

INDIAN COAL SCAM REPORT BJP demands PM's resignation

AGENCIES

The BJP yesterday demanded that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh must resign in the wake of the allegations that the CBI's report on "Coal-gate" was reviewed by the government before it was submitted to the Supreme Court last month. The party also wants Law Minister Ashwani Kumar to be sacked.

The BJP disrupted Parliament once again yesterday over the coal report allegations. It also gave notices for suspension of Question Hour in both Houses.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi rebuffed the BJP's demand for Manmohan Singh's resignation.

A newspaper report said earlier this month the CBI report submitted last month had been vetted by Kumar and officials in the prime minister's Office. During a meeting with Kumar and CBI officials, several amendments in the report were suggested and some also incorporated, it said.

India's official auditor had last year revealed that the lack of transparency in the allocation of coal blocks to private players resulted in the loss of a whopping Rs.1.85 lakh crore (\$37 billion) to the exchequer as on March 11, 2011.

The report does not directly indict the prime minister or his office, but during the time these mining blocks were allotted, the coal portfolio was held by prime minister Manmohan Singh.



PHOTO: AFP

An Indian child poses with a placard as demonstrators participate in a protest in Allahabad, following the rape of a five-year old girl in New Delhi yesterday. Protests have been taking place across New Delhi since last week when it emerged that the girl had been repeatedly raped over the course of nearly two days after being abducted from her home in a working class suburb.

Blasts mark Savaged by Shibir

FROM PAGE 1

The strike will remain in force till 6:00pm today.

Yesterday's hartal virtually halted businesses and hampered academic activities at educational institutions in the city. The presence of vehicles, including buses and CNG-run three-wheelers, was thin on the usually-clogged thoroughfares of Dhaka. Private cars were kept off the streets in fear of vandalism while rickshaws ruled the roads.

Morjina Begum, 42, general secretary of ward no-53 unit of Jubo Mohila League, and her daughter Rokeya Hasan Rupali, 18, an HSC examinee of Motijheel Ideal School and College, suffered injuries when six bombs kept in a shopping bag exploded before their residence on Haji Khorshed Ali Road at Jurain around 2:00pm.

The two were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Talking to The Daily Star, Morjina said they noticed a shopping bag there after getting down from a rickshaw. "As I tried to open it, it exploded with a bang," she said, adding that there were two small bottles and four other substances wrapped in red tape.

In another incident near the local BNP office at Nayabazar, rickshaw-puller Abdur Razzak, 45, sustained severe injuries in his leg when a homemade bomb went off around 1:00pm.

At about the same time, unidentified miscreants blasted another handmade bomb at Tantibazar, leaving Md Shahjahan, aged 40, wounded. He was crossing the area by a rickshaw.

Both Razzak and Shahjahan were admitted to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, said hospital sources.

Besides, pedestrian Sirajul Islam, 50, was injured when a bomb exploded before Fulbaria bus stand in Gulistan around 12:45pm.

Cocktails were blasted in front of the BNP central office at Nayapaltan, in Malibagh, Shantibagh and Rampura. Most of the bombs went off during processions brought out by pro-hartal activists.

A huge contingent of police and Rapid Action Battalion were deployed at all key points of the capital.

Meanwhile, several mobile courts sentenced 11 pickets, including three leaders of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, to different jail terms between three months and one year for vandalism at Khilgaon and Motijheel.

FROM PAGE 1

Razin will take months to recover, said his cousin Mukhtadir Rahman Shimul, quoting doctors of Apollo Hospital.

Hitol, who is undergoing treatment at Pongu hospital, said: "My fault is that I am a Chhatra League leader and an activist of Gonojagoron Mancha."

The 30-year-old looked frightened as he described the attack to this correspondent yesterday, lying on his hospital bed.

"Some of them said, 'Kill him'. Others said, 'Cut him into pieces' while yet others screamed, 'Beat him in a way that he can walk never again,'" he recalled.

The attackers hacked away at both his legs and his head indiscriminately.

Police detained seven people in this connection

but were yet to file a case, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the day after the incident, BCL activists demonstrated at Shibganj Bazar in protest at the attack on Razin and Hitol.

BCL activist AK Fosiul Alam Jumma was one of the demonstrators. On his way home around 5:30pm, he came under attacks by 10-12 masked criminals who cut off the tendons of his left hand.

"They tried to sever my hand but failed as locals rushed to my rescue," he told The Daily Star at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the capital yesterday.

He blamed Jamaat-Shibir and BNP activists for the attack.

Earlier on April 2, Jamaat-Shibir men allegedly swooped on Kansat union councillor Ariful Islam at Academy intersection of Shibganj upazila.

The criminals hacked Ariful, also the JSD general secretary of its Shibganj upazila unit, at least 20 times and cut off the tendons of his left leg and the thumb of his left hand, said doctors at the Pongu hospital where he was undergoing treatment in a critical condition.

Since February 28, the day Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee was handed down the death sentence for war crimes, Jamaat-Shibir men have critically wounded at least 10 Chhatra League and Juba League activists in the upazila, said a local BCL leader.

Time critical

FROM PAGE 1

accorded to him for being awarded the Swadhinata Padak this year for his contribution to the Liberation War in 1971. The reception organised by the Parliament Secretariat was held at LD Hall in parliament building.

Hamid's election to the presidency has created a flicker of hope that the seasoned politician will play a vital role in saving the country from plunging into a political turmoil centring the next parliamentary election.

Before Hamid spoke at the function, HM Ershad, chief of the Jatiya Party, a key component of the AL-led ruling alliance, requested the newly elected president to take steps to create an atmosphere conducive to holding the election through discussion with all.

"We are going through a crisis. Darkness is ahead. The government cannot be changed without election. You [Hamid] invite all to talks. Let us search for light together," said Ershad.

Ruling AL General Secretary and LGD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said the current year is the year of election. Everybody expects the newly elected president will unite the people, he said.

Senior AL lawmaker Tofail Ahmed said all political parties expected to have Hamid as president. So their hope came true with the election of Hamid as president, he added.

Minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta expressed hope that Hamid would be able to take the country forward by brining people irrespective of their political ideology together.

"He will play a role in resolving the present crisis, and it will be possible to hold parliamentary elections with the participation of all political parties," Suranjit hoped.

Mayeenuddin Khan Badal, legislator from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, said president is the symbol of unity of the nation. "Everybody expects he will stand beside all."

Hamid, who was elected Speaker of the present parliament in January 2009, spoke briefly about his long political career.

Describing his relation with parliament for more than four decades, an emotion-choked Hamid said, "I am leaving this environment. It is giving me pain. However, my door will remain open to all. I will accept all criticisms and suggestions."

3 robbers killed

FROM PAGE 20

One of the deceased was identified as Selim Hawlader, 34, a member of "Mortuja Bahini", a notorious gang of robbers. The two others were yet to be identified.

Acting on a tip-off, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-8 raided a hideout of robbers in

Mregomari canal in Chadpai range of the Sundarbans around 7:00am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the bandits opened fire on them, compelling the elite force to retaliate, according to a Rab press release.

The law enforcers later conducted a search in the

area and found the three bullet-hit bodies lying on the ground. The other robbers, however, managed to flee the scene, the release added.

Rab members also recovered seven firearms and over 200 rounds of bullet from the spot.

Later, police recovered

the bodies and sent those to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Monirul Islam Hawlader, uncle of Selim, said he had been missing for two months.

Mozaffar Hossain, deputy assistant commissioner of Rab-8, filed two cases with Mongla Police Station.

16th witness testifies

FROM PAGE 20

army and their collaborators.

The Pakistani army had killed the three, 16th prosecution witness AKM Mahbubur Rahman, nephew of the victims, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday during his testimony in Alim's case.

The 63-year-old businessman said under the leadership of then Convention Muslim League leader Abdul Alim, Peace Committee, an anti-liberation body, had been formed in Joypurhat and Panchbibi.

Former Student Union leader Mahbub said the peace committee leaders had formed the Razakar force comprising of madrasa students and non-Bangalees.

"They [Razakars], as the auxiliary force, used to hand over unarmed civilians, pro-liberation people and India-bound refugees to Pakistani army and had committed arson and lootings," said the witness.

"The May 26 of 1971 is a red letter day for us, as on that day the occupation army had attacked our home in Nowda village," he said.

Before the attack, members of the Razakar force and also Peace Committee Ahmed Bihari and Rashid Bihari gathered information about their [Mahbub's] home, said Mahbub, adding that around 11:00am the Pakistani army had come to a nearby home.

Knowing about their presence, Mahbub and his elder brother Bazlar Rahman, like many other villagers, had hidden in a nearby place and witnessed the incident.

After sometime, Ahmed and Rashid, who came along with the army, had announced that the army was there to restore peace and that they would form a Peace Committee there. Hearing the announcement, many people including three of the witness' uncles killed -- Yusuf Uddin Sardar, Yunus Uddin Sadar and Ilias Uddin Sadar -- had gone there, said Mahbub.

"In cooperation from the Razakars, the Pakistani army had picked Mahbub's uncles and taken them to an army camp at Balighata union in Panchbibi," said the witness adding that he and his brother had followed them.

When they had informed the family of the capture, Mahbub's father sent one of his nephews Abul Kashem Sardar to look for the detainees. Kashem had talked with three Peace Committee men, who advised him to go to Alim to have the detainees released.

"As per their instructions, my cousin went to Joypurhat and met Abdul Alim at the Peace Committee office in Shaon Lal Bazlar's Gadighar," said Mahbub, adding, "Alim Shaheb told my cousin that there were allegations against them that all of their family members were either freedom fighters or organisers of Liberation War. The army has picked them and would not release them; rather efforts are on to arrest others."

When Kashem had returned, all of their family members hastily left home and took shelter in a nearby village. Around 6:30pm or 7:30pm, they had heard gunshots from Kali Saha's pond, said Mahbub.

"The family understood that the detainees [three uncles' of the witness] had been killed," said the witness, adding that they had

left the country and took refuge in India until the war ended.

On their return, they collected information and identified the killing spot at Kali Saha's pond. They reburied the killed uncles of Mahbub with proper funeral rites exhuming the bodies from a mass grave, said Mahbub in his 64-minute deposition.

The three-member tribunal adjourned the case proceeding until today, when the witness will be cross-examined.

Alim, who is facing 17 charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the Liberation War, was present in the court yesterday.

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday completed recording cross-examination of the 28th prosecution witness in the war crimes case against BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The court adjourned the case proceeding until today.

Salauddin is facing 23 charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the war in 1971.

TALK more TO GET more

100% bonus instantly

- To avail the offer, at first register by dialing *999*2# for free. Only one time registration is required for the full campaign period
- This offer is applicable for all Grameenphone Prepaid Customers (except Village Phone, GP Public Phone Prepaid and Flexload connections)
- After registration, the customers need to meet their daily target amount. After meeting the daily target, for each additional 1 Taka voice call usage, the customer will receive 100% GP-GP talktime bonus
- Voice call is a local call made to any operator (GP-GP, GP-other operator, GP-Land Phone/GP-NWD). This is not applicable for international voice call, IVR call (e.g. 121,4000), pay for me, voice SMS, voice email, MY Zone calls, calls made from any other bonus/ongoing campaign bonus/benefit amount, or any amount spent to buy any bundle benefits
- In order to know the daily target amount the customers need to check their SMS inbox for GP offer SMS
- Once registered the customers will become eligible for getting bonus on crossing their daily usage target for the whole campaign period
- Bonus is applicable for GP-GP calls only (above 60 paisa slot) and validity for the bonus talktime will be up to the day of getting bonus (means 11.59 hrs on that day). If a customer enjoys another offer with bonus (in same bonus account), then the validity of that offer will be till 11:59 pm of the same day
- Maximum bonus amount for a single call will be 5 Tk
- Customers will be able to check their bonus through dialing USSD (*566*8#) for free
- To know current usage dial *577*17 # for free
- This offer is applicable for customers who have activated their connection by December 2012 and have usage/activity after December 31st 2012
- Subscriber of 'Nishchinto' product will not be able to use their existing cash back offer during campaign duration if they register for this campaign
- Offer is applicable for local voice calls between 1am till 11:59:59pm each day
- Offer will be valid from 1st April 2013 to 30th April 2013.
- Offer is not applicable for the calls made in one day and ending the call the next day (e.g. a call starts from 11.59pm and ends at 12.01am)
- Also the registered and highest user per day will get a Samsung GALAXY S III from GP. The handsets will be given after the campaign duration to the eligible subscriber. For getting handsets, if there are multiple winners then the fastest person to reach the highest usage mark in a day will get the handset. Winners will be communicated from GP through Calls and SMS and will be informed on the process to collect the handset. Before getting the handset the winner needs to answer a merit based question (no charge applicable for the quiz). For selecting winners and providing handsets, Grameenphone reserves the right to change/modify any process if required
- 15% VAT applies on all charge
- For details visit www.grameenphone.com

go beyond

**“ Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
Tarek leaves a memory, no one can steal...”**

Our beloved Tarek Alam, Son of Gp Capt. Shamsul Alam (Bir Uttam) & Mrs. Shameem Alam passed away on the 18th of April 2013 at the age of 29. We thank all the family members, friends and well wishers who stood by Tarek all this time.

Special Prayers have been organized on 26th of April (Friday) 2013 after Asr Prayers at Tarek's Baridhara Residence. We kindly request all our family & friends to be present for this special occasion.

For Directions : 01713117784

