

MK Alamgir

FROM PAGE 20

strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission, saying such proposal goes against the country's constitution, culture and heritage.

He blasted the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her recent comment that the government-blessed people would use their black money to found the new banks.

"Khaleda Zia cannot say this as she and her family members whitened their black money," said Alamgir, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on public accounts.

Taking part in the discussion, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said 22 ministries had spent excess amount of money while 23 ministries could not use their allocated amount in the outgoing budget.

AL lawmakers M Idris Ali and MA Mannan and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal also took part in the budget discussion.

Himu murder

FROM PAGE 20

Prosecutor Nitai Prasad Ghosh said, "The defence sought his bail but we objected to the plea."

Earlier, a court in the port city placed Saju on remand on June 3, a day after his arrest.

Eighteen-year-old Himadri Majumdar Himu, a student of Summerfield School and College, died on May 23 in the capital's Square Hospital, 26 days after his friends pushed him off the roof of a four-storey building at Panchlaish Residential Area in Chittagong.

Prakash Das Asit, an uncle of Himu, filed a murder case with Panchlaish Police Station on May 24 against four of Himu's friends -- Junaid Ahmed Riad, Saju, Danny and Shaan -- and also Riad's father Shah Selim Tipu in this connection.

It was from the roof of Farhad Mansion, the building owned by Riad's father, Himu was pushed off.

All the accused went into hiding after the case was filed.

Police arrested Saju from a house at Shah Pori Island at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar on June 2.

Earlier on April 28, Himu's father Prabir Kanti Majumdar lodged a general diary in connection with the torture on his son the day before.

The rest of the accused are still on the run.

Ghulam Azam

FROM PAGE 1

incitement and complicity to commit genocide and crimes against humanity during the 1971 war.

The three-member tribunal led by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq fixed June 24 for recording the statement of first prosecution witness. It also asked the defence to submit the list of defence witnesses and documents on the same day.

The prosecution began reading out the 142-page opening statement around 10:30am and finished around 4:30pm.

The prosecution said Ghulam Azam played a key role in forming auxiliary forces including Shanti (peace) Committee, Razakar, Al Badr and Al Shams, Al-Mujahid forces which were responsible for mass killings during the Liberation War.

It claimed that Ghulam Azam had superior status over those forces.

It said with this superior status, Ghulam Azam used the auxiliary forces to help the Pakistani army commit massacres all over Bangladesh.

According to the war history, the Pakistani forces with the help of different political parties and the auxiliary forces killed 30 lakh people of Bangladesh and raped over two lakh women, the prosecution said.

Although Ghulam Azam claimed himself to be a "pardoned collaborator", the prosecution would place their evidence against this claim, prosecutor Tipoo said.

The prosecution also said Ghulam Azam, the then ameer of East Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami, also provoked youths into joining the Razakar force and, according to some government documents, he administered the oath taking ceremony of several Razakar teams.

Ghulam Azam was produced before the court yesterday. At one point of the proceedings, he was sent back to the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University as he was

Ministry finds

FROM PAGE 20

It was found that the accused officials changed the exam sheets of many disqualified job-seekers to appoint them.

In many cases, candidates, who failed to pass the written exam, were recruited while some candidates, who were supposed to be rejected in the primary selection, were appointed to the job, a source close to the probe body said.

"All this happened in exchange for money from the job-seekers," he said, adding that the probe committee had enough evidence to prove anomalies in the recruitment process.

The first probe body headed by Joint Director General M D Shamsuzzaman in its report, submitted to the railway director general on May 22, accused two other railway officials along with the five, including Mridha, of manipulating the recruitment process.

In the fresh report, the names of Divisional Engineer (Dhaka) Arman Hossain and Divisional Engineer (Chittagong) Abidur Rahman were dropped. Of the two, Arman is the son-in-law of Mridha.

ADG Shahjahan along with two other members worked throughout last week on the report and other documents submitted by the Shamsuzzaman-led committee and then submitted its report on Thursday.

Both the probe bodies found various anomalies in the recruitment of 1,128 employees in the east zone.

"Many of them were recruited using back dates," said a railway official, adding that Mridha had engaged only a few officials in the recruitment process in a bid to manipulate the process.

The issue of recruitment anomalies came to light

Road crash

FROM PAGE 1

behind around 8:00am near Kakrail intersection, leaving the rickshaw-van puller dead on the spot.

The deceased was identified as Forkan Matabbar, 40, son of Abdur Rashid of Patuakhali.

Police seized the bus and detained its driver Sohag and helper Al-Amin.

At Bangla Motor, a speeding bus hit a passer-by while he was crossing a road near Sonar Tori intersection around 7:00pm.

Ashiqur Rahman, sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station, said a Farmgate-bound bus of Labbayek Paribahan hit the passer-by, Ismail, 38, leaving him seriously injured.

Ismail was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Soon after the incident, angry locals set the bus ablaze. On information, fire fighters reached the spot and doused the flame.

The bus driver, however, managed to flee the scene.

Fresh tax on mobile

FROM PAGE 1

Nevertheless, imposing a further surcharge on mobile phone calls made after 12:00 midnight might also be discussed at tomorrow's meeting, added the official.

Contacted, Centre for Policy Dialogue Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman said imposition of surcharges would be "regressive".

"Many poor people now use mobile phone. Imposition of such tax or surcharge on mobile phone will not be justified in any consideration," he told The Daily Star.

As of April this year, 9.63 crore people in the country use mobile phones, according to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

A ministry paper prepared for the top-level meet says the cost of fuel-based power plants has shot up due to the rise in fuel prices on the international market and also for subsidy cuts in energy sector.

When the work orders for furnace oil-based power plants were given, the price of furnace oil was Tk 26 per

after the driver of now-fired assistant personal secretary Omar Faruq Talukder of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta, drove Faruq's microbus into the BGB Pilkhana headquarters on April 9 and shouted that there was illegal money in the vehicle. BGB men found Tk 70 lakh in the microbus in which Faruq was travelling with Mridha and Divisional Security Commandant Enamul Huq.

The BGB personnel detained the four but released them the next day after verifying their identities.

However, many in the railway claimed that the money stashed in the vehicle had come from crores reportedly collected from jobseekers.

Faruq was sacked, and Mridha and Enamul were suspended following the incident.

The scandal drew huge flak across the country, which led to resignation of Suranjit as railway minister.

A departmental probe headed by the railway DG found no link of Suranjit with the cash haul. The Anti-Corruption Commission recently said it could not certify Suranjit, now a minister without portfolio, as innocent until it completed its investigation.

Police firing

FROM PAGE 20

One businessman, Jalil Khondker of Kotchandpur upazila filed the complaint with the outpost against Wahab, Rokon and one Mokaddes of the same village on Friday evening.

Pankaj said when the law enforcers entered Wahab's home he started shouting seeking neighbours' help. Hearing him, villagers rushed to the spot and resisted the law enforcers from arresting Wahab and his son.

Police said they opened fire on the villagers in self defence. Wahab died on the spot, the SP said.

Locals surrounded the law enforcers after they had fired 11 shots. On information, another police team went to their help around 2:30am and rescued them, he added.

Sub-Inspector Abdur Rahim, constables Moloy Kumar Biswas and Abdul Malek were injured during the incident. One villager, Hasan Ali, received shotgun palates on his hand.

The police personnel were undergoing treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

The villagers said Jalil and his sons had grabbed a land of Mokaddes by forging documents. But the High Court on June 5 gave an order in favour of Mokaddes.

They said on Friday afternoon, Jalil and his son accompanied by police and some local Awami League activists went to grab the plot at Ganna Bazar forcefully. They had to return when Wahab showed them the HC order.

Following this, Jalil in the

litre, which is now Tk 60. If the price is adjusted with the international market, it will go up further, the paper adds.

Currently, production cost of per unit electricity is Tk 6.8 while it sells Tk 4.02 on an average. A proposal to hike power tariff by Tk 2 a unit is under consideration of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission. If approved, the fresh hike will bring down the annual deficit to Tk 3,500 crore, according to the ministry document.

In the current fiscal year Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation sought about Tk 28,000 crore in fuel subsidy, citing price hike on the international market, an official in the finance ministry said.

However, the government eased the pressure by increasing fuel prices thrice in the last nine months.

Even so, the government will have to count a huge subsidy on fuel. In the current FY, the official said, the government already spent Tk 9,000 crore in fuel subsidy.

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1

Many citizens see them as illegal immigrants and view them with hostility.

State television announced a 6:00pm to 6:00am curfew starting yesterday has been imposed in the Rakhine state capital of Sittwe and three other townships because of elements there acting unlawfully and causing disorder. Public gathering of more than five persons were also banned.

The move follows rioting on Friday in two other areas of Rakhine state that, according to state media, left at least seven people dead and 17 wounded, and saw hundreds of houses burned down.

Those official accounts blamed the rioting in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships on 1,000 "terrorists," but residents' accounts made clear they were Muslims, apparently retaliating for the June 3 lynching of 10 Muslims by a crowd of 300 Buddhists. The lynch mob was inflamed by the rape and murder last month of a Buddhist girl, allegedly by three Muslim men.

The violence reflects longstanding tensions in Rakhine state between Buddhist residents and Muslims, many of whom are considered to be illegal settlers from neighbouring Bangladesh. Although the root of the problem is localized, there is fear that the trouble could spread elsewhere because the split also runs along religious lines.

The new curfews were imposed in reaction to new clashes Saturday and yesterday outside Friday's trouble spots, where order was said to have been restored.

Shops in Sittwe were closed and the busy port city was unusually quiet yesterday, according to residents.

Army troops had been deployed Friday in Maungdaw and Buthidaung to help police keep order, and security officials were reported to have fired shots to quell the violence, in addition to imposing a curfew.

In Yangon yesterday, Buddhist monks and people from Rakhine state -- about 500 in all -- went to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar's most revered Buddhist shrine, to say prayers for the murdered girl

Britons want

FROM PAGE 20

YouGov's poll for The Sunday Times newspaper found that 44 percent of respondents want Charles to succeed his mother, with 38 percent opting for William.

The figures have been exactly reversed since a poll two weeks ago, suggesting Britons were impressed by how Charles stood in for his ill father Prince Philip at last weekend's festivities marking the queen's 60-year reign.

Philip, who celebrates his 91st birthday yesterday, was released from hospital on Saturday after five days of treatment for a bladder infection that forced him to miss the final jubilee celebrations.

At the star-studded jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace on Monday, thousands of revellers chanted Philip's name after Charles told them, "If we shout loud enough, he might just hear us in hospital."

Charles, 63, also paid a warm and witty tribute to his "mummy", describing her "a very special person" as he took to the stage at the end of a concert featuring the likes of Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

With his father absent, Charles also stood beside his mother during Tuesday's jubilee service at St Paul's Cathedral, and joined her, along with his wife Camilla, in a horse-drawn carriage as she waved to more huge crowds.

Philip's popularity has also risen in the wake of his illness, with 58 percent describing him as an asset to the royal family compared to 47 percent before the jubilee celebrations.

Prince William's popularity surged after his engagement to Kate Middleton, who he married last year in a glittering ceremony that was broadcast around the world. Support for the royal family remains high, with 75 percent of Britons in favour of keeping the monarchy, according to the YouGov poll.

Probe finds 2 cops guilty

FROM PAGE 20

Parishad member.

Hours after the incident, SI Nripen filed a case saying 150 to 200 people had taken away Mamun from them at Ramchandrapur. Mamun was arrested in a case filed by local UP chairman Shariful Islam Toran on charges of attacking him earlier.

Two days after the incident, Superintendent of Police of Gazipur Abdul Baten formed a committee to probe the incident. Headed by Additional SP Mohammad Abul Hossain, the committee also included Shahrier Al Mamun, Kaliganj circle ASP, and Mohammad Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Gazipur

BGB on high alert

FROM PAGE 1

tonight. We have doubled our forces at these points.

"We have already informed our higher authority and we are waiting for instructions on what we will do if such infiltration of Rohingya occurs."

Talking to The Daily Star last night Home Secretary CQK Mostak contradicted the major and said BGB and police had been kept on alert so that no push-in of Myanmar citizen could take place.

Asked if additional BGB personnel would be deployed along the border with Myanmar, he said, "We are keeping constant watch over what is going on and we do not yet feel the need to deploy additional forces there."

Asked what Bangladesh's response would be since Myanmar deployed the military in the bordering Rakhine state, he said Myanmar had deployed the army to control riots between Rohingya Muslims and majority Buddhists.

Meanwhile, Police arrested injured Myanmar citizens Jane Alam, 25, Khursheda Begum, 40, and

district detective branch.

Nripen was subsequently suspended and his team members were withdrawn from the police station.

After a weeklong investigation, the committee submitted its report to the SP on Thursday.

Talking to The Daily Star, probe body chief Abul Hossain said the policemen had set an example of sheer neglect in duty and also showed extreme inhuman attitudes.

"The SI went to arrest Mamun without informing the officer-in-charge. He conducted the drive while there were only two members with him," the additional SP added.

He said the criminals had

dared to snatch away the detainee as there had been an inadequate number of policemen. But the policemen did not take any step to rescue the victim, he added.

Earlier on May 31, the victim's brother filed a case against nine identified and eight to 10 anonymous people. The accused include Shariful Islam, chairman of Mokartpur Union Parishad in Kaliganj.

Police have so far arrested four people -- the chairman's brothers Shakhawat Hossain Iran and Iman Hossain Kawsar, Shyamal Chandra Sarkar and Sri Cinibas Mondol.

Of them, only Iran was accused in the case.

All 14 killed in Peru helicopter crash

AFP, Lima

All 14 people aboard a helicopter that vanished days ago were found dead Saturday when climbers reached the crash site high in the Peruvian Andes, officials said.

At mid-morning a special eight-member police mountain patrol team reached the site where the helicopter, a Sikorsky S-58 ET that went missing on Wednesday, plummeted to earth.

On board the flight were eight South Koreans, a Czech, a Swede, a Dutch citizen and three Peruvians, two of them crew members, according to helicopter owner HeliCusco. All were found dead, police said, giving no details on whether any of the victims survived the initial crash.

Bus, launch

FROM PAGE 1

off the roads and waterways, citing security concerns.

Our correspondent in Chittagong reports: Police arrested 160 people in the port city in the early hours yesterday.

Jamaat-e-Islami Bakshirhat ward unit president Abdul Mabud, Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader Mohammad Rustam and BNP activist Abul Hossain were among those arrested.

AKM Mohiuddin Selim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said some of the arrestees were accused of attacking police and vandalising vehicles on May 13.

Tanvir Arafat, assistant commissioner (detective branch) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said at least 73 people were arrested in cases linked to drug peddling, murder, robbery, mugging and prostitution in the port city.

Nazmul Hasan, additional superintendent of police in Chittagong (south), told The Daily Star that such drives are carried out almost every month and they are meant to maintain law and order.

A BNP leader in Kotwali area, Shamsul Alam, however, alleged that the police had been conducting mass arrests to foil the grand rally in Dhaka.

Our correspondent in Barisal reports: Thousands of people were stuck in bus stations and launch terminals due to disruption to Dhaka-bound water and road transport services.

Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice-president of Barisal Launch Owners' Association, said, "We are just following the orders from the port authority. If they allow, we will resume our service."

Lokman Hussein, river traffic inspector in Barisal, however, said he did not know of any restrictions imposed on the plying of passenger vessels on Barisal-Dhaka route.

Meanwhile, Alamgir Hossain, president of Barisal Bus Owners' Association, said all counters of Dhaka-bound buses were closed yesterday afternoon on orders from the owners "worried about safety of the passengers and vehicles".

Mojibor Rahman Sarwar, city BNP president and lawmaker, alleged that the ruling party had been using the government machinery to prevent people from joining the grand rally in the capital.

A correspondent in Bogra reports: Bus counters stopped selling tickets in Bogra and other northern districts yesterday afternoon, leaving hundreds of passengers at bay.

Bogra Inter-District Truck Workers' Union President Abdul Mannan said he had received a call from an unknown number asking him not to operate any bus to Dhaka. The caller said it was an order from the central bus owners' association.

Shahdat Hossain Jhantu, manager of SR Travels, said local transport workers' union had also asked them to stop operating buses to Dhaka.

BNP's Dhaka rally

FROM PAGE 1

at Nayapaltan.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia might declare a daylong hartal from the rally to press for the detained leaders' release, party insiders said.

She would also announce agitation programmes like human chains, rallies, processions and blockades, while keeping room for talks to resolve the ongoing political stalemate, they added.

BNP started preparing the venue yesterday morning after getting permission from Dhaka Metropolitan Police for the rally.

"Despite a belated permission, our preparations are at the final stage," BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam said during a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters yesterday.

"Around 15 lakh people are expected to attend the rally and we will organise the event accordingly," said Tariqul, also convener of rally management committee.

Nazrul Islam Khan, another member of the standing committee, alleged that opposition supporters heading for the capital were obstructed in various areas across the country yesterday.

BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman slammed police and ruling party activists for the "harassment".

At today's rally, representa-

tives of some like-minded parties, including Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and Krishak Sramik Janata League, and pro-opposition personalities might express solidarity.

Shafiqul Islam Masud, a leader of BNP's key ally Jamaat-e-Islami, said over 50 thousand of their supporters would attend the rally.

On May 24, on behalf of the 18-party alliance, applications were submitted seeking permission to hold the rally at either of Paltan Maidan, Nayapaltan and Manik Mia Avenue.

Talking to reporters at his secretariat office yesterday, State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku said the permission as BNP pledged to hold a peaceful rally.

From a grand rally on March 12, Khaleda Zia asked the Awami League-led grand alliance government to make a formal announcement restoring the non-party caretaker government system by June 10.

The warning, however, failed to move the Hasina administration to bring back the provision that mandated a non-elected neutral government to oversee the national polls. The provision was scrapped through a constitutional amendment in line with a Supreme Court verdict last year.

Bangabandhu was the grabber, not I,"

Kader Siddique also said he had applied for necessary documents to the past Awami League government and also the BNP government with no response from them.

The list shows that of the 104 illegal grabbers, some are members of the police force, some are former army, police or ansar personnel and some are retired or forced to retire government officials.

Besides, the state minister claimed, a good number of people grabbed aban-

doned houses, claiming that they are family members or relatives of martyred or war-wounded freedom fighters.

The list shows some members of the police force have grabbed an abandoned house on eight kathas of land at Patuatuli in capital.

Besides, another group of police personnel has grabbed an abandoned house on 5.54 kathas of land at Zinda Bahar second lane in the capital.

The state minister, however, did not mention anything about recovery of the abandoned houses from the illegal grabbers.