

Three share Nobel Medicine Prize

AP, London

Two British researchers honoured yesterday 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 frogs to humans.

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

distributed precisely to the cells that result from the cell division.

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 yeast.

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 Arabacia, or sea urchin cells in the early 1980s, Hunt noticed cyclin, a protein that disappeared abruptly before cell division, then appeared again afterward, only to disappear just before the next cell division -- an action he likened to "a biological oscillator."

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

"I knew that I had made a very 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 humans.

The awards are handed out December 10, the anniversary of prize creator Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.

Northern Alliance

FROM PAGE 12 and Washington, that Moscow would be stepping up its weapons supply to the Northern Alliance.

AP from Tehran adds: The northern 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 militia said yesterday.

"We are in a state of absolute readiness," Touryalai Ghiasi told The Associated Press by telephone from his base in the eastern Iranian city of Mashhad. "We are preparing to move."

Ghiasi, who was a top aide to slain northern alliance commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, 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 per cent of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan President 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 Taliban.

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 northern alliance," referring to the Afghan opposition coalition fighting the Taliban.

"The northern alliance must not draw missile out of this action and the post-action has to be balance," he added.

Pakistan has maintained close ties for years with the Taliban and is the only country that recognizes the

Islamic militia as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

Pakistan fears a loss of influence in a volatile neighboring country if the northern alliance, which is backed by Russia, takes power.

US operation

FROM PAGE 1 boost their strength.

Islamabad is concerned to ensure that Afghanistan's Pashtun majority is represented in any new leadership.

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

Musharraf said he was sure authorities could cope with any anti-US protests and agitation that may erupt, but as he spoke protesters in 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 said.

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

"The strikes 'will not lead to a 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 sense of deprivation and powerlessness that lie at the root of September 11 attacks.

Bhola situation

FROM PAGE 12 tion with the law enforcement agencies debarred my polling agents from carrying out their duties. They were also harassed and assaulted," said Tofail, who was the minister for industries in the past AL government.

"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 caretaker government for, what he said, its "partisan" role. "The interim administration was recast as dictated by the BNP and it performed to serve the party."

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 loose of a reign of terror. Ten BNP activists were arrested as they were hurling bombs, but they all were released following phone calls from BNP high-ups."

The AL leader alleged that the caretaker government was hostile to him, as was the case to his party since the very beginning. "As dictated by the BNP, the law enforcers desperately searched for key Awami League figures in Bhola and detained them on charges of creating trouble."

He also accused the BNP of attacking his followers. "Even my chief election agent was not allowed

to perform his duty."

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 prey to violence in his area.

"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 administration but in vain. "In fact, the scale of lawlessness is so wide that the local administration cannot cope with the situation, even if it was sincere."

Tofail claimed that "the election was held under a blueprint" and he was deprived of victory. "The Election Commission did whatever the BNP had wished for."

AL now working on feedback

FROM PAGE 12 remained intact.

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', AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said, "Whatever decisions the party take in days to come, I can say this much that those will reflect views of our party men."

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

date has been scheduled as yet.

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 restraints.

Though, on October 3, the AL high-ups had already taken a number of 'tough decisions' before the grassroots party leaders were given a chance to air their views.

An overwhelming majority of party leaders coming from across the country urged the leadership to rethink the decision on not joining the parliament and launching a non-cooperation movement.

They expressed concerns about the tough stance taken by the party, as, they feared, it may alienate the AL from the people.

Khaleda retains Bogra-6

FROM PAGE 12 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 Manikganj-2 seat, his home constituency.

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 oath.

As the newly elected BNP MPs will take oath this morning, Khaleda Zia, Saifur and Monno yesterday informed the EC which seats they will retain.

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 Shariatpur-3 constituencies, are yet to inform the EC in this regard. AI has demanded cancellation of the election results and is now in a movement to press its demand.

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 Manikganj-2 seat, his home constituency.

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 oath.

As the newly elected BNP MPs will take oath this morning, Khaleda Zia, Saifur and Monno yesterday informed the EC which seats they will retain.

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 Shariatpur-3 constituencies, are yet to inform the EC in this regard. AI has demanded cancellation of the election results and is now in a movement to press its demand.

No talks with Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12 technique to get a two-thirds majority.

Referring to the recovery of three 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 results.

She said the four-party alliance was also involved in widespread rigging in yesterday's re-elections held in various centres of 15 constituencies of the country.

The terrorists of the alliance are capturing hostels of universities, colleges, bus and launch terminals and even public toilets to establish their control, Sheikh Hasina said.

She alleged that thousands of people of the minority communities have been driven out from their

houses during the last six days by the hoodlums of the four-party alliance and the victims are passing their days in inhuman condition.

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.

Sheikh Hasina urged the four-party alliance leader Khaleda Zia to immediately 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."

Tanveer

FROM PAGE 12 them against me to create law and order in the Gazipur district."

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 Sirpur thana from casting their vote and intimidating them. "He created such a situation in the thana on the polling day that the polling and presiding officers had nothing to do."

Siddiqui also said he did not 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 October election."

About terrorism in the Gazipur-1 seat, he said there were some outward incidents, but those were not political. "If there were any acts of terrorism, the new MP in cooperation with local administration should have acted. But he is blaming the BNP," said Siddiqui.

CA blamed

FROM PAGE 12 "you, the communal government, want to resolve the issue of repression by driving us out, but that is not to be. We won't give up."

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."

"Comments of many advisors of the caretaker government that repression on the minority people is not widespread have virtually provoked the communal forces to renew their attacks on us," BHCOP leader and journalist Basudev Dhar said.

Later, the BHCOP leaders and activists brought out a procession in the city that ended in front of Jatiya Press Club.

Nirmal Chatterjee, Tapash Pal, Chandranath Poddar, Aloka Ghose and Advocate Sattendra Chandra Bhakta also addressed the rally.

A night of horror for citizens of Kabul

FROM PAGE 1 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 the other end of the city.

"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 approaching, and few Afghans were on the streets. Five thunderous blasts sounded; anti-aircraft fire lit the sky. The city quickly went dark.

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 into the backs of pickup trucks.

They roared through the city's streets in the minutes after the 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

only light visible. The city calmed 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. Then the city went dark again.

The next morning, Mohammed Jalil, who lives in Kabul's northwest section close to Maranjani Hill, site of former King Mohammed Zahir 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," said Jalil, a waiter. He looks after an entire extended family, including his sister-in-law, whose husband was killed after the Soviets invaded in 1979.

"Now we are afraid we will make another sacrifice, this time by American rockets," he said.

His son, Hamid, 12, said 20 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

cleric scorned leaders of other 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 central part of Afghanistan.

"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.

Jan Mohammed, 45, who drives a donkey cart filled with tomatoes, worried about the future.

"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 basement last night. Where are the poor people of Afghanistan supposed to go?"

Bush: Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 12 BY Maulana Masood Azhar, the militant who was released by India in return for the safety of passengers on board an Indian Airlines plane hijacked from Kathmandu to Kandahar in December 1999.

India has since been urging the 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 already banned these two outfits.

Bush also told Vajpayee that he would be sending US Secretary of State Colin Powell to India sometime this month. India's External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and National Security Advisor Brahaj Mishra had very recently met the top brass of American leadership to discuss the situation arising out of September 11 terror strikes in New York and Washington.

Bush's assurance about banning 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 of the problem.

Salman's daughter

FROM PAGE 1 University College of London this year.

Shamaila was attending the Inns of Court School of Law attached to Lincoln's Inn to be called to the bar, the press release added.

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina along with some party leaders went to Salman's house yesterday and expressed her deep shock at the sad demise of Shamaila.

Sheikh Hasina also consoled the members of the bereaved family and prayed peace for the departed soul.

The other leaders who visited 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 president Abdul Awal Minto.

According to family sources, Atif Karim who was a graduate in computer 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 Narmeen.

Zaglul Karim, brother of Joydul Karim has gone to London after receiving the news of the accident.

Musharraf

FROM PAGE 1 of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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 for two years.

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 inside neighbouring Afghanistan.

But Musharraf said he had been contemplating the changes "for a number of months."

Musharraf also appointed Lt Gen 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.

Concern

FROM PAGE 12 election.

They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to stop repression on them.

Ain O Salih Kendro (ASK), an NGO, said their workers have noticed attack on the lives of the members of the minority community across the country.

The organisation urged the President for his intervention to stop such attacks.

Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Committee also urged the government to take effective measures to stop attack on the members of the minority community.

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

Bangladesh Samyabadi 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.

They protested that Bangladesh government has 'already supported' the aggression.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that some Islamic groups brought out a procession on the Islamic University campus yesterday, protesting US attack on Afghanistan.

They also burnt US flag.

Activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, Taliban Arabia, Islami Shasantantra Chhatra Andolon and Hezbullah took part in the procession.

Three waves of attack

FROM PAGE 1 The 40,532-tonne amphibious assault ship Essex, along with the 15,726-tonne dock landing ships Germentown and Fort McHenry, left the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, Kyodo 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, Kyodo 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 masterminding the attacks on the United States nearly a month ago, vowed in an apparently pre-taped message that America will "never dream of security." The Taliban said he survived the strikes.

In neighbouring Pakistan, thousands 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 bin 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

in Pakistan that three people were 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.

Attacks were also reported in the 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 Farnada, a bin Laden training camp about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south.

US Defense Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld said an initial goal of the strikes was to render air defenses ineffective 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