

Assault on shooters

FROM PAGE 16 decided to provide legal assistance to the injured shooters.

A number of police officials felt embarrassed about Monday's police atrocities, especially on gold medalist shooter Asif Hossain Khan. They admitted that police's conduct was inappropriate over trivial arguments between the car chauffeur of deputy inspector general (DIG) and an NSF guard.

Police authorities, on Tuesday, suspended Havidler Nurul Islam, driver of DIG (Special Branch) Dr Sadiqur Rahman.

A large number of policemen stormed into the NSF complex and indiscriminately beat up shooters and complex staff on Monday after NSF guards scuffled with Nurul when he parked the car in front of NSF gate Monday noon.

Police arrested shooters Asif, Shobuzzaman and Ali Hossain Shipu, cook Jahangir and Ansar member Zannatul Ferdousi and beat up Asif and Shobuzzaman at Gulshan Police Station later again before sending them to the court after filing an 'assault on police' case against them.

Two days after the police atrocities on the shooters and NSF staff, the NSF executive committee met yesterday to decide their next course of action.

"We'll file a case against the policemen who were involved in Monday's assault and take it to the higher court to defend the five including three shooters," NSF General Secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury told reporters while briefing about the meeting resolution.

Shooters, meantime, brought out a rally from the NSF complex and marched to Tongi Diversion Road parading the Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road in protest at the police brutalities.

Sammilito Kiria Paribar will form a human chain at Mukangan today to protest the police atrocities and demand trial and punishment of the policemen involved in it.

Meanwhile, the SCBA leaders yesterday visited injured

Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist Asif Hossain Khan and Shobuzzaman at Metropolitan Hospital.

Terming the attack barbaric, SCBA President Barrister Amir-Ul Islam told reporters that police brutally beat the shooters and the shooting complex staff and filed a case against them to harass them further.

"We'll provide them with all sorts of legal aid to face the case filed against them," he said.

The SCBA delegation also included former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, SCBA Vice President Abdul Mannan Khan, Assistant Secretary Motaahar Hossain Saju, executive committee members Sheikh Akhtarul Islam and Fazlul Huq.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Detective Branch) Shahidul Islam, head of the one-member committee formed to probe Monday's incident, yesterday held talks NSF President Mueyed Chowdhury at the complex. "I've sought a list of shooting complex staff and shooters whom we can talk with to know what exactly happened Monday," Shahidul told The Daily Star.

He will start interviewing them today after getting the list, he added.

The committee began its investigation Tuesday and will submit its report in a week.

Order given

FROM PAGE 1 essential commodities is not the main reason behind the price hike. "Retailers are mainly responsible for the price hike as they're trying to make windfall profits," Babar alleged.

The meeting sources said the state minister expressed dissatisfaction at the rising trend in the incidents of mugging in the capital and directed the law enforcers to intensify their drives.

Karwan Bazar kitchen

FROM PAGE 16 Rahman, the Ecneec also okayed nine other development projects worth Tk 1,284 crore, including a Tk 39 crore project for port and other facility construction to maintain the river Buriganga and keep its banks free from grabbing and illegal occupation.

As per the kitchen market project, a total of 2,575 shops will be constructed. Of them, 440 shops will be set up in Jatrabari wholesale kitchen market, while 1107 in Aminbazar, 440 in Lalbag and 588 in Tejgaon.

Presently, there are a total of 1,782 shops in Karwan Bazar and the government will rehabilitate all of them in the four new kitchen markets free of cost. The rest of the shops in the new markets will be distributed as per the City Corporation regulations.

To set up the markets, the government will acquire seven-acre land from the Road and Highway Department in Tejgaon, while 12-acre from Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Aminbazar, 5.27-acre khas land in Lalbag, and 5.27-acre private land in Jatrabari.

The objective of the project is to develop the agricultural products supply and marketing, scale down the gap in prices of kitchen products in the different kitchen markets and introduction of a monitoring system

to protect consumers' interest, the City Corporation sources said.

Meanwhile, as per the Buriganga project, the government will construct boundary wall, walkways including banks protection, recreation centre, pontoon, jetty etc.

The shipping ministry informed the Ecneec that the Buriganga banks are being occupied illegally again and again, even after the grabbers are driven away and the lands are recovered and insisted to implement the project immediately.

The other projects approved by the Ecneec include, national eye science institute and hospital project (revised), national cancer research institute and hospital development project (second revised), Rajshahi city water supply project phase-2 (revised), Iliotgongj-Muradnagar-Ramchandrapur-Srikail-Nabipur road development project (second revised), link road construction project between Pabna via Badherhat-Najirgonj and Rajbari, agriculture assistance programme-2: infrastructure development of rural market and link road (phase-3), project of modernisation and strengthening of facilities to supply quality seeds and Badherhat-Khayerchar road construction project near Nagorbari ferry-ghat.

atrocities on them.

21LAWMAKERS

A state minister attended the parliament sessions on maximum days although the whips of the Jatiya Sangsad were supposed to hold that record. Among the seven whips including the chief whip, two however ranked in the list.

Leader of the House Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina were not on the list as Khaleda attended 195 of the 373 workdays while Hasina attended below 50 workdays.

Those who attended the sessions on maximum days are LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Prof Rezaul Karim, Whip Rezaul Bari Deena, Whip Zahed Ali Chowdhury, Engineer Shamsuddin Ahmed, Abdus Sobhan, Abu Sayeed Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, Abdul Alim, Shamsul Alam Pramanik, Sultan Mahmud Babu, Shah Mohammad Ruhul Quddus, Abdul Khaleq Mondal, Motiur Rahman, Abdul Aziz, Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan, M Riasat Ali Biswas, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Mia Golam Panwar, Manjur Quader and Prof Mohammad Younus.

Lawmakers elected to the women's reserved seats attended only 84 workdays of the House.

The Speaker declared names of 11 of the 45 women lawmakers for attending maximum workdays of the current parliament. They are Tasmin Rana, Hasne Ara Gias Daisy, Rokeya Ahmed Lucky, Advocate Khaleda Hanna, Helen Zerin Khan, Sultana Razia, Saimun Begum, Rasheda Begum Hira, Newsa Halima, Rezina Islam and Nur-e-Hasna Lily Chowdhury.

The Speaker said he will reward the lawmakers today.

DNA works earn US scientist Nobel prize in Chemistry

AFP, Oslo

Roger Kornberg of the United States won the Nobel Chemistry Prize yesterday for work on a key process of life called genetic transcription, building on Nobel prize-winning discoveries by his own father.

Kornberg, 59, received the distinction "for his fundamental studies concerning how the information stored in the genes is copied, and then transferred to those parts of the cells that produce proteins," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation.

Understanding the transcription process is vital for coaxing stem cells into different kinds of specific cells -- the dream that, one day, scientists will be able to grow transplant tissue in a lab.

Kornberg's award wraps up a clean sweep for the United States in the Nobel science prizes, with four other Americans taking home the medicine and physics awards earlier this week.

Now a professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, in California, Kornberg was only 12 when he came to Stockholm to see his father, Arthur Kornberg, honoured with the 1959 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Kornberg senior, now in his late 80s, was honoured for advancing understanding on how genetic information is transferred from a mother cell to its daughters.

The younger Kornberg's achievement was to portray how the genetic code, DNA, is copied by an enzyme and the copy is then stored in the outer part of the cell.

Like computer software, this copy is then used as an instruction to cellular machinery to make proteins, the molecules that comprise and repair the body's tissues.

The 2006 prize is for "eukaryotic transcription" -- eukaryotes are a biological term for a vast category of organisms whose cells have a well-defined nucleus. Human beings come into this category.

Kornberg was the first to create a molecular picture of how transcription works in eukaryotes, thus providing a snapshot of one of the cornerstone processes of life.

"The truly revolutionary aspect of the picture Kornberg has created is that it captures the process of transcription in full flow," the Nobel jury said.

The pictures are so detailed that separate atoms can be distinguished, showing the cogs that drive the transcription process and regulate it.

"Transcription is necessary for all life," the jury said. Problems with the transcription process are linked to many human illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and various kinds of inflammation.

"If transcription stops, genetic information is no longer transferred into different parts of the body. Since these are no longer renewed, the organism dies within a few days," the jury said.

Kornberg and his father are the sixth father-and-son to win Nobel prizes.

The 2006 laureate will receive a gold medal and a cheque for 10 million Swedish kronor (1.07 million euros, 1.37 million dollars) at the formal prize ceremony held, as tradition dictates, on December 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of the prize's creator Alfred Nobel.

On Monday, the Medicine Prize went to US research duo Andrew Fire and Craig Mello for their discovery of how to silence malfunctioning genes, a breakthrough which could lead to an era of new therapies to reverse crippling diseases.

And on Tuesday the Nobel Physics Prize went to US space scientists John Mather and George Smoot for a pioneering space mission which supports the "Big Bang" theory about the origins of the Universe.

The Economics Prize is scheduled for October 9, while the date for the Literature Prize has not been announced yet though it could fall on October 12.

The Peace Prize will wrap up the 2006 Nobel season on October 13.

RMG workers

FROM PAGE 16 "After a hectic discussion among all parties, it has been agreed that a single pay structure will be finalised. We hope the final proposal will be acceptable to all," said a leader of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Bangladesh Garment Sramik Karmachari Federation General Secretary Kamrul Ansan said, "A chaotic situation has been going on for the last few months. As we would not like to see things deteriorate, we are trying to reach a stage where workers will get some benefits."

The wage board at its 25th meeting on September 12 announced a three-tier proposal to be implemented in three years with Tk 1,604 as gross minimum salary for the entry level workers in the first year.

Following a labour unrest in the country's premier export-earning garment sector, the government formed the wage board on May 31 and asked it to recommend a pay structure for the workers within three months. The minimum wage for workers in the RMG sector is now Tk 930, which was fixed about 12 years ago.

The government, garment factory owners and workers' leaders at a meeting on June 12 inked a 10-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) after a series of discussions and decided to implement the MoU in phases to address the unrest.

The leader of the opposition

PM hopes reasonable

FROM PAGE 1 with their choice."

The PM blasted the AL for choosing the US ambassador's residence as the venue for the secretary-level talks. "Don't we live in an independent country? Don't we have prestige? Can't we hold discussion?" Khaleda said, adding that the people can never believe the AL following this "drama".

Khaleda also blasted the AL for refusing to sit in dialogue with Jamaat-e-Islami in the PM's proposed committee.

In her 55-minute speech amid repeated desk-thumbing by treasury bench lawmakers, the PM described her government's efforts towards development in various sectors ranging from economics to education.

She, whoever, avoided the much-talked-about issues of skyrocketing prices of essentials, unbridled corruption and the ongoing acute shortage of power.

Defending the existing system of the caretaker government introduced in 1996 through amending the constitution, Khaleda strongly criticised the AL for its proposal to bring reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission.

"The two general elections held under the caretaker government system have been lauded at home and abroad, but the main opposition is now questioning the caretaker government system and demanding to change it," Khaleda said.

"The Awami League will fix who will be the chief of caretaker government and the chief election commissioner. [They say] the person supposed to be the chief of caretaker government is not reliable, he is partisan, but the person to be fixed by Awami League will be neutral--is it logical?" Khaleda said.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, who in her concluding speech earlier blasted the government for engaging in conspiracy to rig the polls, was however absent from the House during the PM's speech.

The PM was also not present in the House during Hasina's speech. In reply to the main opposition's allegation that the government has planned to rig the election, the PM said days of rigging elections are gone as people of the country are very much aware about their rights of franchise.

"Different propaganda can be launched to create controversy and confuse people, but it is not possible to win the election through any blueprint," she said, adding that there is no way to change election results as voters are much aware, contenders are powerful and observers and media remain active.

On the opposition combine's declaration to resist the polls without electoral reforms and make the caretaker government unable to function, the PM said, "The only duty of the caretaker government is to create the atmosphere for holding

election. To make the caretaker government unable to function means to create obstacle to holding the election, to resist the polls means to destroy the democracy and make the constitution ineffective and undermine the people's right.

"We are determined to save the democracy, constitution and people's voting rights. Question does not arise for compromising in this regard," Khaleda said, adding, "The election must be held in time and it is a norm of democracy."

At the beginning of her speech, the leader of the House said she feels proud as the current parliament is going to fulfil its tenure of five years. "The country advanced another step on the way to parliamentary democracy through it," the PM said.

Jute mill workers

FROM PAGE 1 arear salary.

Hundreds of buses, trucks and other modes of transports were stranded during the 10:00am-2:00pm blockade creating a severe traffic gridlock.

Under the banner of All Party Workers-Employees Action Committee, Chittagong the workers put up barricades at AK Khan Jute Mill Gate in city's Pahartali and in front of Anwara Jute Mill, Hafiz Jute Mill and SKM Jute Mill at Sitakunda upazila. Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine also extended their support to the programme.

Their demands include payment of pending salaries and wages of the workers of all private and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) run mills and ensuring continued operations at the state-run mills.

Rallies were held at the four points during the blockade programme, presided over by Committee Convenor ATM Nizam Uddin. City Mayor and Chittagong City Unit AL President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, workers' leaders Mazed Chowdhury, Mohammad Osman, Noor Mohammad and Nurul Mostafa Chowdhury addressed the rallies among others.

The speakers demanded that the authorities clear the dues and bonuses of the workers by October 15, adding that the workers must be paid even if productions at the mills remain suspended. They also called for ensuring continued production at all BJMC mills through procurement of jutes.

On September 27, the workers observed an hour-long blockade programme at the same points on the highway and at Arakan Road in city's Kalurghat area for the same demands.

Hasina urges Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1 says that a caretaker government must be neutral and non-partisan."

The leader of the opposition asserted that the chief adviser to the next caretaker government should be appointed on the basis of a consensus and the Election Commission must be reconstituted to ensure a free and fair election.

"Under the present Election Commission no election can be free and fair," Hasina said.

She also demanded restoration of the previous provisions in election laws regarding the duties of law enforcers during an election by repealing the provisions introduced in 2001 during the regime of the last caretaker government.

Hasina, also a former prime minister, said BNP-led ruling alliance has completed all arrangements to rig the polls sensing a defeat in the next election. "For this the government does not want to bring electoral reforms. But the people will not allow it to jeopardise their constitutional right to franchise," she said adding that the time is not too far when the people will get rid of the misuse of the four-party alliance government.

Termining the five-year rule of the current government as a dark era, she said the people are anxiously waiting to get rid of the repressive rulers. "After this darkness, light will shine and the people's lives will be bright."

The four-party alliance government registered 1.40 crore fake voters, appointed 300 of its flunkys as upazila election officers, and arranged the administration at all levels with six layers of partisan persons to steal votes in an effort to come back to power at any cost, Hasina said.

The AL chief asked the prime minister why she wants to steal votes and engineer the election while she (PM) claims flourishing developments in the country.

Throwing an apparent challenge to the ruling alliance amid repeated applause from AL lawmakers, the opposition leader called upon the people to resist BNP-Jamaat foot soldiers with whatever they have to protect the polls. Hasina urged the people to make a list of criminals and their godfathers for resisting them.

The leader of the opposition

CTG ARMS HAUL

Main accused meet mates on court building rooftop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Principal accused in 10-truckload of arms haul case Hafizur Rahman held meetings with his associates on the rooftop of Chittagong court building on Tuesday.

Following the sensational incident, concerned Assistant Commissioner (Prosecution) Nesar Ahmad yesterday demanded an explanation from district Court Inspector Delwar Hossain.

Hafiz was produced at the Court of Additional District Magistrate in connection with an arms case filed with Patiya Police Station in the district.

After the proceedings, Hafiz went to the rooftop of the second floor, which is now under renovation, and talked to some 15 people in several phases for more than three hours from 11:30am.

Handcuffed and put on *dandaberi*, Hafiz talked freely with the people who included three 'rich and powerful' persons while none of the policemen responsible for bringing him to the court from the jail custody were seen around at the time.

Hafiz also talked to several people over cell phones.

Hafiz surrendered to a Dhaka court on October 26 last year after remaining absconding for around 19 months since the 10-truckload of firearms, the largest cache in the country's history, was seized at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd on the bank of Karnaphuli river on April 2, 2004.

Replying to the explanation call of Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nesar Ahmad, the district court inspector said as he joined the office on 1st October, he is yet to know the criminals or the accused staying in Chittagong jail custody.

The policemen responsible for producing Hafiz before the court might have created the scope for the accused to hold such meeting for money, he added.

The AC warned him against such incidents and advised him to maintain details on the types of the accused now in jail custody and the cases against them.

Road blocked

FROM PAGE 1 The agitators withdrew their demonstration after police reached the scene.

Meanwhile, people from Kaji, Bhangapress and Mridhabari blockaded the Demra-Jatrabari road at 11:30am in demand of regular supply of electricity in the area.

The agitating locals said they came out on the streets to protest the acute power outages in the area, especially during the Sehri and Iftar hours in the last few days.

The demonstrators withdrew the barricades as the Rab and police officials assured them of taking steps to improve the power supply.

In Teknaf, locals ransacked a power supply office at Teknaf Market before the Iftar in protest against frequent load shedding, said the witnesses.

Police clubbed agitating people to bring the situation under control that left five injured.

Fitra fixed

FROM PAGE 16 37 as per the market price of Dhaka.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Khatib of Lalbagh Shahi Jam-e-Mosque Maulana M Aminul Islam and members of the Board of Governors of Islamic Foundation Maulana Shah M Naserul Haq and Maulana Muzaffar Hossain Khan.

Abbas mulls

FROM PAGE 16 coup. The alternatives will be painful," Rudwan said.

Some officials from Abbas's Fatah faction have urged him to dissolve the Hamas-led government and form a new administration, a move that could lead to civil war.

Israel and Western donor nations cut off funds to the Palestinian Authority, deepening economic hardship in the West Bank and Gaza, when Hamas established a government in March after winning election in January.

Hamas has rejected international demands to renounce violence and recognise Israel and existing interim peace deals.

Rice, who has urged an end to Palestinian in-fighting that has killed 12 people in the last week, will meet Israeli leaders after talks with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

During her regional trip, she also hopes to win Arab support for the embattled governments in Iraq and Lebanon, where 34 days of fighting between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas ended in a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire on August 14.

Prospects for renewed peace-making with the Palestinians and concerns over Iran were likely to be high on the agenda of Rice's planned talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Baghdad car bomb kills 14, wounds 75

REUTERS, Baghdad

At least 14 people were killed and 75 wounded in a car bomb attack in central Baghdad yesterday which targeted the convoy of Industry Minister Fawzi al-Hariri, Interior Ministry sources said.

Hariri, a Kurd, was not in the convoy when it was attacked. Two of his bodyguards were among those killed, Duhaa Mohammed, an Industry Ministry spokeswoman, said. "The minister is at the ministry and perfectly safe".

The car bomb detonated in the capital's Karrada district in the Christian neighbourhood of Camp Sara as the convoy passed, police said. A subsequent roadside bomb blast also caused casualties.

Mangled wreckage lay on the road and the fronts of shops were blown out, witnesses said.

Insurgents fighting the Shia-led national unity government have frequently targeted government ministers.

A car bomb also killed one person when it exploded in Baghdad's restive Dora district.

Insurgents shot dead two U.S. soldiers on Tuesday, the U.S. military said on Wednesday. One was killed in Baghdad the other near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has launched a four-point plan to try to end sectarian violence in Iraq. The plan, agreed by top Shi'ite and Sunni politicians late on Monday, hopes to halt communal fighting by allowing mixed "security committees" to patrol Baghdad's numerous districts.

Extra talks to discuss the details of the plan were expected on Wednesday afternoon. A senior Shi'ite politician said discussions would centre on the issue of internal refugees driven out by extremists in areas where they formed a minority.

Figures compiled by the Displacement and Migration Ministry say at least 42,000 families have fled their homes since the bombing of a Shi'ite shrine in February dramatically increased sectarian violence in Iraq.

Sunni insurgents often bomb crowded Shi'ite areas and Sunnis accuse Shi'ite militias of infiltrating Iraq's security forces to run death squads in the capital.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said a regiment commander was arrested on Tuesday for negligence and failing to report the mass kidnapping of mainly Sunni factory

Talks finally start

FROM PAGE 1 Atmosphere for the next parliamentary election.

Many political analysts fear, if the crisis is not resolved within the tenure of the four-party alliance government, which will expire on October 27, confrontations might erupt on the streets as the leader of the opposition already called upon the people to throng the capital from all over the country on the day Justice KM Hasan will takeover office as the chief of the next caretaker government, to make the interim government unable to function.

Amid such a situation, Bhuiyan and Jallil yesterday during a telephone conversation fixed the venue and time for the talks that might continue for a few days.

Today, Jallil will formally place a 31-point charter of demands for electoral reforms to his counterpart and justify each and every point with arguments and logic. Jallil will also listen to Bhuiyan's comments carefully and will bring those to meetings of his party and the opposition coalition. Bhuiyan will also listen to Jallil's arguments carefully and discuss those with senior leaders of BNP and the ruling alliance before the second day of the talks.

Journalists will be allowed to enter the parliament during the talks, Jallil told reporters yesterday.

After repeated telephone conversations since August 20, Bhuiyan and Jallil came to a consensus that they will sit for the talks on behalf of the two major political parties to break the stalemate.

On October 1, Bhuiyan proposed to Jallil holding of a dialogue at 11:00am on Tuesday in Padma, the state guesthouse. But in a sudden move on the same night, US Ambassador in Dhaka Patricia A Butenis invited the BNP secretary general and the AL general secretary to her official residence to have tea with her on Wednesday.

But, Bhuiyan refused to sit with Jallil in US envoy's residence. On the following day Bhuiyan proposed Sangsad Bhaban or any state guest house as the venue for the talks and Jallil agreed to Sangsad Bhaban removing the ominous cloud hanging over the much-awaited dialogue for which the AL-led opposition coalition has been demonstrating on the streets since July 15 last year.

STANCES OF AL, BNP The AL-led opposition coalition decided not to budge on its stance against the ideas of Justice KM Hasan being appointed as the chief adviser to the next caretaker government and holding the next election under the present chief election commissioner MA Aziz and three other present election commissioners.

It will also not budge on its stance that instead of the president, the caretaker government should be in charge of the defence ministry for the sake of a free and fair election. BNP, on the other hand, will not

workers in southern Baghdad on Sunday.

In the violent province of Diyala, an Iraqi army colonel said U.S. soldiers had arrested 10 soldiers on Tuesday who guard Brigadier Shakir al-Kaabi, the head of the army's 5th division.

The U.S. military could not be reached for comment, and it was not clear why the arrests were made.

Sanitation

FROM PAGE 16 safe drinking water coverage due to arsenic contamination of its ground-water.

More than 30 per cent of the tube wells sunk in recent decades are contaminated with arsenic above the nationally recommended level, Abdul Bari, chief engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering said.

Meanwhile, in sanitation coverage, South Asia has the most severe urban-rural disparities in the world, and although Bangladesh's performance in this respect is satisfactory, still there exists disparities between the urban and rural areas. The access to proper sanitation stands at 51 per cent for urban dwellers compared to 35 per cent