation's oil exploration sector, according to the Pakistan Petroleum Exploration and Production Companies Association.

Plane crashes are relatively rare in Pakistan, a country of around 170 million people where inter-city travel is most efficient by air.

On July 28, an Airbus 321 passenger jet operated by the private Airblue crashed into hills of the Pakistani capital Islamabad while coming in to land after a flight from Karachi, killing 152 people on board.

Two Americans, an Austrian-born businessman, five children and two babies were among those killed in the worst aviation tragedy on Pakistani soil.

Prothom Alo