

Govt to tighten

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Following their recommendation, a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office on January 5 decided to undertake the project, Caab officials said.

The representatives also threatened to stop direct flights to London from Dhaka if foolproof security was not ensured. Australia also stopped allowing any cargo from Bangladesh for about three months.

Following the crash of a Russian jet over Egypt's Sinai desert in October, the UK department of transportation made a list of 38 airports of 20 countries, including Shahjalal International Airport, that have security lapses. The department had been pushing for upgraded security arrangements.

Air-Vice Marshal M Sanaul Haque said the Caab, working with the UK team, has been training the manpower here and it would continue for two to three more months. When the training is done and the equipment are bought, the security system would become sustainable, he added.

"The UK is 100 percent satisfied the way we have been working for the security. But, they are still in doubt whether we would be able to make this work in a sustainable manner," he added.

To upgrade the security, the Caab has already formed a 250-member aviation security force comprising people from the Air Force, Armed Police Battalion, and Ansar to ensure the security at Shahjalal International Airport.

Around 150 members have already joined the force after training, Caab officials added.

'JMB man'

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A team of the Detective Branch of police approached them, the OC said, adding that the youths then opened fire at the law enforcers.

DB police fired back. At one stage, the youths fled the scene except Pias who was found with bullet injuries, the OC said.

Police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

There were bullet marks on the head and chest, hospital sources said. The body was left unidentified at the DMC morgue from noon until the filing of the report around 8:30pm, morgue sources said.

The OC said three hand bombs, a pistol and three bullets had been recovered from the spot.

Three cases -- one for murder and one each for the possessions of arms and explosives -- were filed in connection with the incident, he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Maruf Hossain Sardar confirmed that the dead was Pias, a JMB activist.

According to DMP sources, he had been involved in the bomb attack on Hossaini Dalan, Shia Muslim community headquarters in the Old part of Dhaka, on the occasion of the holy Ashura.

Equality for women

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said states adopting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had committed, among others, to initiate reforms to give women access to economic resources including property.

"Governments need to adopt the whole (development) agenda," she said, adding SDGs cannot be localised by leaving off some of the difficult targets under each goal.

Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, chaired the programme. She said a monitoring team should be formed to evaluate what changes took place after gender budgeting was adopted by government about seven years ago.

Chandan Kumar Lahiri, from Steps Towards Development, one of the members of the platform, read out 18 demands of the committee.

WE CAN End All Violence Against Women, another platform of 550 rights organisations, observed the day by lighting candles at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital in the first hours of yesterday.

Shaheen Anam, co-chairperson of the alliance and also executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "Every one of us must make it our responsibility and vow that we will save at least one woman from any sort of violence."

"By 2030 we will create a world where men and women are equal," said human rights activist Sultana Kamal and also chairperson of the alliance. Bangladesh National Garments Workers Employees League (BNGWEL) demanded introduction of pension schemes for women workers, from a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Banchte Sheko Nari (Women, Learn to Live), another women's rights group, presented 14 demands, including implementation of the National Women Development Policy 2011, from a human chain at the same venue.

2 ministers face

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Appellate Division headed by the chief justice gave the order in a suo moto (of its own) move, before the delivery of the appeal verdict in the war crimes case against Quasem, a Jamaat leader.

In the order, the court said the statements of the two ministers on March 5 against the chief justice were "flagrant interference with the administration of justice, questioning the independence of judiciary".

Such comments have "undermined the dignity, prestige and authority and impartiality of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and the office of the chief justice in the estimation of the public at large," the apex court said.

Before passing the order, the chief justice told the attorney general that the judges were stunned at the "indecent and derogatory statements" by the two ministers.

Any written or verbal comments or other acts lowering the authority of the court or interfering with judicial proceedings or administration of justice are contempt of court. If found guilty, an accused may face fine or jail sentence or both. The fine amount and the jail term are fixed by the court as it deems fit.

Qamrul and Mozammel criticised the chief justice for two days in a row, after the country's top judge expressed dissatisfaction over the "poor performance" of prosecutors and investigators in dealing with war crimes cases.

'A CLEAR SUGGESTION'

On Saturday, Qamrul told a discussion, "I am aggrieved by his [the CJ's] comments in the open court."

He also alleged the comments of the chief justice had similarities with those by some political parties opposing the war crimes trial.

"He [Quasem] is now in the condemned cell, but his money is well active outside the prison....

"I have a clear suggestion... Let there be a bench of the Appellate Division, keeping the present chief justice out of the bench, which he now leads, and then let there be a fresh hearing of the appeal. This is my demand in clear terms. There is no other option," he said, and "humbly requested" the chief justice to accept his proposal.

Qamrul also demanded that the attorney general be excluded from the hearing of Quasem's case.

Speaking at the discussion, Mozammel said if the chief justice had indeed made such comments in the open court, he must as well know the remedy.

Then on Sunday, Qamrul made similar criticisms of the CJ, saying Justice Sinha was openly speaking in the language used by the BNP, the Jamaat-e-Islami and their lobbyists in their efforts to undermine the war crimes trial. Going even further, Mozammel said the chief justice should not be delivering the verdict in Quasem's case at all.

In her reaction, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Monday that her government was "embarrassed" by the ministers' remarks. She also made it clear that those were not government's statements, but personal views of the two.

Hackers chose

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Yesterday, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the New York Fed could not evade its responsibilities over the transfer.

Wishing anonymity, a deputy governor of the BB said the New York Fed failed to do due diligence in dealing with the hacking threat.

However, the New York Fed denied that its payment systems were breached, Reuters reported on Monday.

"To date, there is no evidence of any attempt to penetrate Federal Reserve systems in connection with the payments in question, and there is no evidence that any Fed systems were compromised," said its spokesperson Andrea Priest in response to queries about the claim.

In all, the BB has around \$28 billion in foreign currency reserves. Of the sum, nearly a third is in the form of liquid assets with the Federal Reserve Bank in the US and the Bank of England. The rest is invested in bonds and gold.

A portion of the liquid assets are kept in current accounts in either of the central banks of the US or the UK to make loan repayments.

The money that was stolen was kept in a current account with the New York Fed.

At its Motijheel headquarters, the BB has a front office called Forex Reserve & Treasury Department that decides how and where the central bank's reserves will be kept and used. The decisions are sent to the Budget & Account Department, known as back office, also located at the BB office.

Upon receiving the payment order from the front office, the back office completes various procedures before making the final payment request through SWIFT, the global provider of secure financial messaging.

More importantly, three individuals officially known as maker, checker and authoriser work independently before the final payment request is made.

Each of the three officials work on separate computers, have passwords and

QAMRUL TO SEEK TIME

After the SC ruling, Mahbub Alam told reporters that some individuals and organisations were making statements in a way as if the war crimes trial was taking place because of them, but this notion was not right.

The trial of the 1971 perpetrators is being held as part of the political decision of the government, he said.

Talking to journalists about the SC rule and summons, Qamrul said he would seek some time from the SC through lawyers to respond and to appear before the court. The minister was supposed to leave the country for Malaysia yesterday.

He said he was respectful to the court and would act according to its order.

Asked about his comments about the chief justice, he said he "made the statement as a freedom fighter, not as a minister".

A private TV channel quoted Mozammel as saying: "I heard it [the summons]. Insha Allah [God willing] we will place our submission and appear [before the court]."

Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq urged all not to make any comment on sub judice matters.

"The Supreme Court is an institution and the judges are part of it. It's not right to comment on a case pending with the judges," Anisul told reporters at his office yesterday.

But he declined to say anything about the contempt of court rule against the two ministers.

CONTEMPT, PUNISHMENT

In its verdict in the contempt of court case against the daily Janakantha last year, the SC observed that publication or other acts scandalising or lowering the authority of the court or interfering with judicial proceedings or administration of justice are contempt of court.

It said prejudice to or interference with the due course of any judicial proceeding, interference or obstruction of the administration of justice in any other manner, interference with the court's officers, parties and witnesses, abuse of process of the court and disobedience of an order of the court are among the categories of contempt of court.

In August last year, the apex court sentenced the editor and publisher of the Bangla daily and its executive editor to confinement in the courtroom for over three hours for publishing an article relating to war crimes convict Salauddin Quader Chowdhury (who was executed on November 22). It also fined the two journalists Tk 10,000 each.

Earlier in August 2010, the SC had sentenced Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, to six months in jail for running an article headlined "Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government".

Khurshid Alam Khan, an SC lawyer and editor of Dhaka Law Reports, told The Daily Star that it is the discretionary jurisdiction of the apex court to decide the punishment for committing contempt of court under Article 108 of the constitution.

must retype any order anew to be sent.

Under a normal situation, the payment request cannot be made from any other computer even if the passwords are stolen.

After the hacking, the central bank appointed a cybercrime expert with experience of working with the World Bank. Under his leadership, a forensic expert team has also started investigations.

The team has examined the computers and related equipment and is yet to find any involvement of anyone at the back office.

It is highly likely that Bangladesh's payment system has been hacked, and it was done from outside the country, said a finance ministry official.

The team is now seeing whether the SWIFT system has been hacked, added the official.

The BB has recently introduced real-time gross settlement and other modern technologies for quick service delivery -- and all these systems use SWIFT.

The forensic investigation team is now looking at how the system was hacked and the money stolen.

Before anything concrete is known, the investigation has to be finished first, said the official. Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman said digital transactions were on the rise throughout the world and cybercrime gangs were taking advantage of the loopholes in technology to launder money.

"Bangladesh is not out of bounds of cyber attacks," he said at a conference in Habiganj on Sunday, adding that the entire financial sector would have to be more active in risk management.

Meanwhile, the BB has succeeded in recovering the \$20 million that flew into Sri Lanka, due to quick correspondence with a bank in the island nation. Of the rest \$81 million, a big portion has been frozen following talks with two banks in the Philippines.

A BB official said the central bank would be able to recover a big chunk of the money.

Star editor

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lapse in his editorial judgment in publishing some reports, based on information given by the Taskforce Interrogation Cell during the 2007-08 caretaker government rule, without being able to verify those independently.

The cases against the Star editor have drawn condemnation from local and foreign journalists and their unions as well as human rights bodies.

Yesterday, Advocate Mahbubul Akbar led the defence team, which include Magura District Bar Association President Amjad Hossain, advocates Islam Ali Sardar and Kazi Minhajuddin.

No scope

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dignity and honour of the country's women by creating opportunities for them, she added.

Hasina said women have become successful everywhere in Bangladesh and they are in equal status with their male counterparts in education, sports and creative works.

She said country's women are now working in higher positions in all sectors like education, the administration, the judiciary, the armed forces and law enforcement agencies.

Mentioning that her government made women secretaries, DCs and SPs, the PM said she had to face a lot of obstacles from different quarters in doing so. She pointed out that female officers have a lower tendency to be corrupt than their male colleagues.

The country's two golden daughters recently won gold medals for Bangladesh in weight lifting and swimming in an international competition in India, she went on saying.

Earlier, a documentary on women development was screened at the function.

Christine Hunter, country representative of UN Women, spoke at the programme as a special guest, with State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze in the chair.

Victims content

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She also expressed her gratitude towards Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her determination to hold the trials of war criminals like Quasem.

Expressing satisfaction over the verdict, veteran Journalist Nasiruddin Chowdhury, a member of the then Mujib Bahini, called for its quick execution.

Chowdhury was picked up and tortured at the camp in late November, 1971.

He said Quasem had ordered Al-Badr men to beat him with iron rods and sticks, and gave him electric shocks to glean information on other freedom fighters in the area.

Many Bangladeshis who were supporting the war were caught, and tortured to death at the hotel on Quasem's instructions, said the journalist.

Talking to The Daily Star correspondents at his office in Kadamtoli area yesterday afternoon, Jahangir Chowdhury, another victim tortured by Quasem and his cohorts at the hotel, expressed his happiness with the SC verdict.

"I cannot explain my happiness in words. The verdict has freed the entire nation from a stigma," said Jahangir, also a prosecution witness in the case against Quasem.

He claimed that some relatives of Quasem had approached him with sweetmeats to convince him not to testify.

Jahangir said the Pakistan Army and Al-Badr men detained him from his home in Kadamtoli area in late November, 1971, when he was the deputy chief of Joy Bangla Bahini in Chittagong city.

He was blindfolded and tortured at Dalim Hotel for 23 days during the war, he added.

The freedom fighter also thanked the government for trying the war criminals.

Mexico denies claim 'El Chapo' made US visits

AFP, Mexico City

Mexico's government sought Monday to counter a PR offensive by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, vowing to maintain his tough prison conditions and denying claims that the drug kingpin had sneaked into the US while on the run.

Guzman's relatives and lawyers have given a series of interviews in recent weeks, claiming that the authorities were mistreating him and putting his health at risk by waking him up in the middle of the night.

"The government warns that there is an open media strategy by this individual, his defense team and other people," National Security Commissioner Renato Sales told a hastily arranged news conference.

"We will not cede to speculations whose only goal is to divert attention and victimize this person to soften his surveillance."

'Please pray for us'

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freedom loving people.

jasim was tortured to death there and his body was dumped in the Karnaphuli river. His body was never found.

And the man who led the killing was Mir Quasem Ali, the chief of the notorious Al-Badr force in Chittagong.

But justice caught up with him in November, 2014, when a special tribunal sentenced him to death for Jasim's killing. And yesterday, a Supreme Court bench unanimously upheld his death penalty, paving the way for his execution.

"I always had the thought I would not get justice for such a grievous crime as killing a youth. It cannot be ... I'm very satisfied today ... I got justice finally," said Hasina while talking to The Daily Star over the phone.

"He filled the void of a brother as I don't have any. And I still feel his absence," said Hasina, who testified in the war crimes case against Quasem.

She demanded quick execution of the verdict.

Youngest of 10 children of school teacher Syed Ahmed, Jasim was a higher secondary school examinee at the Chittagong College when he joined the Liberation War. He used to visit Hasina at Bepari Para in Chittagong regularly.

The young freedom fighter asked his cousin to cook scented rice and she complied. Jasim had the rice and left urging her to wish him luck so that they could be successful in freeing the nation from the clutches of the Pakistan army and their local collaborators.

"Jasim, a brave youth freedom fighter was murdered in unlawful captivity at the Al-Badr camp where he was brought on capture. He was non-combatant at the time of his forcible capture," observed the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in its verdict.

Lawyer Shafiu Alam, who was among the captives at Dalim Hotel, in his book "Sei Se Somoy Anonde Bedonay" wrote that on November 28, 1971, three to four men flung open the door of a room carrying a boy on their shoulders.

They threw him on the floor.

"As the door was closed, I removed his blindfold, untied him, and took him in my lap. When we lifted his face to the sunlight coming through the ventilator, we were shocked.

"It was teenage freedom fighter Jasim! His head almost slipped off my lap. We realised that Jasim was no more," said Shafiu in his book published in 2006.

The book was used as evidence in the case.

Prosecution witness Sanullah Chowdhury, who was abducted on November 27, 1971 and was held at the Dalim Hotel for 12 days, said a boy, who had endured severe torture, was brought to the room on November 28, 1971.

"Pointing to that boy, someone told the Al-Badr men 'he is not dead yet throw him in so that the detainees understand the consequence of not telling the truth'. Then they [the Al-Badr men] left the boy in the room," he said.

"Advocate Shafiu Alam told me that he [who gave the orders] was Mir Quasem Ali, commander of Badr [Al-Badr] force," he said.

The special tribunal in its judgment said, "Killing Jasim, a youth freedom fighter in captivity at the AB [Al-Badr] camp was the ending phase of the organised and system cruelties that, as revealed, were practiced as routine activities at the torture and detention camp directing the detained civilians brought there on capture."

"The pained relatives could not have trace even of their dear ones. What a brutality! What a grisly felony attacking the humanity!" it said.

Even Hasina did not get to know what had happened to her cousin until independence.

She came to know from Shafiu and Saifuddin Khan, another detainee, about the fate of Jasim.

On the trying of war crimes suspects four decades after the death of her cousin, she said it was "a second war".

"I wish for success in this war," she said, thanking the prosecution and investigators of the war crimes cases.

AL hails SC verdict

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Hailing the verdict, the ruling AL brought out a procession in front of the party headquarters on the Bangabandhu Avenue.

Talking to the press at his Karwan Bazar office, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the judgment once again proved that no one can influence the apex court.

"The verdict has fulfilled the expectations of the nation and so, we all are happy with it."

The party now wants speedy execution of the verdict, he said.

"Through its execution, the nation would take one step forward to get rid of a stigma," he added.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) too hailed the verdict.

In a statement, CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim and General Secretary Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed demanded immediate execution of the verdict and ban on Jamaat-Shibir.

They also demanded that a high-powered commission be formed to try the forces, both at home and abroad, that were involved in the war crimes

during the 1971 Liberation War.

JAMAAT MEN HELD
Two Jamaat activists were detained yesterday morning when, police claim, they tried to vandalise vehicles in the capital's Mouchak area.

Around 20-25 Jamaat activists brought out a procession around 11:30am following the SC verdict that upheld the death penalty for Mir Quasem Ali, Officer-in-Charge Mashiur Rahman of Ramna Police Station told The Daily Star.

As they tried to vandalise vehicles, police intervened and opened fire, he said.

The detained Jamaat activists -- Sumon, 25, and another unnamed youth aged around 22 -- were hit by shotgun pellets during the incident, the OC added.

Sumon took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, according to a hospital source.

In Narayanganj, the Bandar Thana unit Jamaat brought out a procession, protesting the SC verdict.

Police arrested a local Jamaat leader named Saidur Rahman, 50, from the procession, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

Penguin who meets

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pick him up," said Pereira who has named the penguin Dindim.

Pereira de Souza believes Dindim formed a bond with him after he found it stranded on the beach and took him home. Over a week he cleaned the creature's tarred feathers in the shower, fed him a daily diet of fish to improve his strength then took him back to the sea to lethingo.

"But he wouldn't leave, he stayed with me for 11 months and then just after he changed his coat with new feathers he disappeared," recalled Pereira de Souza. "Everyone said he wouldn't return but he has been coming back to visit me for the past four years. He arrives in June and leaves to go home in February and every year he becomes more affectionate as he appears even happier to see me."

Biologist Joao Paulo Krajewski, who interviewed Pereira de Souza for Globo TV, told The Independent: "I have never seen anything like this before. I think the penguin believes Joao is part of his family and probably a penguin as well. When he sees him he wags his tail like a dog and honks with delight."

Penguins live for about 25 years and are known for their loyalty to their mates, staying with the same partner until they die. However, environmentalists warn that, while hundreds of the Magellanic species are known to naturally migrate thousands of miles north in search of food, there has been a worrying rise in the phenomenon of oceanic creatures washing up on Brazil's beaches. Between 2010 to 2013, the Humpback Whale Institute in Bahia recorded more than 180 cases

of mammals stranded along the Brazilian coast.

Professor David Zee, an oceanographer from Rio de Janeiro's State University, said the increase is due in part to global climatic changes.

He explained: "Every year the strong ocean currents from the Falkland region traps and brings many species of seals, whales, dolphins, turtles and penguins to the Brazilian coast. This is becoming more problematic due to environmental changes and the increasing frequency of el Niño, in which the Pacific Ocean is warming up for prolonged periods of time."

"The marine creatures get confused and lost as they are dragged away on the surf from their normal habitat and end up in areas where they are unable to survive."

Professor Zee added sea animals face "increased danger with the ongoing contamination of the oceans with oil and other derivatives" spilled by oil tankers.

Luckily the ending for Pereira de Souza and Dindim has been a happy one, even though it is illegal in Brazil to keep wild animals as pets.

Prof Krajewski said: "Professionals who work with animals try to avoid relationships like this occurring so they are able to reintroduce the animal into the wild. But in this isolated case the authorities allowed Dindim to stay with Joao because of his kindness."

"I'm flattered Dindim is happy to exchange his home with thousands of other penguins every year to find his way here to spend one-to-one time with me," said Pereira de Souza. "It's a very special relationship."