

Lift ban

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general, said if the government forbids them to hold the rally at Muktangan or any other places in the city, they will organise it in front of Bangabhaban.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Tuesday imposed the ban indefinitely from today. The ban came following many political organisations choosing the venue for their programmes today in the area.

The press briefing was held after a meeting of leaders of BNP and its allies with Alamgir in the chair.

The BNP standing committee on April 13 announced a series of programmes including a rally on May 9 demanding midterm election. A countrywide demonstration was also scheduled for today in protest at the share market scam.

"We must hold our rally on the day demanding midterm election. I hope police will withdraw the ban," said Alamgir, a former state minister, at the press briefing.

He said the government did not give permission for Paltan Maidan. "So we will hold the rally at Muktangan. If they [government] obstruct us there, we will organise it in front of our party's central office at Naya Paltan."

If the rally is not allowed at Naya Paltan, it will be arranged at Manik Mia Avenue. Failing to hold the rally at Manik Mia Avenue, the party will hold it in front of Bangabhaban, added the BNP leader.

Accusing the government of hatching a conspiracy to establish one-party rule by imposing ban on rallies, he said they have announced the programme a month back and sought permission from the authorities concerned.

At the briefing, he also announced programmes for 12 days from May 29 to observe the death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of the party.

CID suspects

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tendent of police raises a new question as to why or how Birganj police were patrolling an area under the jurisdiction of Kaharol police, adds our staff correspondent in Dhaka.

Acting SP Mostafizur Rahman informed the HQ that villagers in Ghasiara held policemen from Birganj while the latter were on patrol duty after a group of 10-12 masked criminals robbed the house of Rajendranath Devnath.

Asked why the force from Birganj police crossed their jurisdiction, the acting SP said, "It might have happened as Ghasiara village is located in an area where jurisdiction of Birganj and Kaharol police stations overlaps."

"It was nothing but a misunderstanding of the villagers," the SP claimed.

Earlier on March 8, people of Doptoir village attacked a robber while he was leaving a robbery scene in Biral upazila. The robber was later found to be a policeman of the upazila.

Border killings

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dissuade people from crossing the border illegally.

She emphasised the need for stronger coordination between the border guards of the two countries to reduce casualties.

Replying to a question on Tipaimukh dam, the Indian secretary categorically said no construction is taking place at the site and the project is purely for generation of hydroelectricity and water management during floods and dry seasons.

There is no irrigation project at the site and also no plan to divert water.

India will not implement any project that may inflict suffering on Bangladesh or affect the country adversely, Rao said. The Tipaimukh project will rather be helpful for Bangladesh.

On the visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh, Rao said the visit will take place sometime this year and both the countries are working to fix a suitable date.

The Indian PM's visit will significantly contribute to improving bilateral relations and resolving issues relating to trade, economy, security, border, water sharing and power sector.

The Indian foreign secretary also responded to questions regarding non-implementation of Indian commitments like full-time access of Bangladeshis to Tin Bigha corridor, export of 5 lakh tonnes of food grain, export of electricity, Teesta water sharing, exchange of enclaves and rebuilding of a village at cyclone Sidr affected area in Bangladesh.

In response, she said India will soon grant the access to mainland through Tin Bigha corridor.

Asked about the delay in exporting 3 lakh tonnes of rice and 2 lakh tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh, Nirupama Rao said the delay is not intentional and it is because of legal and bureaucratic tangles.

3 factories

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though it is mandatory for them to obtain the clearance and to install ETP, according to the Environment Protection Act 2010.

The team found local farmers using the polluted water of Turag to irrigate their vegetable crops, which poses a grave risk for public health, said the press release.

The locals were deprived of pollutant-free water for a long time which has a negative effect on agriculture.

The drive was conducted by Mohammed Munir Chowdhury, director (Enforcement) of the DoE.

The team asked the owners to set up ETP by the next three months, the press release said.

She also said the project to rebuild a village in the Sidr-affected area is in progress.

Replying to a question, she said the death of Bin Laden will not eliminate terrorism in the region because there are other terrorist groups still active. So fight against terrorism should continue.

There has been huge progress in implementation of various projects mentioned in the joint communiqué issued during the landmark visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India, she said.

Everything is on the right track and India will fulfil all commitments given to Bangladesh, added Rao.

Indian external affairs ministry spokesperson Vishnu Prakash, Foreign Ministry Director Deepak Mittal and other senior officials of the ministry were present.

Osama's last

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months after the 9/11 attacks, when US forces were hunting him in Afghanistan.

The four-page document, written on a computer and signed by "your brother Abu Abdullah Osama Muhammad Bin Laden," predicts that he would die by the "treachery" of those around him.

Al-Anbaa does not reveal how or when it obtained the will or whether it was able to authenticate it. Al-Majallah, a Saudi-owned Arabic magazine, published a similar document in 2002 but it was dismissed as a fraud by a jihadi website.

In the document, bin Laden lists the assault on New York's twin towers in a sequence beginning with the suicide bomb attack on US marines in Lebanon in 1983, the killing of 19 US marines serving as UN peacekeepers in Somalia in 1993 and the bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi in 1998.

But its most striking feature is that he orders his wives not to remarry and urges his children not to join al-Qaeda or go to "the front", citing the example of the seventh century Muslim Caliph Omar bin Khattab to his son Abdullah. Bin Laden also asked his children to forgive him for not having spent enough time with them.

"I have chosen a path fraught with dangers and endured hardships, disappointment and betrayal. If it wasn't for betrayal, things would be different today."

"As for you, my sons, forgive me if I failed to devote more of my time to you since I answered the call to Jihad."

He ends his will by advising "the mujahideen wherever they are" to suspend "the fight against the Jews and the Crusaders and start to purge your ranks of agents and defeatists."

Many workers

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told The Daily Star yesterday.

Workers from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Nepal demanded a hike in their basic salary from JD 110 to JD 150. (JD1=TK103)

The companies that revised salaries include Sun Jordan Company, Rainbow Textile, Prestige Apparel and Jerash Garments.

Besides, authorities of Starling Apparels, Oasis Fashion and Ivory Garments are negotiating with a team of workers' representatives to end the strike, noted Toufiq.

He expressed optimism about reaching a consensus in two to three days.

Worker Altaf Hossain claimed they spent over Tk 2 lakh each to migrate and their employers did not increase their salary for the last three to four years.

Around two years back, the basic salary for a foreign garment worker was set at JD 110, while it was JD 150 for a Jordanian, he added.

Apart from the basic pay, the workers are also paid for overtime duty. The gross monthly salary of a foreign worker stands around JD 200.

There are around 25,000 Bangladeshi workers in Jordan, mentioned Toufiq adding, the employers provide housing, food, water and transportation only for foreign workers.

PM calls

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Hasina urged the coming generations to continue to identify the war criminals and try them.

"We have already allocated Tk 5 crore in the current fiscal to initiate the construction work of the museum. In the next two fiscals, we will allocate Tk 15 crore," she said.

The PM urged the affluent people to make donations for the Liberation War Museum in the least possible time. She also announced that the donors would be given tax rebates.

"I would also request affluent people to donate in health and education sectors. In every case of donation, tax rebates would be given," she said.

The function was moderated by Trustee Asaduzzaman Noor while Liberation war museum trustees Rabiul Hussain, Sarah Zaker, Ali Zaker and Akku Chowdhury, among others, addressed it.

No writing

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The BB in a release yesterday said it noticed different types of writing, including mobile phone numbers, on currency notes.

Such writing destroys the notes' security features like water marks, dots, invisible printings, iridescent stripes, security thread and microprint, added the release.

In turn, it becomes impossible to determine whether a note is genuine or fake. It also makes the bearer uncertain about the note's exchange value.

Laden was not armed

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was not armed."

When pressed further, Carney said there had been significant resistance, a "volatile firefight", and insisted: "We were prepared to capture him if that was possible."

The New York Times quoted officials as saying commandos did not know if bin Laden or others were wearing suicide belts.

The strike team opened fire in response to "threatening moves" as they reached the third-floor room where they found bin Laden, CIA Director Leon Panetta told PBS television.

US WON'T RELEASE PHOTO
US President Barack Obama yesterday said he had decided not to release photographs showing the body of Osama bin Laden for fear it will become a propaganda tool.

"That is not who we are. We don't trot this stuff out as trophies," Obama said in an interview with CBS, adding it was important to keep photographic evidence from "floating around as incitement or propaganda tool."

"There is no doubt that bin Laden is dead. Certainly there is... no doubt among al-Qaeda members that he is dead. And so we don't think that a photograph in and of itself is going to make any difference."

PAKISTAN UNDER PRESSURE

Outraged US lawmakers are calling for billions of dollars in aid for Pakistan to be cut back or scrapped entirely, while several governments in Europe say Islamabad has pressing questions to answer.

Pakistan has hit back at US claims that it could not be trusted with details of the raid that killed bin Laden.

The country faced growing pressure yesterday to explain how the world's most-wanted man was able to live for years in the military garrison town of Abbottabad, reports Reuters.

Pakistan has denied it gave shelter to bin Laden.

But unusually frank remarks from the CIA chief betrayed the extent of distrust between the United States and Pakistan.

"It was decided that any effort to work with the

Pakistanis could jeopardise the mission," Panetta told Time magazine. "They might alert the targets."

But Salman Bashir, the top civil servant in Pakistan's foreign ministry, told the BBC yesterday that the ISI had in fact alerted the United States to its suspicions about the imposing compound "as far back as 2009".

But it was not known at the time that bin Laden was sheltering there and there were "millions" of other suspect locations, the foreign secretary acknowledged.

Bashir also said that Panetta's remarks were "disquieting" as he underlined the "pivotal role" played by Pakistan in fighting terror.

Pakistani intelligence officials said agents raided the bin Laden compound in 2003 when it was still being built, looking for then al-Qaeda number three Abu Faraj al-Libbi, who escaped and was eventually captured two years later.

The powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency had no idea bin Laden was later holed up in the compound in Abbottabad, they said.

Meanwhile, Obama administration officials in Washington and in Islamabad are demanding that Pakistan quickly provide answers to specific questions about bin Laden and his years-long residence in a bustling Pakistani city surrounded by military installations, reports The Washington Post.

In addition to detailed information about the bin Laden compound--who owned and built the structure and its security system--Pakistani officials are being asked in meetings with US military, intelligence and diplomatic interlocutors to provide names of witnesses who can testify about visitors to the compound.

POLLS SHOW OBAMA POPULARITY SURGE

President Barack Obama received a big boost following the US military raid that killed bin Laden, with his approval rating surging 11 points, a new poll showed yesterday.

The survey conducted by the New York Times and CBS

News found that 57 percent of respondents approved of the president's job performance, compared to 46 percent last month, reports AFP.

The biggest upward bump came from Americans with 72 percent approving of the way Obama is handling the threat of terrorism. Asked the same question back in August, only 51 percent of those asked said they approved.

Nato's chief urged Pakistan yesterday to make progress in the battle against terrorism in the wake of bin Laden's killing by US forces near Islamabad.

About 70 lawyers staged a rally in Abbottabad yesterday, condemning the US operation in their city, witnesses said.

Police sealed off the Bilal suburb of the city, after crowds and the media had gathered outside the bin Laden compound's towering outer walls.

Go tough

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It organised the view exchange meeting at the auditorium of National Economic Council at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

The upcoming polls to around 3,825 union parishes are scheduled to be held from May 31 to July 5.

"We could not take tough action against the troublemakers in many cases due to political interference," a police official, emerging from the meeting, told journalists.

Talking to newsmen after the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda said they have asked law enforcement officials to arrest identified criminals and launch a drive to seize illegal weapons.

"We have also asked the Home Ministry to take steps so that all legal weapons are submitted at the police stations before the UP polls," he added.

The executive or judicial magistrates would take immediate action if they find any violation of election code of conduct during the polls, mentioned the CEC.

Regarding the candidature of secondary school teachers in the UP polls, Huda said teachers of any government-recognised intermediate college and school shall neither contest as a candidate, nor join any campaign for polls.

Election Commissioners M Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Shikder, inspector general of police, director generals of Rab, Coast Guard and Anser-VDP, divisional commissioners, deputy inspectors general of police, deputy commissioners of concerned districts, superintendents of police, upazila nirbahi officers and election officers attended the meeting.

Balu filled

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present is less than 40 metres (approx 130 feet).

He termed the filling up of the river "temporary" and said the river will get back its original shape when the piling is done.

The Balu, flowing through the east of the capital, has become a dead river and lost navigability in recent years due to indiscriminate pollution and encroachment.

In 2005, the National Taskforce to Save Rivers recommended dredging the river to make it at least 100 metres wide as per the Cadastral Survey (CS) record. It also recommended demarcating its original area.

But the BIWTA dredged the river for making it only 50 metres wide. At some points, the river's width is now being further narrowed down to 30 metres due to encroachment.

Rajuk, the city planner, also in 2006 filled up a portion of the riverbank to extend the area of its Purbachal housing project in violation of relevant laws.

Two satellite images collected by Centre for Environment and Geography Information System (CEGIS), a government agency, show the Rajuk move has shrunk the river significantly.

Rajuk also filled up the Dumni canal, a natural canal originating from the Balu, at Khilkhet. The canal runs through Dumni, Mashkul, Dhalna, Tolna, Khadaldia and Gajaria before rejoining the Balu.

In March this year, the Department of Environment ordered Rajuk to excavate the canal.

Indian

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Shahjalal International Airport at noon, foreign ministry sources said.

After a warm welcome at the airport, the Indian vice president will straight drive to Hotel Sonargaon through a ceremonial motorcade where he will be staying during his visit.

A 59-member high-powered delegation, including Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur, three parliament members and a 19-member media team, will accompany Ansari, a scholar on literature, during his tour, the sources said.

During his stay, he will join Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in inaugurating the main function of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on May 6.

Sheikh Hasina and Dipu Moni are scheduled to call on the Indian vice president, while he will meet President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

The Indian vice president will leave Dhaka for home on Friday afternoon.





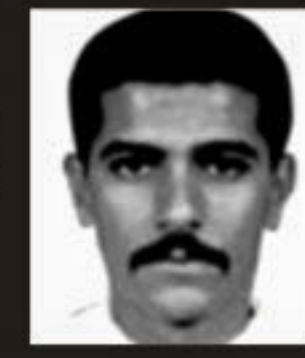

BIN LADEN IS DEAD, BUT AL QAEDA IS NOT

KILLED

-  **OSAMA BIN LADEN**
Killed May 1, 2011
Nationality: Saudi Arabia
Al Qaeda's top leader and founder. His holy war against the United States and the 911 terrorism attacks made him the most wanted terrorist in the world.
-  **ATIYAH ABD AL-RAHMAN**
Killed Oct. 2010
Nationality: Libya
Joined bin Laden in the 1980s and became an explosives expert.
-  **MUSTAFA ABU AL-YAZID**
Killed May 2010
Nationality: Egypt
Chief financial manager. Original member of Al Qaeda's leadership council.
-  **MIDHAT MURSI**
Killed July 2008
Nationality: Egypt
Chemical weapons expert. Fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Led Al Qaeda's biological and chemical weapons research.
-  **ABU YAHYA AL-LIBI**
Killed Jan. 29, 2008
Nationality: Libya
Operations and planning. Originally a leader with the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. Appeared in Al Qaeda videos.

-  **OMAR AL-FAROUQ**
Killed Sept. 25, 2006
Nationality: Kuwait
Liason for Al Qaeda in Indonesia. Escaped in 2005 from Bagram prison with three other detainees.
-  **ABU MUSAB AL-ZARQAWI**
Killed June 7, 2006
Nationality: Jordan
Operations. Leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq. Connected to the Madrid train bombings in 2004.
-  **ABU HAMZA RABIA**
Killed Nov. 30, 2005
Nationality: Egypt
International operations. Considered to have been third in Al Qaeda, behind bin Laden and al-Zawahiri.
-  **SALIM AL-HARETHI**
Killed Nov. 3, 2002
Nationality: Yemen
Chief operative in Yemen. Was a close associate of bin Laden's in Sudan in the early 1990s. Considered involved in the attack on the U.S.S. Cole in 2000.
-  **MOHAMMED ATEF**
Killed Nov. 14, 2001
Nationality: Egypt
Operations. Fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Married a daughter to one of bin Laden's sons.

REMAINING LEADERSHIP

-  **POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO BIN LADEN**
AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI
Nationality: Egypt
Advisor and second in command to bin Laden, most likely to succeed him. Head of Egyptian Islamic Jihad group.
-  **POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO BIN LADEN**
ANWAR AL-AWLAKI
Nationality: United States.
Holds dual American and Yemeni citizenship. Leader of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and considered a possible successor to bin Laden.
-  **SAIF AL-ADEL**
Nationality: Egypt
Security operations, succeeded Mohammed Atef. Former Egyptian army officer who joined the mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s. Reportedly being held under house arrest in Iran, but may have been released.
-  **ADNAN GULSHAIR EL-SHUKRIJUMAH**
Nationality: Saudi Arabia
Operations. Lived in the United States with his father, a Muslim cleric.
-  **ABDULLAH AHMED ABDULLAH**
Nationality: Egypt
Financial operations.
-  **ADAM GADHAN**
Nationality: United States
Propagandist. Grew up in California and converted to Islam as a teenager. Moved to Pakistan in 1998 and appeared in several Al Qaeda videos. Indicted and charged with treason in 2006.