

DRAFT NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY PM to head nat'l security body

Civil-military, media-military relationship gets priority

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The draft national defence policy provides for the formation of a national security committee headed by the prime minister to make necessary recommendations for the government to ensure state security.

The Daily Star got access to a copy of the draft policy titled "the National Defence Policy-2018" approved in principle by the cabinet on Monday.

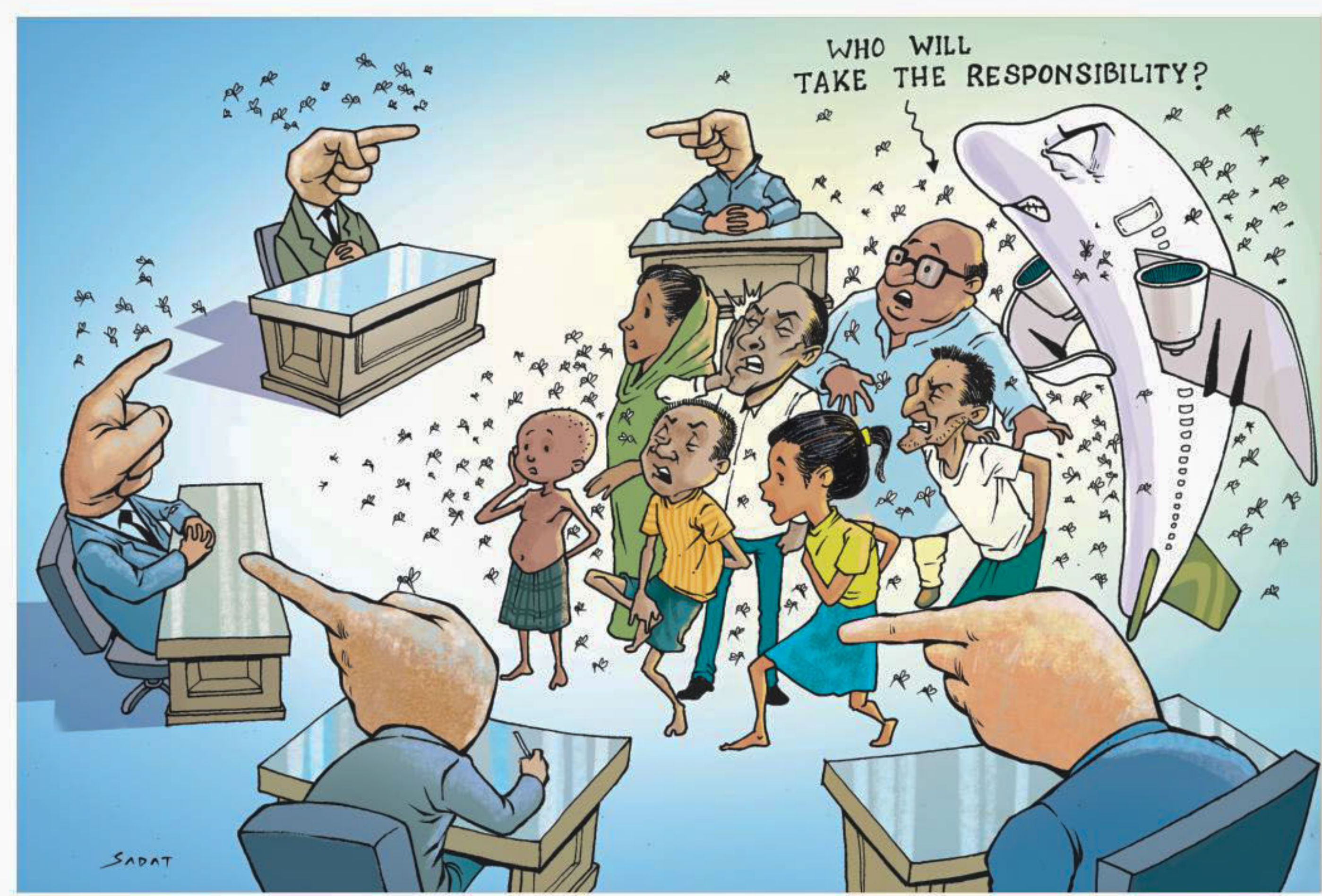
It outlines plans for enhancing civil-military relations through various measures, including formation of a council comprised of civilian experts.

Once formed, the committee will be the highest policy-making authority on national security. And it will consist of ministers and government officials, according to the draft policy.

The committee will evaluate national and international security situations and other issues related to state security, and make necessary recommendations, says the draft.

A number of former senior army officials and civil bureaucrats have lauded the government move to formulate a complete defence policy for the first time.

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WORLD'S DEADLIEST ANIMALS
Number of people killed by them a year

MOSQUITO	7,25,000
HUMAN	4,75,000
SNAKE	50,000
DOG	25,000
TSETSE FLY	10,000
FRESHWATER SNAIL	10,000
ELEPHANT	100
LION	100

SOURCE: WHO

Shot during raid, inspector dies

Family members of 'shooter' detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"My Jalal left me without saying anything; my Jalal built this house for me."

Ayesha Khatun was wailing, holding a photo of her son at her house in Kaliganj, Jhenidah.

She is the mother of Md Jalal Uddin, an inspector of Detective Branch of DMP, who was shot by armed criminals in the capital's Pirebagh around Monday midnight.

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Mosquitoes farmed, in fact

9 govt organisations let mosquitoes grow in millions at water bodies in and around the capital; pass the buck on city corporations for containing the menace

HELEMUL ALAM and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Mosquitoes have developed no new "hyper-reproductive capacity" but they are being farmed in Dhaka.

When Dhaka-dwellers are finding it hard to cope with the growing mosquito menace, eleven organisations have been found helping the insect population to rise by the millions every day.

The organisations, including north and south city corporations, have around 50 canals, 12 lakes, 23 ponds, and other water-bodies spanning over no less than 4,000 bighas.

During an investigation, The Daily Star found nine organisations, which do not spend a single taka and two others which spend only a meagre amount, to clean the vast swatch of stagnant water-bodies in and around the capital, considered ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed.

The primary responsibility of controlling the mosquito population lies with both the city corporations. However, the only step they are seen taking is occasional spraying of insecticide around city households and into a few drains and water bodies.

Despite the Chikungunya outbreak last year, none of the organisations, city corporations apart, cared to clean the stagnant water bodies.

When queried on their failure to maintain the water bodies, the identical answer is: It's the job of the city corporations.

In the last five years, both the corporations have spent around Tk 150 crore on mosquito control but those could not give any relief to Dhaka dwellers.

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Vehicles kick up dust as they drive through the run-down Rampura-Demra road in the capital's Banasree area yesterday. The road has been in a poor state for months, but the authorities seem to be turning a blind eye to the suffering of commuters.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



MARCH 21, 1971 Bhutto arrives, meets Yahya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A significant development of the day was the arrival of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Dhaka. The chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party had been asked by President Yahya Khan to come to Dhaka and join the negotiations the regime was conducting with the Awami League.

Soon after his arrival, Bhutto met Yahya, who apprised him of the talks he had been having with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman since March 16.

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PLANE CRASH VICTIMS Identities of rest three confirmed

Bodies to be brought back tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The identities of the three remaining Bangladeshi victims of the US-Bangla aircraft crash were confirmed yesterday.

They are Nazrul Islam, 62, Mollah Alifuzzaman, 30, and Pias Roy, 23, according to a top official of US-Bangla Airlines.

"Their identities were confirmed through forensic tests. The bodies will be flown home on Thursday [tomorrow]," the official told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

The airlines authorities yesterday sent injured Nepalese

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'TECHNICAL GLITCH'
Biman flight returns 15 min after take-off
Cancelled after 7hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Biman flight to Saidpur had to return to Dhaka and make an emergency landing at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport following a technical issue yesterday.

The plane, a Bombardier Dash-8, with 76 passengers took off at 12:28pm but returned at 12:50pm, said

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The Daily Star
SPECIAL SERIES ON
IRAQ INVASION

The invasion of Iraq by the US led coalition that started 15 years ago this month is a war whose lessons we should never forget. It not only destroyed the Middle Eastern countries of Iraq and Libya and triggered the Syrian civil war with its endless external interventions, and started the war in Yemen, it also spawned ISIS, started the so-called war on terrorism that spread extremism all over the world and gave us our own version of it in the Holey Artisan killings in July of 2016.

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