

Govt to further

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role of the media, saying some media outlets, especially unregistered online news portals, are providing misleading information to tarnish the image of the government.

The committee asked the information minister to take steps to formulate a policy for online news portals as soon as possible.

The meeting also suggested intensifying diplomatic efforts with Myanmar to stop smuggling of yaba pills into Bangladesh through Myanmar border, said the sources.

They asked the law enforcement agencies to conduct drives regularly and go tough on drug peddlers to curb the illegal trade.

The government will start a month-long anti-drug campaign from January 1 to create awareness about the negative impact of drug use.

The committee expressed satisfaction at the "success in checking militant funding" and asked the authorities concerned to bring it down to zero, said sources.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Amu claimed law and order in the country is now satisfactory.

He alleged that a conspiracy is on to destabilise the country. A similar plot was hatched centring on last year's parliamentary election. The law enforcement agencies are now working like they did at that time, he added.

On yaba smuggling, Amu said Bangladesh asked the Myanmar government to take measures to stop production of the contraband pill at 37 factories in that country.

In reply to a query on militant funding, he said those involved in financing militant groups have been under surveillance of intelligence agencies, and they will not be spared.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

Cops capture

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He also said they carried out the attack in order to create instability in the country.

Additional SP Liton said police have already arrested two attackers, Rakib and Rabbi, and launched a drive to capture Shakil.

On October 5, Luke Sarkar, 52, pastor of Faith Bible Church in Ishwardi upazila, was attacked by three unidentified people at his home. He survived the attack with minor injuries.

After the incident, police arrested five suspected JMB operatives from different areas in Pabna and Sirajganj on October 12. Other than Rabbi, the four other arrestees are Ziaur Rahman, Shariful Islam Tulip, Alim Pramanik, and Amzad Hossain.

Sources said the JMB men, led by Rakib, used to hold meetings regularly at the Government Edward College's playground. As per their organisational decision, they planned to kill the pastor in one such meeting.

Correct data

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Joint Secretary Iqbal Habib said, "Why do they have to be evicted? Why can you not rehabilitate the slum dwellers where they live now?"

Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre, stressed the need for better connectivity between housings and jobs and also the importance of empowering local governments to solve local problems.

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha Chairman GM Jainal Abedin Bhuyia, rights activist Hameeda Hossain and Mohammed Moinuddin Abdullah, secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, also spoke.

Hira gives

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After recording his statement, the court ordered Hira to be sent to jail.

The content of his statement could not be known.

Hira, a friend of Hoshi, was detained at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on October 3. He was shown arrested in the murder case two days later.

He has been on police remand in three phases in two cases.

Motorbike-riding gunmen killed 66-year-old Hoshi near his agriculture project at Alutari village in Rangpur's Kaunia on October 3, just five days after Italian national Tavella's murder in Dhaka.

Teen restaurant worker

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shot the victim at his under-construction building in Swamibagh, Tapan Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Sohel went into hiding after the incident.

Victim's brother Ripon, also an employee at another restaurant in Motijheel, said he called Riad Tuesday afternoon, but someone else answered the phone.

"Your brother stole a mobile phone and Tk 1,500 from his fellow staff," said the anonymous person.

Ripon soon reached Ghoroa Restaurant and found his brother tied with a rope in the store room. He offered some restaurant staff compensation for the "stolen phone" and the money.

"I pleaded with them [staff] for almost six hours to free my brother, but in vain," he added.

Around 10:00pm, Ripon saw Sohul reaching Ghoroa Restaurant on a jeep and taking his brother away in it.

Riad was taken to the under-construction Swamibagh building where some 20 restaurant staff use to live.

Two of Riad's colleagues took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) around 1:15am yesterday, said camp police at the hospital.

The two told hospital staff that they along with Riad were riding a CNG-run auto-rickshaw Tuesday night on the way to their employer's Shantinagar residence to hand him over Tk 250,000 after closing the restaurant.

When the three-wheeler reached near Shapla Chattar, two bike-riding youths intercepted the vehicle and tried to snatch the money from them. As Riad made an effort to resist the muggers, they fired shots at him and left the scene, leaving him injured.

OC Tapan said Riad's colleagues cooked up the mugging incident.

According to DMCH sources, the 16-year-old was brought dead to the hospital.

Ripon filed a case with Wari Police Station last evening accusing the restaurant owner, two staff and four unnamed people of the murder.

An autopsy was carried out on the victim's body at the DMC morgue last night. A bullet was taken out from his neck. Besides, there were injury marks in his back, said morgue sources.

Police arrested one of the accused and detained seven staff of the restaurant for questioning.

Sea level

FROM PAGE 16
Department of Environment study.

The study, conducted between April 2013 and Oct 2015, analysed tidal water data of the last 30 years in the entire coastal zones of the country. It focused on the trend analysis of tidal water level to visualise the historical change of sea level rise in the coasts of Bangladesh.

According to the study carried for the first time in Bangladesh with its own capacity, the sea level rises 7 to 8mm a year in the western coastal region including Satkhira, Khulna and Barisal.

The rise is 6 to 9mm annually in the central coastal region, which covers Noakhali, Laxmipur and their adjacent districts while 11 to 20mm rise has been observed in the coastal areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazaar.

"The sea level rise will have serious impact on the country in future. Salinity will be increased, agriculture will be badly affected, and there will be a shortage of drinking water," said Dr Ainun Nishat, a climate change expert, who finalised the study.

He said that previously secondary data were used to refer to sea level rise.

"Now we can monitor and assess the impact using our own data," he told The Daily Star last night.

The trend analyses have been carried out using the water level data of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Chittagong Port Authority.

The study recommends installing at least 10 high precision automatic tidal gauge stations along the coastline of Bangladesh. It says regular monitoring of the tidal water data is required to assess the sea level rise.

Climate Change Cell of the DoE conducted the study with technical assistance from Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) and Institute of Water and Flood Management of But.

The study paper will be disclosed today at a workshop at the city's CIRDA International Conference Centre where Malik Fida Abdullah Khan, director, climate change of CEGIS, will present the keynote paper on the study findings while Pauline Tamesis, UNDP country director, and Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, among others, will deliver speeches.

Dr Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus of BRAC University, will moderate the workshop.

Toxic gas

FROM PAGE 16
village and Jewel Hossain, 33, of Gyandaspur village of the upazila.

One Rustom Ali, an engineer of a real estate company in Dhaka, employed the four workers to construct a building in Baidyanathpur, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Jibonnagar Police Station, quoting locals.

Rustom yesterday asked the workers to check the condition of the septic tank of the building over phone.

As per his directives, Hasem first entered the tank around 4:00pm, said the police official.

Getting no response from Hasem, his son Sujon went into the tank. As the two did not come out of the tank, Jalal and Jewel entered it too.

As the four did not reply from the inside, Rustom's wife Shikha Khatun screamed for help. Locals then informed the police of the matter.

Later, a firefighter team from Jibonnagar fire station rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

The four inhaled toxic methane gas trapped inside the septic tank, said Aminul Islam, a fire brigade official.

Worm-killing drug

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Ivermectin is already used to kill parasitic worms, which affect a third of the world's population and cause illnesses including river blindness and lymphatic filariasis.

Its discovery won this year's Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

Mosquitoes, which spread the malaria parasite, are weakened or die if they drink the blood of someone recently treated with ivermectin.

So the US Colorado State University and the Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé in Burkina Faso are trying to see if it can be used to save lives.

Eight villages are in the middle of a trial in which everyone in half of the villages are being given ivermectin every three weeks.

It started in July and finishes next week, but an early analysis has been presented to the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Dr Brian Foy, from the Colorado State University, told the BBC News website: "The early signs are looking pretty good. Children in the treatment arm of the

trial are getting less malaria.

"We're pretty excited about this and it doesn't look like there is any kind of adverse effect, but the data is not done until it's done."

In the untreated villages, 16% of children did not develop malaria during this rainy season compared with 25% in those being treated.

The scientists estimate that 94 bouts of malaria have been prevented in the 325 children in the villages being treated.

The drug seems to kill both parasitic worms and mosquitoes in the same way - by attacking their nervous systems so they cannot control their muscles.

"It is like having a big turkey dinner - it just wants to sit down and not move which is not good for the mosquito so it dies," Dr Foy told the BBC.

The fact that ivermectin works on both mosquitoes and parasitic worms could be an opportunity to tackle both diseases.

But it also raises the spectre of the worms and mosquitoes becoming resistant to the drug if it was used more

Kathmandu inks first

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between New Delhi and Kathmandu.

"We have signed a MOU (memorandum of understanding) with China National United Oil Corporation to supply the petroleum products that Nepal needs," said Deepak Baral, spokesman at the state-run Nepal Oil Corporation.

"This is the first time that China is commercially supplying petroleum to Nepal, so we need to study various aspects like price and transportation of the fuel," Baral told AFP.

Beijing has already agreed to donate 1.3 million litres of petrol to Nepal but the two countries have never commercially traded oil or gas.

Kathmandu is exploring the possibility of transporting fuel via its northern land crossings with China, one of which reopened this month after suffering damage in the earthquake that caused widespread devastation in the impoverished country in April.

Nepal has traditionally relied on its border crossings with India for trade, with the flat plains easing the transport of imports and exports, while avoiding the mountainous terrain of the northern routes.

But the movement of cargo has slowed to a crawl in recent weeks, with hundreds of protesters blocking a bridge crossing in the town of Birgunj, around 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of Kathmandu since September 24.

Transport of goods via other checkpoints along the Indian border has

also suffered, provoking the Nepalese government to accuse New Delhi of backing the protesters and imposing an "unofficial blockade" to register its dissatisfaction with the new constitution.

New Delhi has denied the claims and has urged dialogue with protesters, who belong to the Madhesi ethnic minority and have close cultural, linguistic and family ties to Indians living across the border.

The constitution, the first drawn up by elected representatives, was meant to cement peace and bolster Nepal's transformation to a democratic republic after decades of political instability and a 10-year Maoist insurgency.

But it has instead sparked deadly violence.

More than 40 people have been killed in clashes between police and ethnic minority protesters, who say a new federal structure laid out in the charter adopted last month will leave them under-represented in parliament.

Work on the constitution began in 2008 after the Maoist rebels laid down their arms and entered politics, winning parliamentary elections and abolishing a 240-year-old monarchy.

But power-sharing squabbles between parties stymied progress.

Lawmakers finally reached agreement in June, spurred by the massive earthquake two months earlier that killed nearly 8,900 people and left more than half a million people homeless.

Nepal gets

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Bhandari, the vice-chair of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), replaces Ram Baran Yadav. He was elected as the first president in 2008 following the abolition of a 240-year-old Hindu monarchy.

"I announce that Bidhya Devi Bhandari has been elected to the post of Nepal's president," said Speaker Onsari Gharti Magar, to loud cheers from lawmakers.

Bhandari, a rare female face in Nepal's parliament, took up politics in her teens, seeking to overturn the absolute monarchy and later marrying a fellow communist, Madan Bhandari.

But it was after her husband's death in a vehicle accident in 1993 that the mother of two became a prominent voice, riding a wave of sympathy to win a seat in parliament.

Yadav was initially supposed to hold office for only two years. But years of political wrangling delayed agreement on a new constitution, which was only finally adopted last month.

Bhandari, 54, is the second woman to be elected to a senior position since then, after Magar became the country's first female Speaker.

As required by the new charter, parliament also this month elected a new prime minister, KP Sharma Oli, who is tasked with unifying the earthquake-hit country.

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AI statement irks lawyers

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beyond its jurisdiction" by releasing such a statement. The international rights watchdog had the audacity to hint that the pro-liberation forces should be tried for committing crimes during the Liberation War, they said.

In its Tuesday's statement, the AI said two opposition politicians face "imminent hanging" for crimes committed during the 1971 Independence War after "serious flaws occurred in their trial and appeal processes".

In 2013, Jamaat leader Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin were sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal for war crimes and genocide at trials that "failed to meet international standards for fair trial", said the AI.

The Supreme Court upheld their death penalty and their petitions for reviewing the SC's judgement, scheduled to be heard by the apex court on November 2.

"Their trial and appeals process were clearly flawed and since they now face the death penalty, the ultimate miscarriage of justice may be only days away," said David Griffiths, AI's South Asia research director.

"The crimes committed during the war of independence were horrific, but the death sentences only perpetuate violence. The lack of fair trials makes the use of the death penalty even more disturbing."

The AI in the statement said, "Almost all of the ICT's verdicts since it was established in 2009 have come against members of opposition parties, mainly individuals associated with the Jamaat-e-Islami party. Serious crimes were also committed by the pro-independence forces, but no one has been investigated or brought to justice for them."

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star, "They [AI] don't know about us and our sufferings in 1971, yet they are making comments about us. They are actually acting beyond their jurisdiction."

"They are paid [by someone] to make such statements," said Mahbubey Alam, adding, "The statement is the result of the lobbying of the people now facing execution."

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz said Jamaat-e-Islami, a criminal body of 1971, remained the same party and their leadership remained the same. "If the members of a criminal association were tried, why should anyone raise questions about it?" she said.

The tribunal has tried not only the member of Jamaat, but also members of other political parties, including the ruling party, she added.

"There is absolutely no bias towards any political party in the trial. Rather, I would say that the Amnesty International has a clear political party bias."

"It is very unfortunate to note that the so-called international organisation had the audacity to comment on a sub-judice matter as the two review petitions are yet to be heard by the highest court in our land. This is clearly interference into the judicial process of a sovereign country," she said.

Tureen said, "Trial of freedom fighters? I am shocked."

Veteran war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said the western world, from where the AI was issuing the statement, has set the norm that the war crimes trial would be "victor justices". "If the freedom fighters have to face trial, then the allies [of WWII] too should be tried," he said.

He said the defence counsels in Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunal raised allegations of war crimes and genocide against allied forces. "Were they tried?" said Shahriar, also the executive president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, which has been campaigning for the war crimes trial for more than two decades.

He said Bangladesh has enacted the law and set up domestic tribunals to try 1971's perpetrators. "No other country or organisation possesses any right to interfere into the internal judicial process of a country," he said.

Mofidul Hoque, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum, said the AI never talked about the rights of the victims of 1971, but always talks about the rights of the accused. They talk about international standards over and over again, he said.

"What do they mean by international standard?" asked Mofidul.

Pakistan SC issues blasphemy warning

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court has called on the state to ensure that hundreds of people facing imprisonment and even execution under controversial blasphemy laws have not been falsely charged, often by enemies wanting to settle personal scores.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, an Islamic republic of some 200 million, with even unproven allegations provoking mob lynchings and violence.

Critics including European governments claim the country's laws against blasphemy are misused, with hundreds languishing in jails under false charges that could see them face fines, life imprisonment or death by hanging.

On Tuesday the Supreme Court issued a detailed judgement warning that in Islam a false accusation can be as serious as the blasphemy itself.

SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL WAR AU report finds torture, forced cannibalism

AP, Juba

African Union (AU) investigators discovered mass graves in South Sudan and found evidence of horrific crimes, including forced cannibalism, according to a long-awaited report.

President Salva Kiir's faction in the conflict is also accused of recruiting an irregular tribal force before the outbreak of war in December 2013.

The report, released late Tuesday, also disputes that there was a coup attempt in December 2013 by former Vice President Riek Machar.

Government troops carried out organised killings of members of the ethnic Nuer in Juba, the capital, the report said. When violence broke out, Machar, a Nuer, became a rebel leader. He and Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, recently signed a peace agreement.

The African Union investigators, led by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, found that the conflict began on Dec 15, 2013, as a skirmish broke out between


Dinka and Nuer soldiers of the presidential guard following political tension between Kiir and Machar, who had been fired as Kiir's deputy the previous July.

The report was scheduled for release months ago but its release was delayed by the African Union's Peace and Security Council.

Hundreds of Nuer men were rounded up and shot, and mass graves were discovered. Perpetrators - described as government forces or their allies - allegedly tortured their victims, including by forcing them to jump in fires or eat human flesh, according to the report.

The killings were "an organised military operation that could not have been successful without concerted efforts from various actors in the military and government circles," the report said.

"Roadblocks or checkpoints were established all around Juba and house to house searches were undertaken by security forces. During this operation male Nuers were targeted, identified, killed on the spot or gathered in one place and killed."



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Price Sensitive Information

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its meeting held on Wednesday, 28 October, 2015 at 3.30 P.M. has resolved to convene an Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) to consider, and if deemed fit to adopt the following resolution, with or without modification:

"RESOLVED THAT Scheme of Amalgamation of Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited with United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited ("the Scheme") be and is hereby approved and subject to sanction of the Scheme by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in accordance with the provisions of Section 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994, let Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited be amalgamated with United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited in terms of the Scheme."

The Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held on 30 November, 2015 at 11.30 a.m. at United Hospital Auditorium (8th floor), Plot # 15, Road # 71, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.
Record date for the aforesaid Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be 17 November, 2015 i.e. the shareholders, whose names would appear in the Register of the members at the close of business on the record date, will be eligible to attend the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Company.

By order of the Board

Sd/-
(Md. Mahfuzul Haque, FCMA)
Company Secretary

Dated: 28 November, 2015