
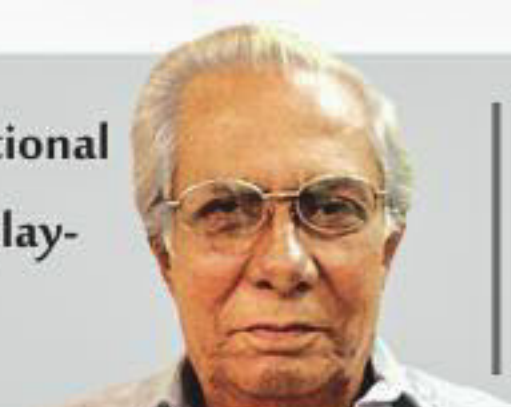



"Many Awami League leaders claim that their government is development-friendly but I do not see any development in the char areas."



"Gang rape, child rape and murder are becoming a national disease. It's an ominous sign. The ruling party is also playing a role in this."



"We are open to work again on the political declaration and to be more ambitious for the future relationship."



Taliban kill 126 Afghan soldiers

Militants spray bullets on troops after car bomb flattens building at military training centre

REUTERS, Kabul

A Taliban attack in central Afghanistan yesterday killed scores of security personnel, officials said, with some estimates putting the death toll at more than 100, amid government silence about one of the most deadly insurgent attacks in months.

Attackers rammed a captured military Humvee packed with explosives into a training centre of the National Directorate for Security in Maidan Wardak province, west of the capital Kabul. At least two gunmen followed up, spraying the compound with gunfire before they were shot down.

"We have information that 126 people have been killed in the explosion inside the military training centre, eight special commandoes are among the dead," said a senior official in the defence ministry in Kabul, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Local officials also said that scores of troops and NDS personnel were killed in the attack but there was no official confirmation of the casualty toll, with officials ordered not to talk to media for fear of damaging morale.

"I have been told not to make the death toll figures public. It is frustrating to hide the facts," said a senior interior ministry official in Kabul.

The complex attack on a highly secured base underlined the heavy pressure facing Afghan security forces as increasingly confi-



dent Taliban fighters have stepped up operations, even as diplomatic efforts to agree a peaceful settlement to the conflict have begun.

Taliban insurgents, fighting to drive out international forces from Afghanistan and

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A toddler plays on one of the busiest railway tracks in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday afternoon. The baby crawled out of a shack and sat there while his mother was cooking. Residents of the slum by the tracks do not seem to care much about the risks of living there.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Perform duty with honesty

PM tells cabinet colleagues; 1pc quota in govt jobs for the differently-abled to stay

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the new cabinet to work with sincerity and honesty to fulfill the expectations of people who have voted the Awami League to power again with a huge mandate.

"The cabinet will work with sincerity and honesty. Every work has to be done with sincerity...this has to be kept in mind," she said at the maiden cabinet meeting of her new government at her office, reports UNB.

Hasina, also the AL chief, said there were responsibilities and duties of the government towards the people who sent the AL to power for a third consecutive term. "We are here to perform that duty. The power of honesty is limitless...we've been able to prove that several times."

She said the country would advance if the cabinet

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READYMADE GARMENT SECTOR

2 workers 'framed' in unrest fallout

Sub-inspector who led the arrest says workers can be made accused in any case

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Ataur Rahman and Sabuj are workers of Saybolt Tex Ltd, a garment factory in Baipail of Ashulia. On January 9, they went to work on time and returned home after their shift ended.

They made no exception in the next two days, according to family members and fellow workers.

But things changed around the midnight on January 11. The Ashulia police picked them up from their homes without showing any reason.

The two were then made accused in a case filed for vandalising machines of Mahmud Fashion Ltd, a factory 10km away from their workplace and homes. They also stood

accused of assaulting officials and stealing some pants.

According to the case filed with Ashulia Police Station, the two committed the offences on January 9 though both were on duty that day as stated by their wives and other workers.

Interestingly, complainant Md Shah Alam, senior executive (human resource and administration) of Mahmud Fashion in Baroipara, mentioned 29 named and 20 to 25 unnamed workers of his factory as the accused in the case.

Sub-inspector Md Belayet Hossain of Ashulia Police Station, who led a police team to arrest the duo from their rented houses, said workers can be made accused in any case.

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11 GOVT HOSPITALS

ACC finds 40pc doctors absent

They were busy in pvt practice, says ACC high-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surprise visit to 11 government hospitals and health complexes in eight districts including Dhaka yesterday, the Anti-Corruption Commission found 92 doctors out of a total of 230 absent at their workplaces.

"They [the doctors] were absent because they were busy with their private practice," said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, ACC's director general (administration).

Eleven teams from the ACC made the visits between 9:00am and 2:00pm.

Recently, the ACC received allegations through its hotline -- 106 -- that patients were being deprived of medical services due to the absence of doctors in government hospitals and health complexes.

Munir said such a situation in the health sector was sad-dening.

"If they do not have the spirit to serve people, they must leave the medical service," he said, adding that they would

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Surprise on cards in the JS

PM to make changes in important posts

RASHIDUL HASAN

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may bring in major changes to the key parliamentary posts of the new Jatiya Sangsad, said senior Awami League leaders.

Earlier this month, the PM came up with a surprise by inducting many new faces into the cabinet.

Those who have been dropped from the cabinet may find themselves leading different parliamentary standing committees this time.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, a number of senior AL leaders said Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was very likely to continue in her post.

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Dhaka leg starts with a flourish

SPORTS REPORTER

One would have thought that following the Sylhet leg of the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League that saw some thrilling contests, people would flock to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to see Rajshahi Kings take on Comilla Victorians and Dhaka Dynamites square off against Chittagong Vikings.

Surprisingly however, the second Dhaka leg of the tournament was welcomed by a sparse crowd but the cricket did not fail to entertain the few who showed up. In the first game of the day, Rajshahi rode on a flawless 62-ball 104 from Laurie Evans -- the first century of the

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People walk on stacks of iron rods left on the footpath near a construction site between Banglamotor and Hatirpool intersections in the capital yesterday. The sight of footpaths being occupied by construction materials, parked cars, motorbikes and illegal structures is all too common in the city.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

8 years as secy but no work

Goes on post-retirement leave today; he was made OSD in Oct 2011

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Around eight years ago, Md Ebadot Ali was promoted to acting secretary. But he was made an officer on special duty (OSD) on October 10, 2011 when he was discharging his duties as the acting secretary at the-then Railway Division under the communication ministry.

Yet, in a rare move in the civil bureaucracy, Ebadot got a promotion two months later and became the secretary despite being an OSD.

Since then, he didn't have to work on anything and didn't even need to go to his office regularly.

But Ebadot Ali got his monthly salary -- Tk 78,000 -- on time. He also got three festival bonuses every year, a fulltime ministry car, residential benefit, medical facilities, travel allowance, entertainment allowance, allowance for his children's education, telephone bill and a domestic aide.

Besides, he got many other facilities paid for by the taxpayers for the last seven years, three months and 11 days.

And Ebadot goes on Post-Retirement Leave (PRL) today as an OSD.

He will enjoy the same benefits, excluding entertainment and phone allowance, for the next one year.

He will not get any reception though, something which a secretary usually gets on their last working day from the officials of the ministry.

Ebadot was made OSD by the Ministry of Public Administration following a recommendation of the communication ministry. But the reason for the change was not mentioned in the office order.

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