# NEWS

# Cops maul gold medallist

sticks

head

the next Asian Games

them before the court.

Hospital with injuries all over their bodies.

Witnesses said a police car of Deputy Inspector General (Special Branch) Dr Sadiqur Rahman approached the shooting complex area at 12:15pm with the DIG's wife in it. While the chauffeur was attempting to park the car in front of the complex, a security guard asked him not to park there since the spot

is not a parking space. As the chauffeur insisted on parking there, the guard got locked in an argument with him, which

turned into a scuffle. bail and sent the other three to jail. Other guards and employees of the complex also came out and taken to the hospital, profusely bleeding Asif was struggling to walk

joined the scene. On information, a three-member patrol team of police led by Subinspector Jasim rushed there with Gulshan Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police Obaidu Rahman Khan. Assistant Commissioner Zannatul Hasan. and Officer-in-charge Mahbub Alam Khan following.

According to witnesses, the policemen started beating whoever they found inside the complex.

Many of about 30 shooters, who were practising inside, came out hearing the commotion and fell victim to the indiscriminate beating.

According to the shooting federation officials, at least 25 shooters were injured.

"We don't know why police attacked us suddenly as we came out to see what was happening, Asif, the gold medallist in 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, told reporters as he was lying on a bed in the hospital.

"We, in fact, tried to stop the brawl but police would not listen to

As the mayhem ended, police cook Jahangir and an Ansar member Zannatul Ferdous and took them to Gulshan Police Station.

### us. A group of marauding policemen went to the dormitories and tried to He denied that police beat up the storm the women's guarters. arrested three shooters Asif, Shoebuzzaman, and Ali Hossain,

enforcers -- SI Jasim. Constable To their utter dismay, Asif and Anwar Hossain, and an Ansar **Rice can't recall CIA** warning of al-Qaeda

### AP. Shannon, Ireland

very worried and he expressed Secretary of State Condoleezza that," Rice told reporters. "We were Rice said she cannot recall then-CIA all very worried because the threat reporting was quite intense. The chief George Tenet warning her of an impending al-Qaeda attack in the problem was that it was also quite United States, as a new book claims nebulous." he did two months before the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

attack on US

secretary of state in Bush's second "What I am quite certain of is that term, also said she never argued I would remember if I was told, as that Secretary of Defense Donald this account apparently says, that Rumsfeld should be fired. The there was about to be an attack in book's suggestion that Rumsfeld the United States, and the idea that I would not take her calls is "ludi-

member Ziaur Rahman -- were Shoebuzzaman once again saw the marauding mood of police there, injured there. DMP directed Joint who started beating them again with

Commissioner (Detective Branch) "They broke three to four sticks Shahidul Islam to investigate the on us there. They beat me everywhole incident "If we find in the investigation any where. I can hardly walk," Asif said

expressing apprehension that he excess by our policemen, we'll take might not be able to participate in steps accordingly," he said. National Shooting Federation

SI Faisal Zaman filed a case Vice-president Kashem Humavun termed the police attack as barbaric against the five accusing them of assaults on police and produced and demanded punishment of Gulshan Zone DC Óbaidur Rahman The court, on receiving bail Khan, Officer-in-charge Mahbub petitions, freed Asif and Shoeb on Alam Khan and SI Jasim.

"We are considering filing of a case against this barbaric attack. We also demand release of the Medical School, told Swedish three who are in iail. Now we fear for Radio. our security." said Humavun at a news briefing in the shooting comthat might come several years from plex.

'They ransacked the dormitory and injured at least 25 persons. We the horror he had suffered at the also demand that all the injured get proper treatment from the government," he added. "We were stunned as they started to

**BNP** readies

Mannan Bhuiyan told the alliance

leaders that they support most of the

items of the 42-point demand they

had identified in the opposition's

before finalising the decision on the

opposition's reform proposal," he

"I talked with Abdul Jalil today

Finally giving their consent to the

BNP-AL secretary general level

meeting, Jamaat Secretary General

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid said,

"Awami League should come with

open mind if they want to make the

the second time to finalise their

strategy for the proposed talks and

evaluate the legal aspects of the 31-

point reform proposal on the care-

taker government system and

After discussing the opposition

demands, the BNP policymakers

made a 42-point list, some of which

can be implemented under the

existing rules while others require

Mosharraf Hossain, Law Minister

Moudud Ahmed, Aariculture

Minister MK Anwar and BNP Joint

Senior Secretary General Tarique

Rahman were present in the meet-

BNP leaders spoke in favour of

strengthening the Election

Health Minister Dr Khandaker

electoral rules, placed by Leader of

the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

constitutional amendment.

Earlier the BNP top brass met for

and told him to fix the date and time

for dialogue," he said.

dialogue successful."

told the reporters after the meeting.

"We will discuss with our allies

FROM PAGE 1

proposal.

me to a toilet and beat me as I was lying on the floor," said Shoeb. Talking to reporters, Orthopaedic Surgeon Ziaul Hag of the hospital confirmed that X-ray reports of the shooters did not show any fracture. "But it will take at least six to

As Asif and Shoeb were being

as blood was dripping from his

pick up a rifle again," said Asif.

"I don't know when I'll be able to

Shoeb, also in pain, described

hands of the law enforcing agency

beat us senselessly. They dragged

seven weeks for the injuries to heal. They won't be able to resume practice before that," said the surgeon. Meanwhile, DMP Commissioner

SM Mizanur Rahman claimed that the shooters were arrested because they had been involved in an assault on the policemen. "The staff of the complex forcibly

took our patrol team inside and beat them up. Our OC and AC also became victims of the beating when they rushed there," the DMP commissioner said during a news conference in his office in the evening.

arrestees inside Gulshan Police Station but said the arrestees might have been injured during the scuffle with police in the shooting complex He further claimed that three law

"I remember that George was

Rice, who was promoted to

Nobel prize

"I just assumed it was something

"It's still sinking in I think, I can

Fire, a 47-year-old professor at

Stanford University School of

Medicine in California, said he was

Genes make proteins, the mole-

cules that comprise and maintain all

the body's tissues. They set the

protein-making machinery in motion

through a gofer molecule called

ference (RNAi). RNAi, they discov-

regulating gene expression in plants

By "silencing" over-active or

malfunctioning genes, researchers

hope to be able to devise a new

generation of treatments for virus

infections, cardiovascular disease,

inherited health problems.

ered, is a natural molecular switch.

and animals as well as humans.

"very happy" to be honoured.

guess it's not," he told the radio.

messenger RNA, or mRNA.

now," he said just after receiving a

telephone call from the Nobel com-

mittee in the middle of the night.

hardly believe it."

FROM PAGE 16

tion.

went to Australians Barry J Nobel is typically awarded decades Marshall and J. Robin Warren for later, when history proves that the their pioneering research on stomresearch was truly groundbreaking. ach ulcers, overturning conven-"RNA interference is already tional wisdom to prove they are being widely used in basic science caused by bacteria and not spicy as a method to study the function of food or stress, and best treated with

genes and it may lead to novel antibiotics herapies in the future," the jury said. Fire and Mello will each receive a Mello said he was stunned by the gold medal and a diploma and will Nobel Committee's speedy recognishare the prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (1.37 million dol-"I was very surprised, mainly lars, 1.07 million euros).

because I'm fairly young and The Nobel prizes, founded by thought maybe there were so many Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel other discoveries worthy of a Nobel the inventor of dynamite, were first prize," Mello, born in 1960 and a awarded in 1901. professor of molecular medicine at The Physics prize will be the University of Massachusetts announced on Tuesday and

Chemistry on Wednesday. The Economics prize, awarded by Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, is scheduled for October 9.

The Literature prize is traditionally awarded on a Thursday, though the actual date is only announced 48 hours in advance. It is expected to be announced on either October 5 or October 12.

The announcement of the Peace Prize will wrap up the Nobel season on October 13.

"At first of course one doesn't The formal awarding of the believe it. It could be a dream or a prizes will take place in Stockholm mistake or something like that. I on December 10.

Durga Puja In 1998, Fire and Mello, working together on nematode earthworms FROM PAGE 16 discovered a mechanism that interferes with mRNA -- RNA inter-

The immersion ritual will continue up to Sehri with intervals for Iftar and Tarabih prayers, he said, adding that Durga idols from some of the city's 156 puja mandaps will be

immersed in the river Turag. The puja committee president thanked the members of law enforcement agencies for patrolling tirelessly during the Durga Puja celebrations.

hormonal disorders and a range of Durga Puja is the worship of 'shakti' or divine power symbolised by devi (goddess) Durga. The worship is a tribute to the fight between good and evil with the dark force's eventual submission to the Divine

of Mahasashthi. Mahasaptami

including voluntary blood donation were held on the puia mandap premises during the five-day puja celebrations.

adjoining the puja mandaps.

# PRGF loan conditions

through of the year

nationalised commercial banks (NCBs). It says an initial sum of Tk 600

holidays was reduced by 20 in the

last two years. Taking into account a recent study on tax expenditures. exemptions and tax holidays the

## Four held for ransacking puja mandap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Police arrested four goons of infa-

mous Fazal Hag Bahini at Raozan upazila in Chittagong on Sunday night after they ransacked a puja mandap. The arrestees are Jahur, Shah

Alam, Mohammad Shafi and Liton. A faction of a ruling party allegedly backs the criminal gang, sources said

Witnesses said at least 10 criminals riding motorcycles suddenly attacked the mandap at Ekata Club in Noapara of the upazila creating panic among the Hindu devotees. They also beat up a number of the devotees.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Jasim Uddin, who was visiting a nearby mandap at that time, rushed to the spot with police. Police made emphatic "no." the arrests from the mandap area.

### **BNP** men block road to protest cancellation of PM's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A faction of ruling BNP activists anti-communist Muiahideen facyesterday blockaded Dhaka-Sylhet tions, including some radical highway at Lalabazar on the out-Islamist groups, during the 1979skirts of Sylhet city for an hour and a 1989 Soviet occupation of half protesting against the cancella-Afghanistan. tion of the prime minister's October 7 visit there seized power in the early 1990s

Around 200 vehicles were stranded on both side of the road when activists of anti-Saifur Rahman camp put tree logs on the road and burned tyres around 12:30pm at Lalabazar, about eight kilometres off Sylhet city.

However, the blockade was on (the) ground. They're not conwithdrawn around 2:00pm when scious of the reality I'm seeing -ruling party lawmaker Shafi Ahmed the extreme danger of this becom-Chowdhury asked them to remove the roadblock assuring them that he ing a people's movement," he said. would try to persuade PM to pay a vesterday pledged to take action if rival India produced any evidence

Speakers at a rally held during the blockade said a vested interest quarter in BNP was trying to stop the development works of South Surma area. They blamed Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, without naming him, for the cancellation of the PM's visit.

Intelligence (ISI) agency and the On contact, Shafi Ahmed told Lashkar-e-Taiba Islamic militant The Daily Star yesterday that even group helped launch the attacks though the programme was finalthat killed 186 people ised a week back, Saifur Rahman influenced the postponing of PM's information that suggests links with visit to South Surma. some people here or some kind of

It may be mentioned that of the five BNP lawmakers in Sylhet district, three sided with the anti-Saifur camp since an intra-party feud took a turn for worse about a year and a half ago.

Unruly workers

# **Ex-ISI officials may** be helping Taliban

Says Musharraf; Pakistan to act if India gives evidence of ISI role in Mumbai blasts

AFP, Washington/ Islamabad

Pakistan's intelligence service has not aided renegade Taliban fighters in Afghanistan, but retired ntelligence officials could be nvolved in their support, President Pervez Musharraf told US television Sunday.

"Nobody in the ISI has," he said.

However he added, "I have

some reports that some dissidents,

some people, retired people who

were in the forefront in ISI during

the period of '79 to '89, may be

assisting with their links some-

The Islamist Taliban eventually

after the overthrow of the pro-

Musharraf expressed concern

"They don't know the realities

Pakistan's foreign ministry

to show that Pakistan's spy agency

was involved in the Mumbai train

But Pakistan again denied

"If India feels that it has some

connection, then yes we will take

action and will help India in its

investigations," foreign ministry

spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam told a

Indian Foreign Secretary Shiv

claims by Mumbai police that the

country's Inter-Services

bombings in July.

weekly briefing.

that current support for the Taliban

may be more widespread than

Moscow regime in Kabul.

many observers are aware.

where here and there." he said.

if at all that happens."

police were "propagandists". Asked whether Islamabad's 'This is all internal and this is ye Inter-Services Intelligence has another effort to externalise interbeen helping the ousted Taliban, nal malaise." she said. Musharraf, speaking on NBC Pakistan at the weekend television's "Meet the Press" strongly rejected the claims, which programme, answered with an

come at a time when the ISI is also under scrutiny from Islamabad's increasingly disaffected allies in the "war on terror"

information with us so that we can

made on Saturday, were an

attempt to "divert attention from

indigenous elements" engaged in

terrorism in India, the spokes-

woman said, adding that Mumbai

The Indian allegations, first

cooperate with them," she said.

The Taliban are waging a virulent insurgency in Afghanistan. The rebels, who are allied with al-Qaeda, have attacked troops in large numbers and intensified a campaign of suicide and roadside hombings

"We are keeping a very tight watch, and we'll get a hold of them More than 2,000 people have been killed in insurgency-related The ISI and US Central unrest this year, most of them Intelligence Agency supported

Taliban rebels. US-led forces launched the war against the Taliban and its al-Qaeda allies shortly after the September 11, 2001 terror attacks n the United States.

### Venue

FROM PAGE 1

electoral systems. In response, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on February 28 proposed that a committee with representatives from the ruling and opposition alliances discuss the

issue Despite exchange of letters between the BNP and AL, a stalemate followed over inclusion of coalition partners Jamaat and Islami Oikya Jote in the proposed committee, raising the spectre of violent confrontation before the next parlia-

mentary election. Since then, political analysts and former advisers to caretaker government had kept stressing that street fighting between the rival parties could undermine the next caretaker government if the dispute is not resolved during the present

government's tenure Finally, the prime minister on September 14 proposed that a secretaries general level dialogue might take place between the two ajor parties to break the stand-off.

Besides, pressure from business community, civil society members, and diplomats including the US and UK envoys kept mounting on the ruling and opposition parties to sit

Shankar Menon said on Sunday for negotiations. that New Delhi would hand over Then, telephone conversations

field," the Nobel committee said. The pair published their discovery in the journal Nature in 1998, and in 2002 the US medical journal Science named RNAi as the breakof Durga Puja. But the science is very new and analysts caution that technical problems and safety concerns

remain to be resolved before RNAi therapies enter the medical vocabu-Last year, the Medicine Prize

alded the start of a new research

It is also hoped that their research will be used in agriculture. "Their discovery clarified many confusing and contradictory experimental observations ... (and) her-

Mahalaya, starting a week before the pujas, is followed by a

series of unique rituals on the days

Mahashtami, Mahanabami, and Bijoya Dashami that marks the end

In the capital, programmes

Fairs were also held at places

buid somenow have ignored that find incomprehensible," Rice said.

Rice was President Bush's national security adviser in 2001, when Bob Woodward's book "State of Denial" outlines a July 10 meeting among Rice, Tenet and the CIA's top counterterror officer.

"I don't know that this meeting took place, but what I really don't know, what I'm quite certain of, is that it was not a meeting in which I was told there was an impending attack and I refused to respond," Rice said.

Speaking to reporters en route to Saudi Arabia and other stops in the Middle East. Rice said she met with Tenet daily at that point, and has no memory of the wake-up call from Tenet described in the book.

"It kind of doesn't ring true that you have to shock me into something I was very involved in," Rice said.

There was near constant discussion of possible attacks overseas and high alarm, Rice said.

The meeting between Tenet. Rice and Cofer Black of the CIA was not mentioned in the reports from several investigations of the Sept. 11 attacks, but Woodward wrote that it stood out in the minds of Tenet and Black as the "starkest warning they had given the White House" on al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and his network

Tenet asked for the meeting after receiving a disturbing briefing from Black, according to the book.

But though Tenet and Black warned Rice in the starkest terms of the prospects for attack, she brushed them off, Woodward reiterated Monday. He told NBC's "Today" show that Black told him the two men were so emphatic, it amounted to "holding a gun to her head" and doing everything except pulling the trigger.

Black reportedly laid out secret intercepts and other data "showing the increasing likelihood that al-Qaeda would soon attack the United States." Tenet was so worried that he called Rice from his car and asked to see her right away, the book said.

"Tenet and Black felt they were not getting through to Rice, Woodward wrote of the session "She was polite, but they felt the brush-off."

Rice referred to the session as "the supposed meeting" and noted that it is not part of the independent Sept. 11 Commission's report.

Commission and making it indeous, 'Rice sa pendent, sources said. Rumsfeld and Rice are not close

However, they expressed unwilland he is often considered her rival in administration decision making. Woodward wrote that then-White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card twice tried to get Bush to sack Rumsfeld and replace him with Bush family counselor James A. advisory role for the caretaker Baker III, and that both then-Secretary of State Colin Powell and government. Rice backed the plan.

Woodward interviewed Rice for his new book

Rice's latest Middle East trip is focused on strengthening support for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other moderate Arab leaders after a series of setbacks for democratic and moderate forces in the region.

Her trip includes visits to allies Saudi Arabia and Egypt and a meeting of other friendly nations that ring the Persian Gulf, before visits to Israel and the West Bank. Rice is looking for new ways to

improve Abbas' standing in his standoff with Hamas radicals trounced Abbas' secular Fatah Party in Palestinian elections in January. Abbas was elected separately and retains his position, but he has been hamstrung by the divided government and a cutoff of Western aid.

The Bush administration and Israel are increasingly convinced Hamas will crumble, and look to Abbas to capitalize. Rice may ask other countries to do more to bolster Abbas' security forces, and she hopes to breathe life into stalled agreements and talks that would help Palestinians move more freely

across their borders with Israel. Iran's nuclear ambitions will also be part of Rice's discussions, as an unofficial deadline passes this week for Iran to heed a UN Security Council demand to shelve disputed nuclear activities.

Rice said Sunday she may close her trip Friday with a meeting of world powers in Europe to look at what to do next. The United States wants to press for UN Security Council sanctions, but it is not clear she has full support from other

permanent members of the council.

ingness to go beyond the constitution on sensitive issues like chief adviser to the caretaker government, chief election commissioner, a separate voter list for Chittagong Hill Tracts and the president's

### AL to place

FROM PAGE 1 KM Hasan as caretaker government chief and MA Aziz as chief election commissioner

The meeting reiterated that to realise the reform demands, the opposition would continue its street agitation along with the talks.

Sources said the AL general secretary was asked to justify the opposition reform agenda with arguments and logic. "We will prove it at the talks that meeting our demands is a must in the interest of a free and fair election," said a top AL leader.

Abdul Jalil, also coordinator of the 14-party combine, yesterday said he will ioin the dialogue with an open mind and is very much hopeful about its outcome.

Some sources said the opposition might compromise on some of its proposals at the dialogue but will stick to its objections regarding Justice Hasan, MA Aziz and three election commissioners, and demands for updating the voter roll with photographs of voters and using transparent ballot boxes.

Another major point on which the AL will not comprise is redefining the law enforcement agencies and scrapping of magistracy powers given to the law enforcers and the armed forces members by the previous caretaker government.

Power

### shortage FROM PAGE 16

before October 10 as there is no possibility of resumption of generation in major plants now shut down.

They said two large units, a 210 MW one at Ghorashal and another at Barapukuria plant, are expected to resume operation after October

PDB officials said Dhaka city and its adjoining areas received 1,350 MW of power yesterday against the demand for 1600 MW.

crore was included in the current national budget that can be used to cover state owned enterprises' (SOE) losses resulting from sale of fuel below the formula prices. Additional fund will be provided from the national budget to cover the losses until energy prices are

adjusted, the paper adds. The government implemented further fuel price adjustments on June 9 by increasing prices of petrol and octane by 33 percent and 29 percent respectively, prices of diesel and kerosene were adjusted by 10 percent, it says.

However, despite further increases in international oil prices, petrol and octane prices are still near the international levels, but prices of diesel and kerosene are at about 60 percent of the international prices now.

To avert any adverse effect on the poor of further adjustments of fuel prices and introduction of the pricing formula, the government is considering expanding and strengthening two social programmes -- Food for Work Programme and Primary Education Stipend. At the same time, ration cards for kerosene or a system of direct cash transfer to the poor might also be introduced.

About IMF's condition of reforms in NCBs for getting PRGF loan, the government's policy commitment paper says a successful bidder has been selected for Rupali Bank's privatisation and a sales and purchase agreement is expected to be completed by mid-October.

On the other hand, corporatisation of Sonali, Janata and Agrani banks will be completed by the end of next February and the banks will be brought under the Bank Company Act (BCA). Managing directors of the banks will be given full management authority, which will allow them and the banks boards to take decisions on all operational matters without prior approval from the finance ministry, the commitment paper says.

It also describes the government measures to increase revenue collection and to strengthen the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

"The government will introduce a uniform system of tax identification numbers (TIN) for the last taxpayers' unit (LTU) by the end of February," sources said referring to the policy commitment paper.

To broaden the tax base, the number of sectors eligible for tax

number of sectors eligible for tax holidays will be reduced further in FY'08 budget, the commitment paper says.

The study on tax exemptions shows that the government exempts taxes amounting to around Tk 11,000 crore every year in different ways.

The commitment paper refers to a number of government measures for increasing revenue collection and says that a minimum income tax was introduced, depreciation rules were adjusted, the assessment base for taxes on property transfers was updated, telecommunication fees were increased and the reach of value added tax (VAT) was extended to cover more retail and service sectors.

These policy measures are estimated to offset the adverse impact on revenue due to further tariff reductions and improve the revenue collection by about 0.3 percent of the GDP, the paper says adding that other ongoing efforts to improve the tax administration will boost revenue collection by another 0.2 percent of the GDP. As the commitments are going to

be made at the end of the present government's tenure this month and since a caretaker government is about to take over the administration for the next three months, the interim aovernment will be fully empowered to implement the policies, the commitment paper adds.

But a source said, "Implementation of the commitments will be uncertain if the present government fails to come to power again.

Ershad doubts

joining the alliance after observing results of the dialogue between

prepared for any outcome of the dialogue.

ment for acute power crisis and price hike of essentials.

Rowshan Ershad, JP senior presidium member and leader of the . JP parliamentary party, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, presidium member and ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, secretary general, also addressed the lftar party.

FROM PAGE 1 incensed them," Jharna Begum, an operator of Opex, said.

At one point, the Opex staff assaulted the workers agitating outside and beat up four of them, the workers alleged. They also said police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel deployed there helped the staff to drive away the small group of agitating workers.

When news of the incident spread, several hundred furious workers from a dozen garment factories in the area rushed there and stormed into the factory break ing open the iron-gate. They also damaged 14 vehicles, one computer, furniture and windowpanes of the factory.

The law enforcers posted there retreated during the attack, the factory authorities alleged.

After the attackers had left the place, the Opex authorities let their workers go out.

Director of the factory Col (retd) Mujibul Islam Khan, however, denied the allegation of confining the workers to the factory and claimed that they were working peacefully when some outsiders came there and were dispersed by police and Rab. Later, a mob came and started vandalising the factory, he added. He also denied that his staff had beaten up any workers.

Asked about forcing the workers to work on a government holiday, he said it is not a holiday in garments factory as per factory rules. "Only Hindus working here are given leave with proper salary and festival bonus," he added

Earlier, at around 8:30am some 200 workers of Garry Stone Sweater factory at Kachukhet came out of their factory protesting against what they alleged was providing less payment for per sweater production.

As they marched towards Mirpur Section 10. over a thousand workers from around a dozen garments and sweater factories in the areas joined them demanding wage increase, payment of overtime and arrears. The procession ended at Kachukhet after parading Mirpur-10 and Shewrapara.

Police said the procession was peaceful and the demonstrators did not attack any garment factories or cause any traffic congestion.

evidence of the alleged links, but Aslam said Pakistan had not received anything from India so far.

between Bhuivan and Jalil and some intense initiatives throughout the last week paved the way for formal discussions.

"What we expect from India is to share the claimed evidence and

Hamas govt halts

warned any hope she might revive the moribund peace process was vain without an end to the violence.

In Gaza, the Islamist-led government withdrew interior ministry troops that had engaged in deadly clashes with security forces loyal to the moderate Abbas on Sunday in which eight people were killed and some 130 wounded Sunday.

The internecine feuding was the deadliest since Hamas took power Sunday. in March after its upset parliamentary election defeat of Abbas's Fatah movement and cast a cloud over efforts by the two factions to form a national unity government acceptable to Western donors.

The West's refusal to channel aid through the Hamas-led government until the Islamists renounce violence and recognise Israel has left it unable to pay the wages of its employees.

A month-long protest strike by civil servants was joined by some security force personnel loval to Abbas Saturday triggering the following day's violence when the interior ministry deployed its own personnel in their place. Hamas charges that the strike is

being manipulated by Fatah to force it to make concessions in the national unity government talks, a charge vigorously denied by the

president's loyalists. Egypt and Jordan, the only Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel, called for an immediate halt to the feuding and the swift formation of the promised unity administration.

The so-called quartet of major powers that sponsors the Middle East peace process has warned that there can be no end to the political and financial boycott until the new government is formed.

In talks with King Abdullah II of Jordan late Sunday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he believed the violence on the eve of Rice's tour was "blocking the peace process," his spokesman Suleiman Awwad told reporters.

"How can we ask the interna-

tional community and the great powers to take action to relaunch the peace process when they (the Palestinians) are utterly divided," Awwad quoted the president as

> saying Rice is due to meet the two leaders on her tour, as well as representatives of the six pro-Western Gulf states, who also issued an urgent call for calm late

Major reform

### FROM PAGE 1

be prepared and electronic voting will have to be introduced.

Transparent ballot boxes will have to be arranged with serial numbers.

Disclosure of candidate's wealth and identity. No one will be eligible as

election candidate if he/she or any of his/her family members is a loan defaulter or owns black money.

No political party will nominate any criminal and black-money holder.

All kinds of misuse of reliaion and fundamentalist campaign will have to be banned as declared as punishable offence.

Change of definition of the law enforcement agencies and giving them arresting authority (through rules 87 and 89A of PO No. 155 of 1972) by the previous caretaker government have to be cancelled.

Jurisdiction of the armed forces and the law enforcement agencies during the election period as per the Representation of People's Order of 1972 and the Election Act of 1992 will have to be reinstated.

# FROM PAGE 1

BNP and AI

However, the JP chairman urged his party leaders and workers to be

Ershad castigated the govern-