Three share Nobel Medicine Prize

Two British researchers honoured vesterday with the 2001 Nobel Prize in medicine said their work on cell development improved understanding of how cancer grows and may lead to new treatments.

Using humble yeast, Sir Paul Nurse, now director general of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, identified one of the key regulators in the cell cycle -- the process cells go through to divide -- named cyclin dependent kinase, or CDK. He also showed the mechanism is common to all living organisms, from yeast to

In his study of the cells of sea urchins, Dr Tim Hunt, head of cell cycle control at the ICRF, discovered cyclins, proteins formed and degraded during each cell cycle that regulate the activity of CDK.

Nurse and Hunt share the 10 million kronor (943,000 dollars) award with Leland H Hartwell, 61, director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Search Center in Seattle, Washington, who studied yeast to identify more than 100 genes involved in controlling the cell cycle.

"We have gained a theoretical understanding, a cultural shift that helps understand cancer better " an ebullient Nurse told a news conference where he and an equally excited Hunt were applauded by journalists and fellow scientists

The Nobel prize committee said the men's work was about to be applied to diagnosing tumors and Nurse said some pharmaceutical companies "have inhibitors on trial" to block or repair the cell division machinery of cancer cells. But he warned that new therapies "will take time" to develop.

To grow, cells must duplicate their chromosomes -- the tiny DNA segments that contain genes -- and divide the chromosomes to be

and Washington, that Moscow

would be stepping up its weapons

AP from Tehran adds: The north-

ern alliance is preparing for a major

offensive against Afghanistan's

ruling Taliban while US forces

bombard the regime's power bases,

a top strategist for the anti-Taliban

readiness," Touryali Ghiasi told The

Associated Press by telephone from

his base in the eastern Iranian city of

Mashhad. "We are preparing to

Ghiasi, who was a top aide to

slain northern alliance commander

Ahmed Shah Massood, said the

militia's latest campaign could begin

as early as today. He gave no details

of the immediate military objectives

of the alliance, which holds about 10

Gen Pervez Musharraf called on

Afghanistan's opposition not to take

advantage of the US and British

military attacks against Osama bin

Laden and his allies in the ruling

Musharraf said he had told US

President George W Bush and

British Prime Minister Tony Blair that

"this action should not be allowed to

be taken advantage of by the north-

ern alliance." referring to the Afghan

opposition coalition fighting the

draw mileage out of this action and

the post-action has to be balance."

Pakistan has maintained close

ties for years with the Taliban and is

"The northern alliance must not

Meanwhile, Pakistan President

per cent of Afghanistan

Taliban

Taliban

he added.

"We are in a state of absolute

militia said yesterday.

supply to the Northern Alliance.

Nurse, 52, a graduate of the universities of Birmingham and East Anglia, chose yeast cells because, unlike human cells, they are simple and easy to study. In the early 1980s, he identified a pivotal gene in yeast cells, called cdc2, which is responsible for regulating their division. He also identified three different proteins that control the timing and speed of cell division

In 1987, he discovered that cdc2 was also present in human cells -- a finding he calls "a bit of a eureka moment." He was knighted in 1999 for services to science.

Studying Arbacia, or sea urchir cells in the early 1980s, Hunt noticed cyclin, a protein that disappeared abruptly before cell division likened to "a biological oscillator."

"Seeing a protein go away suggested ... that the going away was how you did it (cause growth),

important discovery on that first day," he said. "The thing Paul had discovered did not work by itself: it needed this other thing (cyclin) to cosy up to it." Scientists have ascertained that cyclins bind the CDK molecules, thereby regulating their activity.

Hunt, 58, a University of Cambridge alumnus, later discovered cyclins in other species; yesterday, around 10 different cyclins have been found in

The awards are handed out December 10, the anniversary of prize creator Alfred Nobel's death in

AL now working on feedback

FROM PAGE 12 remained in tact.

But they all acknowledged that the AL leadership was now seriously taking into account the views expressed by party rank and file before proceeding further with its planned agitation.

When asked about the overwhelming opinion of the party men that the AL should play its roles 'both in and out of the parliament'. Alpresidium member Amir Hossain Amu said, "Whatever decisions the party take in days to come. I can say this much that those will reflect

AL Publicity Secretary Abdul Mannan informed that the party was preparing to successfully stage tomorrow's road barricade programme across the country. He also said no programme after that

district seat Moulvibazar-3, which

he retained in the last term. His son

may contest for this seat in the by-

who won from Manikganj-2 and 3

constituencies, has retained the

latter seat. Last time he retained

Manikgani-2 seat, his home constit-

As per Constitutional provisions

MPs elected from more than one

constituency must inform the

Flection Commission in writing

within one month of the election

which seat he/she will retain or they

must inform the EC before taking

will take oath this morning, Khaleda Zia, Saifur and Monno yesterday

informed the EC which seats they

Meanwhile, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina who won

four seats Gopalganj-3, Narail-1

and 2 and Barguna-3 -- and

Presidium Member Abdur Razzak,

elected from Faridpur-4 and

Shariatour-3 constituencies, are vet

to inform the EC in this regard. Al

has demanded cancellation of the

election results and is now in a

technique to get a two-thirds major-

bags of ballot papers from a road-

side in Sreenagar of Munshiganj,

she said their polling agents were ousted and extra ballot papers

supplied to manipulate the election

She said the four-party alliance

was also involved in widespread

rigging in yesterday's re-elections

held in various centres of 15 constit-

capturing hostels of universities.

colleges, bus and launch terminals

and even public toilets to establish

She alleged that thousands

people of the minority communities

have been driven out from their

them against me to create law and

Siddiqui, also the founding treasurer of the BNP, alleged that

the AL candidate snatched his

victory by preventing voters in all the

four unions of Sripur thana from

casting their vote and intimidating

in the thana on the polling day that

the polling and presiding officers

challenge election results in 1991 and 1996 although there had been

massive rigging. "But this time, I am

going to take the matter to court as

there was massive rigging in the

About terrorism in the Gazipur-1

seat, he said there were some

untoward incidents, but those were

not political. "If there were any acts

of terrorism, the new MP in coopera-

tion with local administration should

have acted. But he is blaming the

is not afraid and Osama is not

afraid," said Fida Mohammed, a bus

driver who lives near the airport. He

has moved to his brother's house at

approaching, and few Afghans were

on the streets. Five thunderous

blasts sounded; anti-aircraft fire lit

the sky. The city quickly went dark.

Siddiqui also said he did not

"He created such a situation

order in the Gazipur district.'

their control. Sheikh Hasina said.

The terrorists of the alliance are

uencies of the country

Tanveer

had nothing to do.

October 1 election."

BNP," said Siddiqui.

FROM PAGE 1

the other end of the city.

FROM PAGE 12

Referring to the recovery of three

movement to press its demand.

As the newly elected BNP MPs

oath.

will retain

Harunur Rashid Khan Monno,

restraints.

ber of 'tough decisions' before the grassroots party leaders were given a chance to air their views. An overwhelming majority of

the country urged the leadership to rethink the decision on not joining the parliament and launching a noncooperation movement.

the tough stance taken by the party. as, they feared, it may alienate the

Allegation of rigging aside, they listed organisational weaknesses, factional feuds, 'wrong' go-alone policy and central leadership's failure to guide the party chief towards right direction as some of the main reasons behind the sound election thrashing. The party chief had assured them that she would be on a countrywide tour soon to reorganise the party.

Bush:

Vajpayee
FROM PAGE 12
by Maulana Masood Azhar, the
militant who was released by India

in return for the safety of passen-gers on board an Indian Airlines

plane hijacked from Kathmandu to

US to ban Jaish-e-Mohammed as

well as another Pakistan-based

militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba,

which is engaged in militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. Britain has

Bush also told Vajpayee that he

would be sending US Secretary of State Colin Powell to India some-

time this month. India's External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and

National Security Advisor Brajesh

Mishra had very recently met the top

brass of American leadership to

discuss the situation arising out of

September 11 terror strikes in New

Jaish-e-Mohammed are, according

to observers here, aimed at taking

care of India's concern that the

international community should not be oblivious of Pakistan's lack of

credentials in joining the global

campaign against terrorism, when

Islamabad itself is a major sponsor

Salman's daughter

FROM PAGE 1 University College of London this

of Court School of Law attached to

Lincolns Inn to be called to the bar.

Hasina along with some party lead-

ers went to Salman's house vester-

day and expressed her deep shock

members of the bereaved family and

prayed peace for the departed soul.

Salman's house included advisor of

the care taker government Rokia

Afzal Rahman, former ministers A S

H K Sadique, Mofazzal Hossain

Chowdhury Maya, newly elected MP

Nazmul Huda and former FBCCI

Karim who was a graduate in com-

puter science from a college in

London went there recently for

immigration purpose.
. They,however, could not say

whether there was any link between

the death of Atif karim and Shamaila

Karim has gone to London after receiving the news of the accident.

Musharraf

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

FROM PAGE 1

for two years.

Zaglul Karim, brother of Joynul

Khan played a key role in the

October 1999 military coup that

ousted the elected government of

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and

installed Musharraf as military ruler

The coup isolated Pakistan from

much of the international community

The shuffle came a day after

Musharraf extended his own term as

the army chief for an indefinite

period -- and hours before the US

and British strikes on Taliban targets

But Musharraf said he had been

Musharraf also appointed Lt Gen

contemplating the changes "for a

Mohammed Yousuf as vice chief of

staff of the army, passing over Lt

Gen Muzaffar Usmani, Usmani, now

deputy chief of staff, is considered

an Islamic hard-liner. His position

becomes redundant with the

appointment of Yousuf as vice chief.

They urged the authorities

Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK), an

The organisation urged the

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan

concerned to take immediate steps

NGO, said their workers have

noticed attack on the lives of the

members of the minority community

President for his intervention to stop

Committee also urged the govern-

to stop repression on them.

Concern

across the country.

such attacks.

FROM PAGE 12

election.

inside neighbouring Afghanistan.

According to family sources, Atif

president Abdul Awal Mintoo.

at the sad demise of Shamaila

the press release added

Shamaila was attending the Inns

Awami League Chief Sheikh

Sheikh Hasina also consoled the

The other leaders who visited

Bush's assurance about banning

York and Washington.

of the problem.

already banned these two outfits.

India has since been urging the

Kandahar in December 1999.

Meanwhile, the AL is now also under pressure both at home and abroad to accept the poll results

The country's intelligentsia business community, diplomatic circle -- all favoured stability for the sake of flourishing democracy.

Sources hinted that the AL will definitely have more brainstorming sessions before it goes for fresh

AL men

FROM PAGE 12 town's bus stand were also ransacked and looted on the day after the election.

BNP men have also allegedly

Residents of Hindupara, a Hindu-dominated neighbourhood in the town, alleged that a large number of them could not cast their vote due to false voting.

Meanwhile, a tense situation has been prevailing in villages of the shoal areas under Banglabazar union in Sadar thana. Following a series of attacks on AL supporters, a large number of AL supporters of some villages in the union have taken shelter in different villages to

Mollakandi and Adara unions.

A number of such victims in Munshiganj town said that they did not inform police or file any case

Munshiganj-4 is among the 16 constituencies, results of which were withheld pending re-polling at 83 centres suspended on October 1 due to violence and intimidation. Apart from the seven centres of Munshiganj-4, re-polling at other suspended centres took place yesterday. Re-polling at the seven Munshigani centres was suspended again yesterday following a High Court order.

OIC, Arab

from the Organization of the Islamic Conference said on condition of anonymity.

meet today on the sidelines of OIC

Arab foreign ministers are expected to discuss the US-led antiterrorism campaign launched following the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the retaliatory strikes on

A report from Jerusalem says:

ted in the name of Palestine," Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said of bin

A night of horror for citizens of Kabul cleric scorned leaders of other

occupied the residence of BCL activist Shvamol Kumar Krishna on the same day. The house is now under lock and key and Krishna's family members have taken shelter in the houses of their relatives.

escape the wrath of BNP men.

AL supporters are allegedly exposed to threat and becoming victim of extortion by cadres of Banglabazar UP chairman Mortuza. Similar incidents were reported from villages under Charkewar,

fearing further harassment.

The constituency has witnessed a two-way race between former deputy minister of the BNP government and MP of the seventh Jativa Sangsad Abdul Hve. and AL candi-

FROM PAGE 1

meet for two days starting tomorrow. Foreign ministers representing the 22-member Arab League will

Taliban-run Afghanistan, the official

Palestinian officials rushed to distance themselves yesterday from accused terror mastermind Osama Bin Laden who in a shift of emphasis, said he is confronting America in defence of the Palestinians.

Laden's remarks Sunday.

date Mohammad Mohiuddin

The Muslim foreign ministers will

gathering.

"We don't want crimes commit-

ment to take effective measures to stop attack on the members of the minority community. Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, in a

statement, termed the attack on the minority community as a black spot and said it goes against the spirit of the liberation war. Meanwhile, a procession will be

brought out from Shahbagh today at 4:30pm for maintaining religious harmony all over the country. The interested persons have

been requested to gather at Shahbagh in time.

Attack protested

FROM PAGE 12

Bangladesh Samvabadi Dal in a statement condemned the attack on

'unarmed civilians' in Afghanistan in

the darkness of night. They claimed that 'fundamentalist' Laden is a 'paid man' of US.

government has 'already supported' the aggression.

Our Kushtia Correspondent

reported that some Islamic groups brought out a procession on the US attack on

written statement.

We are in touch with various friendly countries including OIC members. "Internally, we are in consultation

Three waves of attack

The $\overline{40},\overline{532}$ -tonne amphibious assault ship Essex, along with the 15,726-tonne dock landing ships Germantown and Fort McHenry, left the southern Japanese island of Okinawa. Kvodo said.

The Essex was carrying armoured vehicles howitzers combat cars and other munitions as well as a US Marine Corps unit, Kyodo quoted unspecified defence sources as saying.

The 1,312-tonne minesweeper

Patriot also steamed out of Okinawa

port, Kyodo said. Officials of US military forces in Japan were not immediately available to comment on the report.

US military authorities declined to provide any details concerning the deployment or final destination of the vessels. Kvodo said. It said, however, the departure of

the four vessels was believed to be connected to the US and British attacks on Afghanistan. Heavy US bombers, warships

and elite special forces moved to the Gulf. Central Asia and Indonesian Ocean region near Afghanistan. AP from Kabul says, striking at the heart of Taliban power, US and

British forces attacked targets in major Afghan cities in the opening salvo of US President George W Bush's war on terrorism. The Taliban claimed about 20 people were killed, including women, children and the elderly.

Osama bin Laden, blamed for

nasterminding the attacks on the United States nearly a month ago, vowed in an apparently pre-taped message that America will "never dream of security." said he survived the strikes. In neighbouring Pakistan, thou-

sands of rioters took to the streets. hurling rocks and torching buildings to protest the US-led strike. The Taliban ambassador to

Pakistan called the attacks indiscriminate terror against civilians. "The rockets ... killed a number of

Afghans, 20, including women, children and the elderly," the envoy, Abdul Salam Zaeef, told reporters The brave people of Afghanistan will never be intimidated by these fears ... they will defend the faith, Islam." The Taliban claimed yesterday

they shot down an aircraft during Afghanistan's northern Farah province during Sunday night's US-British assault. The Pentagon reported no loss of aircraft during the raids.

No independent confirmation of the claim by the Taliban's envoy to Pakistan was possible. Taliban diplomats said

Laden, alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, survived the raid, which began Sunday evening local time. The Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, had a narrow escape --he left his office in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar only 15 minutes before the missiles struck, an aide said. The headquarters were damaged.

Hamidullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, told The Associated Press by telephone killed and four were wounded in Kandahar, the Taliban's home base which bore the brunt of the first night's assault.

Three waves of attacks struck Kandahar, also targeting the airport, the Taliban military headquarters and homes of bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, according to witnesses contacted by telephone from

Pakistan. The Taliban issued no nationwide death tolls, but checks of three hospitals in Kabul found no casualties. The Pentagon said it was too

early to determine casualties. Missiles struck targets around the southern and northern districts of Kabul, but not the center of the city of 1 million people already devastated by more than 20 years of

armed conflict.

cities of Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif. Other sources reached by telephone from Islamabad said three loud explosions could be heard in Jalalabad, one of them from the area of Farmada, a bin Laden training camp about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south.

Attacks were also reported in the

US Defense Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld said an initial goal of the strikes was to render air defenses neffective and to wipe out the Taliban's military aircraft. At least three people were

wounded in cruise missile attack in Jalalabad, A Taliban soldier, identified as Usman, was wounded when a missile hit the Jalalabad airport. The missile caused little damage, Taliban officials said.

Two other missiles missed the target and landed up to one mile away from the airport wounding two people, including 14-year-old identified as Assadullah. A fighter aircraft also dropped a bomb in a desert outside Jalalabad, causing no damage, Taliban officials said.

Pentagon officials said the United States and Britain launched 50 cruise missiles against targets inside Afghanistan in an assault that also involved the most sophisticated US warplanes. A senior Pentagon official said targets included air defenses, military communications sites and terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan.

US and British attacks in Afghanistan caused "very considerable damage." and military action is likely to continue for weeks, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in London

Straw said it was "becoming clear that very considerable damage on the targets not off the targets was caused as a result of these raids last nights." Straw told a news conference before departing for a European Union foreign minis-

He said there had been no casualties among the British forces

Alliance 214, AL 62

est rival Mosleh Uddin of the AL polling 52,627 votes.

In the Barisal-6 constituency BNP candidate Abul Hossain Khan bagged 54,317 votes defeating Masud Reza of the AL, who got 41.171 votes AL candidate Dr Alauddin Ahmed

was elected from the Kishorganj-1 constituency, defeating BNP and four-party nominee Idris Ali Bhuiyan by only 122 votes. Alauddin polled 86,621 votes against Idris's 86,509.

Independent candidate MM Shahin was elected from Moulivibazar-2, polling 78,667 votes. His nearest rival Sultan Mohammad Monsur of the AL secured 71.803 votes.

AKM Mosharraf Hossain of the BNP was winner in Munshiganj-5. Mosharraf secured 90.501 votes against Rasheda Mohiuddin's (AL) 74.033. Dr Osman Farook of the BNP

won Kishoreganj-4 by polling 65,447 votes. His nearest contender Dr Mizanul Haq of the AL secured 64.232 votes. In Laxmipur-4, BNP candidate

ABM Asharaf Uddin Nizam won with 45,977 votes. His nearest rival ASM Abdur Rab of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) polled 43.453 votes. Ebadur Rahman of the BNP

secured the Moulavibazar-1 constit-

ance, polled 83,942 votes to secure the Bagerhat ahead of AL candidate Dr Mozammel Hossain (81.941).

BNP won the Brahmanbaria-3 seat with 150,061 votes, with nearest rival AL's Humayun Kabir getting 123 238 votes MA Khaleque of the BNP was

nearest rival AB Tajul Islam of the AL M Nurul Huda of the BNP secured Chandpur-2, defeating Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury

Maya of the AL. Huda got 78,204 votes against Maya's 50,516. Lt Col (retd.) Akbar Hossain of the BNP bagged the Comilla-8 seat. AL candidate from the constituency ATM Shamsul Hag had earlier

BNP candidate Monirul Hag Chowdhury won the Comilla-9 seat, polling 78,595 votes, AH Mostafa Kamal (Lotus Kamal) of the AL, who had also boycotted the re-polling, finished second with 66,175 votes

Asked about this after the meetng with top foreign ministry officials, the US ambassador told newsmen she had extensive discussions but declined to say 'anything specific.' Bangladesh on September 18

allowed 'coalition forces' use of its strategic facilities in case of an attack on Afghanistan or other 'terrorist havens' in the region to combat terrorism Sources in the Air Force and the

Navy confirmed last night that they were not alerted about use of any of their facilities. Briefing newsmen at around 7

om, Shafi Sami declined to respond to any question and just read out a "Bangladesh is keenly following

the developments in Afghanistan.

with the incoming government.

statement said.

present at the briefing. The US and British envoys were learnt to have discussions with Shafi

Sami and Mohsin Ali for over an

Meanwhile, some sources said

and Reaz Rahman, two key policy advisors of Khaleda Zia who is due to take over as prime minister.

the only country that recognizes the **Bhola situation**

said Tofail, who was the minister for industries in the past AL govern-

"I could not even appoint polling agents for all the centres because of the fact that law enforcers had picked up my prospective agents and the BNP terrorists injured them," he said. Tofail also criticised the care-

tated by the BNP and it performed to serve the party." loose of a reign of terror. Ten BNP

caretaker government was hostile to him, as was the case to his party since the very beginning. "As dicing trouble."

boost their strength. ensure that Afghanistan's Pashtun

"One is hoping, and I have definite assurances, that this operation will be short, targeted and should not have collateral damage." he

the border city of Quetta went on the rampage, setting fire to a cinema in

an anti-US demonstration that turned violent. There are some extremists who are trying to have this agitation. I am very sure this will be controllable."

Musharraf also said that he did not expect the strikes on Afghanistan to lead to a new guerilla

guerilla war it will lead to the acceptance of a political dispensation", he said. Musharraf said, however, that the US-led war on terrorism must tackle the unsettled disputes and

tion with the law enforcement agencies debarred my polling agents from carrying out their duties. They were also harassed and assaulted,

taker government for, what he said,

He alleged that action was not taken against those who had attacked the police station to force release of the bombers. "The armed BNP people were spared and let activists were arrested as they were hurling bombs, but they all were released following phone calls from BNP high-ups.'

tated by the BNP, the law enforcers desperately searched for key Awami League figures in Bhola and detained them on charges of creat-He also accused the BNP of

attacking his followers. "Even my chief election agent was not allowed

He further alleged that his election campaign was largely affected due to harassment of his party workers. "The people of Bhola have witnessed all the acts of terrorism in their areas and the shameful role of the authorities. In fact, I had to contest the polls in an extremely hostile situation despite enjoying

popular supports." Tofail, who had never before lost an election since he first contested the 1970 general election at the age of 27, said he had never contested election in "such an adverse situation", as he showed the signs of torture on some of the AL victims in Bhola. He named dozens others who had fallen prev to violence in his

"I never harmed my opponents after winning an election rather they were benefited by me." the AL leader said speaking about the behaviour of his contenders who had won this time He told the journalists that he had sought intervention from the

Tofail claimed that "the election was held under a blueprint" and he

views of our party men.'

On October 4, a day prior to its official launching of programmes rejecting the poll results, Awami League listened to its grassroots leaders, most of whom had strongly advocated in favour of showing

Though, on October 3, the AL high-ups had already taken a num-

party leaders coming from across

They expressed concerns about

Khaleda retains Bogra-6 district seat Moulvibazar-3. which he retained in the last term

> His son may contest for this seat in the by-election. Harunur Rashid Khan Monno, who won from Manikganj-2 and 3 constituencies, has retained the latter seat. Last time he retained

Manikgani-2 seat, his home constit-As per Constitutional provisions, MPs elected from more than one constituency must inform the Election Commission in writing within one month of the election which seat he/she will retain or they

must inform the EC before taking As the newly elected BNP MPs will take oath this morning, Khaleda Zia, Saifur and Monno yesterday informed the EC which seats they

Meanwhile, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina who won four seats Gopalgani-3, Narail-1 and 2 and Barguna-3 -- and Presidium Member Abdur Razzak, elected from Faridpur-4 and Shariatour-3 constituencies, are yet to inform the EC in this regard. Al has demanded cancellation of the election results and is now in a

No talks with Khaleda houses during the last six days by the hoodlums of the four-party alliance and the victims are passing

They are resorting to atrocities

repression and rape of women in a style similar to those committed during the War of Liberation in 1971 She asked whether these nefarious acts are the manifestations of a terrorism-free Bangladesh as

mentioned by Khaleda Zia.

their days in inhuman condition.

Sheikh Hasina urged the fourparty alliance leader Khaleda Zia to mmediately stop killing and repression of Awami League leaders and activists. When asked about taking oath as member of the eighth parliament, Sheikh Hasina posed a counter

question as to whether it would be

wise to sit beside the "vote dacoits in the parliament." CA blamed FROM PAGE 12

Advocate Subrata Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Supreme Court said none of the political parties is now extending their support to them, "but before the polls these political parties used us as pawns."

renew their attacks on us, BHBCOP leader and journalist Basudey Dhar said.

Nirmal Chatterjee, Tapash Pal, Chandranath Poddar, Aloka Ghose and Advocate Sattendra Chandra

down after an hour or so. The streets were quickly deserted except for the occasional car. In another hour, the curfew firmly in place, electricity returned. By midnight, lights glowed in homes across Kabul; people were still up. A bit later, a lone aircraft dropped one

bomb on Kabul's northern edge.

only light visible. The city calmed

The next morning, Mohammed Jalil, who lives in Kabul's northwest section close to Maranjan Hill, site of former King Mohammed Zaher Shah's father's tomb, said the first bomb was dropped there. "Oh my God -- we don't know what is happening in this country.'

Then the city went dark again.

sister-in-law, whose husband was killed after the Soviets invaded in "Now we are afraid we will make another sacrifice, this time by American rockets." he said.

His son, Hamid, 12, said 20

said Jalil, a waiter. He looks after an

entire extended family, including his

pieces of shrapnel shattered the windows of their house. "All the night, we were in the basement with our neighbours." Hamid said. Over the loudspeaker of the Wazir Akbar Khan Mosque, a local Islamic countries, saying they have forsaken Afghanistan. "The leader of the Islamic countries have forgotten their duty to help other Muslims," he said.

Some families were on the move.

especially those living near the

airport or other targets. Some said they were going to the countryside, some to the homes of friends or family in other parts of Kabul. Mirza Mohammed was preparing to leave with his four children. He

was bound for Logar province in the

"We were very afraid. We didn't sleep," said Mohammed, who lives near the airport on the northern edge of Kabul. "I haven't seen Osama bin Laden in my life," he said.

central part of Afghanistan.

"I can't go anywhere. All I have is what I grow," he said. "What if a bomb falls on our house? We will be killed. My children, everybody hid in the base-

Jan Mohammed, 45, who drives

a donkey cart filled with tomatoes.

worried about the future.

Taliban Arabia, Islami Shasantantra ment last night. Where are the poor Chhatra Andolon and Hezbullah people of Afghanistan supposed to took part in the procession.

sion on Afghanistan and said this amounted to aggression on Islam.

They protested that Bangladesh

Islamic University campus yesterday, protesting Afghanistan. They also burnt US flag. Activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir,

"The government will come back to you in due course," the brief

top foreign ministry officials held

Sources said, the caretaker government does not want to make any public pronouncement or

commitment at this stage.

ters conference in Luxembourg.

His nearest rival Mohammad Shahabuddin of the AL bagged 47.538 votes. Abdus Sattar of the Jamaat, a component of the four-party alli-

Advocate Harun-al-Rashid of the

winner in the Brahmonbaria-6 constituency with 75,716 votes. His polled 50.306 votes.

boycotted the re-polling. Akbar polled 65,447 and Haq 34,399.

Dhaka monitoring

Foreign Secretary Mohsin Ali Khan, director generals Nasim Ferdous and Humayun Kabir were

Sami said, "They gave us a comprehensive briefing." He declined to give details.

consultations with Rezaul Karim

its "partisan" role. "The interim administration was recast as dic-

The AL leader alleged that the

was deprived of victory. "The Election Commission did whatever the BNP had wished for."

result from the cell division.

then appeared again afterward. only to disappear just before the next cell division -- an action he

Hunt told the news conference. "I knew that I had made a very

Northern Alliance

Pakistan fears a loss of influence

in a volatile neighboring country if

the northern alliance, which is backed by Russia, takes power.

government of Afghanistan

US operation FROM PAGE 1 Islamabad is concerned to

Musharraf said he was sure authorities could cope with any antierupt, but as he spoke protesters in

Musharraf said. The strikes "will not lead to a

sense of deprivation and powerless-September 11 attacks

"This fighting may be long," he said. "American people are eating chicken, and all we want is a piece of bread and still we are in trouble." A spot check of four hospitals turned up no evidence of casualties. Kabul's airport compound, however, was closed The attacks came at about 9 pm the night before as curfew was

In a once-posh neighbourhood of rose bushes, verandahs and large yards hidden by bullet-pocked walls, where many Taliban leaders have homes, bearded soldiers piled administration but in vain. "In fact, into the backs of pickup trucks. the scale of lawlessness is so wide They roared through the citv's that the local administration cannot streets in the minutes after the cope with the situation, even if it was

explosion, beginning a swift, harsh security crackdown. They screamed at drivers to halt. demanding to see identity papers. For more than 30 minutes. Taliban anti-aircraft guns thundered

ammunition into the darkness, the

to be. We won't give up.

"Comments of many advisors of the caretaker government that repression on the minority people is not widespread have virtually provoked the communal forces to

want to resolve the issue of repression by driving us out, but that is not

Later, the BHBCOP leaders and activists brought out a procession in the city that ended in front of Jatiya

you, the communal government,