

## NGOs, social bodies

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Parishad and Tarek Ali of Samajik Andolon.

The joint statement deeply regretted motivated comments both by the ruling party and opposition and different other quarters on repression on minority, including women and children, a phenomenon that had existed before but increased after the election.

"By making politically motivated statements and variegated propaganda, they are creating confusion on the issue. It is complicating matters instead of resolving the human crisis," the coalition said.

They said repression on the minority community were carried out in various ways and in varying degrees. "One terrorist act is enough to panic people of an area into leaving their homes," said the joint statement at the news conference.

The NGOs and civil-society bodies placed before the government several demands, including financial compensation for the affected minorities and rehabilitation of those who were caught by police and BDR while trying to leave the country after being evicted from their homes. They also sought publication of reports of government investigation in places where allegations of torture were found to be true.

## Minister's son sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reza Ahmed Alias Bachchu Mollah, son of State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Ahsanul Haq Mollah, arrested for his alleged involvement in assaulting the brother of Daulatpur upazila correspondent of daily Jugantor, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

The accused was produced before the CMM's Court, Dhaka, at about 1:30 pm yesterday with a prayer for placing him under the custody of Daulatpur police. Earlier on Tuesday, he had surrendered to Tejgaon police.

The lawyer for the accused submitted a bail petition stating that he was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically. The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

## AL lawmakers

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ate-past prime minister Sheikh Hasina rejected the results, alleging "crude rigging" and demanded fresh polls altogether.

The AL also threatened to launch a 'non-cooperation movement' from October 11 in case its demands were not met. It also called a half-day, countrywide programme on October 10, the last day of the deadline it had set for cancellation of the poll results. However, the programme received a poor response from the public.

Also, an overwhelming majority within the party expressed the opinion that the party should make its presence felt in the House while building up a movement against the new government.

Meanwhile, foreign diplomats based in Dhaka strongly feel that a constructive role by the opposition in parliament is of crucial importance for the country's nascent democracy to flourish.

A section of the AL believes that the party would do better hammering issues of public interest in the parliament, as and when these emerge, rather than trying in vain to launch a movement at this moment.

It feels that the activists' morale

From the press conference they issued call for all students, teachers, social workers, intellectuals and conscious citizens to stand beside the repressed people and build resistance against attacks on the minority community in the name of various political issues.

Places where incidents of repression on minorities were verified by the NGOs included 20 villages of Gournadi and Agoljihar in Barisal, Keshabpur and Monirampur in Jessore, Shyamnagar in Satkhira and Rampalin in Bagerhat.

There were various types of attacks, including attacks on houses of minorities looting of their property, physical torture and rape, they said. And these resulted into hundreds of people being rendered homeless.

## Power projects

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secretary Mofazzal Hossain, PDB chairman Brig MA Malek, DESA chairman SM Shamsul Alam, REB chairman Ziaur Islam Chowdhury and other senior officials of PDB, DESA, DESCO and PGC.

The state minister, the secretary and other senior officials concerned, however, failed to say when people of the capital and as well as of the country would get rid of the suffering due to loadshedding.

Asked about reforms in the power sector, the state minister said, "We are doing the reforms not as per our plan, rather the donors and loan giving agencies are imposing various conditions on us."

About their plan to ensure power supply in all areas of the country, Mahmood said that considering viability, the target would be achieved step by step under five-year plans.

Power Secretary Mofazzal Hossain said the existing statistics showing that the demand for power increases by around 10 per cent a year is wrong. The rate of increase is more than that, he said.

According to him, the demand for power in the country would be more than 6000 MW by fiscal 2006-2007 and generation of additional 3200 MW of power would be required to meet the demand.

He said the Electricity Act, 1910, needs to be updated and a bill for this will be placed in the parliament.

## Tension among JCD factions mounts

## DU students fear bloodshed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University fear bloodshed on the campus amidst heightening tension among the feuding factions of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of ruling BNP.

The central committee of the JCD will sit today to discuss the latest campus situation as well party feuds at its office at 6:30pm.

Several factions of the JCD, especially those of organisation President Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu (Pintu group) and General Secretary Shahabuddin Lattu (Lattu group) have recently taken shelter at different university halls.

Sources in the JCD said that there were at least three major groups on the campus who are at odds with each other now --. Pintu group, Lattu group and Monir group --led by the JCD's DU unit President Monir Hossain. However, Monir and Lattu groups struck a deal few days ago to tackle the Pintu group on the campus.

When contacted, Monir said that they had waged various movements against terrorism and so, he did not

want to see any outsiders on the campus as long as the BNP was in power.

He also said the BNP high-ups are well aware of the situation on the campus and will take stern action to flush out the outsiders from the halls.

Mostafizul Islam Mamun, general secretary of the unit, backed his president and favoured driving out terrorists from the campus.

Campus sources said leaders of the JCD factions have hired non-students from city and its outskirts in a bid to establish supremacy over their rivals.

The firearms currently available on the campus include shotguns, 9-mm pistols, sawn-off rifles and other lethal weapons. Members of the intelligence agencies deployed on the campus also confirmed the influx of heavily armed outsiders on to the campus.

The internecine conflict is holding back a good number of JCD activists, who were ousted by the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the past, from returning to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Ziaur

Rahman Hall, Mohsin Hall and Surya Sen Hall, sources said.

They added that the prevailing volatile situation may worsen further if the BNP high-ups fail to flush out the outsiders from the campus and maintain the chain of command in its student wing.

Tension mounted on the campus two weeks ago when the JCD captured all the DU halls of residences except Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall following the landslide victory of the BNP-led four-party alliance in the October 1 general elections.

On the virtually opposition-free campus, a large number of hoodlums and outsiders with the backing of many JCD leaders were rehabilitated in different halls at that time.

The situation at Ziaur Rahman Hall was much more volatile, with activists of Zakir Hossain Siddique, joint-secretary of the JCD central committee, and Asaduzzaman Asad, organising secretary of the student front's Dhaka University chapter, at loggerheads.

## Bhuiyan: Fresh recruitment

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role by the opposition is a must for making the parliament effective. Together, we all will strengthen the parliament and fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people."

About the cancellation of the NAM Summit in Dhaka, the LGRD minister said the main reason behind the decision is to stop spending of a huge amount of money.

"There was no way but to cancel it because huge money was being spent everyday for the purpose of holding the summit. The condition of the economy is now very fragile and so, we felt it will not be wise to hold the summit," he added.

On another question, he said, the cancellation of the NAM Summit may not damage the image of Bangladesh because people and the foreigners as well are aware of the country's current economic condition.

In this context, Bhuiyan narrated

how the previous Awami League government ruined the economy through corruption, looting, mismanagement and irregularities in the last five years.

When asked whether the BNP, in line with its previous announcement, will scrap the municipal election results, Bhuiyan said, "We will certainly dissolve the municipalities if law permits. It can also be scrapped by bringing changes to the related laws."

On another query about the city corporation polls, he said it is not right to say that the city corporations do not have any lawful existence. The city corporations, tenures of which expired long ago, are still in existence under law.

"We are seriously looking into the matters of city corporations. We will settle the issue very soon," he said and hinted at holding the city corporation polls as soon as possible.

About the export of gas, the BNP secretary-general said, "We will first make an assessment of the gas reserves and then fully meet our domestic need. We will also assess the utilisation of gas resources and set up gas-based industries. The question of exporting gas will only come when our domestic demand is met."

Bhuiyan said the government has taken up appropriate measures and provided adequate security for the celebration of Durga Puja by the Hindu community without any hitch.

Additional police forces will be deployed in the Puja mandaps (venue) and the government has instructed the law-enforcement agencies to act tough against the troublemakers.

He expressed the hope that members of the Hindu community would celebrate their biggest religious festival without any fear.

## Religious minorities in panic

FROM PAGE 1  
Mosharrarf had built the smart office with a garden and life-sized marble statues of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the unknown freedom fighter.

Former chairman of Ziodhara and BNP leader Khan Altaf Hossain alleged that Mosharrarf was responsible for creating a 'tense situation' in the area. Mosharrarf had created several gangs and silenced the opposition, Altaf said.

"Mosharrarf was responsible for creating the notorious Ramen Bahini. About six months ago, former AL MP Dr Mozammel influenced the police to release a gun to him which was recovered from Mosharrarf's possession," Altaf said. "How can you expect a peaceful atmosphere when your adversary is so automatic?"

Throughout Morrelganj and Bagerhat, wherever this correspondent went, the AL offices were abandoned. Their activists had left the areas and the Hindu community was coming under threat from a new breed of hoodlums.

On October 10, at Bagerhat, this reporter found a small Christian community, consisting of people

from various professions such as cobblers, barbers, washermen and milkmen, preparing for the day's business. The Kristanpara with a population of nearly 1,000 Christians showed no sign of tension at all. Michael Biswas, Uttam Mistry, Jacob Sarkar, Babul Mistry, Paritosh Mistry and others said they had no problem whatsoever before or after the election.

"We have our community at Khanpur, Chakshi and Ghatola, none has reported any trouble anywhere involving the Christian community," said Paritosh Mistry from Ghatola.

Michael Mistry, a barber by profession, said the reason for this "peace" was that the Christians had representatives in both the AL and the BNP.

"We have supporters of the BNP as well as the AL in our community so there is no scope of thinking that we only support one single party," Michael Biswas said.

At Pirojpur, about 25 kilometres away from Bagerhat, a new breed of party activists had already filled up the vacuum created by the AL disappearance from the district town. Reports of intimidation on the Hindu community came from

Inderkani, Golpur, Gorgata, Charkhali, Sikdar Mallik, Baroibunia and Narkhali Shantikala. In most cases, members of the Hindu community were intimidated by BNP and Jamaat activists and asked to pay toll.

Local journalists and residents said that although the situation was calming down in the district, many Hindu families had to pay huge amounts to the new 'guards' to carry on with their livelihood.

"They are sending notes to these families asking for money or face the wrath of terrorism. They are also threatening children of the minority groups in the area," said Mohammad Aslam Sheikh.

On October 11, local people in Piripur town said that they were not sure if the Durga Puja, one of the most important religious festivals of Bengali Hindus, would be observed. Members of the Puja committee had expressed their concern about the prevailing situation the day before. In many parts of the country hoodlums had destroyed the images of Durga.

## Peters calls on B Chy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters yesterday called on Foreign Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and discussed Dhaka-Washington bilateral ties.

Foreign Ministry sources described the 45-minute visit a courtesy call to offer the felicitations of the US government and people to the new government of Bangladesh for its land-slide victory through a free and fair election.

The ambassador hoped that political stability will now be further strengthened in the country to help accelerate its economic growth.

She also appreciated Bangladesh's stand on different international issues including terrorism.

During the meeting the US ambassador expressed the desire to forge a strong relationship with Dhaka, particularly in the fields of trade and commerce.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury explained the top priorities of the government to the ambassador and hoped that the US will allow duty and quota-free access of Bangladeshi readymade garments to its markets.

The US has already provided the facility to Sub-Saharan, African, Caribbean and South American countries. These include 35 out of 48 least developed countries.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said no discussion took place on the modalities for using Bangladesh airspace and other facilities by the US in its fight against terrorism in this region.

Asked if there was any new offer from the US side regarding the signing of Status of Forces Agreement (SofA) in view of the changed situation, the spokesman said "nothing has been discussed in this regard."

## Mazar-e-Sharif

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ing weapons.

With the air campaign accelerating, there were sign that elements within the Taliban were seeking a way out of the confrontation with the United States.

In Islamabad, Pakistan, a Western diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Taliban Foreign Minister Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil traveled secretly to Pakistan to ask that the United States slow down the airstrikes.

Muttawakil asked Pakistan to convey the message that if Washington slowed the campaign, moderates in the Taliban leadership would reassess their stand on bin Laden.

Bush has repeatedly refused to negotiate and has insisted that the Taliban turn over bin Laden unconditionally.

In an attempt to rally his forces, the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, reportedly sent a radio message to his commanders Wednesday telling them that "God Almighty will defeat the great infidel confronting us."

"Show patience and confidence, because we are waging a holy war against infidels," Omar said, according to the Afghan Islamic Press, a Pakistan-based private agency. "Life and death are both the same to us, because we want to become martyrs."

## Bureaucrats

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Some of them claimed that politicisation did grip the entire administration.

"Such a state of politicisation had never prevailed in the administration," one secretary was reported to have said.

"It was unprecedented," he added while referring to the step of making some top civil servants officers on special duty (OSDs).

Another secretary was critical of the civil servants who had joined the Janatar Mancha (people's dais) that expedited the fall of the previous BNP government.

At this stage, some secretaries reacted and pointed out that not all officials had responded to the call from that dais.

One secretary alleged that many in the administration had been harassed and victimised by the past government. "They are yet to overcome the crisis... the bitter memories still haunt them."

Several other secretaries claimed that they were discharging their duties as the servants of the republic and had always worked for the interest of the people.

"We do not believe in politicisation of the administration. That the public servants are neutral and devoted to the cause of the people has been amply proved in the October 1 general election," one of them was quoted to have said.

Some secretaries, meanwhile, came up with suggestions aimed at making the administration dynamic and free from corruption.

## Industrialist shot dead

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and Mohammad Shah Alam, 40 -- were admitted to the same hospital.

Father of three sons and two daughters and owner of the Sonargon Group of Industries, Kadir was a resident of Shyamoli, Mohammadpur. He was also the managing director of Bikrampur Hatcheri. His hatchery business at Cox's Bazar was hindered by rivalry.

Shakil, an employee of the company, said the gang consisted of Chunnun, Khokon, Sajal, Dalim and two others -- all from Srinagar in Munshiganj. The gang left the spot in motor bikes.

Other employees said Kadir, also president of Lauhajang thana unit of BNP, was a supporter of State Minister for Textile Mizanur Rahman Sinha, and suspect that the hit men are supporters of defeated Awami League candidate Segufta Yasmeen.

The killing might be a sequel to a row over taking control of a bazaar and a high school at Kazir Pagla, Lauhajang in Munshiganj, they said.

The employees further said the members of the Lauhajang High School executive committee met Kadir, also a member of the committee, at the Hotel Purbani to settle the issue before the October 1 general election. Later, he was asked to meet the executive members, as the matter remained unsettled.

Mizanur Rahman Sinha who went to the DMCH to see the body said the killing was politically motivated.

The officer-in-charge and the investigation officer of Motijheel Police Station went to the hospital for investigation.

Meanwhile, Ramna police, being informed on the telephone yesterday, recovered the body of a youth from a lane behind his house near Tangail Hotel at Maghbazari in the city.

## NAM: Team

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held on November 14 in New York where an alternative venue is likely to be selected.

Earlier, Dhaka's request for hosting the summit was accepted by the last NAM summit in Durban although two other countries expressed their interest in hosting the conference.

NAM - the Non-Aligned Movement, perceived by many as having lost its relevance since the end of the cold war, is still the single largest international forum comprising some 114 members.

## Powell: Terrorism

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campaign against terrorism and said, "Our efforts are directed against all kinds of terrorism."

India has of late sought to drive home the point that the battle against terrorism cannot be selective and the international community must take account of India's concern over cross-border terrorism it is facing.

In an apparent bid to pacify the Indian leadership a day after raising India's hackle by his reported remark in Islamabad that Kashmir was "the central issue" in the Indo-Pak relations, Powell said that Kashmir was "a central issue" and "not the central issue."

"I believe it is an important issue," he said.

The remarks attributed to Powell in Islamabad had caused some discomfit in official circles in New Delhi on Tuesday and a spokesperson of the Indian External Affairs Ministry said the US secretary of state's view was unacceptable to India.

While Powell refrained from commenting when a reporter drew his attention to the unease caused in India by his reported remark in Islamabad, Jaswant Singh said that as democracies India and the US "do not disagree to be disagreeable." Singh made it clear that Indo-US relations were not hyphenated and it was not seen through the

city.

The victim, Mohammad Mofizur Rahman Babul, 30, was found slaughtered, with a telephone wire fastened around his neck. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Mofizur and his brother Saidur Rahman Khan, sons of late Motiur Rahman Khan, left their Maghbazari residence for family business. But only Saidur Rahman returned home.

The victim, hailing from Nawabganj, was the owner of a seven-storey building at Maghbazari.

Arrested were Saidur Rahman, the domestic help and two others on suspicion of their alleged involvement in the killing, which police attributed to a feud over his property.

## German envoy

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stressed the point that political parties should initiate steps to end political violence to ensure peace in the country for flourishing of democracy and for economic progress.

Describing the bilateral relations between the two countries as excellent, he hoped that it would be further strengthened through cooperation in economy and other fields.

The envoy recalled Sheikh Hasina's official visit to Germany as Prime Minister and the steps taken by her government to strengthen political and economic ties.

Welcoming the ambassador, Hasina said she and her party had struggled for over two decades for democracy, voting rights and to institutionalise the concept of 'caretaker government'.

She expressed grave concern over the post-election violence in the country and killing of Awami League workers and attacks on the minority groups.

The former prime minister recalled her visit to Germany and her talks with German leaders and businessmen. She said her government had taken steps to increase Dhaka-Bonn bilateral cooperation in different fields, including the information technology.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and her Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were present at the meeting.

## Israeli minister killed Khaleda: Election pledges

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The Palestinian Authority condemned the killing, but also slammed Israel's policy of liquidating Palestinians suspected of involvement in anti-Israeli attacks.

Palestinian information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said he felt "sorry for the killing" and called for an "end to this vicious cycle of violence."

He said that despite Zeevi's belief in the "forced transfer of millions of Palestinians as well as the killing of Palestinian leaders and... his opposition to the peace process, such an extremist position does not justify political assassinations."

The radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said it had shot Zeevi.

It said the killing was to avenge Israel's assassination of its leader, Abu Ali Moustapha, in a helicopter gunship attack on his office in the West Bank town of Ramallah in August.

"The terrorist Sharon and his criminal band must know that Palestinian blood is so precious, and the wave of attacks against Palestinian officials and militants will not go unpunished."

"From now on the political and military leaders of the Zionist entity will be the targets of our special forces," a PFLP statement added.

Israel immediately halted the relaxation of its military grip on the Palestinian territories, which it had started in line with the ceasefire it agreed to with Arafat three weeks ago. A roadblock near Ramallah was re-established.

Britain's Prime Minister Tony

Blair, who backed a Palestinian state and a new peace initiative during a visit by Arafat Monday, urged "restraint on all sides in response to the men of violence who only want to wreck any proposals for peace."

But a European Commission spokesman said the attack "will most certainly slow down efforts for the Middle East peace process."

The killing whipped up emotions among hardliners on both sides.

A leader of the hardcore Jewish settlers in the West Bank city of Hebron demanded that Israel "eliminate" Arafat in revenge for the death of Zeevi, who had championed the settlers' cause.

"The first thing which needs to be done is the elimination of the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat," said settler spokesman David Wilder.

"Yasser Arafat is the head of a snake that represents practices of terror. If you don't chop off the head of the snake, it continues to attack and kill."

The radical Islamist group Hamas, which blames Israel for the death of three of its activists this week, said the Jewish state had reaped what it had sown.

"Who started killing political leaders? The Jews. And now they pay the price," said Hamas leader AbdelAziz al-Rantissi.

And in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, hundreds of Palestinians danced with joy and handed out sweets to celebrate the killing of the former Israeli general.

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She reminded the civil servants that people had voted for the BNP-led four-party alliance to get relief from the situation.

"People want rule of law, a terrorism-free and corruption-free environment. They want to work and sleep in peace... they want security of life," she told the secretaries calling upon them for cooperation.

Khaleda also reminded that the prime job of the public servants was to give priority to people's interest. "People should be heard with respect, care and sincerity... a tolerant and polite behaviour should be exhibited towards the people," she told the top bureaucrats.

She reminded that the success of the government largely depended on the administration, which play the key role in implementing policies and programmes.

Khaleda thanked the secretaries for setting an example by properly discharging their responsibilities in ensuring a free, fair and peaceful election under the caretaker government and said she wanted to see similar success in all their activities in future.

Mentioning that many officials were denied due promotions as their seniority, qualification and skill were not properly evaluated in the past, she said such a situation is not desired in the state administration.

The prime minister assured that her government would ensure all appointments and promotions on the basis of merit, qualification, seniority, honesty, skill and experience.

"We are determined to ensure

official and administrative discipline at all levels of the state administration."

Assuring non-interference in running the administration, Khaleda, in return, expected impartial and efficient performance.

She told the officials that being a progressive party, the BNP is always forward-looking. "With our lessons from the past, we want to create a solid foundation that will bring abundant success in future," she said.

Modern, practical and scientific approach to any problem, and drawing up and implementing programmes accordingly would be the inspiration for the country's forward march, she said.

"We don't want to divide the nation, rather want to build a prosperous future based on national unity," Khaleda said the main challenge of the new government of the 21st century is to free the people from the curse of poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

She also emphasised implementation of pragmatic programmes for national development in the wake of the present global experience of free market economy.

She called upon all concerned to take steps for flourishing the information technology that has transformed the world into a "global village."

The prime minister expressed concern over the recession of global economy under the influence of the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States and over the present fragile national economy with the

foreign exchange reserve at its lowest.

Dwelling on the post-polls violence in some places, Khaleda said some "conspirators and terrorists" were involved in creating a law and order situation to disrupt peaceful atmosphere.

"The government has taken a stern policy to bring to book anybody involved in such activities," she said and directed the officials to go for immediate action accordingly.

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