

JS body

FROM PAGE 1

government-in-exile as sub-registrars. It found that 138 of the recruits were below 12 years in 1971 while only one was 18. All the 190 claimed that they had left their homes, crossed the border into India during the Liberation War and worked as "informer" and "political motivator" for the Mujibnagar government.

The recruits managed forged certificates of Mujibnagar government and later submitted those to the Supreme Court and obtained order in their favour that obliged the government to appoint them hastily, said the probe report.

The fake employees were appointed all across the country.

On receiving the probe report in September last year, the parliamentary committee was stunned at the findings and observed that the 190 employees managed to get the jobs by each bribing some government officials Tk 20 to 25 lakh. The watchdog then decided to examine the role of two ministries -- public administration and law.

In an interview with The Daily Star published on September 30 last year, Suranjit Sengupta termed the incident a "gigantic fraud" and said the judiciary, the people and the government were cheated.

"It would not have happened without the active connivance of the officials of the ministries of law and establishment [now Public Administration]. Therefore, complicity of the ministries will also be detected," he said.

But yesterday at a press briefing in his residence, Suranjit said the law ministry enquiry report was incomplete. "The report was one-sided as it did not determine the responsibilities of the ministries although they played a role in the recruitment."

Meanwhile, the 190 sub-registrars have been drawing salaries since 2009 while one of them died and some to retire soon.

58,000 Yaba

FROM PAGE 1

drug peddlars drove away when the police tried to stop them, which led to a high-speed chase on the highway.

At one stage, the smugglers abandoned the car beside the road near Kotbazar and fled.

Police then recovered the tablets from the car.

Rab arrested a drug dealer and seized around 18,000 pieces of Yaba tablet from his possession Thursday evening.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Rab-1 and Narcotics Control Department raided a Chinese food restaurant in Uttara and arrested Abdus Sakur Mahmud, 44.

Commander Shohail, director (legal and media wing) of Rab, at a press briefing at Rab headquarters yesterday morning, said the arrestee gave important information about the Yaba trade.

Mahmud told Rab that he has been involved in the Yaba trade for a long time and he used to bring four to five consignments of the tablets to Dhaka from Teknaf every month.

He said some wholesalers buy the tablets from him and sell them at some points in the city.

He used to smuggle in the tablets from Myanmar, he told Rab.

Rab recovered around 1.20 lakh Yaba tablets from the city's Gulshan area in 2007 and arrested a manufacturer. Rab officials said they recovered around 3.21 lakh pieces of Yaba tablets till now and arrested 1,373 traders in this connection.

Housewife

FROM PAGE 20

investigation officer of the case Jahangir Hossain said Enamul used to torture Alpana regularly for dowry since their marriage. He said her parents paid off most of the amount they promised before the marriage.

On Thursday night, they engaged in an altercation centring the dowry in their house in the town and at one stage Enamul beat up Alpana and strangled her to death. He then fled.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Worried Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

Khoka and Mirza Abbas. Both Khoka and Abbas were vying for the post of the city unit's chief.

Khaleda took initiatives to form the unit committee several times but failed due to the internal conflict between incumbent Mayor Khoka and former mayor Abbas.

Finally on May 15, after three years of effort, a 21-member convening committee for the city unit was announced, a day after Khaleda had left the country for a visit to the UK and US.

Khoka was made the convenor of the committee. The convening committee was formed instead of a full-fledged committee because the top leadership of the party decided that the full committee will be elected by a council.

Party insiders said despite Khaleda's attempt to accommodate leaders from all factions, pro-Khoka leaders got most of the posts in the convening committee, creating resentments within the Abbas faction.

And the chairperson was worried as there was an apprehension that the resentments might lead to a clash between the two rival groups. But that kind of outburst did not occur due to the firm stance of the chairperson, the insiders said.

Abbas, who is a member of the standing committee with a strong hold in Dhaka city unit too, has been against letting Khoka lead the city committee because Khoka had sided with the reformist faction led by late Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan during the immediate past military-backed caretaker government.

But since the announcement of the new convening committee neither Abbas nor any of his close leaders, so far, openly opposed it. Abbas however also declined to make any comment regarding the matter.

Party insiders believe the chairperson's strong position for the new committee forced Abbas and his followers to accept it despite having resentments.

Questions also arose within the party regarding inclusion of some controversial leaders like Salauddin Ahmed and Nasiruddin Pintu in the committee as joint convenors. Salauddin faced public wrath during a move.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Rab-1 and Narcotics Control Department raided a Chinese food restaurant in Uttara and arrested Abdus Sakur Mahmud, 44.

Commander Shohail, director (legal and media wing) of Rab, at a press briefing at Rab headquarters yesterday morning, said the arrestee gave important information about the Yaba trade.

Mahmud told Rab that he has been involved in the Yaba trade for a long time and he used to bring four to five consignments of the tablets to Dhaka from Teknaf every month.

He said some wholesalers buy the tablets from him and sell them at some points in the city.

He used to smuggle in the tablets from Myanmar, he told Rab.

Rab recovered around 1.20 lakh Yaba tablets from the city's Gulshan area in 2007 and arrested a manufacturer. Rab officials said they recovered around 3.21 lakh pieces of Yaba tablets till now and arrested 1,373 traders in this connection.

Al-Qaeda eyed attacks on oil sector

Says US

AFP, Washington

Al-Qaeda considered attacks on US oil and gas infrastructure as late as last year, according to documents seized from its ex-leader Osama bin Laden's compound, US officials said yesterday.

Although the communications ministry wrote to the police to implement the new fare, there were no measures taken. Officers from the rank of deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police to commissioner could not be reached for their comments yesterday.

Co-communications Minister told The Daily Star on Thursday that police has been asked to arrest bus-service operators if they charge extra.

None of the two mobile courts of the BRTA was present on city streets yesterday.

Asked why the drive was not conducted yesterday when they have information that bus operators were illegally charging extra from passengers, the BRTA director said it was the weekend. "But sir [the chairman] has directed two of the BRTA

Arms case

FROM PAGE 20

ment in his constituency when BNP was in power, and Pintu is in jail for his alleged connection with the BDR mutiny.

Resentments are also there regarding Abdus Salam's inclusion in the committee as the member-secretary, which is considered equivalent to the general secretary's post in a full-fledged committee.

Salam is a close aide to Khoka, and also sided with the reformist faction during the CDD, has visited Limon in the hospital.

Leaders who have been working to reorganise the party in the city for a long time feel that Salam was awarded with the post despite having very little contribution to the party.

But none of the party made any issue out of these controversial appointments so far, due to the tough stance of the chairperson regarding the new committee.

A number of senior leaders said when a full-fledged committee will be formed through a council within the next six months, people who are now unhappy with the committee will get a chance to speak up for making changes.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "It's nice that good sense prevailed among all of us."

Khoka told The Daily Star that competition among leaders is usual before formation of any committee of a big political party like BNP, but the city unit is now united as the chairperson already declared the committee.

Shamsul Huda, a joint convenor of the newly announced committee and known to be close to Mirza Abbas, said, "The chairperson approved the committee considering all things, so we must accept it."

Abu Sayeed Khan Kokhon, another joint convenor, said it is true that there are some problems in the convening committee, but it is time to work together under the leadership of Khaleda Zia to forge a tough anti-government movement.

Parties said before announcing the committee, BNP's acting secretary general talked to all leaders concerned to convey the chairperson's warning that she will not allow any opposition of her decision regarding Dhaka city committee.

IDB president

FROM PAGE 20

schools-cum-cyclone shelters in the cyclone-prone coastal districts.

The rest of the amount will be spent for the rehabilitation of agriculture and fisheries in the Sidr-hit areas.

The catastrophic cyclone Sidr, which ravaged the country's coastal area on November 15 in 2007, killed thousands of people and rendered millions homeless.

The IDB chief is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Dubai on Tuesday.

11-yr-old

FROM PAGE 20

The girl's maternal uncle Mahabub Sheikh who was passing by at the time heard her groaning in the jute field. He took her immediately to Narail Sadar Hospital.

Victim's grandmother Tahirunnisa said she has been rearing the child since her birth as her parents work in a garment factory in Dhaka. She yesterday sent the girl to the shop to buy bidi for the labourers who were working at their house.

Tahirunnisa added Liton and Sahajan used to taunt her granddaughter on the way to madrasa.

Mahabub said the alleged rapists are infamous in the area for various anti-social activities.

Sanjeev Kumar Saha, a medical officer of Narail Sadar Hospital, said the girl was out of danger. "We are collecting specimen for further tests," he added.

Victim's family members said police were yet to visit the spot.

Rofiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Narail Police Station, said on hearing the news he sent a police team to the hospital. "As soon as we receive a complaint we will take action," he added.

Biman in severe

FROM PAGE 1

study, said Biman officials.

A London-based company that provides simulator training -- a mandatory programme for Biman pilots and cockpit crew -- to Biman staff every six months, has threatened to discontinue the programme if Biman fails to pay it the arrears of Tk 1.20 crore.

Lack of planning, mismanagement and failure to operate flights on schedule have left the national carrier in this sorry state, alleged several Biman officials.

Prior to the increase in airfare in mid-January, the airline had earned Tk 170 crore a month from ticket sales. But the earnings dropped by nearly Tk 20 crore in January, Tk 40 crore in February, Tk 25 crore in March and Tk 15 crore in April, said an official in Biman's revenue department.

"The situation is so grim that a Biman DC-10 aircraft requiring an extensive maintenance check has been in a local hangar for over 40 days, as Biman's London office is unable to buy spare parts for fund constraint," said a Biman high-up, requesting anonymity.

The official said three of Biman's four DC-10s are now operational.

Biman's top officials also doubted whether the airline will be able to arrange \$ 2 million to send an Airbus and a Boeing-737 to Singapore for mandatory extensive check, which is due in two weeks.

"Biman's financial health

has become so frail that it could not pay overseas allowances to its cabin and cockpit crew last month," another Biman official told The Daily Star.

On corruption in Biman, lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, member of the parliamentary standing committee on the civil aviation ministry, said in February that the committee has found massive corruption involving Tk 700 crore that has happened over the years in the national carrier.

"The corruption we found was just the tip of the iceberg. The real picture of corruption in Biman is graver," said Badal, who led a parliamentary sub-committee probing corruption in Biman.

"How can we make profit by operating 34-year-old DC-10s and other age-old aircraft?" he questioned, saying nearly 60 percent of Biman's total expenditure goes to fuel.

He said Biman now passes through a "lean season." The situation will improve a lot during the Hajj and Umrah that bring Biman a major chunk of its annual earning.

Asked how the airline made a remarkable financial recovery in a short time after it was turned into a public limited company in July 2007. But the progress did not last long.

"Several wrong decisions and mismanagement brought the national carrier to its knees, immediately after the present government assumed power," said a top Biman official, preferring anonymity.

"The management's lack of knowledge about operation of commercial airlines, its inefficiency in marketing and market planning and rampant corruption at all levels brought Biman to this sorry state," observed Wahidul Alam, aviation analyst and editor of travel magazine Bangladesh Monitor.

He said since the high-ups

in the Biman management don't have any marketing background, they face a fierce challenge from other airlines led by experienced and skilled people.

Chairman of Biman Board of Directors Jamal Uddin Ahmed also admitted that the national carrier is going through a critical time.

"How can we make profit by operating 34-year-old DC-10s and other age-old aircraft?" he questioned, saying nearly 60 percent of Biman's total expenditure goes to fuel.

He said Biman now passes through a "lean season." The situation will improve a lot during the Hajj and Umrah that bring Biman a major chunk of its annual earning.

Asked how the airline made a remarkable financial recovery in a short time after it was turned into a public limited company.

He said the situation would not have been this bad had Biman got Tk 31 crore from the expatriates' welfare ministry for carrying Bangladeshi labourers home from Libya, and another Tk 15 crore from the foreign ministry.

Biman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Zakiul Islam said, "Biman is not in an ideal situation now. But I'm hopeful that it will overcome the present situation."

Sports

FROM PAGE 20

a brother and a sister along with a legion of friends and well-wishers to whom he was known simply as "Pommel."

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today at 12:00 noon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

He worked as a senior sports reporter of The Daily Star for around five years before joining BFF in 2009.

The son of Abdul Kuddus Sadi, a writer and a journalist, Al Musabir Sadi was born at the city's Hatchkhola on January 17, 1967.

Several organisations, eminent personalities and citizens expressed their condolence at his death.

Headmaster

FROM PAGE 20

school around 8:00am for a private tutoring by a teacher.

Saifullah called one of them to his office room. After some time, she came out crying. When the other two asked her what made her cry, she said the headmaster tried to violate her.

As the news spread, students of the school boycotted classes and brought out a procession demanding removal of the headmaster and his exemplary punishment. Locals also joined the protest.

Hearing the allegation, the school managing committee on the day held a meeting with its president Monsur Ahmed in the chair around 6:00pm. The meeting suspended the headmaster.

Kala Chand Singh, Debhata upazila Nirbahi officer, confirmed the incident.

Even after repeated attempts, the accused could not be contacted for his comments.

ADB to provide

FROM PAGE 20

China and also the capital of Yunnan province.

The road component of the facility aims to prepare project covering at least 300km road for tendering in 2012