

ANTI-GRAFT BILL

Indian govt set for showdown

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian government geared up yesterday for a showdown with opposition parties and civil activists over a landmark anti-corruption bill to be presented in parliament.

The new legislation was the focus of mass protests in August, spearheaded by veteran activist Anna Hazare, that saw millions take to the streets of cities across India to denounce the corruption that permeates all levels of Indian society.

The proposed law would create a powerful new ombudsman, or "Lokpal", tasked with probing and prosecuting senior politicians and civil servants suspected of graft.

The Indian cabinet approved a final version of the bill late Tuesday and Sonia Gandhi, the president of the ruling Congress party, vowed to steer its passage through parliament over the objections of opposition

MPs and the Hazare campaign.

"I will fight for the Lokpal Bill," she told a meeting of Congress party members. "I cannot see any reason for us to be defeatist."

Opposition parties have said they will insist on amendments to the cabinet-approved bill, while Hazare has scheduled a repeat of his August hunger strike that galvanised public opinion behind his campaign.

The main points of contention focus on the ambit of the ombudsman's office and its powers of investigation.

The government bill offers only limited jurisdiction over the prime minister and requires the ombudsman to put any criminal probes in the hands of the government-controlled Criminal Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Hazare and a number of opposition parties want the ombudsman to control any CBI investigations.

BNP procession foiled

FROM PAGE 1

At least eight persons, including two female workers, were picked up by police as they tried to enter the BNP office.

Anwar Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We feared that anarchy could break out and requested them not to bring out any procession."

Emerging from the party office at 3:45pm, around 30 leaders led by party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir began marching in a procession. But hardly had they proceeded 50 yards when they were forced to stop.

At one stage, they engaged in scuffles with policemen and sat down on the street, but could not stay there for long.

During the brief sit-in

there, Mirza Fakhru said the government had created a "warlike" situation to obstruct the opposition's protest programme. "Democracy and human rights are now at stake."

The government had created panic in people's minds by using Rab and the police, he noted.

"Leaders and workers of BNP and its front and associate bodies were stopped by police at different points in the city on their way to join the procession," complained Fakhru.

Dhaka city BNP convener Sadeque Hossain Khoka said police had obstructed BNP's procession, though Section 144 (of the code of criminal procedure) was not imposed. "The Awami League government has even beaten the Pakistanis in misrule," he added.

After about 20 minutes, the BNP leaders returned to the party office, chanting slogans as they did so.

Several thousand police and Rab personnel were deployed in Nayapaltan, Bijoy Nagar and Purana Paltan areas. Some mobile teams of police with armoured vehicles and water cannons patrolled the vicinity of the BNP office.

Earlier on Monday Fakhru announced the decision for a mass procession following Sunday's violence in the city centering around BNP's reception to freedom fighters.

Opposition activists fought running battles with law enforcers and vandalised some vehicles in the city on Sunday. At least 12 handmade bombs went off, leaving one person dead and scores injured.

Final report

FROM PAGE 1

Commission Chairman Mujibur Rahman yesterday. A high official of the ministry said the newly appointed commerce minister called the meeting to be apprised of transit related issues.

Following instructions from the finance minister, the committee was formed last year to fix routes and fees for providing transit facilities to the neighbouring countries including India.

The committee earlier submitted several reports to the government revising different issues on transit. But the government has not yet accepted the report formally, the commerce ministry official said.

The committee will meet again on December 27 to discuss the report before

placing it to the commerce ministry formally.

The tenure of the existing river transit and transhipment agreement with India will expire in March next year. Before that, fees will be finalised for giving transit facilities to India.

Yesterday's meeting also discussed the issue of giving transhipment facility to India through Ashuganj and Akhaura ports without charging fees.

The officials in the meeting observed that the current transhipment facility to India was given on trial basis, sources said.

Senior officials of the foreign ministry, commerce ministry, shipping ministry, roads and railway divisions and National Board of Revenue were present at the meeting.

When the Mujibnagar govt came home

FROM PAGE 1

thousands of Bangalees -- academics, writers, students, rickshawpullers and passersby caught in the fury of the military.

The provisional government of Bangladesh, formed in a remote region of Meherpur in Chuadanga district on April 17, 1971, holds a special place in history. And it has to do with the fact that it was the first ever government formed and administered by Bangalees, which in itself was a unique happening given that at no earlier stage in their history had Bangalees been witness to a government established to ensure their security and welfare. And not since the formation of a free government of India by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1943 had the arrival of a political dispensation, composed as it was of the elected representatives of the people -- lawmakers voted to the national assembly of Pakistan and the provincial assembly of East Pakistan through adult franchise in December 1970 -- symbolised the kind of drama and expectations generally asso-

ciated with such a revolutionary move.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in the custody of the Yahya Khan military regime in distant West Pakistan, was chosen president of a battle-engaged Bangladesh. In his absence, Syed Nazrul Islam officiated as acting president of the republic, with Tajuddin Ahmed, the prime minister, leading a cabinet comprising M Mansoor Ali, AHM Kamruzzaman and Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed as ministers. Colonel MAG Osmany was appointed head of the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) and soon the entirety of the territory of Bangladesh would be segmented into eleven military sectors to be headed by such officers as Khaled Mosharraf, KM Safiullah, Ziaur Rahman, AK Khondokar, Abu Taher, MA Jalil, Abu Osman Chowdhury, M Nuruzzaman, MK Bashar and others.

The Mujibnagar government, over the next many months, would draw into it Bangalee government officials cheerfully and selflessly deserting their posts in occupied Bangladesh and offering their services to a govern-

ment they considered their own. Abroad, Bangalee diplomats posted at various Pakistani missions would renounce their Pakistani citizenship and go on a diplomatic offensive abroad in support of their native land.

Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, would serve as Bangladesh's special representative abroad. Bangalee artists, having left home, would give shape to Swadhin Bangla Betar and travel through the refugee camps and the battle fields inspiring their fellow countrymen in the belief that freedom was in the air, around the corner. Tens of thousands of Bangalee youths, men as well as women, would leave home in the towns and villages of occupied Bangladesh to join the Mukti Bahini.

The Mujibnagar government did the job of conducting the War of Liberation gloriously well. Not for a moment did it waver in its conviction that the war to free Bangladesh of Pakistani occupation would result in success. Never during those months of agonising struggle did it entertain thoughts

of anything less than full, unconditional and unfettered freedom for the people of Bangladesh.

It was late afternoon when Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Kamruzzaman, M Mansoor Ali, Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed and MAG Osmany arrived home to a devastated but free Bangladesh. In their speeches at the old airport in Tejgaon, both Syed Nazrul Islam and Tajuddin Ahmed let it be known that Bangladesh's freedom could only come full circle when the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, returned home from incarceration in what had by then become a rump Pakistan.

If the surrender of the Pakistan forces on December 16, 1971

had been the first stage in the emergence of a free Bangladesh, the arrival home of the Mujibnagar government on December 22, 1971 was the second.

The third would be the triumphant return of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to a sovereign Bangladesh on January 10, 1972.

Witness brings rape charge

FROM PAGE 20

The girl and other rape victims left the country for India after the war and they never returned, he said.

The three-member tribunal headed by its chairman Justice Nizamul Huq recorded the witness' deposition yesterday after Sayedee's defence finished cross-examining third prosecution witness Mizanur Rahman Talukder.

Sayedee is among five Jamaat and two BNP leaders who are facing charges of crimes against humanity at the court. Nearly 30 lakh Bangalees were killed and two lakh Bangalee women were violated by the Pakistan occupation forces and their Bangladeshi collaborators during the nine-month-long Liberation War in 1971.

Recalling the events of the day, which he believes to be May 8, 1971, Sultan said he saw fire and heard screams and cries from his

neighbour Manik Poshari's home.

"As I approached Manik Poshari's house, I saw flames in the houses of Manik Poshari, Raijuddin Poshari, Shaheeduddin Poshari and 15 to 20 other houses," he said.

As he went near the houses, he saw Sayedee, Sikandar Sikder, Danesh Ali Mollah and Moslem Mawlana among other collaborators and Pakistani army personnel taking away Manik Poshari's cousin Mafiz and his employee Ibrahim towards Parerhaat. Both of them had been tied up.

Sultan and a few others discreetly followed them to the Parerhaat. They saw Sayedee talking to some Pakistani soldiers. And all of a sudden, there was a deafening gunshot followed by a loud cry.

"The next day, we came to know that Ibrahim was shot and his body was thrown

into the water and Mofiz was taken to a camp set up at Parerhaat," Sultan told the court.

Manik Poshari of Chitholia village on August 12, 2009, filed a case against Sayedee and four others in connection with war crimes during 1971.

According to a report in The Daily Star, the case summery is that Sayedee and the other accused along with the Pakistani army stormed Poshari's house around 3:00pm on May 8, 1971. They looted the house and set it on fire. The collaborators also handed Poshari's caretaker Ibrahim over to the Pakistani army to have him killed. The Pakistani army personnel shot Ibrahim dead in Parerhaat.

"Delawar Hossain, also known as Sayedee, along with loyal collaborators continued committing the crimes including arson,

killing, looting, abuse of women and handing over women to Pakistani army for rape," Sultan said.

"I demand Sayedee's punishment."

Unlike the other collaborator leaders of Pirojpur, Sayedee was fluent in Arabic and Urdu. This helped him maintain good communication with the Pakistani army and encouraged them in different misdeeds.

Sultan will face cross-examination from Sayedee's defence today as the court adjourned yesterday's session following a prayer from the defence.

Meanwhile, the tribunal directed the jail authorities to make arrangements for physiotherapy of Sayedee before he is brought to the tribunal. The court will, however, continue its proceedings as per schedule, 10:30am, even if Sayedee is absent.

TENDER NOTICE

1	Agency	Police Reform Programme (PRP)					
2	Procuring Entity Name	Police Reform Programme (PRP)					
3	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka					
4	Invitation for	Supply of Event Management Services for conducting Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Seminar in different places of Bangladesh during Jan. to June 2012					
5	Invitation Ref No & Date	2011/690					
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)					
7	Budget and Source of Funds	UNDP & DFID					
8	Project (if applicable)	Police Reform Programme (PRP)					
9	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No. 01 : Supply of Event Management Services					
10	Mode of Payment	Credit					
11	Tender Publication Date	December 22, 2011					
12	Tender Last Distribution Date	January 03, 2012					
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	January 12, 2012 Time: 11:00 Hours					
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	January 12, 2012 Time: 12:00 Hours					
15	Name & Address of the office(s)	Addresses					
	- Selling Tender Document	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.					
	- Receiving Tender Document	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka					
	- Opening Tender Document	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka					
16	Pre-tender Meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on January 05, 2012 at 10.00 AM in the Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.					
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) The maximum 03 number of arbitration against the Tenderer over a period last five years. (ii) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of five years of overall experience in the supply of Event Management Services. (iii) The Tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 03 (three) numbers of similar types of Event Management programmes within last three years supported by the certificate issued from competent authority. (iv) The satisfactory completion of similar service of minimum 15 lac under maximum three contracts in the last three years. (v) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. 3,000,000.00 supported by the certificate issued from scheduled bank. (vi) Tender may submit either for individual lot or any combination of lots.					
18	Identification of Packages, Lots, Tender Security and Price of Tender Document						
	Pkg. No.	Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in BDT (by Pay Order/Bank Guarantee)	Completion Time	Price of Tender Document (in cash)
	Pkg.-1	Lot - 1 Lot - 2 Lot - 3	Event Management Services for conducting Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Seminar in different places of Bangladesh	Police Reform Programme, 3rd Floor of Bangladesh Police Headquarter, 1 Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.	Tk. 150,000/= Tk. 185,000/= Tk. 105,000/=	As per delivery schedule mentioned in the tender documents.	Nil
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender						
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender						
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender						
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender						
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.						

Kumar Koirala
Project Manager a.i.
Police Reform Programme (PRP), UNDP

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