

PM for women's

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Sajid Kamal, son of Poet Sufia Kamal, eminent writer Rizia Rahman and Chairman of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Prof Momtaj Begum.

On Women Development Policy, the premier said the government has formulated the policy to establish rights of the country's women in all spheres of society.

"We had to face adverse situation to implement the policy although we had formulated it in light of the Holy Quran and Sunnah," she said, adding that there was nothing wrong in the policy that could hurt religious sentiments.

Paying rich tributes to Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, she said that she (Sufia Kamal) was a symbol of truth, justice and humanity and one of the pioneers of the country's independence and cultural movements who had never deviated from her secular stand.

Sheikh Hasina said the women community of the country would ever remember Poet Sufia Kamal for her relentless efforts for establishing equal rights of women and bringing them to light from darkness. "We are working to complete the unfinished tasks of Begum Sufia Kamal."

For women empowerment, she said the present government has taken various measures for expansion of women education, ensuring gender equality and health and their safety and security in society.

She said her government has formulated prevention of domestic violence and protection act-2010, included women in its efforts to build a "Digital Bangladesh" and imparted their training on housekeeping, mobile servicing and English language to ensure their economic empowerment.

Later, the Prime Minister witnessed a cultural show and a documentary on life and works of Poet Sufia Kamal.

13 BNP men

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charges of creating anarchy, vandalism and arson during the 36-hour hartal on June 12 and 13 enforced by the main opposition and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mohammad Ziaul Karim and Justice ANM Bashirullah passed the order following three bail petitions filed by the accused.

The accused yesterday appeared before the HC bench.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed and barrister Anwarul Islam Shaheen appeared for the petitioners.

Sheikh Mamun

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Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Fakhruddin was made the DG by transferring former DG of DGFI Lt Gen Molla Fazle Akbar as the commandant of National Defence College.

ISPR sources said, Maj Gen Mamun Khaled, logistic area commander of the army, earlier had served the DGFI as a director for around three years.

Mob beats

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Police rescued them and sent to a local hospital where Sumon died around 7:00am.

The gang entered the house of one Sagor cutting the iron bars of a window around 3:30am, Abul Basar, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station told newsmen.

Sensing the presence of robbers, residents of the house shouted for help. Locals came forward and caught them red-handed, added the OC quoting witnesses.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) morgue for an autopsy.

The law enforcers were investigating the incident whether it was a burglary or a case of local rivalry.

Babar charged

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alliance led by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Kibria's family rejected the new charge sheet as strongly as it denounced the first one.

"This charge sheet is nothing but farcical," Kibria's widow Asma Kibria told The Daily Star in her reaction to the supplementary charge sheet. "It has not identified the real culprits and the masterminds," she said.

Investigation Officer (IO) Rafiqul Islam, an additional superintendent of police, said they found enough evidence to name the 14 new suspects in the supplementary charge sheet.

He said police retained the 10 previously-charged people in the charge sheet as their names came up in the first one.

The charge sheet was ready for submission on May 25. But the investigators deferred the submission due to Asma Kibria's allegation that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police had excluded the real culprits and masterminds.

Asked what changes came in the charge sheet he submitted yesterday, the IO replied, "Nothing."

"I readied it a month ago. But the senior officials took more time for a final check.

Finding no mistake or flaw, they kept it unchanged and asked me to go ahead with it," Rafiqul told The Daily Star.

Of the new accused, only nine are in custody now, said the IO. The detained nine are former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar, Indian national Md Abdul Aziz Butt alias Abdul Mazed Butt, Mufti Mainuddin Sheikh alias Abu Zandal, Huji kingpin Mufti Abdul Hannan, his brother Muhibullah alias Muhibur Rahman alias Ovi, Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul, Hafiz Syed Nayeem Ahmed Arif, Md Badrul Alam Mizan, and Mizanur Rahman alias Mithu.

Kibria, also a former Awami League lawmaker from Habiganj, was killed in a grenade attack on a rally at Baidyer Bazar in Habiganj on January 27, 2005. His nephew Shah Manzur Huda, local AL leader Abdul Rahim, Abul Hossain, and Siddique Ali were also killed in the attack.

CID official Rafiqul was tasked with "further investigation" on May 6, 2007, weeks before the then IO, CID's SP Munshi Atiqur Rahman went on retirement.

Six years into the murder, the investigators found Babar's alleged involvement in the plot executed by militants, officials said.

Babar, the then state minister for home, arranged sending abroad Maulana Tajuddin, an accused in the murder who is also the brother of former state minister Abdus Salam Pintu, using a fake name days after Huji kingpin Mufti Hannan was nabbed by the law enforcers on October 1, 2005, the investigator said.

Babar is now in jail in connection with several graft charges.

Rafiqul said banned militant organisation Huji was behind the attack.

"The killers were determined to carry out the assassination as part of a plan to eliminate the AL leadership on the pretext that it was a pro-Indian political party," the IO said.

The attackers held several secret meetings in the capital and in Habiganj to execute the plan, he added.

Badrul Alam Mizan was caught from Habiganj town on a tip-off by Mufti Hannan on October 1, 2006, the IO said. Mizan also confessed that he had joined the attack on instruction from Mufti Hannan.

The other newly accused are Moulana Tajuddin, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Mufti Abdul Hye, Mohammad Ali, and Badrul Alam Badrul.

They were determined to kill the man under a plan to eliminate AL, the IO said.

Indian army

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members martyred in the Liberation War and met Bangladesh Army chief Gen Mohammad Abdul Mubeen.

Today, the Gen Vijay Kumar will call on the naval and air chiefs of Bangladesh and GOC of Chittagong Cantonment and visit Chittagong East Bengal Regiment where he will place wreath at a monument built in the memory of liberation war martyrs.

He will attend the passing out parade at Bangladesh Military Academy and visit Rangamati for site seeing.

The general is the only living Indian Army veterans who took part in the Liberation War in 1971 for allied forces under the Eastern Command.

He fought in Feni, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar as a second lieutenant after being commissioned in the Rajput Regiment in 1970.

Gen Vijay Kumar is visiting Bangladesh at the government invitation. It is a reciprocal visit, according to Inter Services Public Relations.

In 1998, the then Bangladesh Army chief Gen Mustafizur Rahman visited the neighbouring country and attended a passing out parade of the commissioned officers of Indian army.

BSS reports, during the meeting at her official residence Gono Bhaban, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh believes in peaceful coexistence and maintaining friendly relations with all its neighbours including India.

She also recalled with deep gratitude the contribution of the then Indian government, its military personnel and civilians in 1971 war.

At the meet, the Indian Army chief handed over to Hasina some rare photographs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's India trips and also some photos of Bangabandhu published in different Indian dailies.

During the meeting with President Zillur Rahman at Banga Bhaban, Gen Vijay Kumar laid emphasis on increasing exchange of training and sharing of experiences between Indian and Bangladesh armies for further strengthening capacity of the two neighbouring forces.

Also, President Zillur Rahman recalled the contribution of Indian Army during the Liberation War.

The Indian Army chief apprised the president that he had imparted training to freedom fighters at different frontier camps from April to September in 1971.

Gen Vijay Kumar arrived in the capital on June 20, accompanied by his wife Bharati Singh and five officials of Indian Army.

He is scheduled to leave the country on June 23.

5 educationists

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Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

President Zillur Rahman approved their appointment. National professors are entitled to government allowances and other benefits.

All our discussion is likely to go in vain as the premier and the finance minister will take final decision on any possible change to the budget proposals, he mentioned.

"Even though, I am taking part in the budget discussion and hoping if any of my point is entertained," added Mannan.

Govt share up to 80pc

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share will be 65 percent."

But critics claim that Petrobangla's share will be only 20 percent.

The critic group also argues that the US company will export all the discovered gas by putting pressure on Petrobangla to give it a very high price for the gas. And in case of the demand for a very high price, Petrobangla will have no option but to turn it down, and thus let the company invoke the export clause.

EXPORT DEBATE The Petrobangla official, who is also known as one of the top PSC experts, noted that the issue of exporting gas was far fetched.

"As per contract, when ConocoPhillips discovers enough gas, it will at first bring that to Petrobangla with a development plan. If Petrobangla agrees, then the company will supply gas to it," he said. "Petrobangla will buy only the company's gas plus the company's share for recovery of its cost. We will get our share for free."

Price of the gas discovered in the deep sea blocks cannot be fixed randomly since there is a pricing formula as in the other existing contracts with international oil companies. The contract with Conoco offers no room for the oil company to go outside the pricing formula.

Again, given the present gas crisis, the government has taken initiatives to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar at a cost more than double that of the most expensive gas produced by a foreign oil company. It shows the nation will be willing to pay more if the crisis is acute.

"If Petrobangla declines to take that gas -- which will happen only if we are saturated with gas -- then ConocoPhillips may go to a local third party.

"If the third party refuses, the oil company can explore the possibility of export only in the form of LNG, and not through pipeline or any other means," the Petrobangla official explained.

Again, the export option will be a very difficult one for the oil company. Explaining this, the official said, firstly the company will have to set up an LNG processing plant in the mainland. It will have to invest for the 280 km pipeline to bring the deep sea gas to the plant. The plant should have a minimum production capacity of 5 million to 7 million tonnes per year and have a production life of 20 years, which means the gas field must have a significant recoverable reserve.

"But this is almost a fantasy that we will see discovery of a massive gas field," he said.

The LNG facilities require \$ 3 billion to 5 billion investment.

"Why did we keep this provision? Because we thought, if there is a situation ever when we don't need gas, we will still want to add value to the gas discovery. If the company invests \$3 to 5 billion, this will help the country," he said.

Finally, all other PSCs have similar provisions of exporting gas by converting it into LNG. But no company has ever tried to export it that way. In the past, Unocal sat over the Bibiyana gas field and sought government approval to export it through pipeline, saying Bangladesh market was saturated. It was not approved.

EXPORT FROM FLOATING TERMINAL? Critics said ConocoPhillips will never bring gas through pipeline, will process it in a "floating LNG terminal" and export it.

"To our knowledge, there are presently 50 LNG processing plants in operation around the world and 30 more under construction. None of those are floating. The floating LNG terminals are for docking purposes and not for LNG production," the Petrobangla official noted.

As per international practice, an LNG plant should have a minimum production capacity of 7 million tonnes a year. Recently, an LNG plant has been constructed in Australia, with the participation of ConocoPhillips in it. It has a production capacity of 20 million tonnes a year, and it cost \$30 billion, he said.

"We do not know whether it is practical to set up a floating LNG plant (even if it is available) 280 km off the coast. You must also consider the fact that in the Bay of Bengal, no oil and gas exploration or development activities take place except in the winter because of rough weather. In the summer and monsoon, usually there are storms with a wind speed of around 150 km an hour," he explained.

DEEP SEA HYPE The Petrobangla official also watered down excessive optimism about making huge discoveries in the Bay. He mentioned that two offshore gas fields of Myanmar which are near Bangladesh have 7 tcf (trillion cubic feet) gas, while the only discovered offshore gas field of India in Godabari have 14 tcf gas. The problem with the Indian field is that the reserve is spread in many small segments and there is no single stream. As a result, India could not market this gas in a large way even 10 years after its discovery.

Police arrest 2

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in city after

gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night arrested two alleged criminals including one with bullet injury after a gunfight at a check post near Rajarbagh Police Lines area in the capital.

The law enforcers also seized two revolvers and 10 rounds of bullets from their possession.

Bullet-hit Tanvir Ahmed Sajib, 20, and Nuur Mohammad, 22, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police signaled a motorbike to stop at a temporary check post near Rajarbagh Police Lines around 11:00pm but the riders opened fire forcing the cops to retaliate, Shahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Palton Police Station told The Daily Star.

They arrested Tanvir and seized a revolver from his possession, while Nur Mohammad was arrested from the city's Shahjahanpur area after he tried to flee the spot. Police also another firearm from him.

Another, Shakil managed to flee the spot with the motorbike, added the OC.

Turag grabbers

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from the river between BIWTA landing station and Ashulia Sluice Gate, said the press release.

An investigation revealed that none of the traders, who extract sand from the Meghna, has DoE clearance though mandatory under environment law, said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director of DoE, who led the drive along with Rapid Action Battalion-2 and other DoE officials.

River bed, ecology, morphology and navigable channels are being destroyed as a result of sand-extraction from the country's various rivers without environmental impact assessment, he also said.

The vessels carrying sand had no document, he added saying the ongoing drive is a part of measures to keep the river Turag and its adjacent water body free from illegal encroachment, filling and pollution.

Rumana

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"My daughter is too young. My parents are sick and now he has done this to me. I feel threatened, insecure.... Brother, press for his trial," she told reporters.

From the airport she was straightway taken to LabAid for continuation of treatment.

Doctors and family members will brief reporters about her condition at the hospital around 11:00am today.

The family brought her back, as doctors said no treatment for her eyes was available at the moment.

The eye specialists in Sankara Nethralaya, however, recommended taking Rumana to the hospital after two months.

"We're considering taking her to India after two months," said a cousin.

Tanzim Uddin Khan, a DU teacher of international relations department, said they will hold an emergency meeting today to chalk out protest programmes against the torture on Rumana, who is also a postgraduate student of the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Her father Manzur Hossain who was present at the airport demanded exemplary punishment of Sumon. Following his arrest on June 15, Sumon on police remand confessed to torturing Rumana.

US drones kill

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6 in Pakistan

AFP, Paris

France and Britain plan to set up a joint team to oversee the possible development of an unmanned military aircraft, French Defence Minister Gerard Longuet said yesterday at the Paris Air Show.

The team will be based in Britain and charged with drawing up requirements for a European drone so the allies can eventually put the programme out to tender to the defence industry, he said.