

## 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 pedlars 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 Alpina regularly for dowry before her 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 Alpina 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-

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 military-backed caretaker government.

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.

Sources 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.

## Govt to go tough

**FROM PAGE 1**  
district administration and conduct special drives. He said stern actions would be taken if they find instances of charging extra fares.

As yesterday was the weekend, there was no government monitoring on bus fares. Taking the advantage, bus operators over charged passengers on all routes in the capital except the ones going to Dhaka Cantonment.

The government on Monday fixed Tk 7 instead of Tk 5 as the minimum bus fare. But the operators have been charging Tk 10.

"I have to pay Tk 10 for Shyamoli to Kalyanpur [less than 500 metres]. What is this? Whom do I hold responsible, the government or the bus operators?" an elderly passenger 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.

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

magistrates to start the drive tomorrow [Saturday]," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star Magistrate Mohammad Tofael Islam said they would start the drive today if the authorities want to do so.

Some long-distance bus operators in Mohakhali and Syedabad bus terminals increased their fares in line with the government decision.

Meanwhile, Citizen Rights Movements formed a human chain in front of Jatitya Press Club demanding resignation of the communications minister and restructuring the BRTA from bottom up to deal with the transportation fare debacle.

Victim's grandmother Tohirunnesa 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.

Tohirunnesa 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.

Sanjeet 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.

## Arms case

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Police, however, have yet to take any action against the six Rapid Action Battalion members accused in a case filed by Limon's mother for maiming him.

A team of Rab-8 shot Limon in the left leg on his way to bring the cattle home at Chhaturia village in Jhalakathi on March 23.

Meanwhile, Limon's father Tofazzal Hossain said AHM Noman Khan, executive director of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), has visited Limon in the hospital.

A team of CDD, a non-government organisation, brought Limon to its centre in Savar last week and measured him to make an artificial leg for him at its own cost.

The artificial leg is expected to be ready next week.

Meantime, Additional Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Shawkat Akbar, the investigator assigned by the home ministry to probe the Rab shooting, has yet to submit his report.

He completed recording statements of witnesses on May 16.

He refused to give any detail of the statement but said he will submit the report soon.

## Ex-IMF

**FROM PAGE 20**  
reporters after the hearing.

The former IMF chief was also ordered to wear an electronic ankle bracelet, surrender all travel documents and live under 24-hour house arrest for the alleged assault against the maid, a 32-year-old from Guinea.

The embattled French politician, who stepped down as head of the International Monetary Fund while on remand, is expected to rejoin his wife Anne Sinclair and daughter Camille who were both in court Thursday, once he leaves jail.

Strauss-Kahn, until now seen as a serious contender as the next president of France, spent one more night in the tough surroundings of New York's Rikers Island jail pending the signing of the bail package.

He has been kept in an isolation cell in the complex since the judge at an earlier hearing ruled he was likely to try to flee the country.

## 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.

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## 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 wishing anonymity.

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.

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 profits with these aging aircraft during the tenure of the last caretaker government, the chairman said Biman spent Tk 5 crore on staff salaries a month at that time, but now it has gone up to Tk 17 crore.

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 Zakul Islam said, "Biman is not in an ideal situation now. But I'm hopeful that it will overcome the present situation."

## PM's adviser sees

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Ahmed at a press conference with a select group of reporters on Thursday.

The Daily Star came across the statement from reports of the journalists who attended the briefing at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo were not on the list of 10 to 12 invitees despite being the highest circulated dailies of the country.

At the press briefing, Tarique also said some elements within the country in collaboration with international non-government organisations are conspiring to get an important force like Rab disbanded.

"I affirm that international NGOs along with different groups, organisations and individuals within the country are hatching a conspiracy to show Rab a failure and also to get an important force disbanded."

The remarks came at a time when the battalion is provoking severe criticism at home and abroad for reported extra-judicial killings.

Particularly the March 23 incident has hit the headlines and the country's media presented the case as a blatant example of human rights violation.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) in its recently released report cited the shooting of Limon and demanded the Rab be disbanded unless the force fails to improve human rights practices in six months.

"HRW should not have made the comment about Rab. Actually, they [the rights body] come with specific agenda and sometimes to embarrass the government," Tarique said.

Tarique claimed the government in a recent survey, conducted after a human rights body published its report, found 95 percent people consider the Rab a "friendly force" and feel its necessity.

On media reports against Rab, Tarique said, "The writing against Rab part of a conspiracy. We have information and evidence that the writers have involvement with militancy."

"A national newspaper editor is assisting militants. We have evidence that the editor held a meeting with militants. The matter is under advanced investigation," said Tarique without mentioning the name of the newspaper or the editor.

Rather he mentioned the editor is on the list of the people involved directly or indirectly with the August 21 grenade attack.

"We have enough evi-

dence to bring the editor to justice any moment now. But we are not doing so as the prime minister does not believe in harassing journalists," he added.

Citing Rab's success in combating militancy, Tarique said the immediate past BNP-Jamaat-led government did not engage Rab in counterterrorism.

"During that time, I was in DGFI [Directorate General of Forces Intelligence]. I've seen the BNP government supporting militants. Militants asked the government for support promising not to carry out any subversive activities inside the country. But later, they carried out terrorist attacks one after another inside the country," said Tarique.

"The newspaper publishing the highest number of reports on Limon seeks Rab assistance in crisis. Rab had helped the newspaper when threats were made that the newspaper office would be set ablaze or a shroud was sent to the newspaper office. The Rab also resolved family problems of the editor," said Tarique.

"I don't understand how Rab can harm the interest of the editor? Is he linked with militancy?" he added.

He said the newspaper has published 48 reports in 40 days covering the case of Limon.

"Amputation of Limon's leg is obviously regrettable. But a couple of newspapers are writing too much on the issue. They are concentrating more on abolition of Rab rather than expressing solidarity with Limon," Tarique said.

He criticised the newspapers for not publishing any report when Morshed Jamadar, a local criminal wanted by Rab, chopped off legs of a member of community watch in Jhalakathi.

"Limon was not shot point-blank. He was not even the target. Limon received the bullet while trying to escape during a drive to capture criminal Morshed Jamadar," said Tarique.

His statement differs widely with the findings by Rab DG Mokhlesur Rahman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Mizanur Rahman and also some rights bodies.

The director general of Rab on April 11 stated that Limon Hossain was the victim of a "shootout" between a Rab team and criminals while the NHRC chairman repeatedly termed the cases filed against Limon false.

"Limon is a young boy, not a notorious criminal. However, he is an accused in a criminal case. He just

became the victim of the incident," the Rab DG said in his earlier comment.

Local Awami League lawmaker BH Haroon substantiated the Rab DG's statement after visiting the area.

"He [Limon] is a very innocent boy. He is not a criminal. There is no allegation or criminal record against the boy in the area," said Haroon, adding the Rab DG was right in his statement.

About Tarique's remark on Limon and his father, he said, "Limon's father is a simple man, a simple farmer."

In an immediate reaction to Tarique's statement, Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK) Executive Director Sultana Kamal said, "Such statement by a responsible man, who holds such an important office, on a case under trial, is tantamount to influencing the judicial process."

"He [Tarique] should be aware of it," said Sultana Kamal.

Regarding the press conference where only select few were invited, she said, "It appeared to be an exclusive press conference. I want to know whether the invitation was made deliberately."

Pointing out Tarique's statement that the BNP government nurtured militancy, Sultana Kamal said, "What was his role as a responsible officer at that time? Did he raise alarm? If not, we can hold him partly responsible for the loss of lives during that time."

ASK conducted an independent investigation into Limon's case and found none in the entire area to come up with criminal allegation against the boy.

The force, however, filed two cases -- for possessing illegal firearms and obstructing law enforcers from carrying out their duties and attempted murder -- accusing Limon.

NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman argues "A man can not be called criminal and punished until it is proved by a court."

"Who gave Rab the authority to fire at Limon? We have protested the incident on this ground," he added.

"Transparency and accountability must be established inside an institution for the sake of its own durability. And the institution must get rid of culture of impunity, if there is any," said former inspector general of police ASM Shahjahan.

"We believe in the Rab DG and his statement. If there is further allegation, that must be properly investigated too," he added.

## 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 12:00noon 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 Musabbir Sadi was born at the city's Hathkhola 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, and an overall approximate length of 1,700km by the end of 2013.

Primarily, all roads will be designed as four-lane, but the final design will depend on the feasibility study.

Consultants will also explore possible public-private partnerships for financially viable sub-projects.

Under the railway component, the facility aims to prepare at least one project, or minimum 85km, for tendering by the end of 2012.

## Budget session

**FROM PAGE 1**  
said.

The Business Advisory Committee headed by Speaker Abdul Hamid will sit at 3:00pm tomorrow, one hour before the parliamentary sitting, to decide the duration of the session, said officials in the parliament secretariat.