



UN keen to take more Bangladeshi peacekeepers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Lauding Bangladeshi peacekeepers' professionalism and contribution to UN missions, UN Under-Secretary General for Field Support Atul Khare yesterday said the UN was ready to appoint more Bangladeshis to commanding positions soon.

"We are going to have an important announcement soon... we are going to make one more important announcement in Mali for commanding the Eastern Sector," he said at a press conference, wrapping up his three-day Bangladesh visit.

As the top troops-sending country, Bangladesh has been demanding key roles in UN peacekeeping operations.

In response to a query, the UN official said, "We are very cognisant" of this demand.

Atul Khare said three brigadier generals from Bangladesh currently hold senior-level positions such as sector commander and deputy force commander.

"Even then more can be done to get Bangladeshi people in top positions."

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Elias Miah, a small trader from the capital's Badda Natun Bazar, is trying to manage a bed for his wife Jahanara Begum at the ICU of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Critically ill Jahanara, under treatment at the hospital's neuro-surgery ward, has been unconscious for eight days. On Sunday, doctors referred her to the ICU. But no bed was available for her as of 4:30pm yesterday when this photo was taken. The family is not solvent enough to go to a private hospital either.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ICU facilities scanty

Intensive care units at 7 major public hospitals have only 80 beds; the service at pvt hospitals too expensive for most people

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Seventy-year-old Lal Mia Matabbar was rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital when he suffered a major stroke on September 2 morning.

On doctors' advice, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same day. Stating his condition critical, doctors at the DMCH suggested transferring him to intensive care unit (ICU) as early as possible.

His son Qaiyum Matabbar ran to the ICU but found no bed vacant. The authorities, however, put his father's name on the waiting list.

Over the next five days, Qaiyum

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PUBLIC HOSPITALS No doctors, staff solely for ICUs

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The intensive care units of the public hospitals have been running with a manpower crisis for years.

Doctors, nurses and other staff are borrowed from other departments of the hospitals to keep the ICUs up and running. The ICUs are where patients are admitted with severe and life-threatening illnesses and injuries that require constant and close monitoring.

Take Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the largest public hospital in the country.

There are no dedicated doctors for its 20-bed ICU, and doctors from the anaesthesiology department usually look after the patients in the ICU, hospital sources said.

However, they have to call doctors from other departments like neuromedicine and nephrology, whenever required. This in many cases creates problems because the doctors have to come either after performing duties in their own wards or leaving their patients unattended.

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Advertisement

MAGGI Noodles Safe

Proven also at the Laboratory of the Institute of Public Health, Dhaka

The National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL) of the Institute of Public Health has declared MAGGI noodles safe after testing a good number of samples.

According to the news published in newspapers, there was no lead at harmful levels, rather it was 30 times less than the international and local standards. Fifteen samples of MAGGI noodles of Nestlé Bangladesh taken from different markets in Dhaka were tested in the laboratory.

The National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL), established with the technical assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is known as the 'National Reference Laboratory'.

The Bombay High Court has ruled on 13 August 2015 that the ban on MAGGI noodles by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Maharashtra's Food and Drugs Administration be revoked as it was erroneous.

In neighboring Bangladesh, to verify the quality standards of MAGGI

noodles, numerous samples were tested at various labs. Accordingly, the Institute of Public Health tested samples of MAGGI noodles in its international standard and state-of-the-art laboratory and found MAGGI noodles to be completely safe for consumption.

For consumers in Bangladesh, MAGGI instant noodles is manufactured in Sreepur, Gazipur in Nestlé's own factory. Earlier the Ministry of Industries under The People's Republic of Bangladesh and BSTI also declared MAGGI instant noodles is safe for consumption in a press conference on 18 June 2015.

MAGGI instant noodles in Bangladesh is produced in full compliance with consumer standard for noodles set by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and the international Codex.

In addition, independent laboratories such as Switzerland-based SGS and Singapore-based ALS have tested MAGGI instant noodles and found it to be completely safe.

Discrimination against kids

Allege parents as students of English medium schools paying VAT on tuition fees

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB

The value added tax on English medium schools is burdensome for many families and discriminatory against the students, parents and legal experts say.

There is no VAT on Bangla medium schools and government-approved English version schools that follow English textbooks published by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board.

But in 2010, the government imposed a 4.5 percent VAT on fees and services in English medium schools. Last year, it was raised to 7.5 percent.

"I think it is absolutely discriminatory against the English medium students that they have to pay VAT on their tuition fees," Shafayat Ullah, a Supreme Court lawyer, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In 2010, the government had also brought the private universities under the VAT net (4.5 percent), but lifted it following days of student protest. In the current budget, the government again imposed VAT -- 7.5 percent this time -- on tuition fees at private universities and medical and engineering colleges. In the face of street agitations in Dhaka and elsewhere, the government withdrew it on Monday.

However, the VAT on English medium schools remains. In the current budget, Finance Minister AMA Muhith had in fact sought to increase the current 7.5 percent VAT on English medium schools to 10 percent. The move drew huge criticism from guardians and English medium schools

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CAR WITH SMUGGLED GOLD 2 cops, NSI man charged over hijack attempt

MOKAMMEL SHUVO with SHARIFUL ISLAM

Detectives in Jessore yesterday pressed charges against four people including two constables of police and a watcher-constable of the National Security Intelligence for trying to hijack a car with 12.83kg smuggled gold in Bagharpara upazila on September 2.

The accused are constables Sheikh Mizanur Rahman of Jhikargacha police in Jessore and Rubayet Hossain of Sujanagar police in Pabna, Satkhira NSI watcher-constable Lipton Mia and their associate Momin of Abhaynagar upazila in Jessore.

All the accused except Momin are on the run. Momin has already given a confessional statement to a Jessore court, said investigation officer Sub-Inspector Abul Khayer of Detective Branch of police.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Human rights get a boost

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The latest High Court verdict scrapping a law that had indemnified all actions including killing in the Operation Clean Heart by joint forces 12 years ago is a welcome boost for people's right to life and right to protection of law.

This landmark verdict upheld once again people's right to life, a fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution, which says no person shall be deprived of life save in accordance with law.

The significance of this verdict is far reaching. It strongly and unequivocally speaks for the rule of law which says nobody should be indemnified for extra-judicial killing.

The verdict came at a time when human right bodies and activists have long been denouncing the recent spate of extra-judicial killings by law enforcement agencies. It is therefore also a morale booster for those vocal against such killings.

Through this verdict, the High Court, has upheld our right to protection of law which is the inalienable right granted in our constitution for all citizens. The verdict also tells us that no arbitrary action detrimental to the life, liberty, and reputation is justified.

The scrapping of the law also means the parliament's jurisdiction to legislate was abused as it enacted a law that it could not have.

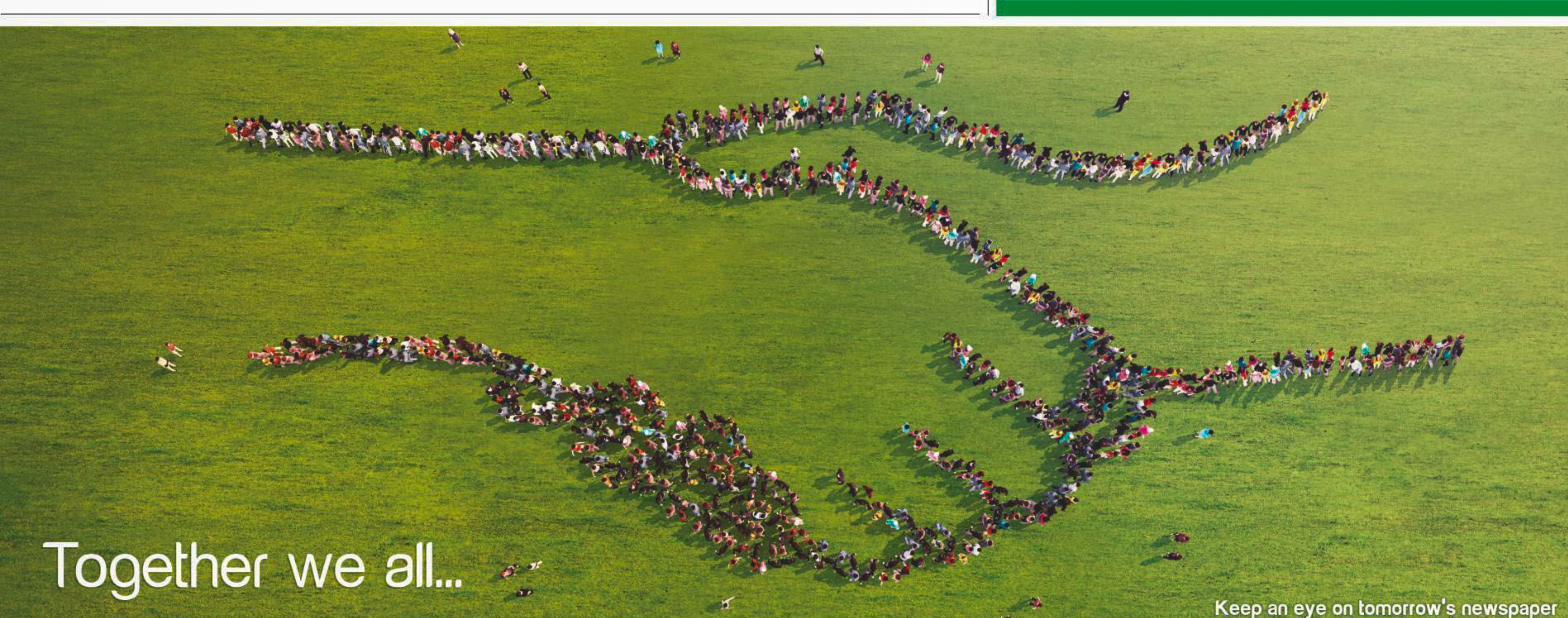
The other significant part of the verdict is the court's bold pronouncement for giving compensation to victims of Operation Clean Heart carried out during the BNP led government from October 2002 to January 2003.

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বৈশ্বিক উষ্ণায়ন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের বিরূপ প্রভাব মোকাবেলায় দৃঢ় নেতৃত্ব এবং টেকসই পরিবেশ উন্নয়নে সুদূর প্রসারী পদক্ষেপের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ জাতিসংঘের পরিবেশ বিষয়ক সর্বোচ্চ পুরস্কার চ্যাম্পিয়ন্স অব দ্য আর্থ অর্জন করায় মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জননেত্রী, ধরিত্রী কন্যা শেখ হাসিনা -কে

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