

Govt takes

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Dhanmondi residence on Thursday.
The parliament enacted Safe Food Act 2013 which has a provision of creating a Safe Food Authority to ensure a coordinated approach to make all relevant ministries work together.

The act has another provision of establishing a National Safe Food Management Advisory Council which will be chaired by the food minister himself, with the food secretary as its member secretary.
Until now, the government neither has appointed a chairman to the Safe Food Authority nor has finalised any rules for the act to be implemented, a situation that allows adulterators to carry on their business unhindered.

Against this backdrop, the health minister said that the food ministry lacks medical experts and technical hands to helm such a massive initiative. He also stressed that the food ministry looks only after food items whereas the health ministry covers food as well as drug and environmental issues.

"Most products falling under the purview of the food and commerce ministries are produced and marketed by the private sector. The government does not have much control over those," he said.

The minister noted that the Institute of Public Health (IPH) under the health ministry has a food testing laboratory and an adequate number of sanitary inspectors at the district and upazila levels to collect and test food items. They are also empowered to fine food adulterators.

The food ministry is not equipped with such a well-trained manpower, he said.

"So the food ministry has less responsibility compared to the health and commerce ministries," said Nasim, a veteran Awami League leader.

He said there is no clash between the food and health ministries but there surely is a lack of coordination between the two.
"We will take a coordinated programme under the leadership of the prime minister. You will see it happening by the end of this year," he said.

About 600 sanitary inspectors work under the IPH. They often complain of insufficient logistic support and low salaries. The number of sanitary inspectors is also much less than what is required.
"As we start an integrated approach, these problems will be addressed too. We will hold a meeting with the prime minister to work out how all the relevant ministries can cooperate to ensure safe food, good environment and sound public health," the minister said.
Nasim thanked The Daily Star for a 10-day campaign the newspaper carried out on food safety.
"The Daily Star's campaign has created mass awareness," he said.
He said dishonest traders are mixing harmful chemicals only for greed, which are causing cancer, kidney failure and other diseases.
"Such ills must come to an end and the state will do its best to ensure safe food for people," Nasim concluded.

11b by 2100

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"Earlier projections were strictly based on scenarios, so there was no uncertainty," said UN demographer Patrick Gerland.
"This work provides a more statistically driven assessment that allows us to quantify the predictions, and offer a confidence interval that could be useful in planning."
The bulk of the growth was anticipated in Africa, where the population is expected to rise from one billion today to four billion by the end of the century.
"There is an 80 percent chance that the population in Africa at the end of the century will be between 3.5 and 5.1 billion people," said the study.
While Africa is expected to boom in size, some populations are expected to peak or shrink, the study said.
Asia, now at 4.4 billion, is projected to peak at around 5 billion people in 2050 and then start to decline.

North America, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean are all expected to remain under one billion each.

More people on Earth will likely exacerbate problems such as climate change, infectious diseases and poverty.

"Population, which had sort of fallen off the world's agenda, remains a very important issue," said Raftery.
Two methods that have been shown to decrease population are wider access to birth control and the education of girls and women.

JMB targets to kill high-ups

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people with firearms and explosives.
"Following online contacts, the JMB has been recruiting jihadists [fighters] to join the IS," a senior official of the DB told The Daily Star.

JMB acting chief Nahid, who got out earlier this year from prison, was appointed acting chief of the outfit by JMB's ameer Saidur Rahman, now in Kashimpur Jail, the DB official said.

Nahid with the help of other fellow fugitives started reviving the outfit by recruiting members, including women, gathering firearms and ammunition, and training new recruits at a camp in Thanchi of Bandarban.

They were aiming to recruit private university students as part of their plan to regroup the outfit and take it to the global stage.

"Like Ansarullah Bangladesh Team, a radical Islamist outfit that nurtures al-Qaeda's ideology, the JMB also formed an assassination team," Joint Commissioner of DMP Monirul Islam told The Daily Star.

"By carrying out attacks, they wanted to let everyone know about their presence in the country and inspire their leaders, operatives and followers and revive the outfit," Monirul said at the briefing.

Some top JMB leaders, including condemned convicts Salahuddin Salehin, in-charge of JMB's Sylhet-Mymensingh region, and Jahidul Islam alias "Boma Mizan", an explosives expert, are reportedly staying in Bashirhat of West Bengal in India. They frequently enter Bangladesh and meet JMB men to plot operations, said investigators.

On February 23, JMB men ambushed a prison van carrying Salehin, Mizan and its Khulna divisional commander Mohammad Rakib Hasan Russell alias Hafez Mahmud at Trishal of Mymensingh, Rakib was later arrested and killed in Rab shoot-out while the other two managed to cross the border.

"They had plotted to carry out a Trishal-style attack to snatch JMB boss Saidur Rahman," Monirul claimed.

A senior police official, involved in counter-militancy, said some behind-bars JMB top bosses met each other in prison and at courts to plan revival of the outfit.

The official said Ansarullah Bangla Team's "spiritual leader" Jasimuddin Rahman and JMB ameer Saidur met at Kashimpur Jail. "During the last Eid, they held a congregation inside the

jail. Some 200 inmates attended the event."

Rahmania had given the sermon while Saidur conducted the prayers.
Like the acting JMB chief, many jailed militants are getting out and joining their outfits and the law enforcement agencies know little about it.

Monirul admitted that they did not know about the release of Nahid, elder brother Abdullah Al-Sohail who was sentenced to death for carrying out a bomb attack at Gazipur court on November 29, 2005.

The government is committed to combatting militancy but there is no mechanism for a concerted effort to fight the criminals, a number of police officials said requesting anonymity.

There should be a unit dedicated to fighting militancy, Monirul said, adding that the JMB had spread its network to the upazila level.

Most family members of Nahid are involved in militancy, said the senior police official, adding Noki was a student of electrical engineering at North South University and a suspect in Shahbagh activist Rajib murder case.

"He was not arrested at that time as his involvement in the killing could not be established," explained Monirul, adding that Noki was bright and an expert on internet and information technology.

He said information regarding other JMB operatives and their connection with the IS would be known during further interrogation of the arrestees.

Investigators said top JMB leaders like Salehin, Mizan, Anwar Hossain Faruq, who had led the Trishal ambush, may replace Nahid to run the outfit.

Arrestee Mahmud-ibn-Bashar is a student of Tourism and Hospitality Management of Dhaka University.

Information about the other arrestees were not given.

Some JMB men, who escaped to Pakistan during the anti-militant drive in 2007-08, may also take charge of JMB. One of them is Saidur's son-in-law Javed Akhter, who lives in Karachi, sources said.

The JMB came to the fore through its brutal activities and killing of people during the BNP-Jamaat regime in 2004-05. It lost strength when most of its top leaders, including Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhui, were executed in 2007.

Qaeda's South Asia plan

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Modi said the threat from Islamist extremist groups was "a crisis against humanity, not a crisis against one country or one race."

"We have to frame this as a fight between humanity and inhumanity, nothing else," he added.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party was accused during the election campaign of trying to polarise votes along religious lines.

Party president Amit Shah faces charges of inflaming tensions in a speech during the campaign.

But in a widely-praised Independence Day speech in August, Modi said communal violence was "stalling the growth of the nation" and had gone on for "too long".

The Indian prime minister also predicted a deepening of ties with the United States ahead of his landmark trip to Washington, saying the world's two

largest democracies were natural allies.

Modi is to meet President Barack Obama at the White House on September 29 and 30 on his first visit to the US as premier and since he was denied a visa following deadly riots in his home state of Gujarat 12 years ago.

Bilateral ties were also badly damaged last year by a row over the arrest and strip-search of an Indian diplomat in New York.

In the CNN interview, Modi acknowledged there had been "ups and downs in our relationship" but said that both countries shared common values.

"India and the USA are bound together, by history and culture. These ties will deepen further," said Modi.

Modi said that the United States' history of immigrant absorption and the vast Indian diaspora showed the people of both countries were inherently tolerant.

Alibaba Group

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dominating the e-commerce industry in the country of 1.36 billion people.

At recent meetings, Alibaba's founder focused on the company's ambitions outside of both the e-commerce field and its home base, describing it as an "Internet company that happens to be from China."

Alibaba's ability to close a deal of this size is also owed to an almost nonstop rally in shares in the US -- where about \$15 trillion has been added to the value of equities amid three rounds of monetary stimulus from the Federal Reserve, an expanding economy and record profits.

MARKET TIMING

"They want to get in now before the market is no longer excited," said Kevin Headland, director of the portfolio advisory group at Manulife Asset Management Ltd in Toronto.

Three factions clash

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Kamal and Bappa blamed Imran's group for the attack. Bappa said Imran's faction assaulted three of their activists. Denying the allegations, Imran's faction said Bappa and Pasha's supporters attacked them.

The Shahbagh movement began after war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah walked out of a court flashing a V-sign, after being sentenced to life on February 5 last year.

The gathering of youths at Shahbagh soon turned into a never-

seen-before movement.

Following the movement, government amended the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, to give the state the right to appeal against the tribunal verdict.

Within a few months of the launching of the movement, however, leaders and activists started to split. Initially, the split resulted in two factions -- one led by Imran and the other by Pasha. Later, a third faction emerged under Bappa's leadership.

United Kingdom

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and the dream shall never die," he said at a press conference in Edinburgh.

Many "Yes" activists had watched the result in tears, although Salmond urged them to take heart from the huge number -- 1.6 million -- who backed independence.

"I don't think any of us, whenever we entered politics, would have thought such a thing to be either credible or possible," he told supporters in Edinburgh.

The result reassured many in the rest of Britain worried about the possibility of an impending break-up, including investors on the financial markets who pushed the pound to a two-year high against the euro as European stock markets rallied.

The CBI lobby group said the result would be greeted by a "collective sigh of relief across the business community", while the Scotch Whisky Association urged "politicians of all parties to work to bring our country together".

There was also relief in many European capitals, where a "Yes" vote would have given unwanted encouragement to separatist movements from Flanders in Belgium to Catalonia in Spain.

A "Yes" vote would have brought to an abrupt end a union between Scotland and England stretching back to 1707. But while the UK survived, it could soon look very different.

The British government must now deliver on promises made in the heat of the campaign to give more powers over tax, spending and welfare to the devolved government in Edinburgh.

Cameron stood by the pledge yesterday, under which "Scotland gains almost everything except for full independence", said Emily St Denny, a politics professor at Stirling University.

The prime minister also promised a shake-up of the constitutional order with more local control for other parts of the UK, heading off demands from Conservatives and the UK Independence Party (UKIP) for England to be given more powers.

"Just as Scotland will vote separately in the Scottish parliament on their issues of tax, spending and welfare, so too England, as well as Wales and Northern Ireland, should be able to vote on these issues," he said.

Tony Travers, professor of politics at the London School of Economics (LSE), told AFP that Cameron's comments were pointing towards "a more federal version of Britain."
Emily St Denny, a politics professor at Stirling University, said the effect was that "Scotland gains almost everything except for full independence".

"The context is difficult because English and Welsh lawmakers are unhappy with the promises made to Scotland," she said.

Scotland's largest city Glasgow was among some big wins for the "Yes" campaign, but the margin was not enough to mitigate a flood of "No" votes across the country.

The indication was that better-off and rural areas had voted "No" while urban centres and poorer parts voted "Yes".

300 Shibir

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avert further untoward situation.

On Thursday morning, police detained general secretary of Ruet unit Shibir, the student body of Jamaat, and its organising secretary when the Shibir activists were trying to thwart a seminar on the campus. They also raided Selim Hall and arrested nine Shibir men.

Chhatra League activists stabbed a Shibir activist and beat up two others over establishing supremacy at Selim Hall around 2:00pm.

After the incidents, over 300 armed Shibir activists went to Selim Hall to attack the BCL men around 5:00pm and exploded 10-12 crude bombs there. This led to clashes between the Shibir men and police, leaving 12 Shibir activists injured.

In another incident, Sub-inspector Wahidur Rahman of Motihar Police Station lodged two cases against 281 Jamaat-Shibir men, including 31 named, early yesterday in connection with violence at Kazla in Rajshahi city during hartal hours.

Ashrafal Alam Emon, president of Rajshahi University unit Shibir, had been made the prime accused in the cases, police said.

Meanwhile, presidents of RU and Ruet units Shibir condemned the Ruet unit BCL men for vandalising Shibir activists' rooms and attacking their men, in a press release, yesterday.

They also demanded punishment to the Ruet unit BCL leaders and activists who were responsible for the attack.

However, the Ruet unit BCL denied the allegations.

It also claimed Shibir men attacked the BCL men.

War tribunal set to get

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first and second class employees such as bench officers, assistant bench officers and senior law research officers will take more time as it has to go through different procedures, he added.

There are 26 posts for the first and second class employees, excluding the posts of registrar and two deputy registrars who have been deputed from the lower courts. The deputy registrar, however, could not mention any tentative timeframe for the completion of filling in these posts.

The government established the International Crimes Tribunal on March 25, 2010 for holding trials of those who had committed crimes during the 1971 Liberation War. A second tribunal was formed on March 22, 2012 to expedite the trial process.

But the tribunals have been functioning with personnel hired from the High Court, Dhaka District and Session Judge Courts, Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and Administrative Tribunal. Besides, 22 cleaners hired on 'no work no pay' basis also work at the two tribunals and the registrar's office.

The necessity for the tribunal's own staff came to the fore after two of its hired employees allegedly got involved in the leakage of the draft verdict of the case against BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in October last year, exposing serious security flaws of the tribunals.

Besides, different organisations, especially Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, which has been campaigning for war crimes trial for the last two decades, has long been demanding enactment of a law allow-

ing the International Crimes Tribunal to operate with full administrative and financial autonomy.

Though the government approved an 83-post organogram for the tribunals in December 2012, its implementation stumbled due to bureaucratic red tape and absence of recruitment rules.

Finally the government on May 23 this year published a gazette notification on the International Crimes Tribunal (supporting officers and staff) Recruitment Rules 2014. It, however, had to wait around four more months to complete other procedures, including the formation of a selection committee and a recruitment committee.

The recruitment is happening when two tribunals have already delivered verdicts in nine cases, including those of five top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami. Five more cases are waiting for verdicts while trial proceedings of three cases are being carried out currently. A few more cases are now at the pre-trial stage.

About the long delay in the recruitment, the Deputy Registrar said the whole recruitment process went through different stages which consumed a lot of time.

"Recruitment of the other 26 posts will be fulfilled through a process to be conducted by the Public Service Commission", he added.

War crimes researcher and campaigner Shahriar Kabir said it's better late than never.

"But the authority should consider if the new recruits have honesty, skill and devotion to the liberation war", he said.

Rights activists concerned

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Mahmud Khan, director at the Rab's legal and media wing, said the force never asked for impunity, so there is no question of ending impunity to the Rab.

It was the Rab that started probing the seven-murder in Narayanganj and the force is still cooperating with the investigating officer of the case, he claimed.

"We also want punishment to those who were behind the Narayanganj incident irrespective of their ranks in the force," said Mahmud.

According to a study of rights body Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), 1,002 people were killed in custody between 2004 and 2008. Citing newspaper reports, it said the number was 141 in 2008, 115 in 2007, 258 in 2006, 354 in 2005, and 134 in 2004.

As many as 229 people allegedly fell victim to forced disappearances between 2010 and 2013.

ASK reports indicate a rising trend in such disappearances in last five years. Forty-six people were made to disappear in 2010, 59 in 2011, 56 in 2012 and 68 in 2013, while 74 people were abducted allegedly by law enforcers in the first six months of this year.

Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK, told this newspaper yesterday that any law enforcers including members of the Rab must be brought to justice if they are found involved in extrajudicial killings.

Sharing the European Parliament's concern about human rights violations by security forces, she said the appeal for not giving impunity to the law enforcers should be considered with due importance.

Rights groups, said Sultana, have been pointing out since 2004 that the Rab has taken many actions flouting its rules and regulations, for which it should be tried and punished.

"We protested when the question of giving impunity to law enforcers arose and they were given impunity. Therefore, we have moral support to the concern of European Parliament," she mentioned.

Nobel prizes

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laureates in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The awards showcase "achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think," said the organizers. The ceremony at Harvard's Sanders Theatre was attended by hundreds and broadcast live online.

The winners are serious scientists whose work is generally considered only unintentionally funny.

Japanese researchers won the physics prize for measuring the amount of friction between a shoe and a banana skin, and between a banana skin and the floor when a person steps on the discarded fruit peel.

Scientists in China and Canada won a neuroscience prize for trying to understand what happens in the brains of people who see the face of Jesus in a piece of toast.

The authors come from Beijing Jiaotong University's School of Computer and Information Technology, Xidian University, the Institute of Automation Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and the University of Toronto.

Australia, Britain and the United

States shared the psychology prize for collecting evidence that people who habitually stay up late are, on average, more self-admiring, manipulative and psychopathic than early risers.

The public health prize was shared by the Czech Republic, India, Japan and the United States for investigating whether it is mentally hazardous to own a cat.

The Czech Republic also joined Germany and Zambia in winning the biology prize for documenting that when dogs defecate and urinate, they prefer to align their body axis with Earth's north-south geomagnetic field lines.

Italy took the art prize for measuring the relative pain people suffer while looking at an ugly rather than a pretty painting.

The Italian government's National Institute of Statistics walked away with the economics prize for increasing the official size of its national economy by including revenue from prostitution, illegal drug sales, smuggling, and other unlawful financial transactions between willing participants, organizers said.