

ROOPPUR NUKE PLANT Recruit Bangladeshis in top management *Discussion told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take initiatives for creating necessary technically skilled manpower for safe operation of the proposed Rooppur nuclear power plant in Pabna, said former chief engineer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Dr Abdul Matin yesterday.

"If necessary, we should recruit experienced Bangladeshi origin nuclear engineers from abroad and place them at the top management of the project," he added.

He told a discussion titled "Premier's visit to Russia" organised by national Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj at its head office in the capital.

Managing Director of Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust AK Mohammad Ali Sikder, former foreign secretary Syed Moazzem Ali, Dhaka University International Relations Department Teacher Dr Delwar Hossain, military expert Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, and journalist Joglul Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Appreciating the prime minister's visit to Russia and signing of deals for buying arms and ammunitions, Moazzem Ali said Bangladesh has stepped forward in upgrading its military preparation.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina takes salute during a parade at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital yesterday, on the occasion of Police Week 2013.

PHOTO: STAR

157 families yet to get khas land possession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 157 landless families in Bhogdaburi union in Domar upazila of Nilphamari received ownership documents for government-allocated khas land over a decade ago, but no one is yet to get full possession of the lands due to illegal occupation by influential locals.

Following newspaper reports, an investigation team from some rights groups visited the area and found the allegations which were revealed at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday. Two of the families narrated their cases at the event.

"I received the government deed 13 years ago. But I am yet to get its possession as UP Chairman Abu Taher and other influential people are occupying the land," said Shafikul, 60, a landless villager.

The government allocated 55.1 acres (around 165 bighas) of khas land to these families between 1999 and 2001, to eradicate landlessness. But the district administration has not ensured in the last 12 years that the deprived people possess the land.

All of the landless people present at the conference alleged that the district and upazila administrations not only remained silent but also helped local elites continue their illegal occupation.

They submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) on September 30 last year but the DC rebuked two of them for entering his office in torn clothes.

They also said last year the illegal occupants and their goons assaulted them mercilessly for claiming possession.

ActionAid, ASK, TIB, ALRD, Nijera Kori and BLAST conducted the investigation.

Mobile courts not working neutrally

Say senior police officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior police officials yesterday observed that the mobile courts are not operating impartially as the courts punish only the poor sparing the powerful and rich.

"The mobile courts only punish those who are poor, weak and marginalised. The mobile courts also cause harassment to the above mentioned people," a superintendent of police (SP) told an internal meeting on law and order situation with the home minister at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

"There is no instance of punishing any powerful person, muscleman, corrupt or veteran criminal," he said. The SP, who is deputed in Dhaka range, urged the home minister to ensure impartiality of the courts. The meeting was held on the occasion of the three-day Police Week 2013.

At the event, IGP Hassan Mahmood Khandker demanded formation of a separate division named "Police Division".

The IGP, however, thanked the government for, what he said, the present government fulfilled many demands of the police department, including upgradation of the rank of the IGP, and declaring police inspectors as class one officer.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed, Deputy Inspector Generals (DIG) Anwar Hossain, Iqbal Bahar, Madaripur SP Nazrul Hossain and Chittagong SP Hafiz Akhter also spoke at the meeting.

After the closed-door meeting, Home Minister MK Alamgir and top police officials met the press.

The minister told reporters, "The mobile courts have been formed for peace of the general people through instant punishment for various crimes. The district magistrates will be directed so that the mobile courts do not operate widely and the power of the mobile courts is not abused."

Govt doesn't believe in using police politically

Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government does not believe in using the police force as a political weapon.

She made the remark during the inauguration of the Police Week 2013 at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital and directed the force to bring the criminals under the purview of law irrespective of their identity.

"Whoever the law breaker might be, it is the responsibility of police to bring them under the purview of law," she said.

She asked police to increase the use of technology in identifying criminals, gathering intelligence information, combating trans-national crimes like terrorism, cyber crime, money laundering, drug and

human trafficking, and illegal arms trade. She also stressed the need for implementing E-police.

Hasina praised the force for their responsible role in containing militancy, terrorism and extremism, and in the investigation of the Bangabandhu murder case and the BDR killing case.

She said initiatives are underway to ensure more participation of the members of Bangladesh Police in the UN peacekeeping missions.

Earlier, the prime minister, riding a well-decorated open jeep, inspected a spectacular police parade and took salute.

She also conferred Bangladesh Police Medal and President's Police Medal on 67 members of police for their outstanding contributions in 2012.

Another child raped in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A five-year-old girl was raped by a 35-year-old man at Lalkhan Bazar in the port city yesterday.

The girl was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) One-stop Crisis Centre, said the hospital sources.

The victim's mother, who is living with

her daughter at Pora Colony in the city, told The Daily Star that her daughter became victim of the rape when she went out of their residence for using a toilet around 4:30pm.

She said her house owner Ismail locked the toilet from inside and raped her there. After a few minutes, her daughter came out from the toilet and told her about the incident, she said.

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