ROHINGYA CAMPS

Arsa, 9 other armed groups found active

Says defence ministry report

RASHIDUL HASAN

Ten terrorist and dacoit gangs, including the militant outfit Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), are active at Rohingya camps, according to a report placed before the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry.

The defence ministry prepared the report and placed it before the parliamentary watchdog at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

In the report, it was said that Tambru's Konapara camp on the zero line has become the centre point for Arsa's organisational operations, training, and control of drug smuggling and terrorist activities due to a lack of regular patrolling and surveillance.

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Thick smoke from fires in the garbage has engulfed the Aminbazar landfill area in Savar. With air pollution in and around Dhaka already at hazardous levels, this kind of activity is seriously threatening public health. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Debate over presidential polls 'unnecessary'

Says CEC Kazi Habibul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday said confusion and debate over the latest presidential election was "unnecessary and unexpected".

He said he, as the returning officer of the election, reviewed the relevant articles of the constitution, laws and rules while scrutinising the nomination papers of Md Shahabuddin and found that there was no barrier for him to become president.

The ruling Awami League nominee, Shahabuddin, a former commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission and also an AL advisory council member, was elected president unopposed on Monday.

The government on that day issued a gazette notification declaring Shahabuddin, also a retired

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India probing into BBC's tax structure

Says the news organisation as raids enter second day

REUTERS, *New Delhi*

India is looking into the BBC's tax structure, the British news organisation said in an internal memo yesterday, as officials searched its premises in New Delhi and Mumbai for a second day, weeks after India banned a BBC documentary as propaganda.

A senior Indian government official said the income tax survey, which began on Tuesday, was not vindictive or "done out of a sense of pique".

The BBC documentary focused on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as chief minister of the

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- The standards for PM 2.5, NOx and SO2 emissions in China and Japan which are investing in coal-based power plants here are much higher
- Buet teacher who recommended emission standards alleged that suggestions were ignored
- The new standard will legitimise air pollution

EMISSION FROM COAL-FIRED PLANTS

Govt set bar too low

Says study by Stamford University

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

The government's emission standards for coal-fired power plants are far lower than those of the countries investing in such plants in Bangladesh.

The Department of Environment (DoE) in a gazette issued in July last year said the presence of 100 milligram of particulate matter per cubic metre at the power plant chimneys was acceptable for coal-fired plants that began operation before 2020. The limit for plants that began operation after 2020 is 50mg.

Japan and China have invested in coal-fired plants in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram. Those countries recognise two types of fine particulate matter [PM] as PM 2.5 and PM 10.

The DoE gazette, however, makes no mention of the two types when it comes to coal-fired power plants.

Japan's standard for PM 2.5 per cubic metre is just 5mg while in

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Iraq dig uncovers 5,000-year-old pub

AFP, *Lagash*

Archaeologists in southern Iraq have uncovered the remains of a tavern dating back nearly 5,000 years they hope will illuminate the lives of ordinary people in the world's first cities.

The US-Italian team made the find in the ruins of ancient Lagash, northeast of the modern city of Nasiriyah, which was already known to have been one of the first urban centres of the Sumerian civilisation of ancient Iraq.

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TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE

Death toll climbs above 41,000

Rescue work winds down; post-traumatic stress cases rising

People stand among the rubble of collapsed buildings in a street of the Islahiye district of Gaziantep, Turkey yesterday after it was hit by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake on February 6 that has killed more than 41,000 people and devastated swathes of Turkey and neighbouring Syria. PHOTO: AFP

REUTERS, *Harem/Jandaris*

Turkey said it would demolish buildings heavily damaged by a huge earthquake last week and swiftly start a mammoth reconstruction effort, with thousands of families struggling to survive amid the rubble and freezing conditions.

The combined death toll in the two countries has climbed over 41,000, and millions are in need over humanitarian aid, with many survivors having been left homeless in near-freezing winter temperatures.

Rescuers, who flew in to save Turkish people trapped in the debris, were starting to pack, although one woman was pulled out of a collapsed building yesterday after being buried for 222 hours.

In neighbouring Syria's opposition-held northwest, already suffering from more than a decade of bombardment, the earthquake left many fending for themselves amid the rubble, with aid slowed by the complex politics of humanitarian assistance there.

At a Turkish field hospital in the southern city of Iskenderun, Indian Army Major Beena Tiwari said patients had initially arrived with physical injuries but that was changing.

"Now more of the patients are coming with post-traumatic stress disorder, following all the shock that they've gone through during the earthquake," she said.

Families in both Turkey and Syria said they and their children were dealing with the psychological aftermath of the quake.

In Turkey's southern Hatay province, half of the buildings have either collapsed, been heavily damaged, or need to be demolished quickly, the government said.

"We will quickly demolish what needs to be demolished and build safe houses," Turkey's Environment and Urbanisation Minister Murat Kurum tweeted.

The government encouraged people to go back home, if and when authorities have deemed their building safe, "in order to start getting back to normal,"

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