

# Kerry 'leads' in TV debate

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war on terrorism with "mixed messages" about whether toppling Saddam Hussein was worth the cost.

"What message does that send our troops? What message does that send to our allies? What message does that send the Iraqis?" the Republican incumbent asked. "The world is better off without Saddam Hussein."

Iraq and national security dominated as the two candidates battled over how to stabilize that war-torn country, where more than 1,000 US soldiers have died amid deadly chaos that shows no sign of ebbing.

Leading US dailies on Friday agreed that the debate was a tie. "If Americans who tuned into last night's presidential debate were waiting for one of the candidates to catch the other in a fatal error, or leave him stammering, the event was obviously a draw," wrote The New York Times.

Kerry threw the first punch in the political prizefight by confidently declaring "I can do a better job" on Iraq and on averting another terrorist attack like the September 11, 2001 strikes.

He also charged that Bush unnecessarily diverted resources from the hunt for Osama bin Laden to the war in Iraq, saying: "This president has made, I regret to say, a colossal error of judgment. And judgment is what we look for in the president."

"The world is better off without Saddam Hussein," said the president, who painted his rival as fickle on crucial national security issues, noting he voted to authorise the Iraq war in 2002 but against war funding in 2003.

"We're not going to achieve our objective if we send mixed signals to our troops, our friends, the Iraqi citizens," said Bush. "You cannot lead if you send mixed messages."

"I've had one position, one consistent position, that Saddam Hussein was a threat. There was a right way to disarm him and a wrong way. And the president chose the wrong way," countered the

Massachusetts senator.

Kerry has accused Bush of fracturing alliances and damaging US global standing in the rush to war; Bush has charged Kerry is more worried about worldwide popularity than protecting the United States.

Before the confrontation, the Republican and Democratic rivals shook hands and exchanged tense smiles before taking cover behind matching lecterns.

Kerry, a four-term senator, has trailed in polls that indicate that undecided voters may be open to a change of president, but have yet to warm to him.

Bush hoped to build on a five-to-eight point edge in national polls and leads in many of the battleground states expected to decide one of the most hard-fought elections in recent US history.

Kerry's backers were convinced their man had done enough to jolt the White House race back to life, and claimed Bush looked edgy and defensive.

Outspoken Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe claimed Kerry came out as the statesman of the pair, while Bush looked like "an ostrich who has his head in the sand."

Republican spin meisters claimed the president's opponent had once again been exposed as indecisive.

This debate showed that John Kerry is once again willing to say almost anything that suits his political moment," said top Bush advisor Karen Hughes.

The Los Angeles Times presented its readers with what it believes is the real conundrum: "Kerry won Thursday night's debate on foreign policy by a comfortable margin, but Americans may yet decide that President Bush is better able to clean up the mess he created in Iraq."

The first of the three debates went ahead amid mounting chaos in Iraq. At least 49 people were killed there, dozens of them children, in three nearly simultaneous car bomb attacks Thursday.

US and Iraqi forces poured into central Samarra early Friday to seize the troublespot's government building and police stations in an attempt to beat back the insurgency, the US military said.

"This president, I don't know if he sees what's really happened on there. But it's getting worse by the day," said Kerry.

"If we lose our will, we lose. But if we remain strong and resolute, we will defeat this enemy," said Bush.

The candidates' different styles were on display early. Kerry sought to back up policy proposals with statistics and details while Bush countered with broad principles he said fueled his outlook.

Amid signs of slipping US public support for his policy towards Iraq, Bush sounded defensive, and frequently shot annoyed glances at Kerry, who in turn frequently looked down at his notes during the president's answers.

The two clashed on approaches to the North Korean nuclear crisis -- Bush warning against Kerry's call for bilateral talks -- and to Iran's moves to develop a nuclear program.

But both agreed that the most serious threat to US national security was the possibility that terrorists like Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network might get their hands on nuclear materials.

And Kerry and Bush called the violence sweeping through Sudan's troubled Darfur region "genocide" while saying they opposed sending US troops there.

Kerry and Bush will have a second debate, on October 8 in St. Louis, Missouri, and finish with a session on domestic policy October 13 in Tempe, Arizona.

The televised faceoffs were scheduled after weeks of negotiations on the most minute aspects of the event, including the height of podiums, the temperature of the room and allowable camera angles.

Despite the controlled environment, the New York Times said, the discussion "seemed like a breath of fresh air" to a campaign starved for real substance.

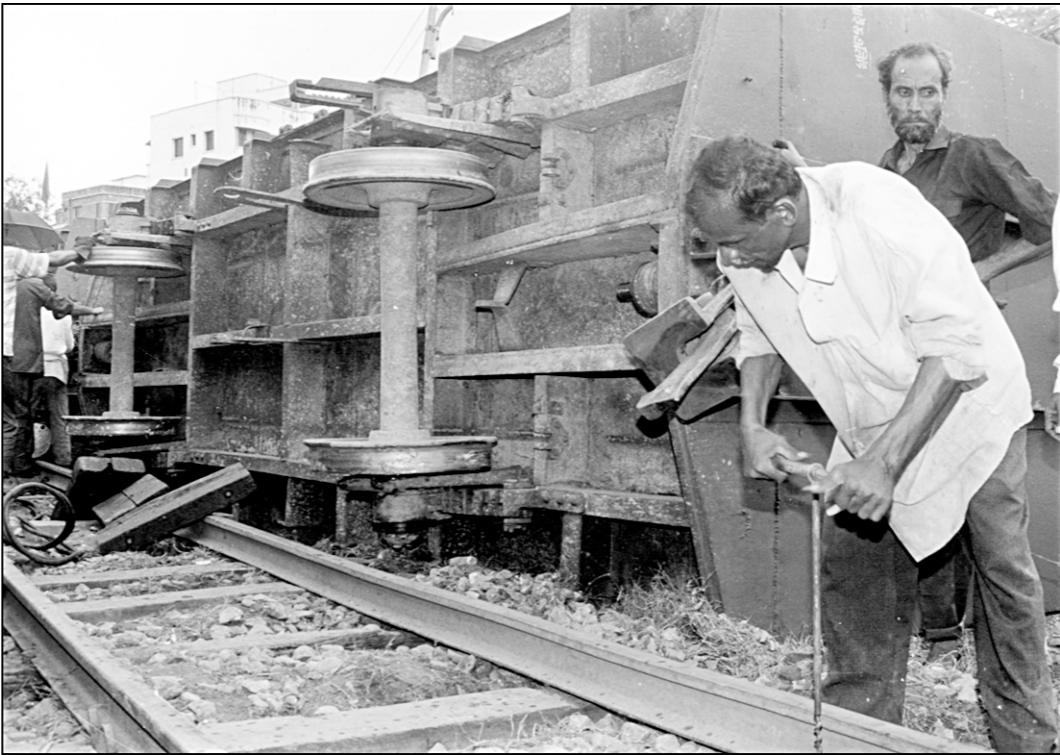


PHOTO: STAR

A railway worker repairs the tracks damaged in a derailment of a goods train at Gendaria on the Dhaka-Narayanganj route Thursday.

# Top Raozan criminal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
that erupted at 5:00am and ran through 11:00am Thursday, Rab sources said. The two sides traded some 1,000 bullets during the shootout.

The others dead are Milon Dutta, 40, and his brother Khelon Dutta alias Bapon, 38, Abdus Sukkur, 25, Shahid, 27, Abdul Kader, 27, Munna, 21, Anil Dutta, 30, Selim, 20, and Jamal alias Sumon, 19, Rab and police sources said.

The latest killings raised to 13 the number of deaths in the custody of or in shootouts with Rab since it launched operations in Chittagong in April.

The anticrime force seized a 762-mm AK-56 rifle, two .303 rifles, two foreign double-barrel breech-loading (DBBL) guns, an SBBL gun, a sophisticated shotgun, 340 bullets, 50 cartridges, commando jackets and travel bags.

Jan-e-Alam was wanted in 37 criminal cases filed against him and his gang members on charges of murders, rape, abduction and extortion, Rab and police sources said.

The news of the death of Jan-e-Alam and his gangsters prompted hundreds of people to flock to the scene of the shootout, while processions were brought out to greet the Rab members, witnesses said.

Commander of Rab, Chittagong unit, Lt Col Kazi Emdadul Huq told The Daily Star, "We were trying to arrest listed criminal Jan-e-Alam and his operatives since we

launched our operations here. But on receipt of secret information we launched the predawn raid on his hideout on Thursday".

"Jan-e-Alam and his gangsters died on the spot during the shootout with us," the Rab commander added.

Local sources said Jan-e-Alam and his goons engaged Anil Dutta, reportedly a rickshawpuller, as watchman while they were hiding into a house owned by a local molasses trader Arun Dey Wednesday midnight to evade arrest.

Backed allegedly by a ruling BNP stalwart of Chittagong, Jan-e-Alam also ran for elections for the post of ward commissioner in Raozan municipal polls slated for October 6. Rab and police sources said. They added he used to run election campaigns from his hideout.

Rab earlier had made several abortive attempts to catch the notorious criminal and his gang. From September 26 when he began to campaign for the polls, three undercover Rab teams started watching his activities. The teams eventually came to know about the whereabouts of Jan-e-Alam and his gang and Rab members cordoned off the house of Arun Dey at the hilly village of Kalampati at 4:30am.

Being aware of the presence of Rab at 5:00am, Jan-e-Alam and his associates started firing at random, prompting Rab men to

retaliate. At one stage, Rab members fired teargas canisters into the hideout. Jan-e-Alam was gunned down as he came out of the hideout during the firefight, Rab sources said.

Golam Akbar Khandakar, Chittagong North Unit president of the BNP, said, "We are very happy at the death of Jan-e-Alam and his gangsters. They did not belong to the BNP. They were loyal to leaders who joined the BNP in 1996."

A resident of Kalampati village, who was once victimised by Jan-e-Alam and his men, said, "It is now the talk of the whole Raozan and everyone is happy here at his death. Like me, many others suffered as he and his accomplices unleashed a reign of terror here."

**13 KILLED IN CTG**  
Rab launched its operations in Chittagong in April this year and as many as 13 people have been killed either in its custody or shootouts with it here.

Thursday's killing of 10 people in Raozan saw the highest numbers of casualties in a Rab raid at a single encounter. Earlier, a madrasa teacher of Chandpur, identified as Titu, was killed at Agrabad in the port city during Rab operations.

Top terrorist and local UP chair-man Ahmedul Huq Chowdhury alias Ahmedya, who in August joined the BNP from Jamaat-e-Islami, was killed along with his accomplice Minhaz in Rab custody during a shootout.

# From cowboy

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Azizul Haq alias taxi driver Azizya, also a linchpin of the NDP.

Being in the good books of Azizya, he was given the responsibility of taking care of firearms the notorious gang procured illegally, and was allowed to carry arms.

After the dissolution of the NDP, Jan-e-Alam along with ringleader Azizul joined local Chhatra League loyal to Awami League (AL) leader ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, now AL lawmaker from Raozan and a former NDP leader.

Jan-e-Alam's notoriety came to light when he was arrested for abducting a local madrasa student in 1995.

He got bail in the abduction case a few months later and along with Azizul killed Saran Barua, a notorious cadre of Chhatra League in the port city.

In the late 90s, Jan-e-Alam's involvement in the killing of Fazal, a close aide of Azizul, jolted his (Azizul) trust in him. Hostility grew between the two and Azizul assaulted and injured him critically when he tried to flee with a big cache of firearms of the gang around two years ago.

The incident however proved a blessing for Jan-e-Alam. A local BNP lawmaker arranged his proper treatment and took him under his shelter to counter the AL faction loyal to Fazle Karim.

He was then inducted into 'Aziz Bahini' of Raozan, controlled by another Azizul Haq, a convicted murderer now in jail to walk the gallows.

As a member of Aziz Bahini backed by the local BNP legislator, he unleashed a reign of terror in the area through toll extortion, murders, robbery, rape and other criminal activities.

In about two years, the notorious criminal hailing from Harinkhinepara of Raozan upazila headquarters became a symbol of terror and panic in and around the area.

He took over charge of the group to make it known as Jan-e-Alam Bahini as Azizul Haq, convicted

## 109 militants

**FROM PAGE 1**  
clouds of black smoke billowing into the air.

A bloodied witness said he helped carry out 32 bodies of children from the rubble.

US troops and one battalion each from the Iraqi army and national guard stormed the city before dawn on Friday after a previous arrangement signed on September 9th for US forces to enter the town and patrol peacefully till apart one week ago.

An AFP correspondent in the city said many homes were destroyed in the city's Al-Jubairiya and Al-Qadisiyah neighbourhoods as the city's streets were completely deserted.

The violence flared Thursday night when US soldiers spotted three speed boats unloading explosives at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT) on the bank of the Tigris river, said Master Sergeant Rober Powell from Tikrit.

A gunfight ensued and several insurgents were killed, Powell said.

Insurgents in a boat then fired off mortars into the city and US forces opened fire, killing four of them at 7:09 pm (1609 GMT), he added.

Loud explosions started to shake the town at 9:00 pm (1800 GMT), Samarra residents said.

Within hours, US troops marched into the heart of the city, with armored vehicles rumbling down the street and AC-130 helicopter gunships roaring overhead.

Sporadic clashes erupted through the early morning, Powell said.

The governor of Salahuddin province, where Samarra is located, had warned on Thursday that new fighting risked plunging surrounding towns and cities into violence.

murderer of a Buddhist monk, was arrested with AK-47 rifles and a huge quantity of ammunition by army personnel from the bordering Hingala in Rangamati on May 12. His criminal activities spread over a vast area from Kadalpur to Haludia-Janipath close to Fatikchhari upazila.

People living in this vast area, including Brindaban, Dabua rubber garden, Chara Battoli, Dhalarmukh and Haludia-Janipath, could not think of running any business without paying him a monthly toll. Owners of around 20 brick kilns on both sides of Chittagong-Rangamati Road at Raozan had to pay him toll regularly.

To escape arrest, the shrewd criminal used to keep off home most of the time and forced many people to vacate their houses to make room for him and his accomplices.

Victims of the gang distributed sweets and brought out jubilant processions in Raozan as they received the death news of Jan-e-Alam and his gang members.

## Dhaka, Delhi

**FROM PAGE 12**  
on the working of the government machinery, the matter of pushing Bangla-speaking Indian nationals into Bangladesh is unthinkable," the BSF DG said.

Responding to Chowdhury's request to keep Tin Bigha corridor open round the clock as against existing practice of 12 hours in day time, Sharma said he had asked local BSF commanders to provide passage at any time, even at night, to address emergency cases.

The two countries have already reached an agreement at

home secretary-level to undertake 'coordinated patrolling' on the border and the BSF-BDR meet discussed modalities involved in it, Sharma, flanked by Chowdhury, told reporters after their talks.

"We hope to start it very soon," he said but made it clear there was no time-frame for this.

## Define war

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said it is natural for the followers of a particular religion to take pride in their faith but being arrogant about it is destructive.

"While we are proud of our religion, we must at the same time acknowledge others' right to take pride in their religions," he noted.

Editor of the Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman said all religions stand for peace, harmony and love for humanity, and there is no room for violence in Islam.

The concept of jihad in Islam does not imply clash and violence, he stressed.

Russian Ambassador Oleg S Malignov said religion has an integrating role and has to act as an identity code in the face of social fragmentation in today's world.

Italian Ambassador Pietro Ballero said every religious group has a faith of its own but when any particular group claims its religion alone knows the truth and is on the right track, it gives rise to fanaticism.

German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas thought the world community has to work together to protect the principles of tolerance and mutual understanding.

The morning session of the conference, chaired by president of the institute major general (rtd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, was also addressed by UNFPA representative Suneeta Mukharjee, former minister Nooruddin Khan, Acharya Dhammanidhi Mohathera, Acharya Samadurai and Lt Col Ethne Flintoff of Salvation Army Bangladesh.

# 584 more arrested

**FROM PAGE 12**  
The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, however, on Thursday modified the High Court order.

Police launched the mass arrest drive on September 21 in the run-up to the October 3 grand rally of the main opposition Awami League (AL) and its allies.

Almost all the arrestees are either the grass-roots level activists of AL and its front organisations or innocent commoners, sources said.

DMP Commissioner Ashraful Huda yesterday told The Daily Star that the ongoing drive is a routine one to arrest criminals, who stand accused in different cases and have arrest warrants issued against them.

He, however, said police would uphold the Higher Court's order in arresting people.

Meanwhile, police in last 24 hours till six in the morning yesterday arrested 1999 people including two Dhaka-based listed criminals across the country. Of the arrestees, 676 are accused in various cases while 1304 were held with warrants issued for their arrests, said a Press Information Department handout.

BSS adds: The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Thursday modified the High Court order on 'mass arrest'.

A vacation bench of the High Court on September 29 asked the government not to arrest any person under section 86 of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police (DMP) Ordinance till October 3 after an application moved by Ain O Shalish Kendra and other human rights organisations.

The Appellate Division yesterday modified the High Court order directing the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner of DMP not to arrest any person under the section 86 of the DMP Ordinance unless he or she is found with arms or any dangerous house-breaking tools between sunset and sunrise without any satisfactory excuse.

This order shall remain valid till disposal of the High Court's injunction.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Aziz passed the order after hearing a government application for stay of the High Court order.

Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali submitted that if the High Court order is not modified it would be tantamount to passing a blanket order.

Dr M Zahir stood for Ain O Shalish Kendra and others.

Deputy Attorney General Helal Uddin Mollah, Assistant Attorneys General Robiul Karim, Mohammad Abdul Baset and Razik Al Jalil represented the state.

## Police-mob clash leaves 17 hurt in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

At least 17 people, including seven policemen, were injured in a clash following the killing of a van driver in a road accident at Langolbandh bus stand here on the night of holy Shab-e-Barat.

Local sources said a chaotic situation prevailed on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at 10:30pm when some constables of Kamtal police outpost of Bandar Police Station allegedly started collecting tolls from the passing vehicles.

Jewel, a van driver carrying a body, was killed instantly and his helper, Timir, injured when a truck hit them during the chaos on the highway.

Angry locals blocked the highway for an hour and damaged several vehicles. They also attacked policemen when the law enforcers led by the officer in-charge (OC) of Bandar Police Station went to the spot.

The policemen charged batons, leaving 10 people injured. Seven policemen, including OC Abdus Salam, Sub-inspectors Shahidur Rahman and Abul Kalam and in-charge of Kanchpur police outpost were injured in the mob attack.

Additional police from the district headquarters went to the spot and brought the situation under control at midnight.

In-charge of Kamtal police outpost Abul Kalam, constables Mujibur Rahman, Delwar and Azizur Rahman have been suspended.

## Deaths in hands

**FROM PAGE 12**  
5,748 from September 23 to 29, the report said.

Four newpersons were killed, 99 of them injured, four arrested, two abducted, 23 assaulted, 65 implicated in cases and 264 received threats across the country.

The report went on to say that 673 women and children were raped from January 1 to September 30, while 90 of them were killed. As many as 193 were also acid-burnt.

Odhiakar further said 118 women were killed in 189 dowry-related incidents, while 1,249 children were oppressed. Of them, 292 were killed, 259 raped, 202 abducted, 29 arrested, 42 acid-burnt, 56 traf-ficked and 127 went missing.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts 35 people were killed, 177 injured and 105 abducted, the report added.

## Suicide bomber

**FROM PAGE 12**  
forged close links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network and have been used to launch attacks against Pakistani leaders in retaliation for Islamabad's support for the US-led war on terror since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

## Donors seek

**FROM PAGE 12**  
tactics on this review, subordinate agencies are jeopardizing the sustainability of rural electrification effort," it observed.

"... I wish to share our grave concerns about recent developments in this sector which are damaging its current operations, future expansion as well as the possible extent of the cooperation of the donors. We do not exaggerate in saying that the power sector is nearing a crisis point," wrote Wallich, also the country director of the World Bank.

"Urgently-needed new generation plants are being delayed by a consistent pattern of questionable tendering and re-tendering by (the government). The ongoing Sirajganj retender is only the most recent example. Of the 5 plants under process of procurement by the government, only 4 power plants have been awarded. As a result, no generating capacity of significance has been brought on stream in this 2-year period.

"By the Power Ministry's own estimates, Bangladesh, an already very power scarce country, needs to bring 450 MW on stream each year, just to prevent current shortages from worsening. The economy, jobs and investment are being badly hurt by this apparent misgovernance in the public procurement process," Wallich continued.

She also said she agrees with the government in saying the power supply must maintain the pace needed to meet the demands of a growing economy. But the adverse effect of power being unavailable during the floods shows that the vital relationship between reliable power supply, growth and poverty reduction in Bangladesh must be kept in mind.

# Criminal dies

**FROM PAGE 12**  
with Sutrapur and Shyampur Police Stations.

Following leads from him, the same team went to Alamganj Lane in Sutrapur to recover arms and nab his associates, said a police press release.

But as they reached Diganta Majlish of Cobra has filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station for assaults on policemen.

Sutrapur police on Thursday sent the body to morgue where Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mujibul Hoque carried out an inquest into the dead.

Farid's mother Samsun Nahar told newsmen that Farid was a factory worker in Thataribazar area. "I heard he was arrested from the area, but could not imagine they would kill him," she said.

After watching the news on television, she rushed to the morgue and identified her son and received the body after autopsy.

Police said Farid was one of the henchmen of infamous Idul, who is accused of killing two cops at Motijheel on June 20.

Earlier on September 25, Bhutto, an associate of Kala Jahangir, died in a similar 'shoot-out' allegedly between gangsters loyal to him and the Cheetha.

# Judicial inquiry body

**FROM PAGE 12**  
media about the report at 11:00am today, according to commission sources.

The commission in the report recommends some 30 short- and long-term measures to stop a repeat of such deadly incidents and shore up security measures during political rallies. The report cites the lack of cooperation from the AL in course of the investigation.

It also takes a swipe at the private television channels for 'poor' footage of the incident and their 'lack of professionalism'. It also makes recommendations for better filming of such events by the channels in future for the sake of investigation.

The commission sought appointment with Hasina to have her account, but was turned down, as the AL questioned the neutrality of the probe body. The party did not allow inspection of the vehicle.

Justice Abedin had told The Daily Star on September 25 that he was hopeful of arriving at a decision on the carnage with the information and data that were on hand.

The inquiry body, formed at the prime ministerial directive on August 22, will submit the report to the home secretary, not the prime minister, as it received the written orders for initiating the investigation from the ministry, sources said. Officials of the commission secretariat will hand the report to the home secretary.

The commission took statements of 123 people including victims, explosives experts, policemen and intelligence officers, retired military officials and doctors who tended to the wounded.

Commission sources dismissed speculations in a section of the press that the commission in its report will blame the incident on the AL.

Justice Abedin, meanwhile, told the BBC Bangla Service last night that the commission took into account who might have carried the incident and who would have been benefited from it.

"We considered the domestic and foreign aspects relating to the attack," he said.

# The poor feel

**FROM PAGE 12**  
ultimatum to pay up the rent or face eviction.

"What will I do with the children, how will I feed them?" Sajeda wondered, with tears welling up in her eyes and Murad tugging at her sari asking for food.

After police arrested his only son, Mohammad Monir, on September 21, the first day of the latest blanket arrests across the country, Muktar made a last-ditch effort to raise some money by mortgaging his last piece of land in Chengatia village under Agailjhara upazila in Barisal. But his hopes were dashed, as no-one took the 10-katha plot, which is inundated by floodwater.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Mostafa of Mirpur Police Station arrested Monir, 40, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, and his three passengers at Darus Salam on their way to Mirpur Section-1 at around 7:30pm on the day. The SI also filed a case alleging them to be members of a gang that mugs using sedatives on its victims, family members of the arrestees said.

Two of the passengers arrested -- Rony, 24, and Noor Islam, 20, -- were returning home in Mirpur after finishing their shifts at a garment factory in Savar. The other arrestee, Jayed, 30, also a CNG driver, was having a lift to Mirpur from Gabtoli.

Rony and Noor showed their identity cards but that were not enough evidence to convince the SI of their innocence.

Talking to The Daily Star near the CMM court premises a relative of one of the arrestees said, soon after the arrest, the police SI exacted Tk 500 from Sajeda and Tk 4,000 each from

relatives of Rony and Noor in bribes for their release. Sajeda and Rony's brother forthwith confirmed the bribery.

The owner of the auto-rickshaw paid Tk 5,000 in bribes to get his three-wheeler back, they said.

Though the government claims the arrests are a part of the regular anti-crime drive, many of the people held are neither criminals nor partisans. Ramna police have arrested a young banana vendor in Siddheshwari area while Motijheel police a guava seller, Kamrul, 20, at Motijheel suspecting his involvement in mugging.

"Police arrested my innocent brother and now are demanding Tk 3,000 for his release," alleged Kamrul's sister Rashida at Motiheel Police Station on Thursday.

A large crowd was seen at the CMM court hajat gate carrying water containers and dried food for their relatives whom police picked up from different parts of the city for suspicious movements, immoral activities, vagrancy and under regular cases like murder, extortion, theft, robbery, bomb explosion and arms recovery.

Talking to The Daily Star most of those at the gathering claimed the arrestees are innocent and falsely implicated in cases, though they are not named in the first information reports of the cases. Some of the detainees, on the other hand, claimed to be opposition political activists while many others had no political affiliation.