

Govt to find

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The state minister also said he would sit with the environment ministry and representatives from tannery and poultry feed industries to find ways to stop the menace.

The minister also hinted that feed industries would be compelled to obtain registration before producing poultry feed.

Stating that 80 percent of the poultry and fish feed produced and sold in the country is "good", he said, "Tests are often conducted on the remaining 20 percent."

He urged journalists to specifically mention which feed producers are using toxins.

"Not all producers should be blamed for the crimes of a few. The poultry industry meets about half the country's protein demand. It should be protected."

Also at the programme, feed makers demanded a total ban on the use of tannery waste in producing feed and said it would not be possible until all tannery owners installed adequate waste treatment facilities.

They also called for stricter policies to ensure poultry feed safety.

Moshiur Rahman, president of FIAB, said feed producers who use tannery waste as protein sources do not have any government registration. These factories are totally illegal and they need to be stopped now.

In the keynote presentation, SD Chowdhury, professor of Nutritional Biotechnology at Bangladesh Agricultural University, said the poultry meal made of tannery waste was much cheaper. This is why farmers and fishermen use it, being unaware of the hazards.

Highlighting the need for a safe disposal of tannery waste, he said the waste contains high levels of hexavalent chromium, which causes cancer. "It also damages the kidney, liver and can cause ulcers. Once accumulated in the body it affects a person's ability to metabolise iron and cause anaemia," he said.

While chromium should not be ingested under any circumstances, releasing it in the environment in high concentration also aggravates the public health risk, he added.

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PM to meet

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by the BNP-led opposition alliance.

Official sources said Dhaka is worried whether the British prime minister will raise the political issues, especially the January 5 election.

Sources at the Bangladesh high commission in London told The Daily Star that the prime minister would arrive in London on July 21 and depart for Dhaka on July 23.

The Girl Summit, which is aimed at mobilising domestic and international efforts to improve the lives of girls in the world's poorest countries, will also focus on tackling women's abuse and oppression is embedded in certain cultures.

Libya weighs international help after surge in violence

AFP, Tripoli

Libya's government yesterday said it was considering calling for international forces to help re-establish security after deadly clashes closed Tripoli airport, severing air links with the outside world.

Fighting between liberal and Islamist militias locked in a brutal power struggle forced the closure of the country's main international airport, leaving the North African state feeling increasingly isolated.

On Monday, the United Nations announced it was evacuating its remaining staff from Libya because of the deteriorating security situation.

The locked-down airport came under renewed attack late Monday when dozens of rockets -- including one that hit a plane -- were fired, killing a security guard and injuring six others, officials said.

Al-Jilani al-Dahech, a security official at Tripoli airport, told AFP that the control tower was hit along with a plane belonging to private Libyan carrier Buraq Airlines.

Shortly after the attack the government released a statement saying it was "looking into the possibility of making an appeal for international forces on the ground to re-establish security and help the government impose its authority".

The statement from a spokesman added that the forces would help protect civilians, prevent anarchy and allow the government to build up the army and police.

International air power helped overthrow dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, sparking a power struggle between rival armed groups that has wracked the oil producing state.

Fighting between militias has intensified since a general election in June and the UN said it was withdrawing its remaining staff.

Hard to cross

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Former director of Accident Research Institute of BUET, Prof Md Samsul Hoque said a 2010 study by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) found that the number of vehicles plying through the Gulshan-1 intersection was double its capacity.

That Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkhya (Rajuk) is allowing high-rise buildings without any traffic impact assessment (TIA) at the area is also responsible for the traffic congestion, he observed.

He suggested an integrated corridor with an underpass or overpass at the intersection to improve the traffic situation.

Even then, it will not be sustainable if Rajuk does not stop allowing the construction of high-rise buildings in the area without the TIA assessment, he said, holding this assessment a must in case of the entire city to reach a sustainable solution to traffic congestion.

Illegal parking of vehicles on the

Gulshan Avenue adds to the menace by taking up a considerable portion of the already narrow road.

"Most of the commercial buildings do not have parking spaces. On the other hand, buildings with parking space can accommodate only 8-10 vehicles. But it is not sufficient as each building houses a multiple number of offices," said Talukder.

Even vehicles on the road running east-west from Badda to Mohakhali get affected by the north-south traffic.

"Since the pressure is more on the north and south directions we sometimes keep the red signal on the east and west longer," he said.

Then again, movement of vehicles on east-west directions is hampered as public buses running along that route stop haphazardly to pick up and drop off passengers.

Though cases are filed, according to Talukder, against 8-10 vehicles every day for violating traffic rules, this is hardly changing the traffic situation and the mindset of the errant drivers.

Good days for part-timers

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The part-timers will work until the Shalwan moon is sighted when owners of the city's thousands of shops pay off salaries and dues to both full-time and part-time employees.

The temporary job will fetch Tk 18,000, a good sum, for Fahad. But it has a cost, as part-timers like him have to work for at least 12 hours a day.

In the vicinity of the shopping centre, Deshal, a renowned boutique brand, has hired 12 part-timers; Apex, the leading local footwear brand, five; Artisti, a fashion retailer, four; and Texmart, another fashion retailer, has employed five additional people as they all expect a rush of shoppers.

Mostafizur Rahman has been employed by Deshal for 40 days. The BBA student earns Tk 200 a day, apart from payment for working extra hours and transport allowance.

"The month gives students like me an opportunity to earn some money," said the 20-year old, who lives with parents at Rajarbagh in the capital, and gives tuition during the rest of the year for pocket money.

Fashion houses, among other retailers, create the majority of part-time jobs during Ramadan.

Outlet managers say they always recruit additional workforce during Ramadan, as the sales normally soar ahead of the Eid celebration to four to five times the usual sale.

Infinity mega mall, which has 50 outlets across the country, has appointed some 350 young people, mostly students, to deal with the Eid rush, said Ferdous Faisal Ahmed, human resources manager of Lubnan

Trade Consortium that owns the brand along with Lubnan and Richman.

The company maintains a list of part-timers who are called in before Ramadan every year. "More than 85 percent of them have been working with us [during Ramadan] for the last three years," Ferdous said.

Depending on experience, the part-timers earn between Tk 350 and Tk 500 a day.

Rahman of Deshal, who got the job through a friend working at the same shop, said he would spend a part of his payment for his Eid shopping and give some cash to his parents.

However, Abdullah Al-Fahad who is working at a Menz Club outlet said he and his four friends were working temporarily to gain some experience before entering the job market, as all of them were studying master's in marketing at Mohammadpur Central College in the capital.

"The money will definitely help, but it is the experience that matters most to all of us," said Fahad, who lives in a rented apartment in Dhanmondi.

Through developing early knowledge of working, part-timers are more likely to find good employment and earn more money in future, according to a recent study by the University of British Columbia, Canada.

There is no estimate of the number of people working as part-timers in the country.

At present, the country has around 4,500 fashion houses that sell locally produced goods, according to the Fashion Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh.

CID granted

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investigating agency submitted a petition seeking more time.

With this, the court has extended the time given to CID to investigate the case for the third time.

On February 27, it gave an order for additional investigation into the case after the CID could not make any headway.

Later on April 22, the same court asked CID to submit the probe report on the murder of Manzur within yesterday.

In yesterday's petition, Investigation Officer Abdul Kahar Akond, also a special superintendent of police of CID said he had earlier investigated home and abroad and interrogated several people in connection with the murder but he needed more time to complete the probe properly.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, the prime accused in the case was not present at the court as Judge Khondaker had exempted the former military dictator from personal appearance before the court until the further probe in complete.

The other two accused Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haque and Lt Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan were present at the court yesterday.

Manzur, a sector commander of the Liberation War, was killed at Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, 1981, just two days into the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

Earlier, February 10 had been fixed for delivering the verdict of the case. However, the judge, who had fixed the date, was transferred just a few days before the day. The case has so far seen 22 judges since it was filed on August 28, 1995.

Return

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interview with the Morgenmagazin TV programme that he and his colleagues were seriously thinking of ditching email completely.

Asked "Are you considering type-writers" by the interviewer on Monday night, the Christian Democrat politician Patrick Sensburg said: "As a matter of fact, we have -- and not electronic models either". "Really?", the surprised interviewer checked. "Yes, no joke", Sensburg responded.

During the continuing row over alleged US spying operations in Germany, there had been speculation that the CIA may have actively targeted the Bundestag's NSA inquiry committee.

"Unlike other inquiry committees, we are investigating an ongoing situation. Intelligence activities are still going on, they are happening," said Sensburg.

Last year, the Russian government reportedly took similar measures in response to proof of NSA spying, as revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The federal guard service, a powerful body tasked with protecting Russia's highest-ranking officials, put in an order for 20 Triumph Adler typewriters, which create unique "handwriting", that allows its source to be traced.

According to German media, revelations about digital surveillance have triggered a fundamental rethink about how the government conducts its communications. "Above all, people are trying to stay away from technology whenever they can", wrote Die Welt.

"Those concerned talk less on the phone, prefer to meet in person. More coffees are being drunk and lunches eaten together. Even the walk in the park is increasingly enjoying a revival".

38 more return

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Rana, who hails from Madaripur, also claimed their company had repeatedly tried to convince them to stay and assured them of security.

"But they could not convince us totally as the possibility of restoration of stability in Iraq is quite uncertain in near future," he added.

Kazi Shah Nawaz, another returnee, said they had no other option save coming back leaving the jobs with handsome salaries.

"Honestly speaking, we were not facing any major problem in our company but insecurity at our workplace had become a matter of concern for us," he added.

Nawaz claimed many other Bangladeshis wanted to return home but the company and the Bangladesh embassy in Baghdad were trying to convince them to stay.

Recently, Iraqi police reportedly assaulted two of the 4,000 Bangladeshis working in "Bismaya New City Project" area in Baghdad on suspicion of links to the Sunni rebels. Several hundred of the Bangladeshis went on a work abstention on June 28 to protest the incident.

Major General Rezanur Rahman Khan, Bangladesh ambassador in Baghdad, visited the project site on Sunday and met the top officials of the company over the matter.

"I have regularly been communicating with the company. They have promised me to protect our people," he told The Daily Star.

BRICS creates \$50b bank

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association," Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said at a summit in the northeastern seaside city of Fortaleza.

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed the agreements as "a very powerful way to prevent new economic difficulties."

The five emerging nations first unveiled their plans last year. The New Development Bank aims to rival the Washington-based World Bank while the reserve is seen as a "mini-IMF."

BRICS leaders have pressed for reform of the International Monetary Fund to give developing countries more voting rights.

"The IMF urgently needs to review its distribution of voting power in order to reflect the unquestionable weight of emerging countries," Rousseff said.

To ease worries of any nation getting more power than the other, BRICS leaders agreed to put the bank's headquarters in Shanghai. The first president will be Indian while the first board chair will hail from Brazil.

An Africa Regional Center will be based in South Africa.

The bank will help emerging and developing nations mobilize resources

for infrastructure and sustainable development projects, the summit declaration said.

The Contingent Reserve Arrangement will have \$100 billion at its disposal to head off potential economic volatility linked to the United States exiting its stimulus policy.

China is expected to make the biggest contribution, \$41 billion, followed by \$18 billion each from Brazil, India and Russia and \$5 billion from South Africa.

Experts say the new bank and fund will give the group the backbone of a formal organisation.

The talks in Fortaleza will open a series of marathon summits and bilateral meetings in Brazil.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met ahead of the summit with India's new Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described their first face-to-face talk as a "very fruitful meeting."

For Putin, who visited Argentina and Cuba before coming to Brazil, the trip gives him a chance to hammer home his calls for a "multipolar" world amid tensions with the West over the Ukraine crisis.

Family to sue Mirpur cop

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the police station.

They were preparing to file the other two cases for torturing Sujan's widow Momtaz Sultana Lucy and their five-year-old son Rabbi, said Faruk.

He added if the police denied taking the cases, they would go to the court.

Sujan, a garment waste trader in Mirpur, was picked up from his Shankar residence in the wee hours of Sunday by a team of Mirpur police led by SI Jahidur.

He was allegedly beaten up at his house, inside the police van and at the police station overnight and subsequently died in police custody in the morning.

Since the incident, SI Jahidur could not be contacted either physically or over the phone for comments.

Asked if any action was taken against him, Home Secretary Mozammel Haque Khan replied in the negative, saying that the ministry does not directly take measures against non-cadre officers.

"The police will take necessary action in this regard and will inform us," he told The Daily Star, adding that the ministry was monitoring develop-

ments.

Contacted, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said, "We have initiated an investigation into the matter."

The IGP denied making further comments, saying it would not be appropriate to make any remark at the investigation stage.

Morgue sources said injuries to Sujan's head, hands and other parts of his body caused his death, giving substantial grounds to his family's claim that he was tortured to death.

His son Rabbi, who was taken to the police station along with his parents, said he had seen how police had raided their house and brutally tortured his parents leading to his father's death.

Rabbi added he had gone down to his knees following his mother as they both begged SI Jahidur to release his father.

The men in uniform reportedly went to Sujan's house to extort money from him.

Sujan's widow Lucy claimed the Mirpur OC had forced her to sign on a blank sheet of paper on Sunday morning.

OC Salahuddin could not be contacted for comments.

Board meeting

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This was how Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, former chairman of the recently dissolved board of BASIC Bank, and Kazi Faqurul Islam, ex-managing director, committed non-financial irregularities, according to a report of the observer. The report blamed the two for the anomalies.

"This was a serious breach of banking norms and rules. Also, it was cheating," said a BB report sent to the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.

After around one year, the central bank sent several reports totaling 47 pages to the ACC on the state-run bank's Gulshan and Dilkusha branches, SM Moniruzzaman, executive director of BB, told The Daily Star.

"We are yet to know anything on the investigation since we gave information about corruption at BASIC Bank," read the BB cover letter to the ACC chairman.

The BB now hopes that the ACC will act fast to identify the culprits behind the destruction of the relatively better public bank, added the letter.

BB investigations detected massive financial irregularities involving around Tk 4,500 crore of loans in three branches of BASIC (Bangladesh Small Industries and Commerce) Bank between 2009 and 2013. Loan frauds took place in the Dilkusha, Gulshan and Shantinagar branches of the bank. Later, the central bank in May this year suspended loan activities in these branches.

The bank's board did not try to tap the business potentials of its clients. Instead, it gave out loans to non-existent companies and approved loans instantly after the clients had opened accounts. Moreover, the board sanctioned loans even before the respective branches sent proposals to their headquarters, the BB inspection found.

The board granted loans without assessing borrowers' credit worthiness, documents and mortgages.

"There are lots of documents and evidence which can implicate the bank's former chairman. The ball is now in the ACC's court," said a senior BB official, seeking anonymity.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) at BB also has a role to play in identifying the culprits. "We've given the FIU some documents on money laundering and where the money might have gone," mentioned the official.

Asked why the graft watchdog had failed to expedite probing the scam in BASIC Bank, ACC Chairman M Bodiuzzaman last evening said he was yet to receive the BB's latest report on the scam.

"Let's see the latest report first before making any comment," he added.

Earlier, the government dissolved the seven-member board of the troubled bank over its role in financial irregularities. Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu also stepped down from the post of chairman.

Rana finally charged

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The case was lodged against Savar municipal mayor, Rana's parents and 14 others.

"During the investigation, several FIR-named accused stated that Rana exercised influence in constructing the faulty building and setting up garment factories illegally in the shopping complex," ACC Commissioner Shahabuddin said, explaining why Rana's name was finally included in the charge sheet.

Asked why Rana was dropped from the FIR, Shahabuddin said it was done since Rana did not own the piece of land on which the building was made and had not made any formal appeal seeking approval for the building.

The commission will also look into why Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) did not take any action against the authority of Rana Plaza for not obtaining Rajuk's approval before constructing the building, he said.

The commission will take steps to

arrest all the charge-sheeted accused, Shahabuddin told reporters yesterday at his office in the capital.

Among the 18 accused, only Rana is behind bars.

According to the case statement, the building authorities obtained permission for a six-storey building but later extended it by three more floors.

The Savar municipal authorities, including their engineers, gave the nod for the illegal construction, it says, adding that they approved the setting up of garment factories on the top six floors though the nine-storey building was supposed to be a shopping complex.

Savar Mayor Mohammad Refatullah; Associate Professor of Khulna University Abdur Razzak, who was the architect of the building; former chief executive officer of Savar municipality Uttam Kumar Roy, Mohamamd Ali Khan, a ward commissioner of Savar and Rana's parents -- Abdul Khalek and Morzina Begum -- are among the accused.