

Coming months look turbulent

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died in clashes between hardline Islamists and the police.

The ruling Awami League, perhaps sensing that such killings could further enrage the Islamic right, has tried to justify the actions of the security forces. The information minister, Hasanul Haq Inu, claimed on May 6th that Hefajat had come to Dhaka to topple the government.

Details of precisely what happened on May 6th remain unclear. Graphic pictures and video footage of the violence show bloodied bodies strewn on the streets of Dhaka's Motijheel commercial district. The government closed two pro-Islamic television stations that had been broadcasting live images of the attacks. That leaves only one pro-opposition television channel (BanglaVision) functioning. Any public gatherings of more than four people are also now forbidden in the city.

Deadly clashes took place elsewhere, too: in Narayanganj south of the capital, where 20 reportedly were killed, in Hathazari near the southern port city of Chittagong and Bagerhat in the south-west.

The group involved, Hefajat, is a little-known coalition of Islamic splinter groups which draws support from private traditional Qaumi madrasas, Islamic schools, around Chittagong. These madrasas are not widespread, accounting for only about 2 percent of total enrolment in primary and secondary education. Nor does the group appear to have any particular position on the war-crimes court, and unlike the Jamaat-e-Islami it is not a political party.

Yet it has national aspirations. In April it issued a list of 13 demands and set a deadline of May 5th for the government to comply. It wants an anti-blasphemy law introduced (with provision for death penalty) and exemplary punishment to any, such as bloggers, who "insult Islam". Among other Taliban-style demands are: calls for the cancellation of Bangladesh's pro-women development policy; a ban on mixing of men and women in public; an end to "shameless behaviour and dresses"; and a call for the reformist Ahmadiyas to be declared as "non-Muslims".

Such regressive demands go against the moderate version of Islam practised by the vast majority of Bangladeshis, and against a long history of secular tradition, as well as the constitution. All main politicians offer pre-election prayers at the shrine of a Sufi saint, Hazrat Shah Jalal. A recent study of Muslim attitudes around the world, by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, confirms Bangladeshis' moderate attitudes (Even if, somewhat surprisingly, 82% of Bangladeshi Muslims were also reportedly in favour of making Islamic law official).

The country's main political opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, will now play an important role. Disturbingly it has backed Hefajat's demonstrations. The BNP has also threatened to boycott general elections that are due by January 2014. Its religious ties are also becoming more explicit. Last month, Arab envoys met Khaleda Zia, the BNP's leader, in an unusual show of near-public support by the diplomats for the gently pro-Islamic BNP.

The party is also allied to Jamaat, the religious party

that serves as a standard-bearer for Saudi Arabia's strand of Islam in Bangladesh. Positions are becoming harder as the opposition faces harsher treatment by the government. On April 11th, the editor of Bangladesh's second-largest selling (pro-BNP) newspaper was arrested and apparently tortured, and his newspaper closed.

Despite general moderation, however, the politics of religion is powerful in Bangladesh. Even the supposedly secular Awami League talks up its Islamic credentials just before elections. In 2006, for example, the League signed a pre-poll deal with the ultra-orthodox Khelafat-e-Majlis party, under which it promised that if elected it would pass anti-blasphemy laws and pass no laws seen to contradict Koranic values or Sharia. It also held out the promise of letting qualified religious leaders issue fatwas -- religious edicts -- that would supersede the judiciary. In fact none of this came to pass, as subsequent elections were cancelled.

This time around, the government has made some

concessions to the Islamic right, whose electoral support it needs to win elections (especially after public opinion has been polarised by the trials of Islamic hardliners in a war-crimes court, over the events of 1971). Last month police arrested four atheist bloggers, apparently in direct response to Hefajat's demands. On May 6th the leader of Hefajat, a 90-year-old madrasa teacher, was put on a plane to Chittagong, with authorities keen to emphasise that he had not been arrested.

Thus the coming months look turbulent. The war-crimes tribunal is scheduled to issue as many as ten verdicts, and rule on various appeals and oversee executions this year. In protest the BNP regularly resorts to calls for general strikes (known as hartals), with the next due on May 8th and 9th. Some 30 working days have already been lost to such strikes this year. Such days also risk greater bloodshed. People close to the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, say she may choose to enforce only one or two judgments of the war-crimes tribunal, in order to avoid more violence.

Verdict today

FROM PAGE 1
Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam, yesterday made the announcement of the verdict delivery in open court 22 days after the completion of the case proceedings.

Kamaruzzaman had been indicted on seven charges of crimes against humanity. Wrapping up its closing arguments on April 16, the prosecution sought capital punishment for him.

The prosecution held him responsible for the killing of 183 unarmed people and the rape of many women.

His defence claimed that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges brought against him.

Yesterday was scheduled for recording the testimony of the 19th prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Abdul Alim. But when court went into session at 11:00am, Justice Hassan said, "We won't take up [Alim's] case today [yesterday]. We have some other work."

"Mr Tipoo [Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo, we will deliver the verdict in Kamaruzzaman's case tomorrow [today]," he said, and asked Tipoo and Alim's counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena to convey the message to Kamaruzzaman as none of his lawyers were present.

Tribunal Registrar AKM Nasiruddin Mahmud yesterday told The Daily Star that as in the instances of the other verdicts delivered, security at the tribunal would be beefed up.

The pronouncement of the verdict would not be hampered by hartal, said Mahmud, adding that as per law, the absence of Kamaruzzaman's lawyer would not create any problems. The accused would be produced before the court, he added.

On Monday, the BNP-led 18-party alliance announced a hartal for yesterday and today.

Kamaruzzaman was arrested in a criminal case on July 13, 2010, and shown arrested on war crimes charges on August 2 the same year.

The prosecution pressed formal charges against him incorporating nine counts of crimes against humanity on January 15, 2012, and Tribunal-1 took the charges into cognisance on January 31. The case was transferred to Tribunal-2 on April 16, 2012.

In 1971, he was the top leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, then student wing of Bhaban.

"Firstly, we went to the PM's residence, and being instructed, we met Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui at his residence and expressed our concern," said AK Azad, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The factory owners are in trouble now as different authorities are shutting down many units, he added.

Atiqul Islam, president of BGMEA, AKM Salim Osman, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and former BGMEA president Abdus Salam Murshed, were present, among others.

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18 risky RMG

FROM PAGE 20
labour ministry yesterday.

The government action came less than a week after the International Labour Organisation completed a high-profile mission to the country to call on the authorities to take immediate steps to improve labour standards and working condition in the garment factories.

He said they asked the owners to have their factory buildings examined by expert engineers and then submit report to the DIFE.

"We will then decide whether a factory will be closed down finally."

On Monday, the textiles minister told journalists that he and Monnujan Sufian, state minister for labour, also a member of the panel headed by him, would visit 100 garment factories in Dhaka and Chittagong in the next one week.

RMG MAKERS WORRIED

Garment makers yesterday expressed concern over the shutdown of factories as the government inspection teams are closing factories due to their poor safety standard.

The entrepreneurs expressed their concern in a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban.

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EU for acceptable

FROM PAGE 20
The delegation of eight of its member states, which have missions in Dhaka, pressed the major parties for constructive dialogue inside and outside the parliament at the earliest so that the country can find a way towards a free, fair and credible election.

They expressed deep concern over the excessive levels of confrontation in Bangladesh in recent months, including attacks on minorities and their homes and places of worship.

British High Commissioner Robert Gibson, German Ambassador Albrecht Conze and Italian Ambassador Giorgio Guglielmino also spoke on the occasion.

Chargé d'affaires Ms Lene Volkersen of Denmark, Ms Karin Rohlin of Sweden, Carel Richter of the Netherlands and Babou Kamichetty of France were present among others.

Asked if they feared military intervention like that in 2007 in case the parties could not arrive at a "consti-

tutionally viable" solution, William Hanna refused to comment.

In this respect, the British high commissioner said the future of Bangladesh would be decided by its people. "We want to see an election where the people would be allowed to make a choice to elect their government by exercising their constitutional rights."

The EU envoys avoided answering questions about Hefajat-e Islam resorting to violence on Sunday and Monday and their 13 demands.

About the recent shutdown of two private TV channels, the Italian ambassador said they admire the vibrant media in Bangladesh since freedom of the press is considered a policy of the EU.

"We are following the events closely," he added.

Hanna said the EU would send an exploratory mission to Bangladesh to discuss all stakeholders and assess the pre-election situation in the country and report back to its headquarters.

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tutionally viable" solution, William Hanna refused to comment.

GONOJAGORON MANCHA RETURNS

People yesterday evening started gathering in Shahbagh, where there used to be the Gonojagor Mancha that demands maximum punishment for all war criminals.

Early on Monday, police dismantled the mancha. The Gonojagor Mancha, which was formed immediately after an international crimes tribunal had handed down life imprisonment to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah on February 5.

Young Sherpa plunges to his death on Everest

AFP, Kathmandu

A Nepalese mountaineer slipped into a crevasse and plunged to his death on Mount Everest yesterday, the third fatality of the summit season, an expedition organiser said.

Lobsang Sherpa, 22, a member of a team guiding a commercial expedition up the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) mountain, was returning to the team's campsite when he fell, said Mingma Sherpa of climbing agency Seven Summits Treks.

"He was returning from the height of 8,000 metres after hauling the tents for an 11-member Chinese expedition team," he said, adding that the body had been recovered and was being airlifted to Kathmandu.

Two other climbers have died on the world's highest peak this season.

Last month Mingmar Sherpa, 47, a member of an elite team known as "icefall doctors" who set up climbing routes, plunged to his death. DaRita Sherpa, 47, died from what is believed to have been cardiac arrest on Sunday morning.

Last season, six climbers died on Everest, making it one of the deadliest years in recent memory and sparking a debate about whether overcrowding was contributing to the death toll.

More than 3,000 people have climbed Everest and approximately 300 have perished since it was first conquered by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Every year hundreds more set out in April to attempt the climb.

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES
HEAD OFFICE, BALAKA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH, PHONE: 8901600-14, 8901680-94, FAX: 88-02-8901558, www.biman-airlines.com

Ref: DACPM/131/2013/691

Date: 08 May 2013

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Dry Lease of 02 (two) Turbo prop Aircraft

1. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. invites Proposals/Offers from Airlines, Operators, Owners of Aircraft, Manufacturers and/or Leasing Companies for taking 02 (two) Turbo-prop aircraft, with capacity of approximately 50-seat, on Dry Lease basis for a period of 05 (five) years.
2. Basic requirements are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Requirements
a.	Number and Type of Aircraft	02 (two) Turbo-prop aircraft
b.	Seat Configuration	Approximately 50-seat in single class configuration
c.	Nature and Period of Lease	Dry Lease for a period of 05 (five) years
d.	Date of Manufacturing	The offered aircraft must be manufactured on or after 30 September 2003.
e.	Certification	The primary design standard of the Aircraft, Engines and Propeller must be FAR or EASA certified/approved.
f.	'D'-Check or Heavy Maintenance Check	Must not fail during the first two years of lease period
g.	Aircraft Delivery & Commencement of lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aircraft must be delivered in full operating condition. Lease will commence tentatively in the 1st week of October 2013
h.	Preference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sister-ship aircraft having similar passenger seat configuration Aircraft from a single source
i.	Representation and authorization	If the Lessor is not the owner of the aircraft, then owner's authorization must be submitted along with the Proposal/Offer
j.	Last date of Submission of the Proposal/Offer	Latest by 1000 hours LT (0400 hrs UTC) on 10 June 2013

3. Detailed terms and conditions have been given in the RFP Schedule. RFP Notice and Schedule may be viewed in Biman's web-site: www.biman-airlines.com.
4. Proposals/Offers may be submitted to General Manager (Corporate Planning) at E-mail: Turbo.prop@bd.biman.com on or before 1000 hours LT (0400 hrs UTC) on 10 June 2013. Proposals/Offers may also be submitted through courier service or dropped in the Box placed in the Office of General Manager (Corporate Planning), Biman Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229. No Proposal/Offer would be accepted after the closing schedule due to any reason, whatsoever.
5. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Proposal(s)/Offer(s) partially or wholly at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason, whatsoever; and no claim shall be entertained in this regard.

GD - 1856

Md. Belayet Hossain
General Manager (Corporate Planning)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Works Audit Directorate Audit Complex (1st & 2nd Floor) Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000	
Invitation for Tender (Microbus)	
1 Ministry/Division Comptroller & Auditor General of Bangladesh.	
2 Agency Works Audit Directorate.	
3 Procuring entity name Works Audit Directorate.	
4 Procuring entity code N/A	
5 Procuring entity district Dhaka, Bangladesh	
6 Invitation for One microbus (12 seats)	
7 Invitation Ref No. & date	
8 Procurement method Open tender method.	
FUNDING INFORMATION	
9 Budget and source of funds Revenue Budget	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
10 Selling tender document will commence on 09-05-2013 from 9.00 to 16.00 hours.	
11 Selling tender document will close on 22-05-2013 16.00 hours	
12 Tender closing date & time 23-05-2013 14.00 hours	
13 Tender opening date & time 23-05-2013 15.00 hours	
14 Name & address of the office Works Audit Directorate -Selling tender document Audit Complex (1st & 2nd Floor) -Receiving tender document Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. -Opening tender Document	
15 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting Pre-tender meeting will not be held.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
16 Eligibility of tenderer Distributor or sole agent on motor vehicles as per rules 47 & 48 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 (PPR-2008).	
17 Brief description of goods On microbus (12 seats) engine capacity minimum-2600 CC.	
18 Brief description of related service The supplier shall deliver the vehicle at the Works Audit Directorate Office, and provide after-sales service and spare part for at least one year.	
19 Price of tender document Tk. 1,000/-	
20	Lot Identification of lot No. 1 Procurement of one microbus (12 seats)
Location	Dhaka
Tender security amount (Tk)	1,10,000.00
Completion time in weeks & months	4 weeks after contract signing
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
21 Name of official inviting tender	
22 Designation of office inviting tender Director General, Works Audit Directorate, Dhaka	
23 Address of official inviting tender Works Audit Directorate Audit Complex (1st & 2nd Floor) Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
24 Contact details of official inviting tender Tel: 9350083, Fax: 8331977	