HC orders

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the submission of counsel for the respondents Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed. He argues that prolonging the hearing on the writ would destroy the process of justice.

His remark prompted the lawyers of the petitioners to protest it loudly. They shouted that it is rather the pro-government lawyers who destroyed the judiciary and courts by 'politicising' those.

Hearing of the two writ petitions, filed by Awami League lawmakers Rahmat Ali and Asaduzzaman Noor, and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on December 11, continued for the third day yesterday.

Mahbubuddin submitted some papers relating to voter lists of 1990, 1995 and 2000, as ordered by the court on Monday.

Counsel for the petitioners Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam submitted that the Election Commission (EC) secretariat is making the voter list ignoring the relevant laws and the tradition.

"The format of the voter list has been made in such a way that names of the absentee voters will be excluded from the list and their constitutional rights of being voters will be infringed. Irregularities and illegalities will take place in making the fresh voter list," he said.

"Two members of the Election Commission have differed thrice on making a fresh voter list. The BNP-Jamaat men appointed by the Election Commission secretariat on political grounds are now making the voter list. Vote banks of the opposition and voters of the minority community in different places of the country will not be included if the fresh voter list is made by those political elements," he said in his submission.

Mahbubuddin, counsel for the CEC and the EC secretariat, submitted that if the court passed any stay order on the writ petition, the entire process of preparing a fresh voter list would be spoiled.

As the court started passing its order, Amir-Ul Islam, and Barrister Tanjib Ul Alam, associate of Dr Kamal Hossain, told the court that they would make more submissions on the records of the EC secretariat concerning previous voter lists.

Dr Kamal, one of the counsels for the petitioners, will make his submission before the court today as he was out of the city yesterday.

"Even if the election commissioners decide to go for preparing a new voter list, they cannot deny constitutional rights of the citizens since law does not allow the commission (EC) to delete the name of a voter unless he or she is dead or become insane," Tanjib submitted.

The new voter list must recognise every citizen's right to cast vote in accordance with law, he said.

Govt gives flimsy

FROM PAGE 1

thing to people.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The identical-twin reports prepared by the police headquarters consist solely of a table with a number of columns giving various statistics related to bomb attack cases in the four metropolises and the seven police ranges.

The column heads include number of cases filed in connection with bomb attacks, number of cases under investigation, number of charge-sheeted cases, number of under-trial cases and number of cases in which warrants of arrest and property attachment have been issued.

The other heads are number of cases in which final reports have been submitted, number of arrested and absconding accusees in the charge sheets, number of arrestees accused in FIRs and those arrested on suspicion, number of witnesses etc.

There is a column headed seized items, but nothing is mentioned in that in either of the reports. It is astonishing, as the law enforcement agencies so far have recovered a huge amount of fire arms, ammunitions, explosives, and bomb-making materials and equipment. Besides, they have seized a large number of books on jihad, and documents and CDs on JMB's covert operations, hit lists and future plans, busting many a den across the country.

The reports do not give any basic information like the identities and motives of the masterminds behind the attacks, how many of them have been arrested, their sources of fund and explosives, and their key and field-level operators. There is also nothing about the evidence the investigators have collected so far and the status of the investigations.

"The reports are not satisfactory at all. We expected to get details about the investigations and findings," said ZI Khan Panna.

He filed the public interest litigation to make sure that the home ministry remains accountable at least to the Supreme Court about its role in probing the terror attacks that shook the peoples of Bangladesh and other countries alike, he told The Daily Star.

"We expected that people's right to know what the investigations have found could be ensured through the court. But, they can't know anything from this kind of reports," he said, demanding publication of all probe reports on bomb attacks.

Khan Panna said the reports also did not mention the number of casualties, where the cases have been filed, identities of the arrestees and the accusees, who have been set free and why, and how many of the arrestees have confessed and what.

"What the government has submitted in the name of progress reports do not disclose any information about the progress of the investigations," Barrister Tanjib Ul Alam, an associate of Dr Kamal Hossain, who is moving for the petitioner, told The Daily Star.

"The information are vague and inconsistent. The reports cannot be described as documents submitted in compliance with the directive of the court. There should be definable features in a progress report, which the government reports entirely lack. It's a total frustration," he said.

Inspector General of Police Abdul Quayum could not be reached over phone yesterday despite repeated attempts to get his version.

But a well-placed police source said the court did not give any specific guidelines for the reports it ordered to submit. So, "We've prepared the reports with available information," he said.

14-party defers

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should go to next session of parliament and present the reform proposals on caretaker government and the Election Commission (EC).

Hasina asked the EC to immediately stop the preparation of voter list, saying that the chief election commissioner and the EC secretary are engaged in a conspiracy to drop AL supporters and minority people from the voter roll being prepared by "cadres of BNP and Shibir and police".

The opposition leader also brought allegation against them of plundering Tk 164 crore in the name of preparing fresh voter roll. "How the EC could go for preparing the voter list despite writ petitions filed with the High Court against it?"

On reform proposals, Hasina said the government must accept the reform of caretaker government system and the Election Commission to ensure free and fair elections and constitutional rights of the people.

The opposition leader once again demanded UN enquiry into all bomb and grenade attacks, including those of August 21, killing of Shah AMS Kibria, attack on the

British high commissioner, serial bombings on August 17, October 3 and suicide attacks killing judges, lawyers, police and commoners in Jhalkathi, Gazipur and Chittagong.

"We still believe that the government is the main patron of militancy. And if the government does not invite the UN enquiry into these attacks, it will expose the links between the government and militants," she said.

Hasina alleged that Bangla Bhai and Shaekh Abdur Rahman are in custody of the government and its intelligence agencies.

The opposition leader called for intensifying the movement to restore people's right to vote and remove the "repressive and corrupt regime".

"People no longer want to see the government in power in the wake of terrorism and unabated price hike of essentials," she said.

Earlier, 14-party leaders Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Abdul Jalil of Awami League, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Hasanul Huq Inu and Syed Zafar Sajjad of JSD, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Pankaj Bhattacharya of Gono Forum, Nurul Islam of Gonotantri Party and Alhaj Abdus Samad of Gono Azadi League were present at the meeting at Sudha Sadan.

SNATCHING CASE

2 cops, their informers jailed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two policemen and their two informers to four years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for snatching ornaments and cash from two jewellery employees on July 20 last year.

The convicts are Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Khalil Ullah and Nayek (non-commissioned officer) Abdul Bari and their two informers Shahadat Hossain and Mohammad Jasim.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default they have to suffer six months more in jail.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafiqul Islam of Speedy Trial Court-1 handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts.

The court acquitted three constables Shamsuzzaman, Korban Ali and Rafiqul Islam and their informer Mohammad Ripon as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 20 prosecution witnesses.

The convicts snatched 13 kilograms of silver ornaments and Tk 28,000 in cash from Sohel Rana and Habib, employees of a jewellery, City Silver House, at Tantibazar in Old Dhaka on July 20.

The next day, Sohel filed an extortion case with Kotwali Police Station against Khalil Ullah, Nayek Abdul Bari and constable Shamsuzzaman and four others.

Detective Branch (DB) of police on July 30, 2005 pressed charges against five cops and their three informers in the case.

DB Sub-inspector (SI) and the investigation officer (IO) of the case, Rezaul Hossain submitted the chargesheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Dhaka, showing 20 people as prosecution witnesses.

The court framed charges against the accused on August 25 last year and its trial began on September the same year with deposition of Sohel Rana, complainant of the case.

The complainant Sohel Rana was present in the court yesterday and expressed his satisfaction over the verdict.

Sunny supplied explosives for N'ganj blasts

JMB man tells court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A member of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) suicide squad yesterday told a court their military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny supplied 10 kilograms of ammonia nitrate for explosion in Narayanganj on August 17 last year.

In his statement, Ziaul Islam told the magistrate that he along with seven others exploded seven bombs at five spots in Narayanganj on August 17 last year, our Narayanganj correspondent reports.

Zia told the magistrate that he exploded a bomb in front of Pourasava Bhaban at Mondolpara in the town on August 17 while the others blasted six other bombs at four points.

Zia of Kalihathi in Tangail, arrested on December 27, confessed that he rented a house at HM Sen Road by the eastern side of the Sitalakhya River in August. On August 15, a regional JMB commander of Narayanganj, Ziaur Rahman Tanvir brought nine bombs from Sunny. On that day, he along with others held a meeting at a mosque at Shahi Mahalla and they decided where they would explode the bombs. The next day, they pointed out the spots and Tanvir taught them how to switch on and explode the bombs. As per direction, Zia exploded the bomb at Pourasava area on August 17.

After the explosion he changed his residence.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court has fixed January 17 for hearing on charge framing against Ataur Rahman Sunny and six others in the two Dhaka serial bomb blast cases on August 17 last year. The first case was filed under the Arms Act and the other one under the Explosive Substances Act.

Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on Sunday set the date for hearing on the issue.

Other accused are AHM Shamim, 23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21, Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir, 27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdous, 27, and Akramul Islam, 23.

All of them were arrested earlier and all except Sunny, gave confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on October 10 last year submitted the charge sheets of two cases filed with Sabujbagh Police Station to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka.

Earlier on September 8, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five of the accused, including the woman, at a house in East Basabo.

BNP fully focused

FROM PAGE 1

by party Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have been made. She is likely to introduce prospective party candidates for the elections from many of those meetings.

Sources close to the BNP high command said the party has worked out a pre-election campaign strategy. It is giving more importance to those areas where large-scale development work has taken place and where the party lawmakers have a strong footing. Besides, the constituencies where its coalition partners have vote banks are also getting increased attention.

The BNP leadership is now preparing a new set of election pledges to be presented before the people through the public meetings to get their mandate. The PM in her address at a Natore public meeting on December 28 pledged that if re-elected, the ruling coalition will make education for female students free up to degree level.

SEAT SHARING

In the 2001 polls, the BNP's coalition partners ran for 48 parliament seats -- Jamaat-e-Islami 31, Bangladesh Jatiya Party 14 and Islami Oikya Jote 3.

Sources close to the BNP policy makers said that as in the previous election, they want their allies to contest the next polls for around 50 seats. But in case the Jatiya Party (JP) led by HM Ershad joins the coalition, the BNP might agree to raise the number of seats to 60 for its coalition partners.

One policy maker on condition of anonymity said the party favours allotting the same number of seats to Jamaat in the next elections as in the last one. In the wake of rise of militancy and Jamaat's alleged links to it, the party is not in a position to bargain on that.

A number of senior BNP leaders believe the JP should be brought in the coalition and given more seats than Jamaat in contesting the polls.

The JP should be given at least 20 of the 22 seats in greater Rangpur, the party's strong base in some parts of greater Sylhet should also be taken note of. "If JP (Ershad) is included in the coalition, it is sure to attain better results in the coming elections, " one leader said.

COALITION MIGHT EXPAND

The BNP-led alliance is likely to expand in the next elections. Apart from JP (Ershad), a number of Islamic parties might join the coalition. Besides, a number of leaders from the opposition parties might switch over to the BNP before the election, sources said without giving details.

NEW FACES

The BNP is likely to field freshers in some 25 constituencies in the next polls. They include retired high government officials, former student leaders including those of BNP's student wing, the JCD, and businessmen.

The BNP chairperson's office Hawa Bhaban has already prepared a list of such candidates and surveyed their positions in their respective constituencies. They include BNP's Office Secretary Mafiqul Hasan Tripti from Jessore-1, who is to replace Ali Kadar, Vice President of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal Qayum Chowdhury from Sylhet-3 replacing Safi Ahmed Chowdhury, former JCD president Golam Sarwar Milon from Manikganj -4 replacing Shamsul Islam Khan, MM Sahin (who won the seat as an independent candidate in last polls) from Moulavibazar-2, former JCD joint conveyor ABM Mosharraf Hossain from Patuakhali-4, former Chhatra Union president Mostafijur Rahman Babul from Jamalpur-3, Cabinet Secretary ASM Abdul Halim (on expiry of contractual service tenure) from Jamalpur-2, BNP`s Assistant Office Secretary Imran Saleh Prince from Mymansingh-1 and former JCD leader Dr Mahbubul Alam Liton from Mymansingh-11.

Huge arms haul

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The cache includes one British-made LMG, one AK47 and five M16 rifles, two .303 rifles, seven Pakistan-made guns, 32 magazines and 7,000 bullets, said an official handout.

All the three members of the Arakan Liberation Party-- Ka Aong, 40, Aong Theong, 25, and Tcha Thoang Ching, 25 --hailing from Ghayagong village of Mongdu thana under Akiyab district of Myanmar, the handout said.

This is the first time the law enforcers have disclosed the identity of any rebel although they have so far arrested around 30 foreign nationals from the Bangladesh-Myanmar border areas.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) raided the terrorist den on a hill of Bakkhali area, some 12km away from Bandarban sadar, and made the recovery.

The troops comprising around 500 jawans from Ali Kadam Cantonment and Naikkhongchhari BDR zone, led by zone Commander Lt Col Abdul Awal and Major Mobassar of the Ali Kadam Cantonment, in a surprise move stormed the den and captured the rebels, said BDR sources.

Law enforcement agencies have recovered huge amount of explosives, firearms and ammunition from the remote forests of Naikkhongchhari in the last two years.

Since February 2004, seven US-made M79 rifles, three M16 rifles, 451 bullets and 12 excess barrels of M16 rifles, and 8 local-made rifles have been recovered from Tombru and Eidgor areas of Naikkhong-chhari.

In December last year, the BDR seized four Russian-made AK47 rifles and .79mm German-made pistols.

Earlier, 33 foreign pistols, 13 rifles, eight .12 bore rifles, one machine gun, one sub machine carbine (SMC), TNT explosives, 22,655 bullets and huge quantity of military equipment were seized during several operations in June-August last year.

In the first week of September, 20 AK47 rifles and around 30,000 bullets of several firearms, 32 German-made pistols, one British-made heavy machine gun and one SMC were seized from Lembu-chhari area of Naikkhongchhari.

Garos release

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Madhuri Nokrek, his niece and a retired schoolteacher, takes part in the duets, while Pronathh Mree, her husband, composed two songs and conducted other necessary work. Najit Mree played traditional indigenous musical instruments.

The album was recorded at the teen-roofed thatched house of Madhuri using traditional musical instruments including *Dama*, drums, and *Rang*.

The family collected necessary fund for the album and released 50 copies at first. Forty of them have already been sold at Tk 50 each, while five have been sent to India.

The songs are the portrayal of beautiful landscape of the locality, love, patriotism and kindness.

Asong asong asong Angchingni (Country country country our Bangladesh), *O Angni khabakni khabak namul* (O my dear beloved, companion of my life) and *Bilang na aaa pakmari* (Do not wander before my eyes, go away) are the most famous songs.

The community is alarmingly losing its culture and language as books on *Mandi* language are not available in the country, said the family. Even many educated Garo people do not understand the true meanings of some of the expressions in the songs.

They also feel it necessary to establish a *Mandi* cultural centre to preserve the ancient cultural heritage and teach the next generations the ancestral concepts of rhythm of life.

"I will sing for my people as long as I am alive," said a determined Teeres, an enlisted singer of Bangladesh Betar, who dropped out at class X due to financial constraints.

"I get only Tk 715 for each recording at the radio station but it's not enough even for my transport cost," he added.

"Despite our repeated appeals, the rate was not increased resulting in apathy among promising *Mandi* singers."

Teeres also translated the popular Bangla song "Salam salam hajar salam" into *Mandi* and performed it in Channel i last year. He has so far composed at least 100 songs in *Mandi*.

"Though the recording is not of a standard quality, we tried to keep some documents of our own thoughts and works," said Pronathh Mree.

"There are artistes of great genius in this forest and the community will rise again with all its past glories if given proper attention."

Tinbigha

FROM PAGE 1

tea with the BDR officials there and received gifts from them.

Earlier, Patil visited the Bheem border outpost on the Indian side and was given a guard of honour by the BSF.

The Tinbigha corridor was handed over to Bangladesh on June 26, 1992 for use of Bangladeshi citizens to travel to Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves from mainland Bangladesh.

Patil, who reached Siliguri on Monday, is on a three-day trip to northern part of West Bengal to review the fencing work along the border with Bangladesh and to take stock of the border situation.

Four bombs blasted in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Unknown men exploded four bombs at separate spots in the city within 10 minutes' time yesterday evening, but no one was reported injured.

One Jihad, identifying himself as the general secretary of an international terrorist network of Khulna region, claimed the responsibility of the incident.

Witnesses said the bombers from a speedy autorickshaw hurled the first bomb on a playground of the Youth Development Club at 7:40pm where two leaders of Awami League and BNP city units were playing badminton.

The second bomb exploded within a couple of minutes in front of the house of sadar upazila Chairman Abul Siddique in Ailchara area.

The two other bombs were blasted in front of a pharmacy in Puraton Bazar area, breaking the shop's wall.

Senior police officials visited the spots.

Hindu areas

FROM PAGE 1

Hindu voters constituting about one fifth of the total voters in Chittagong have always been considered a vital factor in deciding the outcome of an election.

Out of 11 lakh voters, around two lakh belong to Hindu community and live mainly in Jamal Khan, Hazari Lane, Patharghata, Gangabari, Firingee Bazar, Nalapara, Enayet Bazar Goalpara and Malipara, Kaiblyadham Malipara, North Kattali, Kattali Ishan Mahajanpara, Failyatali Bazar, Panjabi Lane, Shahid Lane, Master Lane, Bakalia DC Road, Dewan Bazar and Mohora.

The enumerators collected information on the would-be voters in East Feroz Shah Colony over the last three days, but they did not pay a single visit to the adjoining minority dominated Kaibalyadham Malipara, alleged the locals.

Satyajit Sarker Jiku, 28, of Eshan Mahajanpara said they got themselves enrolled in the list only after bringing the enumerators to the area on their own initiative.

No enumerator yesterday visited Hindu populated Hazari Gali area where only 11 voters have been listed in the last three days, alleged the locals.

When contacted, Election Officer Dulal Talukder said the enumeration would continue till January 31 and all the areas would be visited by turns.

Besides, he said, it is a continuous process and if anyone is missed out this time, they will be able to be on the list later.

A total of 3,437 field level information collectors have been working under 862 supervisors and 50 assistant registration officers in 41 wards across the metropolis, sources said.

BARISAL

Our Barisal correspondent adds: Leaders of district Awami League (AL) allege that BNP cadres have been seen preparing the voter list in most of the areas of the district to include their supporters while excluding the voters with a leaning towards the opposition.

City AL Convener Shawkat Hossain Hiron as well as several upazila unit leaders have brought the allegations.

Hiron said Anisur Rahman Hiru and Khairul Alam, the president and vice president of BNP ward No 2 under Barisal City Corporation, have been given appointment as enumerators. They went to Kuakata to celebrate the New Year for two days, hampering the work for voter list.

Barisal district election officer Majibur Rahman said the two were appointed as enumerators because they are by profession teachers of two local schools. Their political identity was not a consideration in the recruitment, he added.

Meanwhile, Fema at the end of their first day's monitoring detected anomalies in preparing the voter list. The enumerators have included names of non-resident and absentees in the voter list at Charmonai union of Sadar upazila, a Fema official reported.

Meantime, election office and BNP men alleged that AL activists yesterday assaulted female enumerator Shahnaz Parvin in Gouranadi area while she was on duty.

The opposition supporters said Shahnaz is a sister of a local BNP activist and introduces herself as an NGO worker while doing the enumeration task.

Security upped

FROM PAGE 1

in which the militant outfit threatened to blow up the gas field.

The police are investigating the matter, said the sources.

Bomb attacks across the country since August 17 killed at least 28 people.

Brac engineer

FROM PAGE 1

The Afghan interior ministry said the area had been sealed off by intelligence agents and the police.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack but similar killings in the past have been blamed on remnants of the hardline Islamic Taliban regime.

In April, three women linked to the same organisation were found stoned to death in the northern province of Baghlan with a letter written by another Islamic militant group.

Top two leaders

FROM PAGE 20

In reply, ruling BNP lawmaker Moazzem Hossain Alal said it is not the prime minister, rather the leader of the opposition is disrupting the investigation process by her remarks.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has for some time been accusing the AL of instigating the militant activities while Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina alleges that the government has plans to exploit the militancy issue in its favour in the next parliamentary election.

Coming out of the meeting, State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar declined to talk to journalists. But minutes later, he talked to the private television channels.

"I have clarified the government's stance on the investigations and briefed the meeting about the drives undertaken to curb militancy. The committee members have expressed satisfaction over the government initiatives," Babar told the TV channels.

"We are satisfied with the way the government is handling the situation. Still we have urged the government to strengthen the drives against militants,'' Committee Chairman Shajahan Mia told reporters, emerging from the meeting.

OPPOSITION WALK-OUT

The parliamentary body on home affairs sat for the first time in three and half a months yesterday. Mainly the activities of ansars and the coastguard were on the agenda of the meeting.

The AL lawmaker blasted the committee chairman for not placing on the agenda the burning issues like rise of militants. He demanded that the judicial commission report into the August 21 grenade attack and necessary documents on the probe into the killing of former finance minister SAMS Kibria be submitted to the committee soon.

Mohammad Nasim also demanded a discussion on these issues at the next meeting. As the committee chairman declined to meet the demand, the AL lawmaker walked out of the meeting.

About the opposition demand for submission of the judicial commission report into the August 21 grenade attack, the state minister for home said it rests with the commission head whether to make the report public or not.

The committee chairman said as the matter is sub judice, the committee will not ask the home ministry to submit the report at the meeting.

PM opens

FROM PAGE 20

and 1.70 crore for ebtedayee level, have already been printed for free distribution among the students. The printing of 1.5 crore textbooks for secondary level has also been completed, the function was informed.

Primary and ebtedayee level books were printed for distribution among two crore students across the country while secondary-level books for one crore students.

Addressing the function Khaleda Zia called upon all irrespective of party and opinion, including teachers, students and guardians, to make effective contribution alongside government initiative to increase the standard of education at all levels and quick spread of quality education.

"Let us all, from respective position, put best effort in building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh," the prime minister told the function attended by ministers, academics, teachers and officials of the ministries and departments concerned.

She said her government has taken initiative to involve private sector in composing and publishing to ensure quality textbooks through open competition in line with the present free-market economy.

In the first phase, a private institution was given permission to publish seven textbooks of class IX and X for 2005 academic session, while 21 secondary level textbooks would be published by private organisations for 2006 academic session.

"We are hoping for improved and quality textbooks following this step," the prime minister said adding that textbook is one of the major auxiliary components in teaching, acquiring and disseminating education.

Khaleda said her government has taken effective steps soon after assuming the office to reach the textbooks to students in due time. As a result, new books for new classes could be handed over to the students at the start of academic sessions during the year 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Already textbooks of primary and ebtedayee levels have been delivered all over the country and textbooks of secondary level will be available in market in due time, she said.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Huq and prime minister's adviser on Primary and Mass Education Jahan Ara Begum also spoke on the occasion.

Govt hiding info

FROM PAGE 20

He was speaking as the chief guest at a rally organised by the youth front of IOJ at Rayerbazar Tollabagh in the capital, the press release read.

He said a paper will be published depicting the recent bomb attacks and Jamaat's activities from 1947 to 71, in 1972, 1975 and from 1976 to 2006. The paper will include a list of central and district commanders of the anti-liberation force Al-Badar in 1971 and a description of their barbaric repression, political hypocrisy, the underground forces and all other hidden activities of Jamaat, he added.

Tk 18 lakh

FROM PAGE 20

employees to inform the owner to pay the toll within 72 hours or else their "condition will be like of the monitors".

Someone on behalf of Jisan, one of the top goons in the city, made a phone call to Mahbub demanding the toll, said Meer Aslam, director of the firm.

After yesterday's incident, an anonymous caller told Noor Alam, "We could be out of country but can still control things here," Noor told the press.

Paltan police said the owner of Global Colour Scan Mahbub filed a case accusing one Manzur Alam Manju. Mahbub and Manju had previous feud over contract work.

In another incident, thieves broke into 13 bookshops of Reza Ali Market at Banglabazar on Monday night and took away books and cash worth Tk 18 lakh.

Reza Ali, the owner of the market, filed a case in this connection and police arrested two guards of the market.

Blasts rock Nepal

FROM PAGE 20

Maoist rebels in Nepal have ended their unilateral ceasefire, warning that the troubled Himalayan kingdom now faces an escalation of violence.

"The United Nations in Nepal is deeply concerned that the people of Nepal are again faced with the prospect of an escalation in fighting, the loss of more lives, and increased and prolonged suffering," it said in a statement.

In the past two months, it added, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan had repeatedly urged the rebels to extend their ceasefire and the Nepalese government to reciprocate the truce.

"The United Nations regrets that the many appeals from the people of Nepal and the international community have not been heeded and no progress appears to have been made towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict," it said.

On Monday, Prachanda, the elusive rebel leader, said the ceasefire would not be prolonged further and accused government troops of provoking his forces to break it.

The loyalist government of King Gyanendra, who fired a previous government and seized power in February, had refused to respect the truce, saying the Maoists could not be trusted.

As the ceasefire ended, local media reported that the rebels, who have a strong presence across much of the countryside, were planning to attack the heavily defended capital, Kathmandu.

Commentators and ordinary Nepalese called for talks to try to end the fighting that has raged for a decade. More than 12,500 people have died in the rebel insurgency that aims to topple the monarchy and establish one-party communist rule.

The violence has delayed parliamentary and local elections and wrecked the economy of the aid-dependent nation.

"The government must take the initiative for talks between the king, political parties and the Maoists," said Nepal Samacharpatra, a local newspaper.

Sunita Chamling, a housewife in Kathmandu, said the government should have matched the Maoist truce.

"Peace had a chance under the ceasefire. Therefore, the government should have responded to the Maoists," she said.

Security has been stepped up across the mountainous country.

"Soldiers are patrolling the streets and there is fear in the minds of people," journalist J. Pandey said from Nepalgunj, the biggest town in west Nepal where the Maoists have a strong presence.

King Gyanendra has called for elections to 58 municipal councils to be held on Feb 8. But the Maoists have pledged to derail the polls and the seven main political parties, pressing the king to restore democracy, have announced a boycott.