

PM: JS bodies

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"We will keep the provision for Opposition's representatives even if they don't give the names," she said.

The CPA delegation, led by Thomas Cox, arrived in Dhaka on October 7 on a seven-day visit. Other members of the delegation are Dr Roger Berry, Ben Chapman, David Drew, Gareth Thomas and Baroness Uddin.

During the discussion, the prime minister told the delegation that her government was working hard to attain a self-reliant economy.

Mentioning that her government inherited a ruined economy, Khaleda said the government in the last one-year had tried its best to overcome the situation by taking different programmes that have shown substantial development.

The prime minister said her government is interested in trade access and export of Bangladesh goods, particularly to USA and Europe.

Mentioning the closure of Adamjee Jute Mills, she said the government was forced to do so

due to "wrong policy" of the past.

The prime minister said her government is committed to privatisation of losing public concerns. "I want to project Bangladesh as a self-reliant country."

Referring to the conditions laid by the donors for foreign assistance, she said it is very difficult for a democratic government, as it is accountable to the people.

She, however, said relations with the donors are very good and mentioned the recent meeting with them where Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman was present.

Khaleda Zia, during her meeting with the CPA delegation, emphasised on assistance for training of Bangladeshis at various levels from the Commonwealth.

The delegation lauded the government's efforts for self-reliance in the last one year.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and British High Commissioner in Dhaka Dr David Carter were present.

Maid murder Couple sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Businessman Giasuddin Bhuiyan Nani and his wife Ishrat Jahan Ivy, arrested on charge of killing their maid, were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka at about 3:00 pm on completion of a two-day remand.

The IO in his forwarding report stated that important information, derived from them during the remand, were verified. So, he prayed for keeping them in the jail custody till submission of the report.

After hearing, the Magistrate Mamun-Al-Rashid sent the couple to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Domestic help Masuda Begum, 45, was killed allegedly by landlady Ivy at her Zigatota residence in the city's Dhanmondi area on October 3 and the body was dumped in a jungle in Gazipur.

Dhanmondi police recovered the body from the jungle the following day and arrested the couple in connection with the killing.

Meanwhile, two other domestic helps of the businessman -- Khodeza and Shilpi -- gave their judicial statement before a magistrate on Saturday.

SI Jakir Rahman of Dhanmondi thana filed a murder case accusing three persons -- Giasuddin, his wife Ivy and driver Ali alias Mostafa Ali has been absconding since the incident.

AL to record

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and challenges it faced over the last one year, Hasina, at her October 10 and 20 programmes, will highlight people's sufferings under the new regime.

At her October 10 speech, Hasina will focus on "breakdown of law and order, violations of basic human rights and repression on political opponents by the government", the sources said.

Besides, she might give a call for unity of all democracy-loving progressive forces to fight the government's 'repression' on the people.

The AL Presidium finalised the programmes at its meeting on Monday last, the sources said.

Last ODI

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ODIs due to injury, is certain to be in the playing eleven for today.

Bangladesh will travel to Bedford after today's affair to play a four-day practice match against South Africa Country Districts that starts from October 12.

This will be the only practice match for Bangladesh before the two-match Test series starts from October 18.

Mahima murder

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against the rapists named Uzzal, Salim, Farid, Faruk.

Police arrested Uzzal while the rest three have been absconding since the incident.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted the chargesheet on March 5 accusing the four BNP-Jamaat activists.

In the case, depositions of 21 of 25 prosecution witnesses were recorded. The arguments in the case ended on September 26.

Puthia police filed Mahima suicide case accusing Uzzal, Selim, Farid, Faruk, Mosharraf Hossain, Abdul Khalek, Sekandar Ali, Abdul Mutalib, Jahangir and Shariful.

Of them, six including Uzzal are now in jail while the rest are still at large.

The case is now under trial.

Nobel Literature Prize tomorrow

AFP, Stockholm

The winner of this year's Nobel Literature Prize will be announced on Thursday, the Swedish Academy said.

The Nobel Literature Prize is the only Nobel Prize whose announcement date is revealed only two days in advance, and the prize winner's name is traditionally made public on a Thursday.

French poet and art critic Yves Bonnefoy, American authors Norman Mailer, Philip Roth and South Africa's J M Coetzee are all said to be on the short list for the prestigious prize this year, according to Sweden's publishing houses and literary critics.

Britain's Doris Lessing, Hugo Claus of Belgium, Cees Nooteboom of the Netherlands and Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa are also rumored to be in the running this year.

Last year, the prize went to Trinidad-born British author V S Naipaul.

The 2002 Nobel season kicked off on Monday with the announcement of the winners of the Nobel Prize for Medicine to Britons Sydney Brenner and John Sulston, and H Robert Horvitz of the United States for gene research.

The Physics Prize was to be announced today, followed by the Chemistry and Economics Prizes on Thursday and the prestigious Peace Prize on Friday.

Robbers stab 15 bus passengers, loot Tk 3 lakh in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Robbers stabbed 15 bus passengers and took away Tk three lakh in cash and other valuables from them in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said, a gang of ten robbers attacked Khulna-bound bus (Dhaka-Metro-BA-11-1221) from Dhaka near Shibpur Aziz Pipe factory on Faridpur-Magura highway at around 1:05 am.

Critically injured passengers, identified as Mahibur Rahman, 45, Riazat Ali, 50, Ahsan Habib, 26, Idris Ali, 45, and Hasan Ali, 23, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

10 hurt as police, AL men clash in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least ten people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between police and Awami League activists at Khalishpur on Monday night.

The trouble began at about 8:00 pm when ASI Amirul, constables Mosharraf and Shah Alam raided Awami League office near People's Jute Mills to arrest listed criminals Abid, Shoma, Jinnah, Nashu, Babu, Liton, Ripon and Babul Rana.

AL and BCL men attacked the policemen when they caught two listed criminals belonging to Chhatra League. On receiving information, a police team led by Khalishpur thana OC rushed there and clubbed others at the AL office, leaving seven BCL activists injured.

OC said AL and BCL activists were holding a secret meeting at the party office with the listed criminals.

A case was lodged with Khalishpur thana yesterday.

Bush softens stance

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to interview witnesses to Iraq's weapons programmes.

But Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told AFP on his arrival in Qatar on the last stop of a tour of three Gulf states that Bush was repeating "tricks and clear falsifications with the aim of justifying his military campaign against Iraq".

To bolster Bush's claim that Baghdad is rebuilding facilities for producing nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the White House Monday released two satellite photos depicting three factories in Iraq believed to be part of the weapons programmes.

Britain and Russia, meanwhile, appeared to move closer to a French proposal for a two-step process by the Security Council on Iraq, with a first resolution detailing the mission of weapons inspectors and a second threatening military action only if their work is interrupted.

In a boost for the French position, Russia, Baghdad's Soviet-era friend, yesterday said it was ready to accept a new UN resolution on weapons inspection in Iraq that does not mention the automatic use of force.

However, Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov told Russian news agencies that any UN resolution must avoid "unreasonable" demands on Iraq, which has been sensitive to demands it open eight tightly guarded presidential "palaces" across the country.

Moscow's announcement came after Bush telephoned Russian President Vladimir Putin to lobby for a

compromise resolution.

It also came hours after British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in Paris that London, which along with Washington has been backing one tough resolution, too might be prepared to accept the French proposal.

The two moves meant the United Nations was edging closer toward a compromise with Washington that could avert US threats to go it alone in Iraq despite strong global opposition to the campaign.

The other veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, China, said it was "in close contact and consultation" with other countries on the Iraqi question, but refused to comment on Bush's latest warning.

China has opposed Bush's calls for military action, but a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Beijing's position remained "very clear" that Iraq should allow an immediate return of UN weapons inspectors.

Straw later opened talks in Cairo at the start of a whirlwind tour of the Middle East and the Gulf aimed at persuading regional leaders the threat posed by Iraq means military action may be required.

It will not be an easy task for Straw, who is due to travel on to Jordan and Kuwait later Tuesday and Iran on Wednesday, with some of his interlocutors more concerned about the risks inherent in an armed intervention in Iraq than the danger posed by Saddam himself.

They also feel priority should be given to restoring peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Chinese embassy

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international arena," it said.

"All countries maintaining diplomatic relations with China have, in conformity with international law and the principle of one China, undertaken in formal agreement or understanding with the Chinese Government not to establish any ties of an official nature with Taiwan."

In recent years, the Chinese embassy said, Taiwanese authorities have "vigorously" launched a campaign of "pragmatic diplomacy" to cultivate official ties with countries having diplomatic relations with China in an attempt to push "dual recognition" and achieve the objective of creating a situation of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan."

"The Chinese government is firmly against this scheme," the statement said.

The embassy hoped that all newspapers in Bangladesh would understand and support the Chinese government's "solemn and reasonable stand for the One-China Principles."

It urged the newspapers to maintain vigilance about "Taiwan authority's attempts to split the motherland of China by various means."

93 police academy employees protest non-payment of salaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Ninety-three employees of Sardah Police Academy observed a six-hour work abstention yesterday to protest non-payment of salaries for 26 months.

The employees along with their family members also brought out a broom procession and staged a brief sit-in in front of Charghat Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office.

Sources claimed that services of the 93 employees were brought under the national pay scale in June 1993 but the payment of salaries was abruptly stopped in August 2000.

Washukuzzaman, acting principal of the Academy, later told journalists that disbursement of salaries was "put on hold" following detection of "irregularities during employment".

He said the authorities are considering resuming the payment of salaries to 37 of the employees but fate of the remaining 60 is uncertain.

US flak for Bangladesh

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members of religious minorities who have been victims of crimes," it said.

Though the BNP acknowledged reports of atrocities committed between Muslims and Hindus, it said they were "exaggerated" the report added.

In Sri Lanka, "religion does not play a significant role in the conflict, which essentially is rooted in linguistic, ethnic, and political differences", the report said.

"The status of respect for religious freedom had improved" due to the ceasefire process between Colombo and the rebel Tamil Tiger separatists, which came into effect in February, the report said.

In Afghanistan, there was "significant change in the status of respect for religious freedom" after the ouster of the hardline Islamic Taliban regime last November.

"Before the... collapse of the

work as disincentives.

He also said it now seems that being ethical and honest is a crime.

President of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan said there are three types of businessmen in this country - honest, not so honest and dishonest to the core.

"The problem is that those of the last category are taking away the level playing field from the other two types, making their life difficult."

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, former finance minister M Syedurazzaman, French Ambassador Michel Lummaux, Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk, Chairperson of the Bangladesh Women Entrepreneurs Association Rokia A Rahman, Secretary General of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) CK Hyder, Editor of The Financial Express Moazzem Hossain, Chairman of the Tariff Commission Prof. MA Taslim, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority M Mofizur Rahman and Dr Zaidi Sattar of the World Bank spoke on the occasion attended by leading businessmen.

They listed healthy growth in remittance, revenue earnings and picking up of export as some of the

positive trends in the economy. But they pointed out that the recessionary trend in investment has been continuing.

Pointing to import decline, Prof. Mahmud said it is a sign of stagnation in the manufacturing sector, as capital machinery and raw materials constitute a major portion of the total import.

He also said despite massive price fall in three major items apparel, frozen foods and jute goods export is picking up in recent months.

"This shows the resilience of our export sector. But the resilience will be put to real test in the coming years once the quota regime is withdrawn after 2004," he added.

Talking on the recent economic trends, Dr Bhattacharya said the healthy growth in remittance has helped improve the foreign exchange reserve, now equivalent to 2.4 months' import bill.

However, Prof Mahmud mentioned that the recent growth in inflow of remittance is not sustainable and would come down in future.

"Continued recession in investment coupled with an upward trend in inflation may put the fiscal programmes as well as the growth prospect under threat," Dr Bhattacharya said.

However, Prof. Mahmud said

Britain and key Middle East player

Egypt both want Iraq disarmed peacefully "if at all possible." Straw said in Cairo after his talks with President Hosni Mubarak, but added that "we want to see the disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and an end to its defiance of the United Nations."

Egypt's foreign minister Ahmad Maher backed the need for UN inspectors to resume working in Iraq as soon as possible, but cautioned that "Rewriting the rules in the middle of the game may not be the best solution."

Arab League chief Amr Mussa also said he saw no urgent need to launch an invasion of Iraq after meeting with Straw.

Iraq has agreed to the return of weapons inspectors, but is waiting until the United Nations sets out the terms of their mandate.

Britain and the United States say a 1998 arrangement under which inspectors required permission to enter the presidential palaces and other sensitive sites needs to be removed.

While the five veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council are unable to reach agreement over how to deal with Iraq, UN chief arms inspector Hans Blix has been forced to delay the return of disarmament inspectors.

In Damascus, meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz attended the opening of an Arab congress in support of his country.

Road accident kills 5 in Barisal

A CORRESPONDENT

Five people including two women were killed and 55 others injured yesterday in a road mishap on Barisal-Kuakata highway in Amragachhia under Amtoli Upazila in the district.

Three of them were identified as Kaipana, 45, Bacchu, 35, and Shafiq, 35, died on the spot. The other two, Farida, 35, and an unknown male succumbed to their injuries at the hospital.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to the Amtali Thana Health Complex in critical conditions; 20 to the Patakhila General Hospital and three each to the Patakhali Clinic and Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources and passengers said the accident occurred when the driver lost control of the bus overloaded with passengers. The bus was going to Barisal from Kuakata.

The driver fled the scene after the accident.

Crime curve

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crimes also restored public confidence in the government, with the special courts pronouncing verdicts in some sensational murder cases in the shortest possible time.

Nevertheless, ruling party men were found involved in most of the crimes as reported in the media. Intra-party conflicts also led to some sensational killings, including those of four Dhaka City Corporation ward commissioners.

The donors have also expressed concern at the steady rise of crimes and asked the government several times to contain the law and order downside.

The special drives the government initiated sparked off public discontent instead of arresting the upward crime curve.

The special drive to nab 23 most wanted criminals has proved a major failure, with only four put behind the bars. Others are at large and reportedly enjoy ruling-party blessings.

Even worse, the BNP nominated many listed criminals for the April 25 municipal polls.

Of late, police protection to some

DCC ward commissioners, who are accused in criminal cases, has raised fresh controversy.

Political intervention, law enforcement failure, police-criminal nexus, administrative weakness plus much-hyped legacy of the previous government have been identified as major reasons for the steady law and order downside.

Moreover, use of police for political harassment, political blessings for the criminals, and inadequate manpower, budget and logistics in the police department have frustrated the government drive against crime, home ministry officials say.

Durga Puja

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Intelligence agencies are on round-the-clock vigil to foil such attempts, the home ministry sources added.

In another development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday sent a special report to all foreign missions in the capital about the measures the government has taken to ensure security during the Puja and the financial assistance provided for the occasion.

Nobel for physics

FROM PAGE 12

The ghostlike particles found by Davis, 87, and Koshiba, 76, are called cosmic neutrinos, while Giacomini, 71, was credited with the discovery of cosmic X-ray sources.

A few decades ago, conventional thinking was that the universe was balanced and slowly moving. Today, that cosy perception has been truly consigned to the history books.

Instead, the cosmos is now seen as a place of awesome violence, where enormous energy bursts lasting less than a second can atomise planets and strip the surface off stars, where super-massive black holes lurk that are so powerful they even steal light.

Little of this would have become known to us without the "eyes" given to us by X-ray astronomy, the science of looking for X-ray sources in the energy spectrum that emanate from deep space.

Giacomini and others constructed the first orbital instruments to detect a source of X-rays outside our solar system and proved that the universe was awash with this form of radiation.

Davis has been honoured for an agonisingly long experiment, carried out over 30 years, which proved the sun's nuclear energy comes not from the splitting of atoms, or fission, but rather from their uniting or fusion.

His work entailed painting a gigantic tank, filled with 600 tonnes of dry-cleaning fluid, at the bottom of a gold mine to detect neutrinos - the particles spewed out by the billion in the sun's process of forging helium from

hydrogen.

Neutrinos hardly interact with matter at all and are therefore very difficult to detect.

The Nobel jury described Davis' detection as an achievement "considerably more difficult than finding a particular grain of sand in the whole of the Sahara desert."

Koshiba took that research further by building a neutrino detector that captured a precious dozen particles, which came from a distant, exploding star known as a supernova.

Davis is professor emeritus at University of Pennsylvania in the United States, Giacomini is president of Associated Universities Inc in Washington, DC, while Koshiba is professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo.

"I am very happy. That's all I can say," Koshiba told reporters at his Tokyo home.

Asked about the annual expectations, dating back 15 years, that he would get the award, Koshiba said: "It becomes such a big deal every year. Now I can go back to more quiet life."

Davis and Koshiba will share half the prize of 10 million kronor (1.10 million euros/1.07 million dollars), while Giacomini will receive the other half.

They will receive their prize, along with the King Nobel laureates, from Sweden's other Carl XVI Gustaf at the official ceremony in Stockholm on December 10.

BTTB grips

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demands by ISD callers due to the growing number of cell phone subscribers, sources in the BTTB said.

A lot of illegal VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) operations are going on in the country. As international traffic is a large avenue, illegal VoIP is a huge loss of revenues.

Private sector mobile phone operators suggested that the government deregulate international traffic by legalising VoIP under a scheme and also allow the private sector to operate the ITX.

Chief of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has recently said a move is under way to legalise VoIP by early next year, which will be cheaper than ISD calls.

The country has over ten lakh mobile phone subscribers, about

70,000 of them have ISD connections. And the BTTB has about seven lakh landline-phone subscribers, with two per cent having ISD connection and the rest making ISD calls through operators.

The ITX project will be on a full turnkey basis. International telecom equipment suppliers will also provide design and drawing of the project and supply, install and commission its required equipment, the BTTB sources said.

The vendors will also supply related software for the proposed system and related facilities.

The BTTB has recently joined the international consortium of 12 countries "SEA-ME-WE4" to hook up its telecommunication network with the transoceanic undersea cable system.

Ctg General Hospital

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bing of the government property is now the biggest impediment towards making the present hospital into a modern 250-bed hospital, conscientious citizens say.

The hospital area has been a den of the notorious criminals and a safe haven for anti-social activities including mugging, burglary and prostitution, for last few months.

The criminal gang and their cohorts got encouragement, as the authorities concerned seem blind to it, and they have built 'so many' illegal structures and a 'slum' around the hospital. They even go to the extent of using a newly constructed building of the hospital as a temporary commercial community centre!

The gang is being led by a section of hospital staff and criminals. Among them some were identified as Aminul Islam, Kalam Miah, Amin, Abul Bashar, Monir Ahmad (retd), Nurul Amin, Solaiman, Jahangir Alam, Abul Kalam, Humayun Kabir and the family of former staff Sheikh Chand, sources said.

Sources said, the 150-bed hospital has now 70 beds of 'free charge' while the rest 80 beds are 'paying beds' charging a very nominal fee. The hospital offers services to patients of different categories and diseases, and it has wards of surgery, medicine, gynaecology, pediatrics, pathology and dental.

Kalam Chowdhury, member secretary of the Action Parishad, while talking to this correspondent

underscored the need for effective measures to help make the hospital into a full-fledged 250-bed hospital.

He demanded immediate eviction of illegal encroachers from the hospital area, appointment of a supervisor in place of civil surgeon and erection of boundary wall around the hospital on an emergency basis.

"The morgue at the hospital compound also requires immediate relocation," he added.

The commercial capital of the country is fast expanding. So does the number of inhabitants day by day. But the availability of medical services for the huge population, especially for the poorer and lower class section, and other relevant facilities have not increased proportionately in Chittagong.