



Mahbub Alam, dean of the school of liberal arts and social science of Independent University of Bangladesh, along with faculty members, students and members of IUB Photography Club pose for a photo after the inauguration of The Daily Star-Standard Bank Celebrating Life photo exhibition. PHOTO: STAR

Promotion, transfer in police admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the latest reshuffle in the police administration, the home ministry today transferred and promoted 19 senior officials holding ranks from deputy inspector general to deputy superintendent of police.

The home ministry has sent the transfer order to the police headquarters, said a home ministry circular, signed by Deputy Secretary Mohammad Ilias Hossain, which was issued in the afternoon to this effect.

Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, Md Shafiqul Islam, has been transferred as DIG to Barisal range replacing Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan. Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan has been transferred to Naval Police in Dhaka, replacing Md Maniruzzaman who has been transferred to Police Headquarters in Dhaka.

Furthermore, Shaibal Kanti Chowdhury, DIG of ZPZ Police Headquarters in Dhaka was transferred to SPBN police headquarters in Dhaka, Additional DIG, Md Mahbubur Rahman, Dhaka range, was transferred as Police Commissioner (DIG) to Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) while the Joint Police Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), YM Belalur Rahman, was transferred as additional police commissioner (DIG) to DMP.

The Additional DIG of police headquarters Abu Hasan Muhammad Tariq has been promoted to DIG of Police Headquarters in Dhaka.

Besides them, 12 other senior police officials, with the ranks from superintendent of police to deputy police commissioner, have been transferred and promoted to different ranks and positions.

Reclaim

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greater interest of the country and its people.

"You [DCs] are the employees of the people's republic. You're holding a very responsible and respected post. So, you must be more careful and strategic in discharging your duties," he said.

Hamid called upon the DCs not to do anything which creates an embarrassing situation both for the government and the bureaucracy.

Saying that the persisting corruption is a major barrier to the country's development and governance, he stressed the need for taking a united effort to combat the menace.

The president said the government raised salaries and other benefits of its all employees, which is enough to live in the present socioeconomic context. "That's why we must check graft at any cost and ensure exemplary punishment of those involved in corruption."

COURT REFORMS

EU could halt Poland's voting rights

AFP, Brussels

The EU warned Poland on Wednesday it would suspend its voting rights if it pushes ahead with controversial court reforms, sparking a furious reaction from Warsaw.

Poland's right-wing government accused Brussels of "blackmail" after the European Commission significantly raised the stakes in the confrontation.

President Andrzej Duda's unexpected vetoing of two controversial reforms, including one targeting the supreme court, had not ended the risk to the independence of the Polish judiciary, Brussels said.

"In this past week some things have changed in Poland -- and some things have not," European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told a news conference after a fresh high-level meeting on the crisis.

Investigate Bacchu

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On July 14, 2014, Bangladesh Bank sent a report on the BASIC Bank scam to the ACC, detailing how people embezzled money from the bank through shell companies and dubious accounts.

After primary investigation, ACC filed around two dozen cases in September 2015 accusing over 20 bank officials and two dozen borrowing firms.

The HC bench yesterday issued the order after hearing an appeal against the bail given to Shahjahan Ali, an accused in one of the loan scam cases and chief surveyor and managing partner of Rupsha Surveyors.

The HC upheld Shahjahan's bail given by a lower court.

Metropolitan Session Judges' Court in Dhaka on September 28, 2016, granted Shahjahan bail. He was arrested on August 10, 2016.

Later, the ACC filed a review petition with the High Court challenging the lower court's order.

Lawyer Mamun Mahbub said now

the ACC would investigate whether the then chairman of BASIC Bank and board of directors were involved in the loan scam.

The commission could press charges against them if they were found guilty, he said, adding that the commission could even arrest them if it thought they could go on the run.

In May 2014, the central bank fired BASIC Bank managing director Kazi Fakhrul Islam for presiding over a period of serious irregularities at the state-run bank.

Bangladesh Bank found him to be culpable in seven counts, including lack of sound management, failure to protect depositors' interest, and loan irregularities.

According to the central bank's probes, BASIC Bank had given loans without verification of customers' creditworthiness and proper documents. The lender also extended loans to defaulters.

Most of the irregularities were in the bank's Dilkusha, Shantinagar and Gulshan branches.

HC hearing ends

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seven days after the verdict is pronounced.

During the hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed to the HC to uphold the trial court judgment in the cases in which 26 people, including 16 former Rapid Action Battalion members, were sentenced to death and nine others jailed.

He said the offence had been committed by the accused Rab personnel in exchange for money paid by former ward councillor of Narayanganj City Corporation Nur Hossain.

He said call detail record clearly proved that Nur Hossain and Rab official Tareque Sayeed Mohammad (now dismissed) constantly maintained active communication with the killing squad led by Maj Arif Hossain (now dismissed) and Lt commander Masud Rana (now dismissed).

Therefore, the trial court verdict does not require any interference by the HC, the attorney general said.

AAG Bashir Ahmed argued that Nur Hossain, Tareque Sayeed, Arif Hossain and Masud Rana were in the commanding position in committing the incident of killing seven innocent

people.

The brutal and gruesome murder was committed in a preplanned way, he said, adding that death is the appropriate sentence for them.

Defence counsels -- advocate Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, advocate SM Shahjahan, advocate SM Abdul Mobin and advocate Ahsan Ullah -- placed arguments defending the accused.

Citing different grounds, they also prayed to the HC to acquit their clients of the seven-murder charges.

On January 16, a Narayanganj court found 35 people, including 25 former Rab officials and expelled ruling Awami League man Nur Hossain, guilty of abduction and murder of seven people and destroying evidence in April 2014.

The court handed down death penalty to 26 people, including 16 former Rab members, and jailed nine others for various terms.

The bodies of seven people, including Narayanganj City Corporation councillor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker, were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river after they were abducted on April 27, 2014.

EC working

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Assuring her all-out cooperation in the project, Hasina hoped that the French company would provide quality products and complete the work within the stipulated time.

The French envoy also informed Hasina of the progress on the Bangabandhu Satellite, which is scheduled to be launched in December.

Aubert handed over a letter of French PM Edouard Philippe to Hasina where he said both the countries are going to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the beginning of the diplomatic relations this year.

Philippe hoped that Dhaka and Paris would continue to strengthen the

cooperation in a number of areas such as climate change and sustainable development.

Recalling French support during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, Hasina welcomed the young leadership in the French government.

Hasina said she was glad to see the young and dynamic leadership in France and was waiting to meet the new French president during an upcoming event of Unesco in Paris in late October.

Senior Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Suraiya Begum and Military Secretary to the PM Maj Gen Miah Mohammad Joynul Abedin were present at that time.

Trump to bar transgender people from US military

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday announced that transgender people may not serve "in any capacity" in the US military, citing the "tremendous medical costs and disruption" their presence would cause.

The announcement served as a stunning reversal for the US military, which has spent recent months working with the heads of service branches to implement a plan put in place under Barack Obama's administration to start accepting transgender recruits.

"After consultation with my generals and military experts, please be

advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US Military," Trump tweeted.

"Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you."

The Pentagon did not have any immediate comment the implications of Trump's announcement, with spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis referring questions to the White House.

Good days

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income rises to as much as Tk 1,000 per day."

Sagor is not alone. Many local furniture-makers become boat builders once the rainy season arrives. A six to ten-foot long boat in Mirzapur's market currently retails for between Tk 2,000 to Tk 4,000 and, according to boat trader Md Abdul Mannan, as many as 500 new boats are sold in the market weekly from about early June, when many areas adjoining the beel submerge.

"When the monsoon season begins we worry about transport over the coming months," says one local, Md Abdur Rashid from Choto Bishkhali village in the same upazila, who has come to Mirzapur to buy a boat. "Many areas submerge every year. This year additional floods have made the situation even more critical. Roads have been impassable for the past two weeks which has persuaded me to buy a new boat."

Many people buy new boats every year since the ones from the previous monsoon season are often damaged during the intervening months, he adds. It's a reality that keeps more than one hundred boat builders busy across the Chalan Beel area.

3 get death

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court either had to punish all or exempt all from the charges.

On February 12 last year, Monir Mia, 7, Zakaria Shuvo, 8, Tajel Mia, 10, and Ismail Mia, 10, were killed at Sundratiki of Bahubal upazila, over enmity between their fathers and their rival group in village arbitration council.

Monir was then class one student of Sundratiki Government Primary School and his cousins Zakaria and Tajel were in class two and four at the same school. Their neighbour Ismail was a student of Sundratiki Madrasa.

Detectives in April that year pressed charges with a Habiganj court against Abdul Ali, his two sons Rubel and Jewel, Arju, Bashir, Bachchu, Babul, Ustar and Billal.

In June 2016, the Habiganj district's Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal took the charges into cognizance and issued arrest warrants for the fugitives.

In March this year, the case was transferred to the Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Anisul warns

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Historically, floods in August are caused by the Padma. But if the water level of the Jamuna and the Meghna increases at the same time, it could cause a high magnitude flood.

A flood is treated as high magnitude if it inundates an area of over 30,000sqkm.

Meanwhile, local government, rural development and cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said the waterlogging problem would resolved soon.

"I promise that you will not see these [waterlogging] from next year," he told reporters at the secretariat yesterday, emerging from the DC conference.

Bangladesh has already experienced two bouts of flood this year -- one in March in the haor regions and this month's ongoing inundation in Sylhet and northern districts.

At the deputy commissioners' conference on Tuesday, the relief and disaster management ministry issued a preparation advice. The advice was repeated yesterday with "specific information".

The deputy commissioners have been directed to repair weak embankments, said the water resources minister.

About the recent inundation of several districts, including Dhaka and Chittagong, the minister said it was not a flood, rather waterlogging caused by incessant rain.

He also stressed on the need for river dredging to avoid erosion and assured that his ministry would spend half of its total allocation for dredging work in future.

'Cocaine dealer'

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Medicine Ward, Jaman Ahmed.

In an order issued by the Ministry for Health and Family Welfare on July 17, the doctors were transferred to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in Mohakhali of Dhaka, said sources in CMCH.

The gazette issued, undersigned by AKM Fazlul Haque, joint secretary of the ministry, said the four doctors had been posted in DGHS for administrative reasons, said CMCH sources.

Sources in CMCH said Nur Mohammad, an accused in a cocaine haul case, was being treated in a VIP cabin of the hospital since May 14 last year. He was in the cabin for around nine months, said CMCH sources, adding, as the matter came to light, officials of the Ministry of Health looked into it and later he was sent back to Chittagong Central Jail (CCJ) on February 2.

Earlier, police arrested him on January 15 last year in connection with a case over cocaine haul using an oil-laden container in Chittagong Port on January 6 last year. The container came from Bolivia.

The ministry formed a probe-body headed by a deputy secretary to investigate the matter, said CMCH sources, adding, the committee visited CMCH in March.

Contacted, Mujibur Rahman, jailer of CCJ, said when patients are sent to medical centres from jail, it is the concern of the medical authority as to how the patient would be given treatment.

"We usually discourage keeping patients in a cabin on security grounds unless the patient is a lawmaker or a cabinet member," he said, adding, "The status of Nur Mohammad does not comply with getting treatment in a

VIP cabin."

Mujibur, however, said there is no written rule regarding who [among the accused in jail] are eligible for getting treatment in a cabin and who are not.

Contacted, Dideraul said he had "no connection" regarding the treatment of Nur Mohammad.

The resident physicians, resident surgeons or the emergency medical officers decided the matter, he said, adding, "My signature was not in any papers in this regard...no recommendation came from me."

"Despite this, I have been made an OSD," he said, adding, "I am almost at the end of my service period...only two months are left for my retirement. Now I will have to go to Dhaka and all my retirement benefits would be processed from there."

He said no specific date was mentioned in the OSD order for joining the new office. "It ordered us to join immediately," he said.

Contacted, Fazlul said the four doctors were made OSD as per the recommendation of the high powered probe-body of the ministry.

Asked, why the deputy director was made OSD, he said the probe-body investigated the matter and submitted a report to the ministry. "Action has been taken against those who were found involved in this connection by the probe-body," he said.

Asked whether there are any guidelines regarding a person's eligibility for getting treatment in a cabin, he said an accused in a cocaine haul case cannot be given treatment in a VIP cabin as he is not a VIP.

"Our probe-body looked into all aspects and submitted a report to the ministry and steps have been taken as per their report," he said.

4 killed in 'shootouts'

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The team went there gleaning information from Shah Alam alias Alam, who was arrested earlier in connection with murdering Mizanur, that his cohorts used to mug people in Beribandh and nearby areas, using a white car, Masudur said.

When the team signalled a white car to stop around 4:30am, four people came out of the vehicle and started firing at police, forcing them to retaliate.

After the "gun battle", Jakir and Mintu were found lying on the spot with bullet wounds, while others fled. The injured were declared dead after they were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said police.

The law enforcers also claimed to have seized the car, recovered two firearms and several bullets from the scene.

On June 21 this year, four muggers picked up Mizanur, who was in plainclothes, in a car, mistaking him for a passenger near his Uttara residence. Mizanur, an ASP of Savar highway circle, was going to his workplace.

The muggers then strangled Mizanur, knowing that he was a top police official, police said.

While disclosing the arrest of Shah Alam on Sunday, police named three others Faruk, Mintu alias Kamal and Jakir, saying that the trio were involved in the murder.

EU warns US

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the 28 member states have struggled to stay united on their own sanctions on Russia that were first adopted after Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

"If our concerns are not taken into account sufficiently, we stand ready to act appropriately within a matter of days. America first cannot mean that Europe's interests come last," European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker said.

"The US bill could have unintended unilateral effects that impact the EU's energy security interests," added Juncker, saying that there should be unity among western allies on sanctions.

To date, anti-Russia sanctions have been coordinated on both sides of the Atlantic in a common Western front reminiscent of the Cold War.

The row comes just a day after Trump blasted the "very protectionist" EU's trade policies, saying Washington was working on a deal with Britain after Brexit.

- German, French warnings -

The latest US sanctions package is aimed at punishing the Kremlin for allegedly meddling in the 2016 US presidential election, and Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The EU is worried the sweeping measures would still unfairly penalise European firms that contribute to the development of Russia's energy sector, and its diplomats have heavily lobbied Washington to water down the measures.

In a small concession to Europe, the House modified a provision so the bill only targets pipelines originating in Russia, sparing those that merely pass through, such as the Caspian pipeline that carries oil from Kazakhstan to Europe.

However France said the US bill was "illegal" in terms of international law,

in its current form, according to a foreign ministry spokeswoman said.

Germany believed that "European businesses must not be targeted by the US sanctions", government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer said.

But Berlin -- which led efforts against the bill amid fears it would hit a controversial pipeline project between Russia and Germany known as Nord Stream 2 -- also insisted the legislation had been modified to require that Washington confer with EU allies if the sanctions should involve the European energy supply.

The project, which is opposed by eastern EU member states, aims to carry Russian natural gas under the Baltic Sea, bypassing Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic States.

But other projects are at risk, with major energy companies such as Italy's ENI, Shell and BP all crying out for a halt to the sanctions.

"It seems that we energy companies are nothing but ping pong balls... in a political game," Mario Mehren, CEO of German firm Wintershall told Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

The EU and US imposed sanctions in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, overcoming division on how far to go in punishing Moscow.

In addition, the EU broadened sanctions against Russia after the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine in July 2014, blamed by the EU on the rebels.

- 'Serious step' -

The Kremlin initially slammed the vote as a "serious step" towards wrecking chances of improving US-Russia ties just weeks after Putin and Trump held their first face to face meeting in Germany.

But it later took a softer tone.